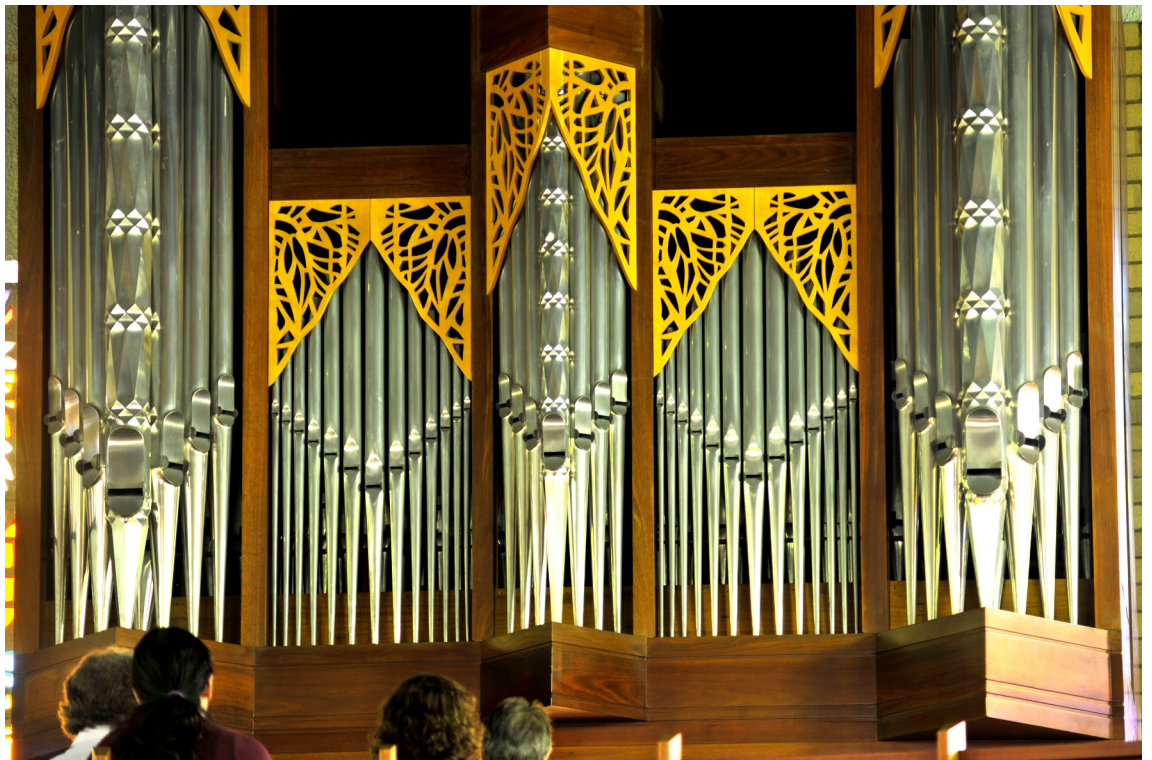


## Inside Story – the Kirkham Trinity College Chapel organ

Twenty people, including Lynn Kirkham, the builder of the organ, and Patrick Elms, who maintains it, were present on 9th September for a talk about and demonstration of the organ at Trinity College, Perth. We all gathered in front of the organ. Lynn presented his design ideas, together with the scientific background of how organ pipes work and how the rest of the organ works and what has to be considered in the design and manufacturing of the organ: there is a lot going on behind the front and sides of the organ case. This organ is a beautifully built and full sounding all mechanical action organ, with the only electric component the blower downstairs. The keyboard touch is surprisingly light, even with more stops pulled. Patrick demonstrated some of the features, as mentioned by Lynn, and, after a coffee and cake break, presented a recital to show off the organ's capabilities, which came out well with the chapel's acoustics, also scientifically checked by Lynn before the organ was built with a starting

pistol – sound recorded with an empty chapel and with a chapel full of children and staff. Some of those present also played the organ themselves. Some of us 'climbed' into the organ to have a look at what it was like inside: well laid out and accessible – space or the lack of it often being a problem for people maintaining and tuning the organs.



It was especially nice to see Colin van der Lecq, who was to be part of the presentation, still present, after suffering a stroke not long ago in Sydney. We wish him all the best in his recovery. We all enjoyed a good afternoon, with good tuition and clear demonstrations. Thanks to Lynn Kirkham and Patrick Elms for this afternoon.

*John van den Berg.*

Photo: Bruce Duncan