

NQRS News



Issue #1 – 16 March 2025

Welcome

Dear recorder enthusiasts,

Welcome to our new NQRS newsletter in 2025. It is the year of our 30th anniversary and we want to keep you up to date with all things recorder that are being planned and prepared for our members and friends.

We would like to trial issuing one Newsletter per quarter. Issues #2, 3 and 4 are scheduled 3 months apart (15 June; 14 September; 14 December). If you have stories, photos, enquiries or anything else that you would like to add for the next newsletter, please send it in no later than a week before the date of our next issue. (Think of the newsletter like something from the members for the members – the more engagement we have the more relevant it will become.)

In this issue: read about our Play Days, our library and our 30th Anniversary Celebrations.

Enjoy all your recorder adventures. We hope to see many of you at our first Play Day for the year on 30 March.

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

Play Days 2025

Our Play Days have been a long-standing tradition of NQRS. Recorder players of different playing ability come together and play through different pieces of music in various settings, for as long as the group feels like doing. While one person is usually in charge of preparing the music, participants are encouraged to bring pieces along (or send in requests or suggestions beforehand). It is a social gathering as well as a jam session, and participants usually bring a plate to share for when we have a cuppa after playing.

In 2025, our Play Days will be held on Sundays in 6-weeks-intervals, starting at 2pm, at 20 Barellan Street in Cranbrook. Our first Play Day will be **Sunday, 30 March**.

You can mark your diaries for the following dates:

30 March – 11 May – 22 June – 3 August – 14 September – 26 October – 7 December

We would like to re-introduce the collection of a small fee for the Play Days and suggest \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. NB: There is currently no charge for venue hire or sheet music or afternoon tea, but introducing a small fee will make it possible for the Society to pay for those things when necessary, or build up some funds for bigger events (e.g. paying for piano accompanists at concerts etc.)

NQRS Library

Our library of sheet music and Recorder Magazines has – for the time being - found a home at 20 Barellan Street, Cranbrook, which makes easy access on Play Days. Several new items have been donated by members, and it is necessary to go through the collection and update the catalogue at some stage. Plans on when and how this can happen are still being discussed (if anyone has a suggestion, please let us know.)

If you have any sheet music (especially ensemble music), that you would like to donate to our library, please feel free to do so. We are envisaging members being able to borrow items from the library once our catalogue is up to date.

The Society also owns several instruments (mostly descants), which would best go to a new owner and be played. Plans to make some of these instruments available for sale are underway, while others will remain in the possession of the Society.

If you have instruments that you no longer use and would like to donate or sell, let us know.

30th Anniversary Celebrations

We will celebrate 30 years of Recorder Playing in Townsville on the weekend of 22-24 August:

- with weekend workshops, featuring guest tutors Ruth Wilkinson (Melbourne), and Alexandra Bailliet-Joly (Sydney)
- a Gala Dinner at the NQ Club on Saturday, 23 August, also featuring Ruth and Alexandra as guest performers in between courses
- and a public concert at St. James Cathedral on Sunday, 24 August, featuring small and large ensembles and solo performers (including our guest tutors).

Please find detailed information attached as annex below. NB: Early Bird registration is open until 6 April.

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



Annex – 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>