

## From the Director:



Welcome to our fourth Bulletin! As we continue to define and refine the College's work in New Zealand, you will see from this edition that we are making steady progress. The biggest news is that plans for a second Academy, to be held in Wellington in July 2014, are under way. After a small but very successful first Academy in Auckland last January, the College's Council realised that this was an idea far too important

to neglect. ANZCO Council member Michael Stewart (Wellington) will be masterminding this event. Details will be published in the next Bulletin.

You will also read about collaboration between ANZCO and the Auckland OA and our first two STTOPPERS (exchange students in our new Students Trans-Tasman Organ Performance Scheme). My thanks to Council members Prof. Martin Setchell (Christchurch) and George Chittenden (Dunedin) for facilitating these visits, and to our Founder-Director Thomas Heywood for creating the scheme. We have a new mini-series called SNAPSHOT, in which we feature promising young NZ performers. The *Impact! Organ!* programme continued with an October visit to Mahurangi Christian School in Snells Beach and three schools in Hamilton are interested in visits next year.

Much of this work is low-profile seed-sowing but we feel that important and productive foundations are being laid.

I am also very pleased to report that ANZCO and the NZ Association of Organists have agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding. The two organisations will work in parallel with their own programmes but a shared long-term vision: more music – more listeners – more performers.

*John Wells, Director*



**ANZCO**  
Community  
Programmes  
Culture  
Education

## SNAPSHOT:

### Spotlight on young organists #1

*Ben Nelson takes his place as one of the youngest organists in New Zealand to hold a parish church organ scholarship. At 12 years of age Ben has been learning the organ from Michael Cox since 2011. With several years of piano study as a foundation, Ben is very enthusiastic about playing the organ. In 2013 he became Organ Student of St Peter's Anglican Church in Takapuna on Auckland's North Shore.*

*He and his brother Edward sing in the parish choir with Michael Cox as Organist and Director of Music. Ben is gaining a keen interest in church music and plays preludes and postludes on regular occasions, as well as page turning and assisting with registration! Ben experienced an organ masterclass this year with Malcolm Archer in an Auckland Organists' Association event.*

*He played the organ in public in a concert situation for the first time in August at Holy Cross Church in Albany, on the North Shore. Ben will attend Auckland Grammar School in 2014 and also has an interest in acting. Sue and Clive are Ben's supportive parents and Clive himself learns the organ with Dianne Halliday at St Peter's, Willis Street, Wellington.*

*Ben Nelson at the organ of  
St Peter's Church, Takapuna*



## STOPPERS: Cassandra Min visits Dunedin

*Cassandra writes:*

When it comes to the pipe organ, aka the “King of Instruments” there are no two that are exactly the same. The range of stops and colours varies tremendously on each organ. This means every time you are given the opportunity to play on a new organ, it’s an entirely new experience, one that carries the same degree, if not more fascination as the one before. So, as an organ scholar in Melbourne, when I was given the invaluable opportunity by ANZCO over September to travel to Dunedin, NZ as part of the ANZCO Trans-Tasman Organ Scholar Exchange, I was beyond thrilled!

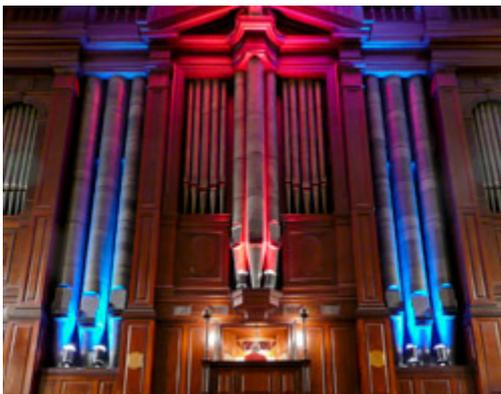
For my stay at Dunedin, the days were packed, yet highly rewarding. The wonderful instruments

in this city absolutely immersed me. I was able to see some superb pipe organs in St Paul’s Cathedral, Dunedin Town Hall and Knox College. Dunedin Town Hall’s organ, known as “Norma” was definitely a highlight with double tap pedalling – nothing like I’d ever seen before! On each of these organs I was also given an organ lesson, which enabled me to develop my skills and techniques in playing the instrument. To top this off, I was also able to gain invaluable performance experience, presenting a concert at St Paul’s Cathedral.

Aside from organ playing, this trip also consisted of attending many music related events, which were held at St Paul’s Cathedral. These included choral recitals, baroque



*St Paul’s Cathedral, Dunedin*



*The Organ of Dunedin Town Hall*

concerts and much more! It is fantastic to be able to appreciate listening to music from such talented performers.

Overall, the exchange furthered my learning and understanding with regards to the pipe organ. It also introduced me to many fantastic people. The ANZCO Trans-Tasman Organ Scholar Exchange was definitely an unforgettable experience that I will cherish.

**ANZCO NZ has a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/anzco](http://www.facebook.com/anzco) ! Please ‘like’ us to keep up to date with our activity!**

**Find us on Facebook**

# STTOPPERS: Daniel Cooper visits Melbourne

*Daniel writes:*

Melbourne, what a wonderful city. Great instruments, great venues, and great people. I was privileged enough to spend four brilliant days in July learning, playing, and listening to some of the world's greatest concert organists.

## Day 1

3:30am.... I'll say it again..... 3:30am..... a bright and early start for what was going to be a busy day. After several terrible airport coffees, I was soon settled into my 3 hour flight across the pond to Melbourne. After a nap, and a bit more work on my now completed organ concerto in D minor, it was time to "fold away your tray table, and ensure your seat back is in the upright position" for landing into Melbourne international airport. A fairly eventless landing cleared the way for what seemed like a 20 minute walk through the airport (not that I'm complaining, having just been sitting down for three hours) I collected my bags, cleared customs, and was greeted at the arrival terminal by Thomas Heywood's father. We promptly jumped onto the highway, and set off for the Melbourne Town Hall, and the launch of the "All Stops Out" Educational program. Upon arrival, at the town hall, I met my host family,



Cassandra Min (Senior Organ Scholar; Haileybury College), concert organist Thomas Heywood and his wife, Simone.

The "All Stops Out" programme, was in my opinion, a roaring success. I have never seen so many children so enthused about the king of instruments.... EVER! A big congratulations to Thomas and the team for putting together such a brilliant event, and I just hope we can do something similar in New Zealand. After "All Stops Out" had finished, we (Haileybury scholars and I) shoved into a car, and returned to Haileybury College campus where I would then have private rehearsal time on their school's chapel organ in preparation for my lunchtime concert the following day.



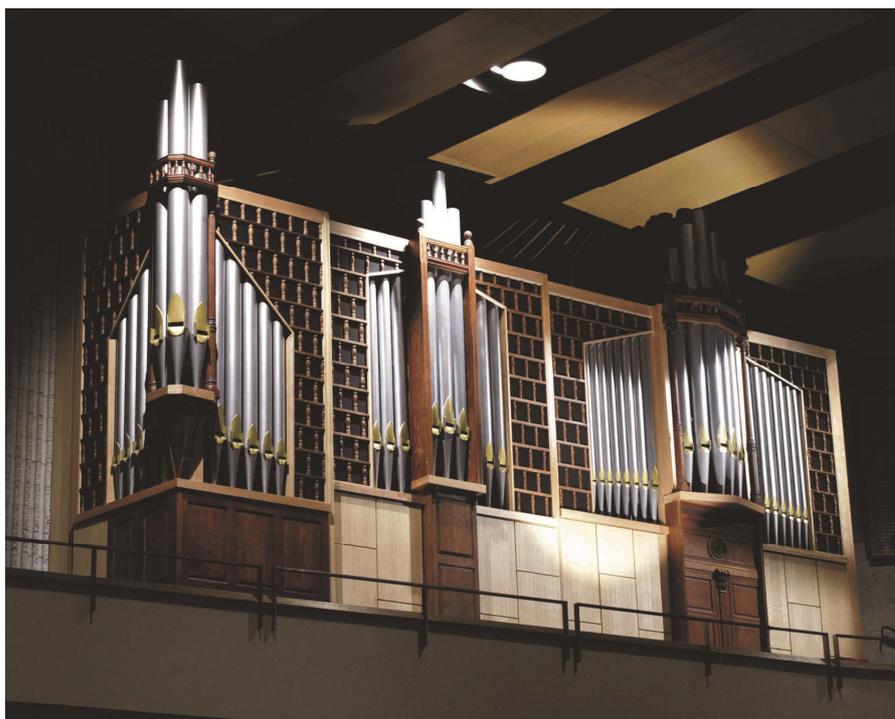
## Day 2

After a much more leisurely wake-up time, I returned to the Haileybury school chapel for some final rehearsal time before my concert. Before my concert, I was invited to play a recessional and processional for the school chapel service, both were well received. The concert, also was well received, with a wide range and styles of organ music performed on a somewhat limited instrument, that is when compared to the instrument I played in the afternoon: The 4 manual Grand Concert Organ in Haileybury's main concert venue.

What a wonderful instrument, so much variation in the colour of each stop. Plenty of 8' tone provides a rich full sound, which is to be expected on an instrument of that era. Truly magnificent!

**Day 3**

The recital by Dr John Wells in the Haileybury School was a highlight! A fascinating, balanced and very difficult repertoire was a joy to listen to on the large 4-manual instrument worked with ease by John. It was inspirational for me to see such brilliant musicianship and accuracy, definitely something to aspire to in the future. Prior to the concert Dr John Wells held a master class for the Haileybury organ scholars and I. It was great for us younger organists to comment, experience and learn from each other in such a supportive environment, and with the guidance of such renowned organist. Comparing

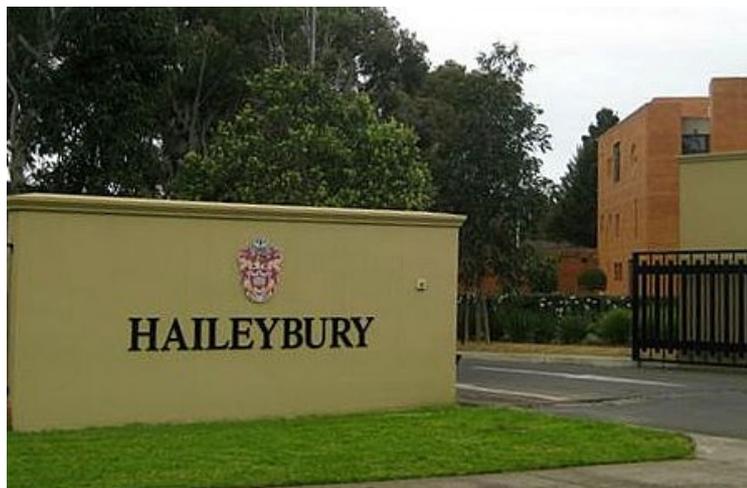


*The organ at Haileybury College*

the Melbourne organ culture to the Christchurch organ culture, it was reassuring to see I'm not the only 15 year old in the world who plays the pipe organ! What a fantastic day!

**Day 4**

My Melbourne organ extravaganza is sadly coming to a close. I pack my bags, and head in the car for one last time to Haileybury I was once again greeted by Thomas Heywood and we had some invaluable private tuition time. It made me rethink the whole way I should approach a new piece of music. I am taught in a predominantly 'church music' environment, the Director of Music says "here play this to accompany the choir" and so I do, no practice, missing the occasional note, strange fingering etc etc, but the way concert organists do it is completely different! Hours of practice, strict fingering, and played 100% as written, very different to what I am used to! Interesting none the less. Many thanks to Thomas for this enlightening experience.



After a rather long car journey to Melbourne air port, I was soon on my flight back to Christchurch, and reality. Away from the veritable "heaven" of organs I was exposed

to. Melbourne, what a wonderful city. Great instruments, great venues, and great people. A truly fantastic experience! I would highly recommend this organ adventure to any organist who is offered the opportunity. A week of learning, laughing, and sharing. Fantastic.

A special thanks to John Wells, Thomas Heywood, and Martin Setchell for making this possible. And a extra special thanks to Cassandra Min (Haileybury Senior Organ Scholar) and her family for being my host family during my stay, I thank you for the excellent food, company, and conversation.

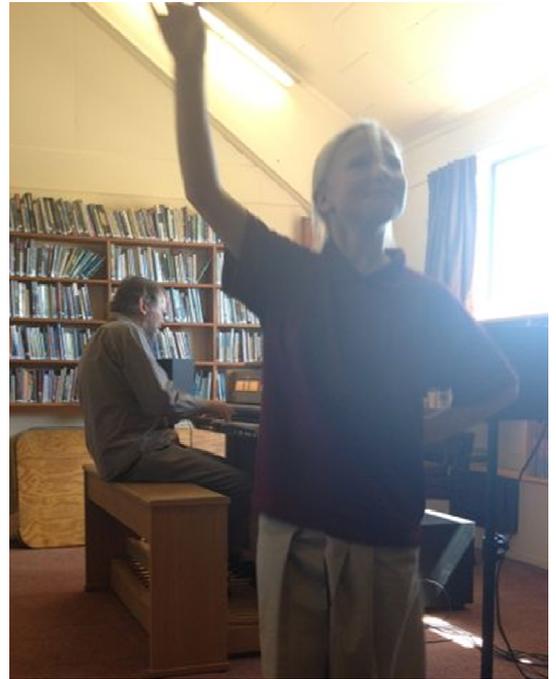
## ANZCO visits Mahurangi Christian School

As part of ANZCO's *Impact! Organ!* initiative, Dr John Wells recently packed up his Roland C330 organ into its yellow trailer and visited Mahurangi Christian School in Snells Beach.

The appreciative class have sent in this article:

*"It was a day to remember because during the afternoon of Monday 21st October, organ player, Mr John Wells came and performed to the school. It was really cool.*

*He taught us about us about the pedal board, the Manuel's and about how the sounds are digital recordings of real pipe organ sounds. He also informed us about the pipe organ in the Auckland town hall which weighs 40 tons, has 5000 pipes and has four Manuel's. He played a lot of old fashioned songs including the muppets theme song and the sugar plum fairy. He performed a variety of different styles of music such as happy, sad, confused and angry.*



*Students were able to give the organ a try with Abi Chessum performing a piece from Beethoven and others tinkering around creating different and unusual pieces that were completely original to them.*

*We learned that anyone can play the Organ and if you can play the piano it makes it a lot easier. It was AWESOME. The tunes were so catchy that we jumped up and danced along. From watching this many of us were inspired to play music."*



### An Apology

Despite our Treasurer's best efforts to connect all the dots with the tax department, some ANZCO supporters have reported that their requests for rebates have been declined by IRD. Stephen Vincent is happy to report that this issue is now resolved and that the IRD should settle all rebates on their receipt of a duly completed claim form.

*We apologise for any inconvenience caused.*

## Concert Review: Miran Park

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Auckland, Thursday 27 June 2013



Miran Park with Dr John Wells

Well over a hundred people attended a warm and welcoming church on one of the coldest days this year to hear one of our most talented local organists play her very first public recital.

Miran Park played Bach, Couperin, Reger, Albinoni, Vierne, Franck and Whitlock - a full-bodied programme which, thanks to her passionate and committed performances, kept the audience rapt. And that included a number of children, some barely of double-digit age; it was great to see younger Kiwis getting a good dose of good music. A large screen with CCTV undoubtedly helped, but it helped the rest of the audience, too.

This device, after all, only provides concert organists with what every other public performer has - and needs - good visibility (imagine a piano recital with the soloist hidden behind a screen!).

The event was a joint enterprise between the Auckland Organists' Association and the Australian & New Zealand College of Organists, kindly supported by St Andrew's Church, of which Mrs Park is a member. Michael Cox, John Wells and Murray Gow, representing all three parties, all spoke briefly, and John Wells acted as MC.

The 2-manual organ, of a modest but well-designed specification, is coupled with one of the best parish church acoustics in the area. It has been used for many years by the School of Music's organ degree programme. The instrument, however, is now in a

parlous condition and will require a substantial sum of money to be spent on it in the near future. Coupled with this, St Andrew's is facing a large bill for earthquake-proofing (it's not the only church in this predicament). Given this "double-whammy", it is devoutly to be hoped that the community and University will realize what an asset St Andrew's is; it was thoroughly enjoyed on this occasion but it is easy to take such things for granted.

Two bouquets and a box of chocolates were an inadequate but heartfelt token of thanks to Mrs Park (who somehow combines being a wife and mother with her musical activities), who gave her excellent services "for the cause". Over \$1,000 was raised, which will go the further the work of the AOA and ANZCO, and, not least, will hopefully provide a small encouragement to St Andrew's.

*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)