



## Recorder Newsletter July 2013

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### *Editorial*

*Dear Members*

*Thank you for the number of registrations already received for the 60th Anniversary Weekend on July 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> at 47 Church St., Northcote, Auckland - we look forward to many more.*

*It looks like it will be a very enjoyable event with participants sharing their knowledge of the society, its development and players, and acquisition of music over the 60 years of its existence.*

*Please remember to bring any memorabilia that you have and we hope you can join us in the dinner on Saturday night (further details will be sent with acknowledgement of your registration).*

*Please also remember the AGM on Saturday 9 November 2013. It will be held in the afternoon at 3.30 pm at 47 Church Street, Northcote, Auckland. The AGM will include time for ensemble and massed playing.*

*Dawn and Andrew, Editors*

### **Subscriptions for 2013**

Adult members	\$20
Senior citizens (over 65)	\$15
Students (school children or full time tertiary students)	\$10

*Family (3 or more at the same address) has a 20% reduction on membership fees*

***\*\* If you have not paid your 2013 subscription please do so now - a membership form is available on the SRPNZ Web Site***

***<http://srpnz.wordpress.com> \*\****

## **60<sup>th</sup> Celebration Weekend**

At the end of this month we will be celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society of Recorder Players Inc. Already we have a number of registrations from members throughout the North Island and would welcome many more before the close-off date of July 16<sup>th</sup> as we have three excellent tutors who need to know the number and the playing experience of those attending. This will facilitate their selection of music for the massed playing and for the small groups.

It is anticipated in the master class on Saturday afternoon a number of players will participate, either individually or in a group. So all of you think carefully how you may be able to contribute to this interactive method of learning. Saturday will culminate in a concert which includes Kamala Bain, Jessica Shaw and Kevin Kim.

On Sunday morning, Kevin Kim, who has recently returned from overseas and is already engaged in the teaching and tutoring of students in Auckland, will be sharing and commenting on a documentary, *Ricercata*, by Daniel Bruggen.

One of highlights will be on Sunday afternoon with the cutting of the celebratory 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake. The conclusion of the weekend will be further performance and massed playing.

Ted Crawford has very kindly agreed to bring his display of recorders which many of you will have enjoyed at last year's AGM.

There is so much to look forward to with John covering the history of society in his welcome, the meeting of old friends and new players and the display of memorabilia (already we have found some unexpected treasures), so don't forget to bring your collection of mementos and photos.

## **Alec Loretto**

Thank you to the two members who sent their reminiscences of Alec Loretto:

### **Alec Loretto by Rosemary Lister**

A memory of Alec Loretto: a happy, friendly gentleman who loved his involvement with the Recorder, and its construction, and gave us many enthralling snapshots of his pursuit of accuracy in copying rare old instruments located in far away places. He loved telling long involved stories with a quirky tongue in cheek punchline – like arriving at an American Airport in the middle of the night to see a sign – DOGS MUST BE CARRIED AT ALL TIMES – and stating the obvious “Where on earth can I get a dog at this hour?”. Also at a Music School in Auckland I think, I remember him arranging an advanced consort to play matching PLASTIC recorders, and indicating that that perhaps would solve tuning issues in groups. He will be remembered with a smile.

## Alec Loretto

a personal memoir by Derek Hodson

I first met Alec, well over a quarter of a century ago now, at events organized by the SRP. He was often a guest speaker at society music schools and could be relied on to give entertaining and informative talks. He was a great raconteur and had an inexhaustible fund of stories about luminaries in the world of recorder music, all of whom he appeared to have met.

His technical knowledge of the instruments and music theory were unsurpassed in my opinion.

I recall one lecture in which he was illuminating for us primitives, stumbling about in the backwoods, the theory of the evenly tempered scale. He was using for his stooge, the late Ron Dellow, who, of course, had far too sensitive an ear to be taken in. It was such a treat to see two such technically superb musicians engaged in a bit of gentle, good natured, jousting!

Alec was, at that time, an agent for Moeck recorders, and it was through him that I purchased my Moeck bass, which I still treasure, (and which Alec supplied at a price hundreds of dollars less than I could get it for from a retail outlet, I might add.) When I got it, one of the tenons was almost impossibly tight and I contacted Alec, who immediately told me to bring it to him and he would see what he could do. I took it to his home which was then in Mount Eden. Alec had a look at it and said, 'Right, let's get it on the lathe and take it down a bit.' and off we went. We had to go right through the house to get to the workshop. In the living room, his artist wife, who was still alive then, was modelling with wax in the hearth, and doing dangerous looking things with hot irons by the fire. I don't think she noticed my presence!

It was so sad that she was taken by Alzheimer's disease.

We went to the workshop behind the house, and what a cave of wonders that was! I recall even now the cocktail of smells that greeted one at the door – the aromatic wood, linseed and almond oil, beeswax, varnish, and a hint of lubricating oil....Inside there were racks of timber, rows of gleaming reamers, all ground to Alec's exact measurements, ranks of long handled wood turning chisels, and the lathe, of course, which is the heart of any recorder making workshop. He also showed me things like the exquisite fixtures he had made for such tasks as shaping the beaks of the recorders, and forming the windways. Alec was, typically, incredibly generous with his time in explaining how he went about his instrument making, and answering my, probably rather inane, questions. I remember him showing me a sheet of measurements he took from a museum instrument, his pages of calculations to adjust the pitch, and his final drawings, with measurements to a thousandth of an inch, from which the reamer was ground, and finally the finished reamer. What an investment of skill and effort Alec put into his instruments – what a shame there was no one to carry on his work. But what a wonderful legacy he leaves, with his 2,000 odd 'children'!

It took only minutes for Alec to mount the body of my bass in his lathe and skim the offending tenon, and off on my way I went, slightly giddy with the experience!

If the celestial orchestra ever needs new instruments, they have the right person on hand.

Vale, Alec.

## Melbourne 2015

The Victorian Recorder Guild is planning a recorder festival in Melbourne in 2015:  
[http://www.vrg.org.au/index.php?p=1\\_20](http://www.vrg.org.au/index.php?p=1_20)

If you would like to give them feedback here is a link:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/recorders2015survey1>

We hope many of you will be able to consider going to this great-sounding event.

## Recorder Groups

Ted Crawford has sent us information about the “Tapestries Ensemble” recorder group in Kerikeri. If you would like to feature your recorder group in the newsletter please send us details.

### **"Tapestries Ensemble" Far North Kerikeri to Kaitaia**

Mondays - Midday-3pm "Food, Music and friendship." Who ever said "music is the food of life" was right on the button. And laughter is the music of life.

-R. SELVES

Playing 'Early Baroque' 14th & 15th Century music

Our Recorder Ensemble at Christmas 2012. From seven to 12 regular members



## **Congratulations to Barbara Thomson QSM**

A well-deserved honour was recently bestowed on longstanding SRPNZ member Barbara Thomson. Barbara has received a Queen's Service Medal for 60 years of service to Performing Arts in Whangarei. Her honour was given in the New Year's Honours list this year – and the presentation was at Auckland in May.



Barbara has been a recorder tutor for many years, and has tutored the Whangarei Youth Music recorder students since 1983. She has continued the Adult Recorder Consort started by the late Winifred Wiley who was a Foundation Member of SRPNZ, and since the 1950's has been pianist for numerous groups as well as holding office in the Northland Performing Arts Competitions Society.

Thank you to the photographer Antony Paltridge and Woolf Studios for allowing reproduction of the above photograph of Barbara with the Governor General, Sir Jerry Mateparae.

## Paul Whinray Recorder For Sale

Professional wooden Baroque, alto/treble recorder, handmade in 2011. Valued then at NZ\$3,500.

This amazing, as good as new instrument, made by Paul Whinray, Auckland, in 2011, has a very beautiful tone. It is professionally crafted after the model created by Thomas Stanesby, Jn around 1734 and the renowned late Fred Morgan under whom Paul studied this delicate art.

Details.

Key: Alto/Treble, R.

A at 440 Hz

Style: Baroque – Thomas Stanesby Jn.

Material: Stained Boxwood

Colour: Medium golden brown

This skilfully created instrument comes with a

\*hard tube carrier for safe flight travel,

\*a soft, padded, handy shoulder-bag

\*fingering chart.

There are instructions for breaking in the wooden instrument after it has not been used for some time, and the care and maintenance of a wooden recorder.

Price: NZ, \$2000. A reduced price will be considered for a music student.

If interested please contact: [t.crowe@xtra.co.nz](mailto:t.crowe@xtra.co.nz)



