

NQRS News

Issue #2 – 14 June 2025



Welcome

Dear recorder enthusiasts,

Welcome to our second NQRS newsletter in 2025. It is the year of our 30th anniversary and we are getting close to our celebration weekend in August.

In this issue: read about our Play Days, Treble class, busking adventures and difficulties of funding.

If you have stories, photos, enquiries or anything else that you would like to add for the next newsletter, please send it in by the beginning of September. (The newsletter is something from the members for the members – the more engagement we have the more relevant it will become.)

There might be a special edition of the newsletter at the end of July with all things 30th Anniversary.

Anne Milanovic - President
(on behalf of the 2025 committee)

Play Days 2025

Our Play Days are set for the year – we meet every 6 weeks on a Sunday for some playing fun and social gathering. We play through a variety of genres and levels and use the opportunity to dig out gems from our NQRS library. We had great fun on 30 March and 11 May.

The next date is Sunday, 22 June, 2pm at Malcolm & Glenda's place in Mundingburra. It will be Tartan Day in Townsville, so we picked some Scottish Dances (among other pieces) to celebrate with the Scottish community.

More Play Day dates for the year are 3 August – 14 September – 26 October – 7 December.

Development Classes 2025 – developing

A treble class started in term 2 and is continuing in term 3. We meet on Tuesdays at 5-6pm, working our way through John Pitts' "Treble Recorder from the Beginning" and looking at some repertoire and scales for a Grade 1 exam (no pressure to take the exam – just for reference of the level). If you are a beginner treble player and would like to join the group, please let us know.

Options are open for other kinds of development classes and/or individual lessons.

Busking

From the beginning of June, a group of players started busking at Cotters Market on Sunday mornings. We will keep the series going until mid-August as a means of advertising for our Workshop Concert on 24 August. People stop and listen, engage in conversation about playing the recorder and leave a small donation. If you would like to busk with us feel free to come along and play. We have a selection of easy arrangements, and you can bring your own choices, too.



RECORDER CONCERT

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL, DENHAM ST

GUEST ARTISTS:
**RUTH WILKINSON
& ALEXANDRA
BAILLIET-JOLY**

ENTRY \$15

**24 AUG 2025
4 PM**

More info at www.nqrs.org.au

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QUEENSLAND
RECORDER
SOCIETY
NQRS.ORG.AU

30th Anniversary Celebrations – Funding Difficulty

The idea of busking was born out of the necessity of finding other ways of raising funds for our celebratory Workshop Weekend in August, after three grant applications had failed. The Society needs to raise \$3,000 to cover costs of the workshop. While this is an uncomfortable situation, the committee decided to go ahead with the workshop in any case, and we are certain that together we can achieve this goal. Here are some ideas:

Our busking efforts raised 2% so far (\$60), and it will raise a bit more over the next weeks. The bigger effect of the busking, though, is that people become aware of the Recorder Society in general and of our workshop weekend and concert in particular. Several people noted the date of the concert and closer to the event they can even buy tickets to the concert at the market.

Regular registration for the Workshops is open until Sunday, 6 July. We currently have 23 participants (18 adults and 5 children). The registration fee covers 5% of our target – we'd need 20 more adults or 40 students to reach 100% (which is, of course, unrealistic and would make it very difficult to cater for every player's needs). But a maximum number of 35 participants is a good target, and we hope that there will be some more registrations in the coming weeks. If you are thinking about participating or know someone who might, please help us out.

Our public concert on Sunday, 24 August, at 4pm at St. James Cathedral will conclude the Workshop Weekend and will feature our guest artists Ruth Wilkinson and Alexandra Baillet-Joly as well as the workshop participants. Concert tickets are \$15 (0.5% of our fund raising target). We'd need to sell 200 tickets to reach 100%, which is possible, though unlikely. If each participant can encourage 2 people to attend the concert, and those who cannot participate could attend and bring some more friends, we could well expect 70-100 people in the audience.

Our member Dr. Anneke Silver, Visual Artist, will kindly donate one of her own paintings that we will raffle. Thank you very much, Anneke! Details will be finalized in the next few days. What we can reveal already is what Anneke said herself: *"I decided that the best work would probably be one of my musical angels. The musical angel works that I do from time to time, are studies of the musician angels that appear on frescoed ceilings in cathedrals, or as tiny illustrations in mediaeval scriptures. They are usually shown in groups playing a whole range of instruments, versions of which we still play today. These angels are so beautiful and so expressive but often get overlooked because of the magnitude of the biblical subjects they surround. They appear to be sort of 'extras' on the stage. I love doing these explorative paintings studying them and putting the spotlight on them and their instruments for a change."* The winner will be drawn at the concert on 24 August – another great reason to be there!

And in desperate financial situations like ours we also explore the option of asking for donations or sponsorships. We are very grateful that the Music Teachers Association Townsville (QMTA) have kindly decided to sponsor our workshop with \$300. Thank you very much!

Donations by individuals could also be ticket gifts for other people, e.g. if someone was happy to give \$45, they could invite 3 people to the concert. Donations can be sent directly to the Society's bank account at Westpac, BSB 034-212, account 134-217.

It is possible to reach the necessary amount, but we rely on help from members and participants to spread the word.

Condolences

Former member Tricia Reynolds passed away in March after a time of illness, and our secretary's (Janet's) husband, Graham Askern, also passed away in April. We send our condolences to both families and are especially mindful of Janet's need to take time out. Janet is the driving force behind many things for our society, and it is good when people can check in on her and see where she needs help.

30th Anniversary Celebrations – Registration

Detailed information about the Workshop Weekend are attached as supplement below.

To register, scan the code or go to <https://form.jotform.com/240972009795061>.



Supplement – Detailed Information

(You can also download the info from our website as a separate PDF. Go to www.nqrs.org.au/pages/annual_workshop/php)

Guest Tutor: Ruth Wilkinson



Ruth Wilkinson is a recorder, viol, and violone player and over her varied career has performed extensively throughout Australia, New Zealand, Asia and Europe. She has a diverse discography of recordings of music from the 12th to the 21st century.

Over many years, beginning with the baroque trio, Capella Corelli and the medieval ensemble La Romanesca, Ruth has contributed to many of Australia's fine early music ensembles notably Ludovico's Band, the viol ensemble Consortium, The Recorder Co-op and Trio Avium. She is also in demand for workshops and baroque orchestral playing.

As a teacher Ruth has nurtured many young recorder players, many of whom have become professionals now their making the mark on the Australian and world scene. She has taught early music for many years at the University of Melbourne.

Ruth is in demand to lead recorder workshops around Australia and has for many years been part of the teaching team at the Orpheus summer workshops held each year in Armidale, NSW. Ruth's curiosity about performing early music and training began with her studies at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Switzerland with Hans-Martin Linde and Jordi Savall.

Guest Tutor: Alexandra Bailliet-Joly



Alexandra is an Australian recorder player, chamber musician, music educator, conductor and co-director of the Australasian Recorder Festival.

Alexandra has been a tutor, conductor and performer for the Sydney Recorder Society, Canberra Recorder & Early Music Society, Victorian Recorder Guild, Recorder and Early Music Society of Western Australia and the annual Orpheus Music Recorder Courses (Armidale, NSW). She is one of the four founding members and organisers of the Melbourne Recorder Academy, organising workshops for recorder students around Victoria. She currently tutors recorder ensembles at the Sydney Conservatorium High school.

As a performer, Alexandra is part of The Recorder Co-op, a recorder quartet specializing in recorder music both contemporary and early. In the past she has performed with the Organs of Ballarat Goldfields festival (VIC), Bach Akademie

Australia (SYD), Salut! Baroque (SYD), The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (SA), Trillo (VIC) and the Bach Cantata program at St Johns Southgate (VIC). Alexandra has been broadcast on ABC Classic FM and ABC Regional Radio. She writes articles on the recorder, interviews other recorder professionals, and creates Gecko Newsletters on behalf of Orpheus Music. In the last few years, she has been creating Composition Competitions through Orpheus Music and co-directing Orpheus Music courses and the Australasian Recorder Festival.

Workshop Outline

We are planning a whole ensemble for all participants to play together as well as two smaller ensembles, divided according to ability levels (Level 1 – easier, Level 2 – more advanced). There will also be an opportunity for a masterclass session, where participants are able to bring along a piece of their own they have been working on to receive helpful hints from our guest tutors.

We will celebrate our 30th anniversary with a Gala Dinner on Saturday, 23 August, with time to mingle, hear some stories of our history and listen to performances by our guest tutors in between courses.

The finale of our celebratory workshop weekend will be a public concert with performances by our guest tutors and workshop participants in small and large ensemble formations (the “Whole Ensemble”, the two “Small Ensemble Groups” and the masterclass participants will present what they have been working on over the weekend).

To be able to plan the workshops and concert, we are offering an **Early Bird discount until Sunday, 6 April**, and **normal registration until Sunday, 6 July**. The music for the ensembles will be sent out shortly after the closing date (6 July). Suggestions for performance items (masterclass) need to be submitted by Sunday, 27 July. Late entries will be accepted after 6 July, until Sunday, 18 August (subject to availability).

There is no extra cost for masterclass participants – so get in quick and reserve your spot for your chance to be tutored by Ruth Wilkinson and Alexandra Bailliet-Joly. (NB: your only “extra fee” is your willingness to present your piece in the concert on Sunday, 24 August.)

Schedule

Friday, 22 August

4:30pm: Registration
5-6:30pm: Whole Ensemble
 6:30pm: dinner
7:30-9pm: Small Ensembles (2 levels)

Saturday, 23 August

(8:30am: arrival and registration)
9-10:30am: Whole Ensemble
 10:30am: Morning tea
11-12:30pm: Small Ensembles (Masterclass)
 12:30pm: Lunch
2-3:30pm: Small Ensembles
 3:30pm: Afternoon Tea
4-5:30pm: Small Ensembles (Masterclass)
6:30pm: Gala Dinner at North Queensland Club (with short performances and speeches)

Sunday, 24 August

(8:30am: arrival)
9-10:30am: Whole Ensemble
 10:30am: Morning tea
11-12:30pm: Small Ensembles
 12:30pm: Lunch
2-3:30pm: dress rehearsal at concert venue
4-5pm: Public Concert

Fees

Workshop

	Early bird registration (until 6 April)	Normal registration (7 April to 6 July)	Late registration (7 July to 18 August)
NQRS member	\$130	\$155	\$175

Non-member*	\$150	\$175	\$195
NQRS member (student)	\$65	\$75	\$85
Non-member (student)*	\$75	\$85	\$95

*NB: local players might consider becoming a member of NQRS since the membership fee of \$20 (adults) or \$10 (students) is the difference between the member and non-member fee for the workshop – plus you will be able to receive additional discounts throughout the year for our local classes and play-days.

Meals

Morning and Afternoon Teas are included in the workshop fees. Other meals can be booked with your registration, or you can choose to make that decision closer to the weekend. Final meal bookings need to be made by Friday, 8 August.

Dinner Friday (Potluck): \$20

Lunch Saturday: \$10

Gala Dinner Saturday: \$70

(including canapés, 2-course alternate drop, musical entertainment by Ruth Wilkinson and Alexandra Bailliet-Joly, and celebratory reminiscence of 30 years NQRS)

Sunday lunch: \$10

Accommodation (Suggestions)

The workshop will be held at Townsville Senior Citizens Welfare Association Hall, 14-16 Ryan Street, Belgian Gardens.

Some suggestions for accommodation close by (in order of distance):

- Seahaven Resort (400m), 74 The Esplanade, Townsville

<https://www.seahavenresort.com.au/>

- Castle Crest Motel (750m), 2 Rose Street, North Ward

<https://www.castlecrestmotel.com/>

- Palm Waters Holiday Apartments (1.1km), crn Cook / Landsborough St, North Ward

<https://palmwaters.com.au/>

- Shoredrive Motel (1.2km), 117 The Strand, Townsville

<https://www.shoredrive.com.au/>

- Big4 Tasman Holiday Park (1.2km) – caravan park, 46 Heatleys Parade, Rowes Bay

<https://www.big4.com.au/caravan-parks/qld/townsville-surrounds/tasman-holiday-parks-rowes-bay/accommodation>