



Newsletter, September 2017

Newsletters

We apologise that there hasn't been an NQRS Newsletter since early last year. The society has however been quite active in the meantime and we've maintained contact through regular emails to those on our mailing list. Inspired by a wish to share a wonderful weekend workshop on Magnetic Island in June, we've decided to revive the newsletter.

Weekend Workshop

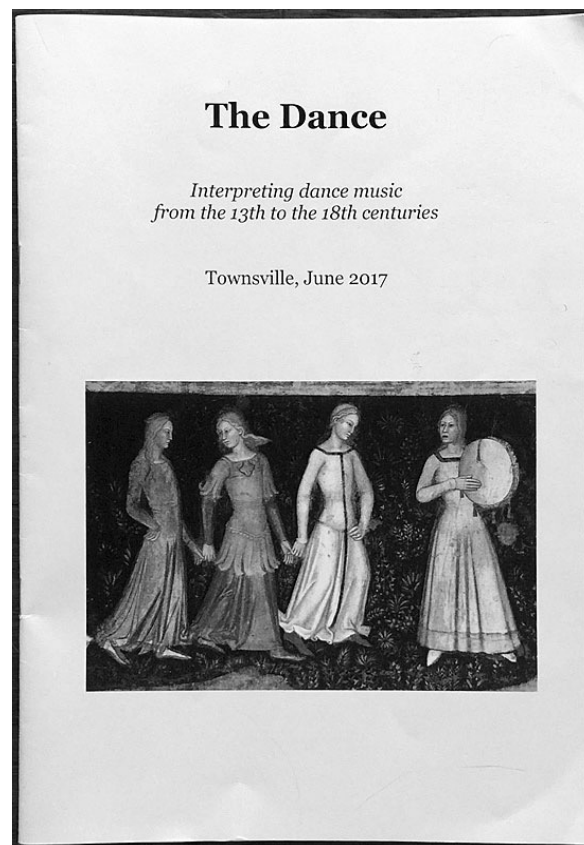
Venue



This year we decided to have our first residential weekend workshop since 2011 and Magnetic Island was the popular choice. We held it at the Arcadia Village Hotel-Motel which is a great venue in a wonderful location with very good facilities.

Workshop

We had the excellent Ruth Wilkinson from Melbourne as the workshop leader. There were 11 participants- including one from Sydney and one from Perth - so we kept the whole group with her for the entire weekend. She selected the theme '**Dancing**



Through the Ages' and provided us with a terrific booklet of medieval, renaissance and baroque music augmented with additional sheet music as appropriate.



We worked our way steadily through this material and Ruth explained and demonstrated the various dances, aided by some dancing members of the group. As is her custom, she showed us how to phrase and shape the music so that even apparently simple tunes can become things of great beauty and expression. She also played her latest acquisition, a medieval double recorder.



Glyn Marillier brought a contra bass with him from Perth. On the Saturday evening, he distributed arrangements for six voices (soprano, alto, tenor, bass, great bass and contra bass) and we had great fun playing them. In the photo, he and Wade Tattersall are matching the contra bass with a sopranino.



Some of the group stayed on after the weekend to sample some of the many pleasures of Magnetic Island, such as the wildlife, e.g. koalas and rock wallabies, the beaches, the restaurants and sunset at Horseshoe Bay. Others returned to the mainland to enjoy some of the attractions in Townsville such as Reef HQ.



The general consensus was that this was a magic weekend and that given the opportunity, we would do it all again. With that in mind, we are planning a repeat next year, perhaps closer to the Australian Festival of Chamber Musics so that visitors and locals can enjoy both.



Monthly Workshops

This year we have continued the monthly workshops on the afternoon of the third Sunday of each month and these have proved very enjoyable with fun and challenging music. It was unfortunately necessary to cancel the September one, as several key players will be away. The next one will be on Sunday 15 October at 2pm at St Joseph's School, Fryer St, North Ward.

Busking

Traditionally we busk on a Sunday before Christmas at Cotters Markets to raise money for charity, but the organisers of the markets cannot accommodate us this year. At the moment, we are considering alternatives with busking on the Strand a good candidate.