

## Aquinas College Chapel—First Event for 2020



Saturday 18th July 2020 was the date of our first OSPA event for 2020, and a large attendance braved wintry conditions to see and hear the recently rebuilt Paul Hufner organ at Aquinas College, Salter Point (Manning).

Patrick Elms was the organ builder responsible for the reconstruction of the instrument (see *In The Pipeline*, May 2019), and he took us on an interesting narrative journey of both his life of involvement in pipe organs and the history of this fascinating organ at Aquinas College.



Paul Hufner provided an organ in 1966 for the new chapel. It was a single manual extension organ of four ranks, no pedals, the ranks being an Open Diapason, Lieblich Gedeckt and Gamba in a swell box, and an unenclosed Dulciana. There was also an octave of 16' Bourdon pipes which formed an Autobass feature, allowing the lowest note of a chord to provide 16' tone.

Paul Hufner was invited by the school to enlarge the organ in 1999 and this was his last work in organ building.



He added a second keyboard and pedal board, provided a new Great windchest on which he re-sited the Open Diapason unit from the Swell, provided a smaller Geigen Diapason unit in the swell box and then complemented the pipe ensemble with an array of stops using the latest digital technology from Makin, UK; reeds to each division, a Celeste to the Swell and Claribel flute to the Great. He also provided space on the new windchest for a separate Twelfth 2 2/3' and Mixture III.

Patrick told us that in 2016 he was given the go ahead to proceed with an ambitious project to enlarge and complete the organ with pipe ranks. At about the same time the chapel was extensively remodelled and enlarged.

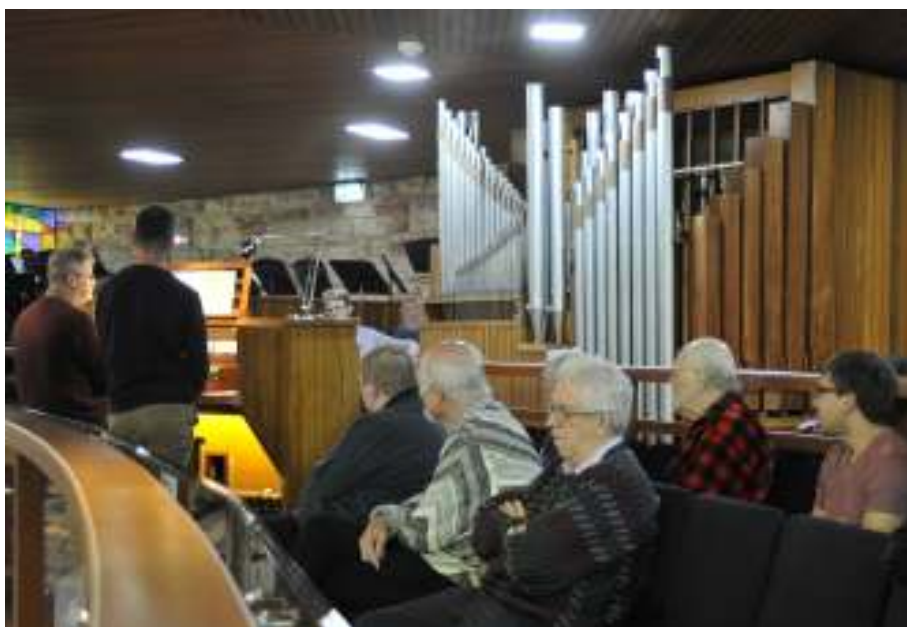
He removed the digital parts of the organ completely and made the organ similar to the three larger Paul Hufner organs of six ranks built in the 1960's: St Nicholas Anglican Church, Floreat Park (1962); Wesley College, South Perth (1964); and Wesley Church, Albany (1966).

The work consisted of:

1. Supplying a 16' Trumpet unit (scaled and voiced to



Margaret de San Miguel



Don Cook



match that at Wesley Church, Albany).

2. Supplying a Celeste rank (matching the existing Gamba – the Celeste was thought an indispensable retention from the digital stops).
3. Supplying a wooden Claribel unit (made to match the tapered Claribel at Wesley Church Albany).
4. Supplying 12 pipes for the bottom octave of the Gt Open Diapason (previously provided digitally).
5. Supplying a software driven organ transmission from Peterson EMP.

The organ was completed in March 2019. Chris McMillan, Head of Arts at Aquinas College, welcomed the OSWA members and guests and told us that the organ was in daily use for college requirements and also a large number of weddings held in the chapel.

Patrick Elms, assisted by Colin van der Lecq, presented a delightful recital of pieces especially chosen to demonstrate the range and variety of stops and sound available on the completed



instrument. At the conclusion of the formal part of the afternoon the console was opened to any who wished to play the organ, and a number of members took that opportunity.

The opportunity was also taken to admire the beautiful architecture of the building, particularly the colourful windows, exquisite woodwork in the ceiling and dramatic stations of the cross sculpted in copper.

*Bruce Duncan*

Photographs by John van den Berg and Bruce Duncan

**Stoplist of the Aquinas College Chapel organ:**

<b>GREAT</b>		<b>SWELL</b>		<b>PEDAL</b>	
Bourdon	16'	Lieblich Gedeckt	8'	Subbass	16'
Open Diapason	8'	Gamba	8'	Bourdon	16'
Claribel	8'	Celeste	8'	Quint	10 2/3'
Dulciana	8'	Lieblich Flute	4'	Principal	8'
Lieblich Gedeckt	8'	Gamba	4'	Bass Flute	8'
Octave	4'	Nazard	2 2/3'	Dolce	8'
Spitzflute	4'	Piccolo	2'	Fifteenth	4'
Dulcet	4'	Gamba	2'	Choral Bass	4'
Twelfth	2 2/3'	Larigot	1 1/3'	Trombone	16'
Fifteenth	2'	Tierce	1 3/5'	Trumpet	8'
Sifflute	2'	Octavin	1'	Clarion	4'
Trumpet	8'	Double Trumpet	16'	Gt/Ped	
Sw/Gt Sub		Trumpet	8'	Sw/Ped	
Sw/Gt		Clarion	4'		
Sw/Gt Oct		Sw Sub			
Autobass		Sw Oct			
		Tremulant			

