

Hobart Society of Recorder Players Newsletter March 2026

www.hobartrecorderplayers.com

The Committee

President: Kate Sinclair
Musical Director: Xavier Gandy
Secretary: Llewellyn Negrin
Treasurer: Nicole Parums
Librarians: Angela Brinkhoff and Luz Montes

Non-Committee Roles

Public Officer: Nicole Parums
Website Administrator: Nicholas Lander
Newsletter Editor: Nicole Parums

Please don't hesitate to contact a member of the committee with any ideas, questions, comments or concerns.

2026 subscription fees are now due

Please pay by Tuesday 31st March.
Child \$30, Concession \$55, Adult \$65
Please pay by bank deposit:
Westpac
BSB: 037-014
Account: 266570

Tea Money

At our 2026 AGM, it was decided to no longer collect gold coin donations from members partaking of tea and biscuits. We encourage these members to make a donation to the account above. Please make this transaction separate to your membership fees and include the descriptor "tea money". This can be done at any point during the year, and the amount is at your discretion.

2026 Calendar

We meet every Monday evening including public holidays.
Other dates, and dates to note, below:
Saturday March 28 - Lenah Valley all day concert preparation
Saturday April 18 - Small concert at St Johns New Town
Saturday July 18 - Mid Winter dinner
Saturday August 8 - Fern Tree all day rehearsal
Saturday November 7 - Fern Tree all day concert preparation
Saturday November 28 - Big concert at St Johns New Town
Monday December 14 - Christmas Party

Put these dates in your diaries! Details will be emailed to members closer to each event. Watch your emails for other small gatherings, busking and interesting things to do over Winter.

Newsletter schedule

Submission deadlines:

April 29 for May 4 newsletter

July 22 for July 27 newsletter

Sep 30 for Oct 5 newsletter

Dec 2 for Dec 7 newsletter

Please email Nicole your articles and suggestions for upcoming newsletters.

From the Librarians

Please return all past music photocopies (amnesty granted for long lost music!). A reminder that we have black folders available for you to organise your music in.

Remembering Margaret Williams

We would like to share some recollections of valued Society member Margaret Williams, who sadly passed away in January.

From Clodagh Jones:

In the 1980s I worked for Margaret (as her technician) in the Department of Agriculture. I introduced her to the HSRPI and she eventually became President for a year or two. We both attended recorder workshops in Campbell Town, we camped one year and shared a tent. We both belonged to the Hobart Walking Club. Then after a few years our lives met again as both our spouses got dementia. So we met through Alzheimers Tasmania. Since then, I've kept in touch with her, last year she helped me with a garden plan, she gave me excellent advice - we both belonged to the same garden group. I'm very saddened. Margaret was a good friend - straight and forthright and always kind.

From Nicole Parums:

I vividly recall Margaret's beautiful and productive garden. She was determined to only grow plants that were edible or useful. Margaret gladly helped with front-of-house for concerts and was our designated keyholder and safety officer when we performed at the Moonah Arts Centre. She also maintained her Society membership despite not attending Monday meetings for health reasons during and after COVID. She will be missed.

Society members had the privilege of playing the following pieces at Margaret's funeral:

Thomas Tallis - If ye love me

Glyn Marillier - Psalm 121



Kate Sinclair spoke at Margaret's funeral on behalf of the Society and the following recollections were shared:

My name is Kate Sinclair and I am the president of the Hobart Society of Recorder Players. I would like to say a few words about Margaret's long involvement with the society and to share with you some memories of time spent with her.

Margaret wanted to learn a musical instrument, was drawn to wind instruments but felt that the clarinet or the flute would be too difficult. Clodagh, a long time recently retired member of the society and work colleague of Margaret's, suggested that she play the recorder.

Clodagh remembers sharing a tent with Margaret in Campbell Town in the grounds of The Grange during a recorder workshop weekend and failing to sleep as they were camped by fellow member Lloyd Bleasly who snored very loudly.

During the 1980s the recorder society was in a patchy period. Margaret stepped in as president and set the society back on track. We recently celebrated our 50th anniversary. In February each year, the society enjoys a weekend away in Bicheno. Margaret was famous there for "gallons" of flavoured custards made in her magic machine and for her palatial camper van. On the Sunday, she provided an extensive cooked breakfast for up to 20 of us campers.

Memories of Margaret...

- Her confident, no-nonsense, and reassuring presence
- Always welcoming and friendly
- Such a vast general knowledge and so interesting to talk to about a wide range of topics, particularly gardening and entomology
- All quavers and semiquavers were known as slippery tadpoles.

Strong, thorough, dependable, capable, no nonsense, always positive and cheerful.

Margaret will be sorely missed.

Margaret's Peanut Butter Biscuits

These biscuits were the mainstay for children's treats, and morning or afternoon tea for visitors.

2oz (57g) butter

2 dessert spoons peanut butter

½ cup white sugar

½ cup brown sugar

1 egg

1 ½ cups SR flour

½ cup rolled oats

Mix, form into balls and arrange on a greased tray. Flatten slightly with a fork and bake in a moderate oven until golden. Store in the container of your choice, though Margaret would have recommended a repurposed container such as a Sunshine instant milk powder tin.

Bicheno Recorder Weekend

Luz Montes

Over the years I have enjoyed many wonderful Bicheno Recorder weekends at Ruth and Richard Langman's cabin. This yearly event in February has become a much anticipated part of the HSRPI calendar.

This year I was able to arrive in Bicheno at lunchtime on Friday. As I drove in Ruth, Richard and Michael (from St Helen's) were playing trios by Hook. We were soon joined by Dave and Pauline in their van and Jocelyn and Xavier in their new car. We lunched on Ruth's salmon quiche (recipe below). After lunch we set up tents as well as the gazebo (this was quite tricky). Michael pruned trees, others raked and tidied. Later we visited the beach. Dinner was Ruth's delicious slow cooker silverside with mustard sauce and veggies. That night Pauline, Ruth and I watched a science fiction DVD "Moonfall". It was terrible and I have to own up that I brought it!

On Saturday morning we welcomed Lisa in her van, and Angela and Morris.

We played:

Sweet Suffolk Owl by Vauter

Giga by Chilcott

Bergamasca by Scheidt

Ave Verum Corpus by Mozart

Rosenheck- Bananas

Later arrivals were Uta and Kate, Llewellyn and Agnes. Uta and Kate brought delicious mulberries sourced from a tree in the Triabunna Fish and chip shop carpark - amazing! We were able to enjoy lunch outside under the gazebo.

After lunch we tackled:

Two choir music: In Dulci Jubilo and La Romana (Viadana)

Mahler's Frere Jacques

Llewellyn, Kate, Agnes and I then went to check into our shared Air B&B accommodation, not far from Uta's house. That evening we had the customary Saturday barbecue, eating at a long table on the driveway. We were joined by Michael's wife Liz. Sadly, Xavier and Jocelyn had to return to Hobart that evening.

Sunday's weather was not as good as the preceding days. Several of us enjoyed a river swim in the morning, but rain started at lunchtime. We bravely lunched in the rain under the gazebo, with the end people needing to use umbrellas.

No Bicheno weekend would be complete without some medical crisis. This year, Llewellyn had a dramatic reaction to an insect bite. Fortunately there was a first aid kit and help on hand.

On Monday morning we played:
Glyn Marillier - Scherzo
JP Sousa - Liberty Bell and Companions

After a refreshing walk on the beach, we packed up and had our final lunch. Most of us departed in the afternoon. Dave, Pauline and Kate stayed Monday night and were able to help Ruth and Richard the next day.

Thank you so much, Ruth and Richard , we had a wonderful time !

Ruth's SALMON QUICHE RECIPE

Very tasty and no additional pastry needed.

4 eggs

125g butter

1/2 teasp baking powder

2 cups milk

1 onion - chop finely and soften before combining with other ingredients

chopped parsley/herbs

salt and pepper

1/2 cup plain flour

1x 400g tin of salmon

Mix all ingredients. Ruth used a round pyrex pie dish. Bake at 180 degrees until golden.

Bicheno Photos

Kate Sinclair



AGM summary

Nicole Parums (public officer)

Our 2026 AGM was held on Monday the 23rd of February. Reports were presented by our Musical Director, President, Treasurer and Librarians outlining activities during the 2025 calendar year. Our Committee remains the same in 2026. Claire Farrell thanked the ongoing Committee for their transparency and efforts to seek opinions and input from all members. It was lovely to revisit all of our 2025 activities and achievements including our Tarremah and June performances and our Mid Winter dinner hosted by Angela Brinkhoff. Our 2025 Robyn Mellor workshop is revisited below by Angela.

A major point of discussion was the potential purchase of a second hand great bass. This prompted a discussion around instrument storage and insurance, and the Committee will investigate these issues during 2026.

The 2026 AGM minutes are available to members on request. Please chat to Nicole.

Robyn Mellor Workshop - October 18, 2025

Angela Brinkhoff

We were thrilled to hear from Robyn Mellor early in the year, that she would be visiting family in October and would have time to take a workshop for us. We booked the Fern Tree Community Centre for Saturday, October the 18th, and put the word out to members. Fifteen people attended, including Michael from St Helens and Jane from Launceston. Always great to have them join us!

It was a challenging and very rewarding workshop! Robyn has a wonderful way of drawing the best from our group. She knows exactly what she wants and is able to communicate that in a very inspiring, interesting and encouraging way.

Robyn chose 3 very contrasting pieces ...

- O doctor optime by Giovanni Bassano
- Suspicion by Glen Shannon
- Heavy Wood by Björn Hagvall

In the Bassano Robyn experimented with different combinations of instruments until a rich and sonorous timbre was achieved. It was fascinating to hear the difference in sound each time an instrument was changed ... a very "ear opening" experience! *Heavy Wood* was something quite different from much of the music we play, but was certainly a fun piece. We were encouraged to move away from making beautiful recorder sounds, in order to achieve a more percussive, slightly jarring sound which suited the genre of this piece. We enjoyed these pieces so much that we decided to order the music and add them to our library to include in a future concert.

We all enjoy the social aspect of our Fern Tree days. It is a much valued part of being a member of the society and one of the great benefits of spending a day together. We chatted over cups of tea and enjoyed a great variety of treats (as is usual for any recorder occasion)

for a shared morning and afternoon tea. The weather was amazing to watch outside the big ceiling to floor windows, changing from rainy and stormy to brilliant sunshine! It is always a great pleasure to spend a day at Fern Tree!

One highlight of the day was when Claire got up after lunch, with her mum to support her, and with tears very close to the surface, told us the very exciting news that she was pregnant! What a wonderful surprise! We wish her and Rhys all the best for the journey and the birth of a precious little one!

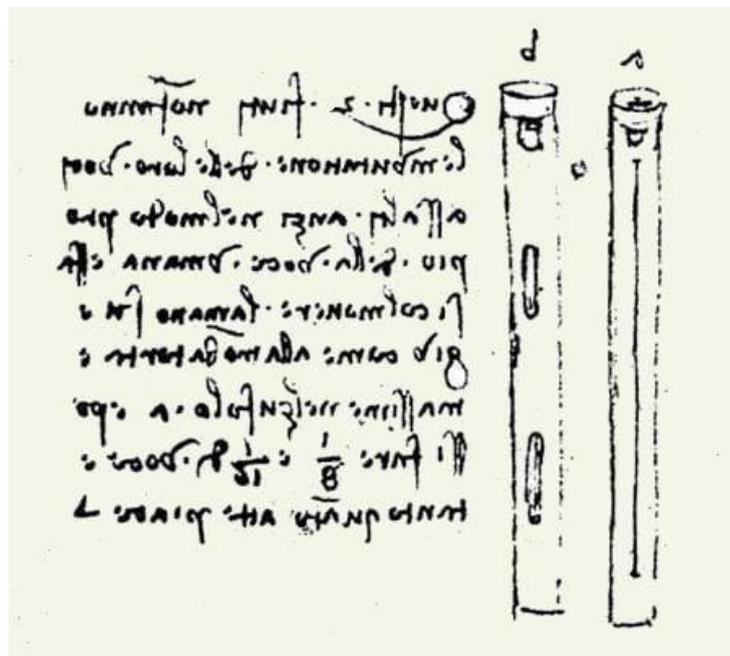
We invited family and friends to an informal performance of the workshop pieces at the end of the day. Thanks to Jocelyn, Bec, Winnie, Gordy and Tessie for joining us!

Many thanks to Robyn for a wonderful workshop!

Introducing the Glissopipe

Nicholas S. Lander

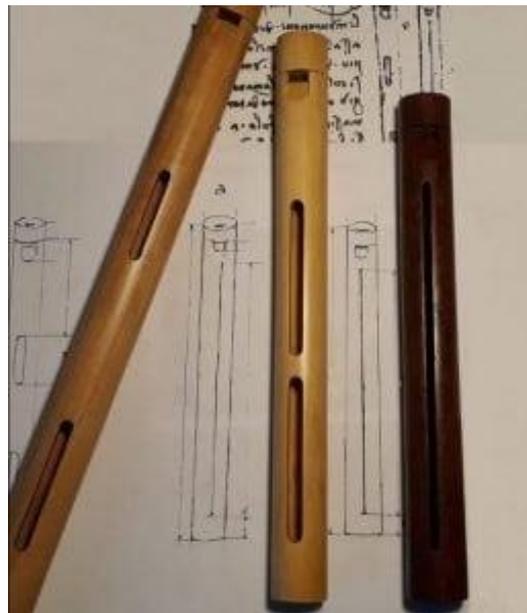
A page of Leonardo da Vinci's notes in Codex Atlanticus, Folio 1106r (1498), is full of drawings and appears as chaotic as most of his writings. Among the various subjects is a paragraph tied to a sketch of two unusual end-blown duct flutes which allow players to vary the pitch from one note to another in a continuous way, without fixed intervals, because of the smooth, uninterrupted fissures (slots) they have instead of the more usual finger holes. Note that Leonardo was left-handed and used a form of mirror writing.



Codex Atlanticus Folio 1106r Leonardo da Vinci 1498), detail.
Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan.

Following Leonardo's indications, the player can modulate a note's intonation by moving her hands over the fissure(s), thus producing all the intermediate sounds among the hypothetical positions of the holes on a traditional flute.

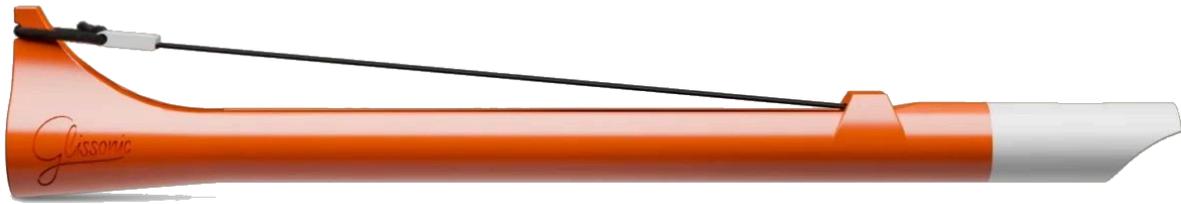
At the rear of these instruments is a hole for the thumb, marked **0** making it clear that these were, in effect, a new kind of recorder. Unfortunately, the text includes neither the dimensions of Leonardo's fissure flutes nor clues to their intended use. Experiments carried out in 2019 by Italian recorder maker Giacomo Andreola showed that flute **b** (with two slots) worked significantly better than flute **a** (with a single slot).



Fissure flutes by Giacomo Andreola (2019)
after Leonardo da Vinci (1498)

Inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's fissure flutes, several continuously variable pitch reed instruments were developed in the 1920s. Later, American Bart Hopkin created an experimental family of instruments in the 1990s, which included the 'Moe' clarinet, saxophone, membrane pipe, and flute, in all of which a longitudinal slot was progressively covered by a strap. The 'Moe flute' incorporated a tenor recorder head joint.

Soon to be launched by Glissonic Instruments (Budapest) is their [Glissopipe](#), a series of inexpensive 3D printed plastic flutes available in soprano (F), soprano (C) and alto (G) tunings, each available in three colours (orange, white and blue). These are fissure flutes in which the finger holes are replaced by a magnetic strap extending above a single longitudinal slot. Different pitches are produced by pushing down on the strap at different points on the tube to control the sounding length of the instrument.



On the Glissopipe website there's an interview with Glissonic's Dániel Vácz, and an article by composer and author Chris Weisman explaining what makes the Glissopipe unique and why it immediately invites exploration, listening, and playful musical discovery.

The Glissopipe, opens up a new world of microtonality hitherto difficult to access using the conventional recorder. In a sense it represents the apotheosis of Leonardo's fissure flute. You can read more about the history of fissure flutes and other continuously variable pitched wind instruments in the following articles.

- Lander, Nicholas S. 2026. Recorder Home Page: *Leonardo da Vinci's Recorders*. <https://recorderhomepage.net/leonardo-da-vincis-recorders/>
- Vácz, Dániel & Tóbiás Terebessy. 2025. *Glissopipe*. Budapest. <https://glissopipe.com/>

Ensemble Antiqua Concert and Art Exhibition

Llewellyn Negrin

Ensemble Antiqua has a concert coming up on Friday April 10th at 6.00 p.m. at St Mary's Cathedral. The theme of the concert is 'The Song of Birds' and it will feature mostly Renaissance and Baroque works which have been inspired by bird song. The programme includes the following instrumental works: the Goldfinch Concerto op. 10 no. 3 by Vivaldi; Sonata in Imitation of Birds by William Williams; The Wedding of the Hen and the Cuckoo by Marco Uccellini (whose name means 'little bird') and The Cuckoo by Michael Henkel. There are also two poignant songs: Ah Robin, Gentle Robin by William Cornysh and The Three Ravens by Thomas Ravenscroft as well as a buoyant song Zefiro Torna by Claudio Monteverdi which evokes the swirl of a gentle summer breeze.

The group consists of Llewellyn Negrin on recorders, Christine Akerman-violin and viola, Alexander Rodrigues-spinet and voice and Tim Lowe-guitar and lute.

Some of this repertoire will also be included as a sound recording (interspersed with recordings of native bird calls from Tasmania) in an exhibition titled 'Nature as Artifice' curated by Llewellyn Negrin at Narryna Historical House, Battery Point which features the work of artists Christl Berg, Jane Slade, Ruth Frost, Chantale Delrue, Janine Combes, Jan Dineen, Frances Watson, Linda Erceg and Denise Rathbone. This exhibition examines the responses of colonial women to the unfamiliar natural world which they encountered when they first settled in Van Diemen's Land as evidenced in the sketchbooks, botanical illustrations, albums and collections of specimens, which these women left behind, as well as in the ways in which they decorated their homes and themselves. It includes objects from

