

## TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA - 2012/2013

In December 2012 and January 2013 Malcolm Bury, Regional Representative for SE England, Scotland and Overseas Affiliated Associations visited New Zealand and Australia and was able to make contact with a number of Cathedrals.

First was **St Paul's Cathedral Dunedin** where George Chittenden, former Assistant Organist at St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen is now the Director of Music and trying to build the treble choir. There is no Old Choristers Association but George expressed interest in attempting to form one during 2013 so we will keep in touch and provide assistance as required.

Malcolm then visited **Christ Church Cathedral** and met Tim Andrews the President of the CCC Choir Society who he is very keen to formalise affiliation to the FCOCA. Two earthquakes have devastated the Cathedral which has been deconsecrated and a temporary "Cardboard Cathedral" made out of resin impregnated card board tubes/pipes is to be constructed this year.



It will hold 600-700 people and should last about 10 years – until a new Cathedral is designed and its location agreed, hopefully in Cathedral Square. Meanwhile Tim and the CCC Choir Society are heavily involved in retrieving and preserving the Cathedral Choir's music library.

Malcolm was unable to visit St Paul's Cathedral, Wellington or Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland due to a lack of time in those cities but neither Cathedral currently has an OCA. This will be followed up in due course or on the next visit.

Moving on to Australia, there are two Cathedrals in Sydney, **St Marys Roman Catholic Cathedral**, where Malcolm met John Edwards (Thomas Wilson the DOM was on holiday) who has been associated with the Cathedral for many years. Currently there is no Old Choristers' Association but there the "Friends of St Mary's Cathedral Choir." John will discuss with Thomas and other colleagues the best way forward and will revert.

The other Cathedral is **St Andrews** where unfortunately the Cathedral Choir and staff were on summer vacation. There is a strong "Evangelical" tradition albeit with an adjacent Cathedral School but walking round the Cathedral it was not possible to ascertain whether the Cathedral Choir provided a traditional choral role generally associated with Anglican Cathedral.

As a general point of interest, whilst visiting Stewart Island I visited St Andrew's Church – a tiny wooden building and the southernmost Anglican Church in the world before Antarctica.