

Hobart Society of Recorder Players Newsletter

July 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

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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 overdue

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 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:

Sep 30 for Oct 5 newsletter

Dec 2 for Dec 7 newsletter

Please email Nicole your articles and suggestions for upcoming newsletters.

From the Musical Director

Rehearsals for our November concert will commence in August. Please make every effort to attend as many rehearsals as possible. We also have two rehearsal days at the Fern Tree Community Centre on Saturday, 8th August and Saturday 7th November. Again, please make every effort to attend so we can make the most of our bookings. I am looking forward to working on some exciting new repertoire with you all.

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.

Baby News

Claire Farrell

In May, Rhys and I welcomed our baby boy, Albert, into the world. He is now two months old and growing fast, and he loved meeting some members of the HSPRI at the recent Midwinter Dinner. We would like to thank members for their generous gifts, including some beautiful hand made items, flowers, and books. How special for Albert to receive such meaningful gifts. We hope to see you all at a daytime rehearsal soon.



From Tasmania to the Met

Llewellyn Negrin

While most are familiar with the Met Gala as the glittering annual event held to raise funds for the running of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, little did I imagine that I would come to be intimately involved with its latest exhibition *Costume Art* which opened on May 4th this year in the brand new gallery space at the Met!

It all began with an invitation from the chief curator of the Costume Institute, Andrew Bolton, who became aware of my work on fashion as an embodied artform through writings of mine, published during the course of my professional life as Head of Art and Design Theory at the School of Art, University of Tasmania. The pivotal role that these writings came to play in his conceptualisation and curation of the exhibition *Costume Art*, led him to invite me to write an essay for the catalogue accompanying this exhibition, as well as to provide feedback on his curation.

The process of working over the past few months on this project, whose scope and ambition is beyond anything I have ever experienced, has been an inspiring one! The exhibition comprises two hundred fashion garments paired with two hundred artworks sourced from across all of the departments at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, illustrating the integral relationship between clothing and the body through a range of body types including the Classical body, the pregnant body, the corpulent body, the disabled body, the inscribed body, the anatomical body, the ageing body and the mortal body.

In May this year I travelled to New York to attend the opening of the *Costume Art* exhibition at the Met which was a star-studded event featuring the Director of the Met, Max Hollein, Anna Wintour, Venus Williams and Andrew Bolton. It was wonderful to finally see the exhibition after having viewed the works in reproduction for the preparation of my catalogue essay. I also had the opportunity to attend an event celebrating the opening of the new gallery space housing the exhibition where I met one of the fashion designers/models – Michaela Stark – whose body was used as the basis for some of the mannequins in the exhibition.

I feel very privileged to have been a part of this project and to see how my ideas have influenced a new direction in the way fashion is displayed in such a pre-eminent institution as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The exhibition runs until January 10th, 2027.

Editor: Llewellyn has provided two gorgeous photos and has described them for us:

“The first is of me in the Classical body section of the exhibition while the other is a photo of me with Michaela Stark whose body was the basis of one of the mannequins in the corpulent body section. She is wearing one of her outfits”.





Birthday News

Past member **David Lees** turned 80 in May and when asked to confirm his age, he let us know that he received an award!

"Yep, I got an O.B.E , (Over B..... Eighty) , 7 May '46."

And he described his birthday thus:

"Had a quiet day with friends and family at our younger son's place at Huonville. Sam flew the BBQ and food a-plenty arrived on the tables".



Life member **Clodagh Jones** recently celebrated her 90th birthday and has written about her day: "A family of Jones, all nine of us, spent a great day in the sun on Bruny Island. We visited Inala gardens where we picnicked, [visited] the chocolate and cheese shops finishing with a walk on the beach at Adventure Bay."



From your UK Correspondent Lisa Bennett

So it all began with Ruth telling me about the Society of Recorder Players UK. And that's the reason I ended up on 9 May arriving at Pimperne Village Hall, Blandford Forum, Dorset - parking my campervan in the mercifully spacious car park (I negotiated some pretty narrow lanes to get there), grabbing my recorder and foisting myself upon the 30 strong Dorset Branch of SRP. To be fair I had emailed ahead of their monthly gathering (2-5pm, 2nd Saturday of the month) and was greeted by 'Oh are you the lady from Tasmania?' from several players before I found my way to Sue, the secretary. Sue lent me a music stand and before I knew it there I was..... playing! What a lovely afternoon we shared. And there was cake Xavier! Coffee and walnut made for Sue's birthday, by Sue!

In all the excitement I didn't note the pieces that we played - sorry. I do recall there were 3 of them and the improvement over 45 mins of playing each was tremendously satisfying. I also recall my first sighting of a Paetzold bass recorder, a couple of them actually.

Emboldened by my first experience, I enrolled for a Pastoral Playing Day in Peterborough on Saturday 30 May, 10.30am to 4.30pm, BYO lunch with the promise of complementary tea and cake. I'm ashamed to say I had never been to Peterborough, had to look it up on the map. Who knew it has a 12th century cathedral, a heated outdoor 50m swimming pool and roughly 100 roundabouts going around the outside - a kind of medieval Canberra. So this was a smaller group of about 18, with a visiting conductor and too many descants! We played a great variety of pieces from Purcell and Scarlatti to Chinese, Bolivian, Jewish, Turkish and Macedonian folk songs. At one point I bravely volunteered to play a spare bass, only to get handed music in the bass clef. Oh dear, that was a step too far for my sightreading!

Having learnt from that experience there was no mention of the bass at my next practice in another medieval cathedral city, Durham, Saturday 6 June 2-5pm. Again a lovely warm welcome from the group

of around 15 very capable players, 3 of those strange Paetzold basses in their midst. And only 2 descants, phew! We practised Kyrie from Miss Mille Regretz, Handel's Passacaille, Mozart's Fugue in D Minor from the Requiem Mass, then rattled through some Norfolk Dances to finish off. Another splendid afternoon of music making.

I extend my grateful thanks to Xavier for giving me the confidence to show up as a guest and to Ruth for encouraging me to give it a try!

Here remastering C fingering on my new descant in my campervan:



Fireworks!

Richard Langman

After a very wet week we had a perfect still night with a full moon at Uta and David's home in Strickland Avenue. The block was beautifully lit with what seemed like hundreds of little lights in the trees, and lanterns by the path, a big bonfire and fire pots. A stage was set up for groups and bands to play later in the evening. Our recorder group played first under the well lit gazebo where guests had brought tasty nibbles and Uta was serving her amazing gluvine and spiced apple drinks.

Nine of us, including our two newest members Matt and Ginny, played Badinerie by JS Bach, which was arranged by Xavier for our last concert. We got heaps of applause and nice comments. A spectacular firework display followed, and the evening continued with many musical offerings by Uta's talented friends.

It took me back to 1973 when Ruth, our 2 small children and I flew out to Tasmania on 5th Of November (bonfire night). There were hundreds of bonfires and fireworks to be seen from the plane.

Editor: The lovely photo below shows how magical the evening was, and includes new members Ginny and Matt.



A Generous Donation from Michael Towsey

Luz Montes

A large and very interesting collection of recorder music has been donated to the Society by St Helen's recorder player Michael Towsey. The librarians have commenced the task of checking and cataloguing the music. There are lots of items new to our catalogue as well as some duplicate copies which will be very useful. There are even some arrangements written by Michael. Our sincere thanks to Michael for this most generous donation.

Society members may also recall that earlier this year we acquired a beautiful great bass from Michael.

Concert Review

Nicholas Lander

'Wild at Heart' presented by *Jounce Ensemble*
3 pm, Sunday 24 May
The Hidden Theatre, New Town

Music by Mary Hardwood, Lynne Griffiths, David Hornett, Deanna Devers, Susan Graham and Trad.
Poems by Arjun von Caemmerer.

True to its name, the *Hidden Theatre* proved difficult to find, secreted away in a dingy alleyway to the rear of the Kickstart Arts Centre, to the north of St Johns Church, New Town. As I found my seat, one of 50 or so in a veritable warehouse of musty but comfortable old armchairs and sofas, I was strongly reminded of the host of alternative and political theatres that sprung up across Australia in the 1960s and '70s — from the *New Theatre* in Sydney's Darlinghurst to the *Hole in the Wall* in Perth's Leederville, of happy memory.

From the eclectic lineup of instruments (two harps, guitar, mandolins, flutes of sundry sizes, recorders (played by HSRP's own Arjun von Caemmerer) and a *cor anglais* (that most pastoral of instruments), I did not know what to expect. The titles of the instrumental pieces to be performed (*Steffeleken, Warm Breeze, Forest Green, Flatbush Waltz, The Runnymede Yabby, Thylacine's Lament, Searching Light, Windswept, Save Storm Bay, Hand Fish Tango, The Nariel Tune*) hinted at folk music festivals, bushwalking boots, protest marches, the burgeoning environmental movement, and poetry reading clubs. And it occurred to me that Arjun's two short poems (*Rumination, Thin Ice*) might reference Frank Zappa's *What Will Rumi Do?* (honouring percussionist Rumi Ogawa, not the 13th-century Sufi mystic poet), and DRH's Zappa-inspired album *Thin Ice* (2018) evoking acid-propelled sound spaces otherwise silent since the 1960s.

In the event, I need not have worried: I awoke from my own rumination to strains of a decidedly pastoral nature, not 'wild' at all and mostly in the introspective, soulful yet optimistic Dorian mode, apart from the witty and jaunty piece celebrating the edible Common Yabby (*Cherax destructor*) which is invasive in Tasmania and bears an apt specific epithet.

Like the HSRP, *Jounce* is a group of friends from many interesting walks of life (including several doctors, a retired orchestral oboist, an opera singer, and a concertina maker) and of varying musical skills. Somehow, they have managed to combine their talents to achieve a novel and enjoyable musical outcome and, with a deft touch, hitch their efforts to the cause of environmentalism.

It was a special pleasure to see Arjun playing both tenor and soprano recorders in such congenial company. Coupling the recorder with Mary Harwood's wild yet tamed *cor anglais* produced a uniquely plangent effect I had not encountered before.

MidWinter Dinner 2026

AngelaBrinkhoff

Our much anticipated 2026 annual Winter Dinner was held on the 18th of July at Angela and Morris's place at Margate. There were 23 people in attendance, including many of our regular members, as well as some extra family members. Many were in costume, with a beautiful array of colours and fabrics! Not to mention Superman, who very ably directed the parking! One of our newest members, Ginny, attended with her husband Chris and daughter Thea, all resplendent in wonderful costumes!

Perhaps the most exciting part of the evening was the arrival of Claire and Rhys, with their little baby boy, Albert! It was the first time most had set eyes on the much anticipated precious boy! Thanks so much for coming Claire and Rhys!

Some pre-dinner music set the scene for the evening and included some much loved Susato Dances, with the tambourine adding to the festive occasion!

We were treated to some wonderful items during the evening! A memorable rendition of *The Foot*, a poem by Heather Wastie, was given by Luz Montes. Kate impressed us all with her beautiful playing of several of her recent AMEB exam pieces, accompanied by Xavier on the piano. Angela's seven year old grandson Gordy played some of his favourite tunes on his recorder, including *Concerning Hobbits* and *My Heart Will Go On* from The Titanic. A recorder gathering would not be complete without an item from Xavier! He played three movements from J.S.Bach's Flute Suite No. 2 in B minor, one of which, the *Badinerie*, was played by the ensemble as an encore in our recent concert.

As well as the musical offerings, we were privileged to see Llewellyn's photos of her recent trip to New York for a major exhibition entitled "Costume Art". Llewellyn was invited to write the opening essay for the catalogue.

The food was plentiful and wonderful as always! Curry, lasagne, pasta, salads, followed by sweets of all sorts!

Many thanks to all who attended! It was a most enjoyable and fun evening!

Editor: Enormous thanks to Angela and Morris for hosting! Angela has provided the photo below - what gorgeous costumes!



Kingborough U3A Recorder Class Angela Brinkhoff

Earlier this year I approached Kingborough U3A to ask if they thought members would be interested in a beginner recorder class. I had a very positive reply! Ten people enrolled at the start of Term Two and I have been bowled over by the enthusiasm of the class! They all have their own recorders, most playing descant. We have one treble player and one tenor, and I'm hoping that some others can be encouraged to move onto either treble or tenor in due course.

We have made much use of Recorder Liftoff, a free online resource that was created by the TSO in collaboration with seven composition students from UTAS. The program gives the beginner recorder

player the opportunity to play along with professional musicians from the TSO. One of our members, Claire Farrell, is one of the composers featured in the program.

Word has spread about the fun we've been having, and I suspect there have been some ears listening outside the door! I have been asked to take a continuing class and another beginner class next term as we already have some people on the waiting list.

Despite the bad rap that the humble recorder receives so often, perhaps this is one way to turn that around, and maybe some of these U3A players might one day want to join the HSRP!

Do you have any photos?

The Committee would like your digital photos of HSRPI events. Please email these to Nicole Parums with a brief description and the year in which the photo was taken. Please limit your photos to a few 'choice' choices!