

2025 Victorian Recorder Guild Annual Report for 2024

Hello and welcome to the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Recorder Guild.

The Blow-in following the AGM in February was presented by Liz Zetzman. We commenced with a Gabrieli Canzona, and as a contrast the following music was Helen Worthington's Suite in Three Movements. We finished the afternoon with some movements from Hans Poser's Wandsbeker Tänzer.

Our March event was a Blow-in and illustrated talk with Evelyn Nallen entitled "Getting to Mars and Venus". This was based on the research project she had undertaken on the work of John Weaver's "The Loves of Mars and Venus", telling the story of the birth of modern ballet in the London of 1717. She spoke about dance choreography notation, gesture, style, and we played some of the music that could have been used at the production at Drury Lane.

The Soirée on Sunday 19th May was presented by Liz Zetzmann and was the usual success. Starting with the large ensemble, the Melbourne Recorder Orchestra conducted by Rachel Sneddon; the rest of the programme was an entertaining variety of groups.

The Winter Project was presented by Rodney Waterman who spent an enormous amount of time preparing an enormous amount of music.

At the third session, we decided what we were going to play at our little "What we did during the winter" concert in the fourth session. All went very well, and it was good to get into performance mode again.

Following the concert, Rodney presented a Blow-in to all where we played an arrangement of JS Bach's Violin Sonata no. 3 and the 7 part Sanctus and Agnus Dei from a Monteverdi mass.

The Spring Recorder Festival has been delivered by our very capable Spring Recorder Festival committee. A wonderful selection of tutors made the festival particularly inspiring and enjoyable.

The two Special Sessions were my personal favourites in which Simon Borutzki demonstrated how to become a better ensemble - The Complete Ensemble Master.

By contrast, Ruth Wilkinson invited us to a banquet in the late 14th century. "Il Solazzo, Music of a Medieval Banquet".

On October 19th the very resilient Beate Lackmann presented an 8 foot, low Recorder day.

The music was delightful, and Beate included several of Simon Borutzki's arrangements.

It was a real tour de force, stretching Beate's stamina to the limits, conducting us from 10 am to past 5 pm!

The year culminated with the Festive Blow-In taken by Emma Nicholson on the first of December.

Concerto a Quattro (RV 153)

Chacony (Henry Purcell)

The Pink Panther theme, which left us all in a happy and light hearted mood.

For our first event this year, Anna Stegmann presented a Masterclass and Blow-in on the 24th of January. The forty people who attended the Blow-in played Brian Bonsor's "The 17th's Farewell to Alva" and two of the Romanian Folkdances arranged by Béla Bartók.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Victorian Recorder Guild in 2024.

Firstly, thank you to the VRG Committee:

Jill Ferris, our vice president and newsletter editor, Celia Sexton, secretary, Sue Lyons our treasurer, Jim Bland, who keeps the website running and up to date, Kon Wong who represents the Don Cowell Memorial Trust, Di Golding, Yvonne Clarke and Beate Lackman who continues to advertise the Guild on Facebook.

The committee meets on-line about once a month to organise events and discuss other Guild matters.

Thank you to Gwen Rathjens our membership secretary, who fastidiously keeps our membership data up-to-date, and welcomes new members.

Also thank you to the Spring Weekend Committee, Jane May, Sue Lyons Jill Ferris, Liz Zetzmann and Kaylene Brooks.

And finally, to our librarians, Amanda Witt and Trevor Trotter for all their effort in cataloguing the music frequently received from generous donors.

Thanks also to Sue Lyons, who helped in the library earlier in the year.

If I have omitted anyone I sincerely apologise, but all of you deserve thanks for helping our Guild run so smoothly and helping to promote and give opportunities to people to pursue their interest in the instrument.

Suzanne Palmer-Holton