



September / October 2013 Magazine



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AGM Minutes and Reports

Coming up - APTTA Sydney Convention, Next NZ meeting dates

Auckland Guild Meeting in a nutshell and more

What's coming up?

APTTA Sydney Convention October 24 – 27

The upcoming APTTA Convention being held in Manly, Sydney promises to be another piano technicians feast packed with quality presentations, trade displays, social events and lots more. It's not too late to attend, check out more here <http://apta.org.au/conventions.aspx>

Some of whats on...

DAVID RICKETTS - Using ETD's to aid aural tuning

DAVID JENKIN - Assessing pianos for rebuild or repair

YUJI NAKAMURA - Setting up a grand action to ideal touch

BRIAN WILSON - Churchill Fellowship report after factory visits and training

GEOFFREY LANCASTER - The First Fleet piano

JOHN BORSJE - Fundamentals of player piano restoration and servicing

JOHN HADFIELD - Set up and promotion of a piano tuning business

BRUCE CLARKE - Then and now, New actions in old pianos versus 'just fix it' mentality

YAMAHA, KAWAI, MASON & HAMLIN, DAVIS WHEELER MUSIC / DAMPCHASER trade displays.

RON OVERS - Rebuilding a Yamaha CF

LOU PARKE - Piano Bass Strings – Theory and Practice

GEOFF POGSON - Upright regulation and repair for beginners

GUUS van den BRAAK - Wood structure and the use of wood in musical instruments

Your PTTG NZ committee are subsidising members travel to this convention by \$150.

Do you qualify? Email David Salmon to find out. thepianotuner@gmail.com

Next Guild meeting...

Wellington, Friday 4th, Sat 5th and Sunday 6th of April 2014 with an International Guest Presenter.

The AGM will also take place during this weekend so mark these dates in your diary now, it will be too good to miss out on!

“Debrief”

Auckland Meeting September 7th and 8th at Jenkin Piano Service

This was a very interesting weekend with quite a bit of variety in the presentations. I'll give an overview.

David Salmon opened with his recent Steinway Hamburg visit highlights.

Like most manufacturers Steinway have their preferred way of setting up their pianos and because they are so well recognised as a leading piano maker it makes perfect sense to teach invited technicians their preferred methods. David was lucky to be one of three tech's in this intake, being taught by two Steinway technicians for a two week period.

David presented a slide presentation and described some of what they expect including their exacting grand damper installation among other things.



David *pictured right* demonstrating installing grand dampers. He turned down priesthood as a career option but can't resist giving the piano a blessing ;-)

Kirsten Macdonald presented an interesting topic – accounting and related software. Kirsten and Andrew of Wellington Piano Service are working hard to avoid multiple data entry for the same client. How often do we insert their details into our diary, to-do list, database software, accounting software, paper invoices etc, then have to redo much of it again at the following visit?

Kirsten has been on a mission to find software solutions that relate to each other to negate the duplication of data. Essentially it's based around the online accounting software 'Xero' along with various Xero third party admin apps for calendar scheduling, task planning etc. She is still refining her favourite apps due to the fast moving nature of this industry. She alluded to one app maker being open to incorporating some of her suggestions and requirements which is great.

In Kirsten's words; "Xero Add-ons I have tried:

<http://www.geoop.com/>

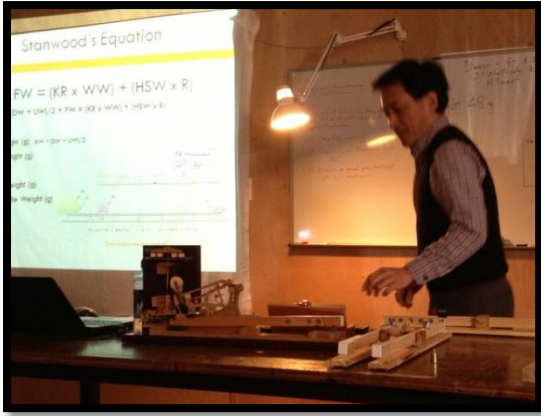
<http://gettimely.com/> - the one I mentioned that is a great interface

<http://www.connect2field.com/> - comprehensive database with multiple equipment/location fields for clients

www.servicem8.com - the system we choose. Some funny things in it but seemed like the best solution at the time and has been good so far for managing jobs coming in and extra tasks etc that are involved in doing the jobs. Also hasn't cost us much at all yet.

If you have any questions about any of the systems (especially gettimely and servicem8) feel free to ask. I'm not an expert, but I did play around with them for ages and then just decided to get stuck into one and use it and it has worked so far. - Kirsten”

Yuji Nakamura presented a lesson on Grand piano touch-weight, a practice run through before presenting at the convention in Sydney later in October. Yuji describes it best.....



“Yuji presented touch weight analysis for grand action. We all have met customers who wanted to get touch lighter or heavier. Touch can be adjusted by many ways including traditional ways such as rebalancing key leads, friction treatment and so on. He categorized them to static balancing, kinetic resistance, friction adjustment and others. We find details of balancing situation by checking static model which was developed by David Stanwood. With his equation, we may be able to see whether hammer is too light/heavy, action ratio is not matched with other components or balance weight is set

too light/heavy etc. Also we need to look at kinetic resistance by calculating moment of inertia. Yuji explained how to calculate each component with his spread sheets and examples. Also he showed us the way adjusting balance weight and moment of inertia at same time by using his spread sheets including Stanwood’s equation chart. Yuji concluded by showing how and where we can adjust in the action for improving touch weight. Each item such as hammer and key has limited range of adjustment because of its shape. But we still have more possibility to adjust touch weight than in previous times by looking at more detail by newly introduced methods and developed products.”

The ‘moment of inertia’ measurements highlighted how similarly normally weighted keys can feel so very different, and Yuji’s models demonstrated graphically how we can be fooled with touch weight without looking at the complete range of measurement and analysis.

Graeme Harvey demonstrated the recently developed ‘Moondog’ grand piano tilter from USA. This nifty piece of technology allows one person to remove a grand bass leg and roll the piano onto a skid board effortlessly.



Picture left shows tilter leg extended for bass leg fitting.

More info and a YouTube clip here
<http://youtu.be/IJimD2IO4Fw>

Swings and roundabouts for upright pianos facilitated by **David Salmon**

With a number of experienced technicians in one place, I thought it would be a helpful exercise to compile an Upright regulation procedure with group brain power alone.

This would help give us insight to the most common problems that we face when regulating, and how we cope with wear, movement of parts, individual condition of a variety of pianos etc.

At the end of this exercise, we broke into two groups with a piano each and exercised some of the important aspects of the list below.

Procedure:

- 1 Action/keybed tightness - orientation
- 2 Hammer alignment, followed by action part alignment
- 3 At this point, check that damper spoons aren't too early, upsetting later damper lift adjustment.
- 4 Key alignment, rough levelling, overall height. It may be helpful to seat or tap down the keys at this point. Refer to cheek blocks, name board rail and front rail for good clearance and alignment.
- 5 Make two regulation samples per section. Be mindful to do this where you would consider more wear to have happened in the action from playing.
- 6 Check jack slap rail clearance, then set blow for action.
- 7 Set lost motion
- 8 Square, level and space keys. This may take more than one run through, check lost motion again when finished for adequate jack clearance appropriate to the wear of this piano.
- 9 Adjust setoff. Group discussion has lead us to conclude that 3-4 mm is acceptable in most modern uprights. Older actions of varying quality could be much more.
- 10 Adjust depth of touch for white keys, ranging between 10-11.5mm and dictated by the samples previously made.
- 11 Adjust depth of touch for black notes with a gauge or, by setting the checking first, then adjusting by feel. It may be more accurate to do a combination of both. Continue to refer to the checking in order to tell if your depth of touch has inconsistencies.
- 12 Adjust damper alignment, lift, and individual timing.



As is the way with these sessions everyone sees a different approach by different techs and can take away additional techniques, see a few different tools used and always new information.



Grand old lady shows a bit of leg.....

I spied this Peyel 'Art Case' Grand at Jenkin Piano Service during the Guild Meeting.

It's rare to see such ornate casework in these times of Black Polyester, and all I can say is

'David, stick to the internal work!'

MINUTES OF NZPTTG AGM HELD 16 MARCH 2013 NGUTUNUI

Recorded by J Airey

PRESENT: David Salmon, Jeff Brown, Chris Davidson, Don McIntosh, Kevin Hanna, Daniel Stabler, Warwick Hoy, Wytze Hoekstra, Yuji Nakamura, Joyce Airey.

APOLOGIES: Stephen Powell, David Jenkin, Graeme Harvey, Owen Bennett, Kirsten MacDonald, Andrew MacDonald.

The minutes of the previous meeting held 21 April 2012 were read and accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved D McIntosh/D Salmon

MATTERS ARISING: Review of current subscription fee to be discussed at Committee Meeting.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Hello to all,

Welcome from myself and a huge thank you to Kevin and Nathan for hosting this AGM. A huge thank you to our chef for his outstanding cuisine, and a huge thank you for your attendance!

Before we get started with the annual general meeting, there are some issues that need to be considered.

I have spent the last year learning about what the New Zealand piano tuners and technician's guild has been, where it is right now, and where it needs to go in the future. We have had fewer numbers being trained here and in Australia for the last two decades. We have much to think about.

Before accepting election as a committee member, be aware that you are required to take on a responsibility and communicate effectively amongst each other.

I think the NZPTTG should have a two year goal, to make this guild effective and desirable for any tuner to be a part of. This means we can help in promotion, publicity, skill sharing, referral of work by other tuners, consolidation of ethics, some protection against external attacks that are not warranted, a sense of community and a clear guideline of workmanship to adhere to.

Some of the situations I have come into contact with this past year have not been good.

We cannot afford to sweat the small stuff anymore. Bickering and personal differences need to be set aside in order to make our guild move forward. This is supposed to be a positive and supportive place for us.

Instead of being critical, or talking behind backs, talk to the person directly. This is no place for assumptions or misconstrued circumstances. We have to look forward to the future.

Communications need to be transparent and get to the right people before issues can be resolved ethically. I don't know if it can be helped that a small, core group of people have regular attendance to meetings and share valuable knowledge with each other whilst others appear uninterested for years on end. Possibly thinking, what does the guild ever do for me? But we have to try.

I would like to recommend some amendments to the way the NZPTTG is run.

Firstly, apart from the core roles of treasurer, secretary and president, each committee member has one responsibility.

This is comprised of;

Website building and management

Publicity

Recruitment

Regulator of standards (in charge of complaints and flaws in our current system)

Exam convener

This requires eight people in total.

The reasons for this makeover are; to make communication better, to break up workload into more manageable parts and to foster personal skill sets that the guild needs for a successful future.

Believe me when I say that this in no way diminishes the role of the three core committee members.

I propose that these changes be made for a trial period of two years.

Secondly, In my opinion, the complaints procedure needs to be changed. I would like to recommend that the appointed regulator of standards be able to appoint any ARPT that he or she deems suitable for the task outside of committee members to assess a complaint. The complaint should be clear and meet the criteria of the existing complaints criteria.

The person being investigated needs to explain exactly what was done to the piano by themselves in writing. This makes clear the difference between original condition and what was repaired.

Because of this, it is highly recommended that all members provide WRITTEN quotes to customers in the first place. For their own protection.

All correspondence between regulator of standards and said appointed ARPT needs to be transparent to the committee. At no point may the treasurer, secretary or president become involved in this procedure on an investigative level. I.e. personally have dealings with the piano or customer involved other than reading the letter of complaint and replying in official, transparent correspondence.

The regulator of standards and appointed ARPT will report findings and make recommendations to the committee in whole. The committee will make a decision based on findings and has a right to deem findings final. The committee has a right to make findings public to the complainant, ARPTs, Members and amend public status of qualification.

This should be put in place for our protection.

Because of this clarity, the whole complaints procedure should take no more than 3 months from the received letter to a successful resolution.

In situations where the issue pertaining to the complainant is standards of work, the complainant may apply to sit the ARPT exam. For situations regarding unethical and illegal behaviour as deemed by the committee, no such resit shall be accepted.

On another note, I would like to suggest that we make guild meetings twice a year, one AGM and one other. I think we can communally decide on what months are the best and it will be appropriate to set the date of the next meeting today. If the above structures are adopted, it may not be necessary to have the AGM at the end of a financial year as reporting and structure will make it easier to recognise and make clear our financial status.

I recommend that our magazine be online only, as this medium of communication is more widely accepted and also complements our existing communication mediums.

Nobody leaves today without writing their name and email address on the whiteboard!

We must make some financial decisions regarding our subs and expenditure, Jeff has some ideas and suggestions that we need to discuss.

Thank you all for your attendance and your help in finalising these more difficult decisions. Once the heavy duty issues are out of the way, the fun will begin!

David Salmon

Moved D Salmon/D McIntosh

TREASURERS REPORT:

Jeff presented an interim Treasurer's Report as this year's AGM was scheduled a bit too early to have all the necessary information. Jeff will send the final report to committee members once bank statements for end of financial year have been received (early April).

Moved K Hanna/D Stabler

EXAMINATION CONVENERS REPORT:

Owen Bennett was unable to attend AGM but had asked that Kevin read Owen's report.

Ben Taylor sat and passed his ARPT exam in 2012. Well done.

Owen wishes to stand down as exam convener and would like Kevin to be considered for the job.

Moved C Davidson/K Hanna

No APPTA Delegate Report

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President	David Salmon	<i>J Brown/K Hanna</i>
Treasurer	Jeff Brown	<i>D Salmon/K Hanna</i>
Secretary	Joyce Airey	<i>D Salmon/D Stabler</i>
Exam Convener	Kevin Hanna	<i>O Bennett/D McIntosh</i>
Committee	Kirsten MacDonald	<i>D Salmon/K Hanna</i>
	Wytze Hoekstra	<i>D McIntosh/D Salmon</i>
	Andrew MacDonald	<i>D Salmon/Y Nakamura</i>
	Yuji Nakamura	<i>D Salmon/J Brown</i>
	Chris Davidson	<i>W Hoekstra/D Stabler</i>
	Don McIntosh	<i>K Hanna/J Brown</i>
	Daniel Stabler	<i>C Davidson/D Salmon</i>

It was moved that the above people be accepted as the new NZPTTG committee.

Moved D McIntosh/D Salmon

Kevin happy to be new APTTA delegate, with David Salmon, as President, automatically a second delegate.

Joyce happy to continue with library duty. Future of magazine to be discussed at committee meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The question of exam fees and examiners expenses was raised. Do they reflect the real costs involved? Is it time to review them? Currently candidate fee is \$500.00 and examiners get an honorarium of \$250 each plus costs such as accommodation reimbursed. Is the balance between cost for candidate and costs incurred by examiners correct; are they a true reflection of what the expenses actually are? While examiners must be suitably reimbursed for lost earnings and expenses incurred it is undesirable to set the examination fee so high as to scare away potential exam candidates. These matters were discussed at some length.

It was moved that the fee to sit ARPT exam be increased to \$600.00. Examiners honorarium to be increased to \$400.00 + mileage at 75c per km, plus they would also get any accommodation expenses reimbursed. These figures will be reviewed in 2014.

Moved D McIntosh/K Hanna

Kevin amended the above motion to include applicable GST on fee and mileage.

Moved K Hanna/W Hoekstra

Frequency and priority of meetings was also discussed. How many meetings/workshops should we be aiming for, what would be approximate times throughout the year, aims of these workshops, and where they be held? Possibly one of these workshops to be held in South Island every second year, this will be discussed at committee level. AGM weekend preferably in early/mid April as then financials will be complete. Second workshop for the year should be scheduled around Sept/Oct (however Sydney Convention this year, so it may be earlier). This second workshop would also be the time at which examinations were held. This years' second meeting will be scheduled at committee meeting.

It was moved that the NZPTTG have two meetings/workshops per year, the first in April which will be the AGM weekend, the second in later half of the year which is to be examination time.

Moved C Davidson/K Hanna

Meeting closed 11.45am

Treasurers Report 2013

Piano Tuners & Technicians Guild NZ Inc as at 08/05/13

Income and Expenditure	Income	
Subscriptions [@\$70]	\$2310.00	[2012 \$ 3,315.00] { 2011 \$3420.00}
Testing fees	\$500.00	
Workshop attendance non-members	\$97.00	
Interest 2012 gross	\$512.89	
Overdue subs from year March 2012	\$100.00	
Refund	\$75.00	
	Total	\$3594.89

	Expenses	
Examiners fee	\$775.00	
Magazine /Stationery/Post costs	\$1207.37	

Weekend Workshop expenses	\$576.94
Advertising IRMT magazine	\$448.50
Catering	\$36.81
Capital purchase. Epson Projector	\$1347.80
PTTG Complaints Assessments	\$
APTTG Levy	\$612.50
Overdraft /interest	\$40.83
Withholding tax @ 33%	\$143.94
Transfer to Savings [4366-50]	\$120.00

Total \$5309.69

Excess expenditure over income \$1714.80

Account Balances at 15/03/2013

ANZ Cheque account number	4366-00	\$515.99 [01/04/13]	{\$1083.68 31/03/12}
ANZ Serious Saver account number	4366-50	\$7825.94 [05/03/13]	
ANZ Term Deposit	0635	\$10,000.00	
Total Equity		\$18,341.93	
	[31/03/12]	\$19,549.59	
	[31/03/11]	\$17,996.09	

Term deposit matures 09/06/13 @ 4.2% [4.35% 2011]

Bank Changes

Serious Saver A/c 50 presently \$10/month deposited so are not earning what is called 'premium interest'

Membership to 16/03/13	2012	2011
Membership	33 [ARPT-18] {M-15}	

Life members	2		
Trainees			
Total	35	36	40

Guild member lost, Michael Ashby, Anthony Shaw, Gary Xu, Murray Warner

No Trainees at present

We are in a comfortable position still in spite of diminished income for this year

The minus factor against cheque acct is due to invoices carried over from last yr to be paid, projector, books, fees and stationery items previously needed to be reimbursed for.

Treasurer - Jeff Brown

BREAKING: STEINWAY SELLS OUT

July 1, 2013 by [Norman Lebrecht](#)

The piano giant has been bought by Kohlberg, the asset strippers, for \$438 million.

We cannot begin to imagine how bad that is.



UPDATE: [Possible consequences here.](#)

AP report:

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP) – The famed piano maker Steinway is being acquired by private equity firm Kohlberg & Co. for about \$438 million.

Steinway, which has been in business for 160 years, said previously that it was looking into selling the company.

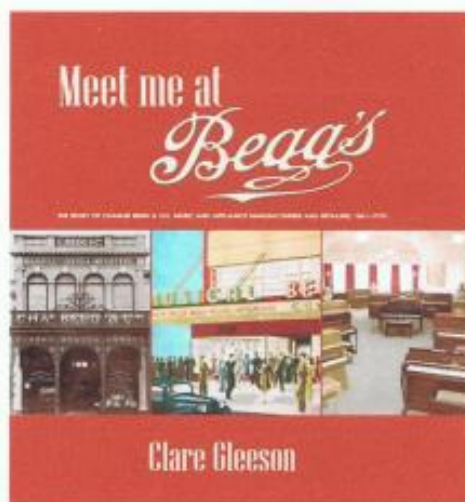
Read more here <http://www.artsjournal.com/slippeddisc/2013/07/breaking-steinway-sells-out.html>

Clare has been invited to speak at the Guild's Wellington meeting 4th, 5th and 6th of April 2014, which will be an interesting opportunity to learn of Begg's history.

Meet me at Begg's

Clare Gleeson

For over 100 years Begg's dominated the retail music business in New Zealand and was well-known throughout the country and overseas. This in-depth history examines the rise and fall of this fascinating business and its impact on the social history of New Zealand. From piano manufacture, music publishing, concert promotion, musical retailing through to gramophones and radios Begg's meant music to many generations of New Zealanders.



Hardback, full colour and with over 350 illustrations *Meet me at Begg's* is not only an important addition to the story of music in New Zealand but a sumptuous record of one of the most enduring businesses in New Zealand's history.

Priced at \$49.95 (plus \$6.00 p & p) *Meet me at Begg's* is available by email claregleeson8@gmail.com or telephone (04) 4792 554 or 021 646 515.

Bank account details for purchase: J C Gleeson 11 7309 0526766 50

Please include your name and location as a reference when making a deposit.

2013 Piano Tuners and Technicians Guild Committee

President	David Salmon
Treasurer	Jeff Brown
Secretary	Andrew Macdonald
Exam Convener	Kevin Hanna
Committee	Kirsten Macdonald
	Wytze Hoekstra
	Yuji Nakamura
	Chris Davidson
	Don McIntosh
	Daniel Stabler

A new Guild website is “Under construction”, a dedicated New Zealand Guild site will help keep everyone in the loop with what’s happening in our organisation, and a place to access lots of useful and interesting piano information. Keep watching!

Many of you will know that as part of the APTTA the NZ branch has for some years had a presence on the APTTA site here, <http://apta.org.au/> however the new NZ website will give a more local focus and flavour to what is happening in our Guild locally.