

The death occurred on 27 February 2018 in Perth, Western Australia of Dudley Bastian, foundation member in 1966 of the Organ Society of Western Australia (OSWA) and Chairman of the WA Branch of RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) from 1974 to 1983.

Dudley's musical studies began around age 7. He was allowed one day to play the first page of the Wedding March on the then organ St George's Cathedral, and always said he was 'hooked' from then on.

His first appointment – organist at St Hilda's Church, North Perth – was at age 16. From then on he played many of Perth's main organs either as organist or deputy organist.

It was largely through Dudley's initiative and energy that OSWA came into being in August 1966 and – always a worker, never a figurehead – unsurprisingly he was elected the Society's first Secretary and Treasurer.

On his return from overseas studies in 1972 he received the Society's first Life Membership.

He is particularly honoured in the RSCM Branch for establishing the Junior Choristers' Course.

The first of these took place in the regional centre of Northam in 1975, and the 44th will take place in the Swan Valley just north of Perth this

July. All were delighted that Dudley was present at the gala dinner on the 40th such camp at Guildford Grammar School, where he cut the celebratory cake.

Educated at the famed Perth Modern School, Dudley studied Music part time at the University of Western Australia, graduating with a Bachelor of Music in 1967 and a Diploma of Education the following year. He travelled with his new wife, Beverley, to England in 1968 where he successfully sat the FRCO

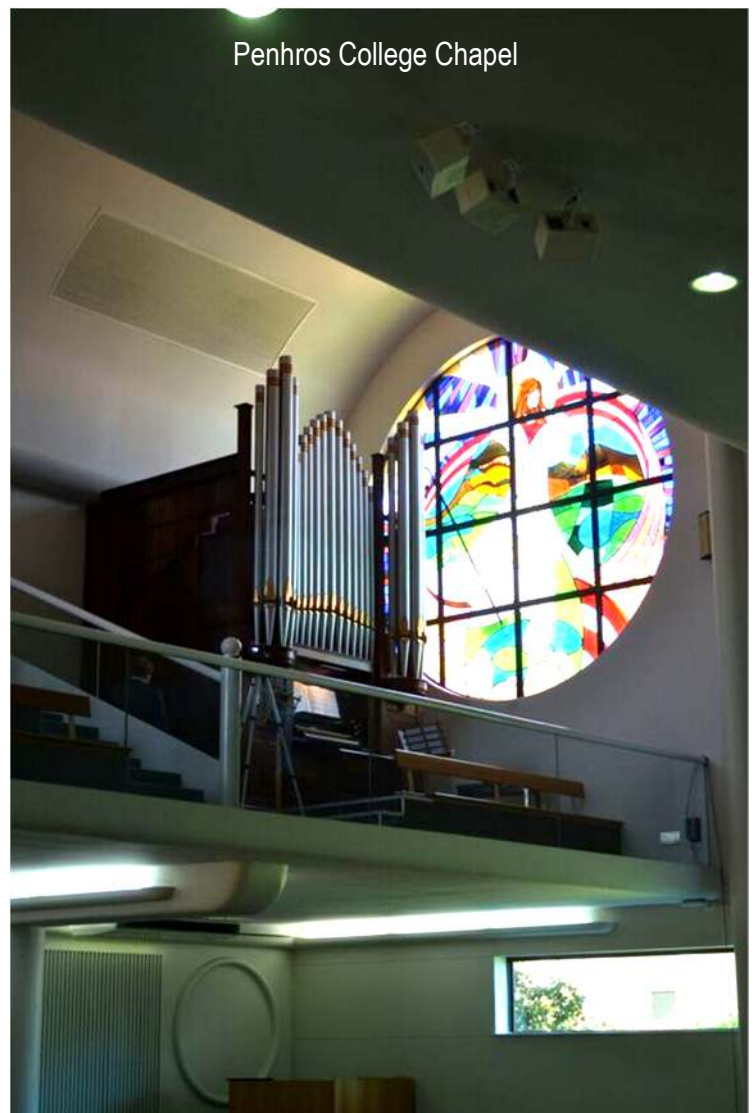
(Fellow of the Royal College of Organists) and won the John Brook Prize for the highest mark in the Choir Master's Diploma examination. During this time he made contact with the RSCM at Addington Palace and attended a number of courses there. Dr Gerald Knight, Director of RSCM, had travelled to Australia and understood the particular difficulties facing Western Australia. He and Martin How encouraged Dudley to consider how to further the cause on his return home.

Dudley, Beverley and their two children (there were to be four) returned to Perth in 1972, he to take up the post of Director of Music at Christ Church Grammar School. Western Australia was to host the national RSCM school for the first time the following year. The resignation and death of the organist of St George's Cathedral had left a major gap in the organisation of the school, which Dudley filled with great energy, including dealing with the sudden withdrawal of the designated conductor who was replaced with the ebullient John Bertalot. The school was a success and Dudley, who became State Chairman the following year, used the experience to develop the local Junior Choristers' Course.

He was appointed Director of Music of St George's Cathedral, Perth in 1976, relinquishing this to become Director of Music at Penrhos College in the Perth suburb of Como, a position he held for over 13 years, during which time music flourished in the school – a tradition

that continues to the present day. He conducted all the Choristers' Courses up to 1980, when Perth next hosted the National School, for which he chaired the committee. This time the Course Director was Dr Lionel Dakers, Director of RSCM, the Course Organist was Mr David O'Neill, Dudley's successor at the Cathedral, and Mrs Judy Reynolds from Northam directed the Junior Course. It was another resounding success.

In 1983 Dudley handed the Chair to Revd Stuart Good. He focussed more on the organ, although he conducted one last Junior Course in Geraldton in 1987, the year he retired from Penrhos College. He was a consultant for the



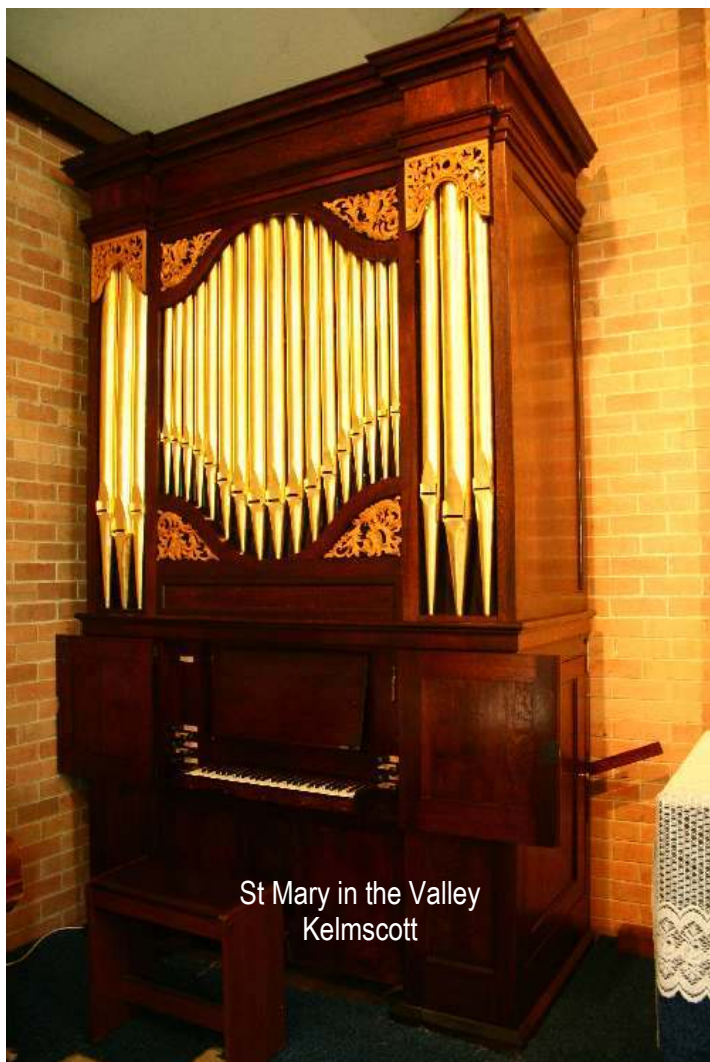
new pipe organ for the magnificent St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Geraldton, some 400km north of Perth, which came to be regarded as Perth builder the late John Larnier's finest opus. Dudley had good practical experience of organbuilding, as he had brought an instrument originally in a Nottingham church back with him in 1972. This was erected in his home in Highgate, and a later home in Mount Lawley. He gifted the instrument to Penrhos College and, revoiced for a much larger room and with a new Mixture on the Great Organ, it now stands in the gallery of the College Chapel.

He was also responsible for bringing an organ dating from the 1750s from Kent

to WA, which finished up in St Mary in the Valley Anglican Church in Kelmscott. Now restored to original condition, this instrument is most likely the oldest pipe organ in Australia. Organ heritage was always a keen interest for Dudley. The threatened loss of the 1893 organ in the Johnston Memorial Congregational Church Fremantle galvanised Dudley into action in 1966 and resulted in its relocation to St Patrick's Anglican Church, Mount Lawley. In 1999 on behalf of OSHA, he made a presentation to the first State Heritage Convention on the state of organ preservation and weaknesses in the WA State Heritage Act as it then applied to organs.

Dudley was a great encourager and enabler of others, helping many church musicians achieve the Guild of Church Musicians' Archbishop's Certificate in Church Music. For some years, starting in 1991, he led a 'Discover the Organ' day each year, bringing together OSHA and RSCM in fostering and encouraging new organists. Participants – usually pianists with no experience of the organ – would gather at his house and, after playing on his house organ, move to other instruments in the area. He gave some of the more promising players a series of lessons without charge, and there are many organists in Perth who started out in this way.

It was especially pleasing for OSHA that Dudley in 2016 was able to be present at a number of the events





St Edmund's, Wembley

2008 bringing the instrument back to good condition. St Edmund's was a fitting setting for his funeral, the organ music for which included two movements special to him from Rheinberger's Sonata No.2. Both the WA Branch of RSCM and OSWA were immeasurably enriched by the energy and love of music which radiated from Dudley Bastian. His wife Beverley died some years ago; he leaves behind one daughter and three sons.

John Beaverstock
Chairman of the WA Branch
RSCM Australia.

Dr Bill Loneragan
Former President
Organ Society of Western Australia.

organised to celebrate its Golden Jubilee, despite his declining health.

Dudley encouraged the congregation of St Edmund's Anglican Church, Wembley to import an organ from a redundant church in Great Yarmouth, and this project was achieved in 1993, with some work by Pipe Organ WA in



Dudley at his home organ
January 2015

From: Gillian Weir
Subject: Your letter of 7th March
Date: 9 April 2018 at 16:31:01 AWST
To: vicepresident@oswa.org.au

Dear Mr Van den Berg,

I have been snowed under recently (in more senses than one!) and am afraid I may not have answered your letter of March 7th. Dudley will be much missed in the Society, and I appreciate your taking the time and trouble to let me know of his passing.

I always read the magazine with interest, and am so pleased to see that the Society continues to thrive. I wish I were closer and could drop in to see you all! I am in touch with Michael Brimer, who was telling me this week about when he designed the Walker in the University all those years ago, which brought back memories of the many times I have played in Perth, particularly as Artist-in-Residence at the University as well as in many other visits to the Concert Hall and many other venues.

Thank you again, and warmest good wishes as ever to all the members,

From

Gillian Weir.