



## ***New Zealand Organ Preservation Trust Inc.***

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## **Newsletter (May 2010)**

### **OHTA conference in Adelaide and the Barossa Valley**

*Charles Sullivan*

Together with four others from NZ, I enjoyed this 8-day blend of organs, heritage, and wine in October last year. The German Lutheran tradition of the Barossa valley means that these settlements have a remarkable number of instruments from the mid-nineteenth century onwards in beautifully kept stone churches. The tendency of the Lutherans towards splitting congregations also increased the number of instruments. For example, Tanunda is an historic town with only about 3000 residents but five Lutheran churches.



Hill & Son organ 1875 in Tanunda Hall (photo: Charles Sullivan)

A highlight was hearing the first stop playable on the Hill & Son organ (1875, III/37) being restored in Tanunda (Barossa Regional Gallery). This organ was previously in the Adelaide Town Hall and was the largest organ in Australia when built. It suffered an unfortunate rebuild in 1970 (hey—it wasn't just us doing that kind of thing!) and was replaced by a four manual Walker instrument in 1989.

Restoring the organ to this stage has been an immense achievement over 10 years for OHTA, especially the South Australian members. This is an inspiring example of how a small number of

dedicated people can achieve something truly dramatic in organ preservation. Remember that the total population of South Australia is only about 1.6 million, and number of OHTA members and organists there correspondingly small.

### **Congress in Timaru and our AGM**

You should receive details about this separately in good time by post, both with our mailout with AGM agenda etc., and in Organz News.

### **NZOPT Bring and Buy: Please bring and/or buy!**

Our Bring and Buy worked well last year to recycle scores and CDs to those more likely to use them. So we're doing it again to boost NZOPT funds.

Charles Sullivan and Denis Thorby will be running the stall. You're welcome to donate music and CDs to the stall that might be more appreciated by others. Please name things clearly if you want them returned on Monday if unsold. If you think the price for anything should be higher than \$5, please mark a suggested price clearly.

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