

ANZCO NZ is up and running

NZ Director John Wells writes:

Dear friends and supporters,

The College has received assistance from a number of people since its launch last April. We will produce periodic bulletins (of which this is the first) to show you what we are doing to promote the aims of the College. We hope you will enjoy reading the reports below and be impressed at the scope of the activities undertaken by an organisation less than six months old. In particular, I think you will see that the educational aspect of ANZCO's brief is being treated as a high priority.



Dr John Wells

ANZCO
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Programmes
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Education

INSIDE:

News from around the country, including Otago, Wanganui and Auckland



“Safety last!” for Wanganui

North Island Councillor Nicholas Grigsby writes:

ANZCO's specific aim to promote youth awareness and involvement in the organ was successfully demonstrated at Wanganui Collegiate School on the evening of Friday 24 August, with a concert of organ extemporisation to accompany a public screening of Harold Lloyd's greatest actions sequences on film.

One of the school's two available Johannus Digital Organs was installed in

the orchestra pit of the Prince Edward Auditorium, just beneath the large screen for the movie showing.

An event of obligation for all Collegiate students, thus watched by hundreds, the thrills and spills of Lloyd's famous action sequences were accompanied with an improvised organ accompaniment by ANZCO Councillor, Nicholas Grigsby, Collegiate's Director of Music.

Promoting public support of yet another diverse function of the organ in performance, the students responded very positively throughout the hour-long event, many being introduced to this historic medium of performance for the very



Dr John Wells poses with the new ANZCO pull up banner at Britomart Railway Station (see page 4 for more details)

ANZCO NZ has a Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/anzco

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The Hunchback of Notre-Dame

first time. Responding to a further ANZCO objective to increase interest in attendance at organ-related events, many students indicated that they had surprisingly enjoyed the event, would attend again, and were glad that they had come – albeit with a modicum of duress!

Further screenings of major silent features would continue to take place at Collegiate's three main performing venues containing organs, building on the public success of previous concerts showcasing *The Phantom of the Opera* and *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*. The events diary of the ANZCO web and Facebook pages are the first port-of-call for extensive information on ANZCO events featured nationally throughout Aotearoa-New Zealand.



“Organ recitals at St Paul’s Cathedral in Dunedin have regularly featured information regarding the mission and work of ANZCO”



The Chapel of Wanganui Collegiate School

Otago outreach and Dunedin developments

South Island Councillor George Chittenden writes:

As ANZCO councillor for the Otago and Southland region, I am pleased to report that promotion of ANZCO and its aims is gradually spreading. Organ recitals at St Paul’s Cathedral in Dunedin have regularly featured information regarding the mission and work of ANZCO, and it is hoped that this will develop into funding possibilities as the months progress. In particular, I am pleased to announce that the late-September recital of Sydney organist, Martin Rein, will bear the labels of the college. In early December, there will be an Organ Masterclass, held on the exquisite organ of Knox College Chapel within the University of Otago - this will be an ANZCO event, held in collaboration with Knox College. Additionally, St Paul’s Cathedral looks forward very much to welcoming scores of schoolchildren into the cathedral in the early summer - and to arousing their interest in the organ with performances of Boëllmann’s epic Toccata! In these exciting early stages for ANZCO in the southern reaches of the country, I look forward to developing the work of the college, and to combining this with many years of work in my role as Director of Music at St Paul’s Cathedral in Dunedin.



George Chittenden

Towards the 2013 Organ Academy

ANZCO’s aims and Mission Statement were explained to a large gathering of people from around the country who attended the Centennial Celebrations of the Wanganui Collegiate School Chapel. The ANZCO brochure was presented to each attendee, and at a formal dinner in the School’s Big School, Nicholas Grigsby took the opportunity to explain how the aims of the New Zealand arm of the College are fully

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concomitant with the establishment of the 2013 National Organ Academy to be based at Collegiate.

Attendees were thanked for their generous support of the Chapel Foundation's aims to fully restore and enhance the Collegiate Chapel's 1926 Pipe Organ, but more importantly to support the educational vision of the establishment of a national teaching academy for all matters concerning the pipe-organ. Grigsby outlined how the specific aims and intent of ANZCO in New Zealand is the only trans-Tasman set of initiatives which promotes organ teaching, learning and performance.

Articulating the need for Collegiate supporters to forge the way ahead with financial support towards the solid establishment of the Whanganui academy was paramount for Collegiate and ANZCO to jointly promote the country's only residential academy which would promote youth awareness and involvement in the organ, as well as fostering wider public awareness and support of organ-related activities.

Collegiate stakeholders' generous support towards the acquisition of two Digital Johannus Organs had been a remarkable first step in building the number of available teaching, masterclass and performance instruments held in the College, for the auspices of the National Academy and ANZCO's wider aims nationally.

The evening proved to be yet another remarkably successful event in terms of expressing the presence and wider intention of ANZCO in New Zealand to a national audience already fully committed to projects with clear educational vision and guardianship of items of national heritage to ensure that future generations may experience them in excellent working order for the next century at least.



Nicholas Grigsby

Johannus demonstration in Wanganui

Organists from the staff of the Collegiate Foundation Music School performed a demonstration concert for the public in the large acoustic of the school's historic Big School. The aim of the event was to showcase and explain the function of the school's two Johannus Digital Organs, acquired in readiness for the National Organ Academy, an annual residential school to be hosted at Collegiate from 2013 with support from the Australian and New Zealand College of Organists.

A large and curious crowd of public attended, and were able to sit closely around the consoles of the new instruments. Organists Nicholas Grigsby and James Winkley performed a range of solo items covering four centuries of repertoire in particular show-casing the different voicings and temperaments of the instruments, from 16th Century Dutch and 17th Century German palettes, through to Romantic France and the English cathedral of the 20th Century.

“The digital instruments will visit local schools in the Whanganui & Taranaki regions”

The aims and Mission Statement of ANZCO were introduced, and all members of the appreciative audience received the introductory flyer of ANZCO, firstly available at the College's NZ launch held at St Matthew-in-the-City in Auckland earlier in the year.



A student puts the Johannus through its paces

The acquisition of the digital organs by Collegiate was supported by the generosity of the Collegiate Chapel and Organ Restoration Trust and the CN Maclean Charitable Trust, with the specific aim of enhancing the up-take of pipe organ performance by musicians of all ages and ability, principally through the foundation of National teaching academy, covering aspects of technique, historically aware performance, pedagogy, and other musicological areas with an emphasis on music for the Pipe Organ.

The digital instruments, which are exceptionally versatile as they are easy to transport, will, in the coming months visit local schools in the Whanganui and Taranaki regions to promote the activities of ANZCO in New Zealand, headed by Dr John Wells, and his team nationally.

We hope that you will agree that ANZCO is truly up and running. Your continued support is vital!

Best wishes from

The ANZCO Team

John Wells (Director)
Timothy Noon (Media & Promotions Officer)
Stephen Vincent (Treasurer)
Rachael Griffiths-Hughes (Hamilton)
Nicholas Grigsby (Wanganui)
Michael Stewart (Wellington)
Martin Setchell (Christchurch)
George Chittenden (Dunedin)

Tracks on the tracks!

On Monday 3 September, ANZCO NZ Director and former Auckland City Organist John Wells presented what was possibly NZ's first railway station mini-concert at Britomart, in



central Auckland. Three fifteen minute recitals were given in the main foyer area to an estimated 250 people – a true Promenade Concert. Clips of the performances can be found on YouTube: www.youtube.com/dogeatpotatoes

School visits in Auckland and beyond

The first school visits occurred on 31 July when John Wells's Roland Classic 330 was taken to Epsom Girls' Grammar School and St Cuthbert's College with the help of Ralph and Lynne Cullen of Keyboard Music Systems. By the time of the second outing (3 September) the bright yellow custom-built trailer was ready and pupils at Gladstone Primary School were treated to the sounds of this amazing machine.

The schools visits are not concerts. There is ample time for comments and questions from the students and an opportunity for them to play in addition to a demonstration of the organ with short excerpts from, for example, Léfébure-Wély, Thalben-Ball (pedals only) and a rousing trumpet voluntary. Special requests were taken – an arrangement of the Muppets theme tune was well received.

For nearly all the students, this was the first time they had heard any organ music. Schools in Kerikeri and Whangarei will be visited on 24/25 September. At each occasion, the school is invited to support ANZCO (one has already donated) and it is pointed out that the College will survive only on sponsors and such donations as it is not a membership organisation receiving regular subscription fees. ANZCO is a registered charity.



John answers questions from bright-eyed students

www.anzco.org.nz