



# Historic Wordsworth & Maskell Pipe Organ Restoration Appeal

## The Church

The Church of England Parish of Enmore was first dedicated as Christ Church, with the current dedication to St Luke not until eighty years later in 1963.

The first registered church service was held on Sunday June 20, 1880 in a weatherboard building in Fotheringham Street. The laying of the foundation stone for the current church building occurred in Saturday 4 March 1882 and the building opened on 18 June 1882.

## The Organ

The organ is unique - being the only Australian example of an instrument built by Wordsworth & Maskell of Leeds (UK) in Australia.

The organ builders Wordsworth & Co. were originally known as Wordsworth & Maskell of Leeds. They built over 160 organs for the northern English counties and over fifty new organs in Leeds. They also exported instruments to India, Newfoundland, Russia, Australia, Canada and the West Indies.

Erection of the organ began with its unpacking in the church on Monday 17 December 1883 and was completed on Saturday 22 December 1883. The formal opening took place on 1 January 1884.

The organ is mechanical action, of two manuals each of 56 keys and pedalboard of 30 keys. There are 13 stops. It is contained in a 'post and rail' case displaying pipes of the Open Diapason and Dulciana. Some of these pipes bear the inscription "W. Hudson decorator. Leeds works England 1883. Wordsworth and Maskell Builder".

The tops of the case posts are fitted with ornate pinnacles; the console has angled stop jambs; key cheeks are of a distinctive, scrolled profile and the bellows weights have the initials 'W & M' cast in.

## The Restoration

The principle of restoration is to maintain the instrument's original specification. The organ is essentially in original condition, having had very little work done to it since its installation. Some partial restoration work was carried out c.1975. At some time the Great Fifteenth was replaced by a tenor C compass Clarionet. Unfortunately, the organ was vandalised c. 1983 when quite a number of pipes were removed or broken. The façade pipes were originally diapered but have been painted over with silver-frost and again at a later date. Some of the original diapering may still be seen.

Currently, the organ is used for Sunday services, choir practice, concerts and occasional recitals. Having a reliable heritage organ will ensure the continuation of its presence in the church and wider community.

### Stage One Restoration

This will render the organ more reliable.

- Restoration of the Swell and Great soundboards
- Pipes to be repaired, missing pipes to be replaced
- A Fifteenth 2' to replace the existing unoriginal and vandalised Clarionet stop
- Action to be cleaned and re-set
- Front case panels, framework and impost stripped and repolished
- Drawstop jambs stripped and repolished

### Stage Two Restoration

- Rediapering of the façade pipes

## The Organ Builder

The firm of Peter D. G. Jewkes Pty Ltd has been chosen to restore the organ. The firm has an excellent reputation, having carried out numerous restorations, rebuilds and new organ constructions since its inception in 1975. The restoration of the Davidson organ at St Paul's, Burwood was completed in 2005 and most recently the Brindley and Foster organ at St John's Anglican Church, Mudgee.

## The Consultant

Dr Kelvin Hastie has been chosen to act as consultant for the project. He has many years' experience in organ restoration and is a member of the Council of the Organ Historical Trust of Australia.

## The Appeal

Stage One of the restoration requires \$95,000.

The Parish has already donated \$10,000 to a specific Organ Fund.

All donations will be suitably acknowledged.

The Appeal is conducted in association with The Organ Historical Trust of Australia (OHTA), in terms of the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO), administered by the Australian Tax Office. OHTA is able to offer tax-deductibility for gifts of \$2.00 or more. OHTA was established in 1977 with the aims of preserving and documenting pipe organs. Information on the Trust may be found at [www.ohta.org.au](http://www.ohta.org.au)