

North Queensland Recorder Society
Members' Survey
2015

Summary of Results

Survey Topics

The survey sought members' opinions on a range of topics such as :

- The NQRS website
- What the main purpose/aims of NQRS should be
- Membership fees
- Workshops
- Play Days

23 responses were received in total.

These were mainly collected at the March Play Day / AGM, so included responses from school age players and their parents.

The answers to some questions were varied and wide ranging, while to others there were some very clear and consistent messages.

Survey Results

This presentation summarises the following:

Your answers to questions on various topics...

...with any conclusions we can draw from those answers...

...& any actions / commitments by the committee as a result.

plus

- a selection of general comments, feedback and suggestions written by members.

Questions on NQRS purpose

Question : “What do you think the main purpose(s)/top priorities of NQRS should be?”

There was a clear 1st choice (7 out of 10 answers):

“To enable local recorder players to get together (e.g. by organising events like Play Days & workshops)”

70% chose this answer

Questions on NQRS activities

Similarly: *“What do you think NQRS should do MORE of?”*

15 people answered, and 9 of these wrote **“Playdays”** and/or **“Playing”** (60% of responses)

And: *“Would you like play days to take place :*

Same as Now / Monthly / Every 2-3 months”

17 out of 19 (90%) want **either monthly or every 2-3 months** (i.e. 4 to 6 a year)

Conclusion : Members want to PLAY TOGETHER more than they do now!!

ACTION - The Committee will endeavour to arrange more playdays in future as well as look at other informal options for group playing e.g. Busking.

(Please share any other ideas you have for group playing!)

Question on membership

“Is the \$20 membership fee:

Too much / Too little / Just right ?”

Clear consensus:

19 people answered, and 18 of these ticked

“Just right”.

ACTION - as a result the committee agreed that 2015 fees would remain same amount as in 2014.

Questions on WORKSHOPS

“What do you think the main aim of workshops should be?”

Clear consensus for top 2 answers:

#1 To provide members with the opportunity to learn from high profile & experienced tutors

40% chose this as top aim

#2 For local members of NQRS to get together & have fun

24% chose this as top aim & another 25% chose this as their 2nd choice.

CONCLUSION: choice of tutor & material is critical – we want to learn but we want to have fun too!

CHALLENGE : what’s the best way to make workshops interesting for all abilities (so everyone learns something new) as well as being fun??

Planning for future WORKSHOPS

Ideas for workshop formats:

- single group vs smaller groups (by ability)?
- 1 day or 2 day?
- days only or residential?
- locations?

Please share any other ideas and suggestions !

Questions on WORKSHOPS

Some questions on workshops had a fairly clear consensus:

Would you like to get workshop music in advance?

- 64% (14/22) said **YES** (& others said “Don’t Mind”)

Would you like workshops to include a short performance/concert at the end ?

- 85% (17/20) said **YES**

Should children be encouraged to attend workshops ?

- 90% (19 of 21) said **YES**

Questions on WORKSHOPS

Other questions on workshops had a more split/wider range of views :

Should workshops take place over 2 weekend days or would you prefer 1 day workshops?

- 43% (9 of 21) said **2 days**
- 38% (8 of 21) said **1 day**
- 19% (4 of 21) **didn't mind**

Would you prefer workshops sessions in smaller groups (eg according to ability

- 45% (10 of 22) said **YES** , but 5 said **NO**, and 7 **didn't mind**

Questions on WORKSHOPS

Questions on interest in RESIDENTIAL workshop 2016

- 14 of 22 have attended residential music workshops in past
- 17 of 21 said they **“definitely” or “probably” would attend a residential workshop**

Not surprisingly, the clear #1 factor (75%) for answering **“probably/definitely not”** was because it would be **“Likely to be too expensive”**

ACTION – Committee will need to ensure that it carefully considers COST if it organises a residential workshop (eg seek subsidy via grants / research lower cost options for accommodation etc)

Members' suggestions – on what NQRS should do more of / should focus on

- **Dispel the prejudice against recorders as a “starter” instrument**
- **Raise the profile by playing at more public events...Be seen and heard**
- **Encourage more schools to teach recorder...get more qualified recorder teachers into schools**
- **Consider advertising about the recorder society in school newsletters or community boards**

Members' suggestions – on Playdays

- **More group playing & less “Black Box”**
- **Try more new/modern music or folk music, less very old music**
- **Include at least one easy piece (or pieces with some easy parts) so that less experienced sight-readers can still get to play one piece really well.**
- **Include an element of tutoring / playing in smaller groups**
- **Cover fewer pieces (so enough time to play them really well)**

Members' suggestions – on Workshops

Things members have NOT enjoyed in the past:

- **Struggling to sight read difficult pieces**
- **Poorly chosen pieces = poor results**
- **Un-airconditioned rooms**
- **Too much time spent not actually playing (long warm ups, long show & tells)**
- **Sense of “RUSH” – no breathing space**
- **Emphasis on old music**
- **Too little time with main tutor**
- **Members not attending the whole workshop**

Members' suggestions – on Workshops

Things members HAVE enjoyed in the past:

- **Cameraderie**
- **Socialising – shared meals/bring a plate**
- **Learning new music**
- **Playing in a group**
- **Good tutors / working with guest tutors**
- **Concerts**

Final request

Please keep sharing your ideas & suggestions & feedback with the committee!

We really value your views!