



*PIPES*

*&*

*PERCUSSION*

191  
DECEMBER  
2019

**NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE FRIENDS OF THE WURLITZER**

**& THE "KIWI CHAPTER" of the  
AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**

**EDITOR: James Duncan  
E-MAIL: [tremsoff@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tremsoff@xtra.co.nz)**



**UNDER THE AUSPICES OF  
THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST of AUCKLAND  
[www.theatreorgans.com/wota](http://www.theatreorgans.com/wota)**

## ***THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER!!***

Dear loyal *Friends of the Wurlitzer*, - - - the "drought" is now over as we bring you some great news!! But first an explanation – because of our dreadful financial state, the Trust did not have the resources to spend on printing and posting newsletters, only able to update those who provided email addresses, on the slow progress of this huge project. Until just a few weeks ago, we were unsure if we would even survive to have an organ to install. How fast fortunes can change!!

It is with much pleasure that we can now tell you that we have had a mighty injection of capital which will see this project forge on. The **Western Districts Community Foundation** have awarded the Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland **AND** The Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre Trust, \$100K **EACH!!** This is to see both sides of the project fulfilled – Theatre Trust to have organ chambers built and completed, then the Organ Trust rolls in to have the organ installed. Talk about an answer to a prayer!

Then, just this week, **The Trusts Community Foundation**, also awarded the Wurlitzer Organ Trust \$10k. We are now almost within grasp of the \$140k needed to call the job done! What a wonderful way to end this decade!!

---

*++ The opinions expressed in this Newsletter ++  
are not necessarily those of The Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland.*

---

## **UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

When you think of how long it has taken to get this venture underway, it must be noted that the Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre Trust (GEPTT) has had as difficult a time as we have in sourcing finance for their part in this project. Thankfully NZ Lotto took interest and provided a substantial grant which got construction started.

However, one of the many hurdles that had to be overcome was the Vector power plinth that needed relocation to sit in the side of the new building. This plinth feeds power not just to the theatre, but also the RSA and the Church. Vector advised a price tag of \$20k to undertake the relocation, such a large sum of money not accounted for to move the plinth a mere 3 or so feet! The builder continued as much as he could until he reached a stage that no more work could be done until the plinth was moved. The GEPTT was frantically trying to source additional funds and when these were found, Vector slotted the move into their work plan – more week's delay.

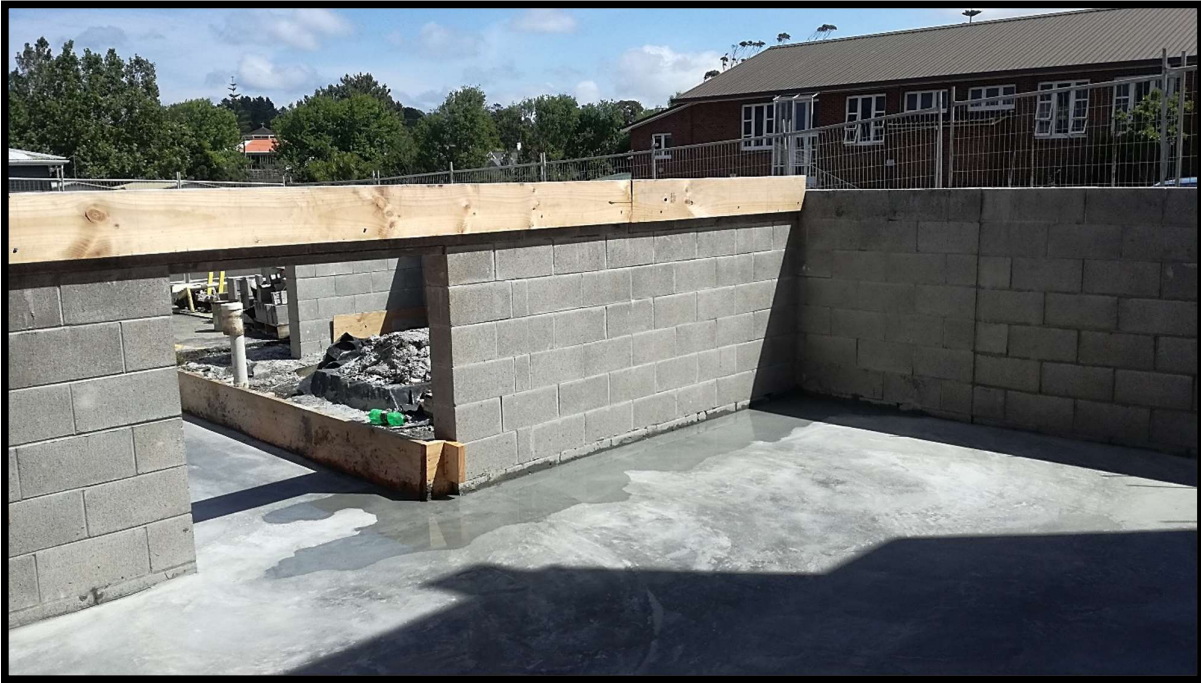
Meantime the builder had to keep his team busy so moved on to another job to fill in time until Vector was done. Finally, during the last week of November, the builder was able to return to the Playhouse and it is now full steam ahead! The GEPTT plan to hand the completed organ chambers over to WOTA at the end of January, when we will then be in the hands of our Melbourne organ builders to get the installation done. We plan to move the organ from Motat's storage facility in Penrose, to the theatre stage in mid-January so everything will be at their fingertips when they need it. The GEPTT have cancelled theatre bookings through both February and March to give the organ team a clear run, we can only hope that our Melbourne team can justify this loss of income by the theatre and make the most of every day provided.

***These images taken 14 December 2019, by GEPTT's Anirban Datta.  
BELOW: The Green Room wall on the right, back of the stage on the left.***





***The Sub-Chamber which will house the wind regulators and tremulants with a floor being built above for the wind chests and pipes.***



***Looking across the sub chamber with the rear stage wall on the right, the rear of the Vector plinth can be seen in the new wall.***

---

**In the New Year we will launch our final appeal for funds to you and relaunch our *Givealittle* Page. But let's get Christmas over first. From the Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland, a very Merry Christmas and let's all look forward to a New Year together soon to be filled with music!**

---



**THE  
WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST  
of AUCKLAND**

**(REG. CHARITABLE TRUST No.10966)**

Visit us at:

[www.theatreorgans.com/wota](http://www.theatreorgans.com/wota)

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr James Duncan PH: 373-9818  
*Concert Manager/Newsletter Editor*

**SECRETARY:** Mrs Carol Neill PH: 575-8645

**TREASURER:** Mr John Palmer PH: (07) 855-3267

**PROJECT LEADER**

**ORGAN REINSTALLATION:** Mr Neil Warrington PH: 828-4934

**TRUSTEES:** Mrs Margaret Cox PH: 440-9984  
Mrs Jackie Crawford PH: (09) 236-3998  
Mr John Kleingeld PH: 838-8419

##

**FRIENDS of the WURLITZER MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY  
and CONCERT TICKETS:**

Mrs Jan Nancekivell PH: 522-8944



**SUPPORTING  
THE WURLITZER ORGAN  
TRUST  
of AUCKLAND**

