

The Neil Glyn Stocker Memorial Award

History and background of Award

Neil Stocker was a master craftsman who served with the South Island Organ company for 43 years becoming the firm's factory foreman. Neil was the company's first apprentice, coming straight from the technical college in 1968. He was the man staff went to when they wanted to know how to do something or where to find something. Neil Stocker was one of three men to die when the Durham St Methodist Church collapsed in the Christchurch earthquake on February 22nd 2011. They were part of a team of eight removing a pipe organ from the church which was badly damaged in the September 4 quake. His death robbed the company of a much loved skilled craftsman. Neil Stocker had a great love of the outdoors, belonging to the tramping club and a four-wheel-drive club. He also had a love of motorbikes and was a skilled rider.

The Award recognises the great contribution Neil Stocker made to organ building in his journey from being a model apprentice to a master craftsman.

Purpose of Award

To provide support for organ builders who are furthering their skills, encourage those who might become organ builders, and support visitors who have the skills to enhance organ building in New Zealand.

Award components

The Award, which provides funding to assist with study of organ building, is made up of components like the following. The timing of these may be flexible.

- (i) To work with organ builders and view organs to give an historical perspective on the organ and to examine techniques of organ building both traditional and innovative.
- (ii) To assist with an in-depth study of the applicant's choice of an aspect of organ building with the aim of submitting an article for publication in the *ISO Journal* or similar periodical.
- (iii) To assist with costs involved in promoting organ building as a career to young people.
- (iv) To provide other support for organ builders wishing to further their skills e.g.
 - a. courses in related subjects such as acoustics, electronics and management;
 - b. to assist with costs of exchange programmes with overseas companies;
 - c. support for a personal organ building project that enhances skills but goes beyond what is normally feasible commercially in the NZ environment.
- (v) The Award can contribute to costs for travel or conferences/courses, and may compensate for unpaid leave.

Selection criteria

The Award is open to all organ builders in New Zealand and visitors who might substantially support organ building in New Zealand.

If funds permit, the Award will continue to be offered in future years. If in any one year there is no worthy candidate, the Award will not be offered in that year.

Number of Awards offered

Normally a biennial Award. If funds permit, more than one Award may be offered in a particular year. Hence applicants may wish to suggest both a cheaper and more expensive option for support.

Total value in any one year

\$2000 – \$12,000 depending on level of funds remaining.

The Award funds will be paid, whenever possible, direct to the relevant organisation.

Tenure of Award

Two years maximum.

Closing date for applications

As specified in the invitation for any particular year.

In addition, applications when no invitation has been issued are possible when timing provides a sound reason for such an out-of-cycle award (e.g. to take the opportunity to benefit from travel occurring for other reasons such as an international organ builder being in New Zealand for building or repair).

How do potential awardees apply?

Applicants are required to submit:

- (a) a completed application form available from <https://nzopt.org.nz/> or from the NZOPT Secretary
- (b) a full CV
- (c) a 1 – 2 page personal statement outlining your future plans. This statement should include your career goals and how this Award would help you achieve these goals.
- (d) one confidential professional, and one confidential personal, reference that should be sent separately by the referees direct to the NZOPT Secretary. The names and contact details of these referees should be provided in your application.

Decision makers

3 members of the NZOPT Council (President, Secretary, another member appointed by Council).

When do the applicants learn of the decision?

Within 2 months of applications closing.

What conditions are attached to acceptance of this Award?

The winner of the Award will be expected to report back to the NZOPT Council on their activities supported by the Award (with frequency of reporting to be determined by the Decision makers).

For an application form and more information about this Award contact

The Secretary
New Zealand Organ Preservation Trust Inc.
<https://nzopt.org.nz/about/>

Illustrative examples of activities an Award might fund

Without in any way claiming to be exhaustive, below are some examples of possible activities that would be considered:

- a. Travel and conference fees for a young organ builder who would not normally be able to attend such a conference to attend the Organ Historical Trust of Australia conference
- b. Compensation for salary lost for a mid-career organ builder to spend some weeks working with/learning from a prominent international organ builder
- c. Travel and materials costs for promoting organ building as a career (e.g. via presentations to schools)
- d. Travel costs and fee for a prominent international organ builder here for other reasons to spend time sharing their skills with New Zealand organ builders
- e. Financial support for an organ builder to study relevant Polytechnic or university courses.

(Revised 16 August 2020)