

# PIPE ORGANS

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LTD.

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## St Jude's Anglican Church, Carlton



## Fincham Organ Interpretation Proposal May 2024

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# Organ History

## **1866**

Organ built by George Fincham (Melbourne) for Exhibition 1866-7

1 manual / 11 Speaking Stops / 1 Coupler / Mechanical Action

## **c1866/67**

Relocated to St John's Toorak.

## **1872**

Relocated to St Jude's Carlton. Installed in rear gallery.

## **c1898**

Relocated from St Jude's rear gallery to chancel.

## **After 1917**

Paintwork applied to side/s of casework over polished timber.

## **Before 1970s**

Casework covered in brown varnish / shellac.

## **1989-1990**

Overhauled by Knud Smenge (Melbourne) and relocated from St Jude's chancel to rear galley.

Brown varnish or coloured shellac removed from Casework. Façade pipe paintwork removed back to spotted metal pipes, faint shadows of decorative stenciling remained until destruction by fire.

## **2014**

Destroyed by fire

# Specification

## Manual

1.	Open Diapason	8	
2.	Stop'd Bass	8	
3.	Clarabella	8	CC-BB
4.	Viol de Gamba	8	TC
5.	Dulciana	8	TC
6.	Principal	4	
7.	Flute	4	
8.	Twelfth	2 2/3	
		$\frac{2}{3}$	
9.	Fifteenth	2	
10.	Mixture	II	19.22
11.	Trumpet	8	

## Pedal

12.	Bourdon	16
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## Couplers

Manual/Pedal

3 Composition Pedals

## Introduction

This proposal has been written in response to a request from *St Jude's Anglican Church, Carlton*. We provide in this report a meaningful interpretation strategy for the remaining parts of the badly fire-damaged 1866-7 George Fincham Pipe Organ. This was requested of *St Jude's* by *Heritage Victoria*. It offers an historically sensitive and celebratory way to recognise the history of this significant Fincham organ. It includes preservation of sections of the post-fire casework, an historic timeline and stories of the organ. However, most significantly this proposal contains a fresh strategy to keep alive the musical heritage of this organ.

In addition to expertise provided by *Pipe Organs Victoria*, decorative arts specialist Mark Nobel was consulted in the preparation of this proposal. Mark has extensive expertise in painted finishes and Victorian polychrome decoration, particularly in relation to pipe organs.

### Preserving the history of the Fincham Organ

In our *Pipe Organ Report* of November 2022, we assessed the fire damaged organ as too fragile for reassembly as a whole unit<sup>1</sup>. Such a reassembly would not make a fitting tribute to the instrument that once was owing to both its poor condition and that it would visually serve as somewhat of an eyesore in the otherwise delightfully colourful church. It would be too cumbersome, impractical, and prohibitively expensive to contain the entire damaged case and parts of the instrument in such large scale glass cabinetry. Further, the health and safety concerns that we noted in our November report<sup>2</sup> regarding the burnt paint toxins remain. For these reasons we strongly recommend against reconstruction of the entirety of the remaining parts of the Fincham organ.

Fortuitously, the front case paintwork is a little more robust than other parts of the organ case, and even retains shadows of the decorative stencilling. A display utilising sections of the front casework would make a far more joyful interpretation of the remains of the organ. It would serve as an uplifting memorial to the wonderful music that was once played upon it and preserve one of the earliest examples of George Fincham's considerable oeuvre. It is important to preserve a history of the instrument in a sensitive manner that honors its musical pedigree. The remains of the casework link us to a memory of the music the instrument once produced, keep the instrument alive in the hearts and minds of any who were lucky enough to listen to, sing with, and play it.

To this end, our recommendation is the creation of a publicly accessible wall display. We would utilise sections of the front casework on the south wall of the narthex of the church building. The display would be a edifying celebration of the sounds and visual beauty of the instrument before succumbing to the ravages of fire.

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<sup>1</sup> Pipe Organs Victoria 'Pipe Organ Report' November 2022 pp 4-8

<sup>2</sup> *ibid* p 5, 8



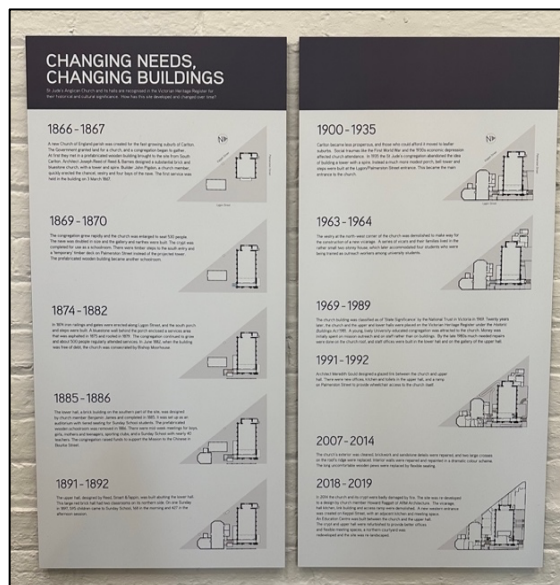


South Wall of the Narthex - proposed location of the new display

# The Proposal – Historical Display of Decorative Front Case

Sections of the fire-damaged front decorative casework would be carefully arranged in a museum-like interactive display, interwoven with:

- A timeline display detailing the history of the organ in the same design as the timeline in the *St Jude's* administrative building foyer “Changing Needs Changing Buildings”.
- An integrated QR code enabling people to interact with the musical heritage, history and voice of the organ. The QR code/s would link to recordings by Elizabeth Kleinig & Peter Wakeley enabling people to listen via their smart phones to the sound of the organ and its music during its service to worship and liturgy at *St Jude's* throughout its long life.
- Photographs of the organ and anecdotes from parishioners recalling favourite memories of the organ over its history would also be on display within the decorative casework frame.
- A visual reminder of the vibrant decorative elements of the casework would form an important element of the memorial display. Meticulously researched colour matched swatches reproducing the original colour scheme and framed in gold leaf would celebrate the beauty of the casework stencilling and gilding. Displayed alongside their fire-damaged counterparts in the casework, they would also serve to demonstrate the reaction of the decorative paintwork pigments to the intense heat of the fire.
- The display would be preserved behind a glass showcase in order to seal the piece to the elements. This would serve the dual purpose of protecting the delicate timber and paintwork for the decades to come, whilst keeping the toxins from the fire damaged pigments safely sealed from church patrons.



“Changing Needs Changing Buildings” Historical timeline of the *St Jude's* church building.





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Artist's impression (indicative only, not exact design) of the proposed display on the south wall of the Narthex.



## About Pipe Organs Victoria

Pipe Organs Victoria comprises the combined forces of Organ Builders Philip Henderson, Christopher Teed, and Kate Buttery. With a decade of collegueship under their belts, and with combined experience in the industry of over 30 years between them, Pipe Organs Victoria are the newest generation of Organ Builders in Australia. Their approach to their craft combines their extensive knowledge of traditional organ building techniques and materials with understanding of liturgical needs of range of parishes, and technical requirements of performing arts venues.

Philip, Christopher and Kate all come from church music backgrounds, and have worked and worshiped across a variety of liturgical styles. They have also worked in the performing arts, and understand that the artistic and technical requirements placed on the organ in performing arts venues, can vary widely between venues, visiting artists, and events.

*“We nurture creative spirits, a great love of our profession, a desire to share our knowledge, with the understanding that you never stop learning in life. With this zeal we look to the future with optimism, and hope of handing on the tradition of organ building to future generations.”*

### Current Projects:

- St John’s Anglican Church, Camberwell (1958 Hill, Norman & Beard / 1985 & 1996 Australian Pipe Organs / 2020 Wakeley Organs / 2024 Pipe Organs Victoria) - Rebuild

### Portfolio:

- St Mary’s Catholic Church, Williamstown (m C19<sup>th</sup> – e C20<sup>th</sup> Builder unknown, Possibly William Anderson) – Cleaning & Historically Sensitive repairs
- St George the Martyr, Goodwood (1903 Al. Noterman / 1976 J.E. Dodd Gunstar / 1998 L. Jacobs) – Repairs and Refurbishment
- Hamilton Uniting Church (1901 Geo. Fincham & Son / 1958 Hill, Norman & Beard / 1978 Laurie) – Major Refurbishment
- St Patrick’s Catholic Church, Stawell (1979 Laurie) – Relocation

Our work as colleagues under previous employment can be found in instruments including:

- Hawthorn Presbyterian Church (1892 Fincham & Hobday / 1923 F.Taylor) – Restoration
- St Mark’s Catholic Church, Fawkner (1888 A.Fuller) – Renovation
- Christ Church Anglican Church, Beechworth (1882 William Anderson) – Heritage Restoration
- Ballarat Central Uniting Church (1890 Fincham & Hobday / 1954 Geo. Fincham & Sons) - Refurbishment
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Williamstown (1896 William Anderson) - Restoration
- Zion Lutheran Church, Walla Walla, NSW (1869 G Fincham / 1967 Laurie) - Refurbishment
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church , Coleraine, Victoria (1921 Meadway & Slatterie) - Refurbishment
- St Mary the Virgin Anglican Catholic Church, South Caulfield, Victoria (1886 A Crook) - Heritage Restoration
- St Augustine’s Anglican Church, Inglewood, Victoria (1878 George Fincham) - Refurbishment
- St John’s Anglican Church, North Ballarat (1891 Fincham & Hobday / 1972 Turner) - Refurbishment
- St Francis Xavier Catholic Cathedral, Adelaide (1927 Casavant) - Refurbishment
- Gulangyu Organ Museum, Xiamen, South East China (1909 Norman & Beard) – Repairs to Typhoon Damage
- Queen’s College, University of Melbourne, Parkville (1921-24 Dodd / 1960 Hill, Norman & Beard / 2017 Wakeley Organs) - Rebuild
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church, East Melbourne (c1872 Henry Boom) - Restoration
- St Stephen’s Anglican Church, Richmond (1865 JW Walker) - Heritage Restoration