

TOSA NEWS

May 2017
Volume 56 No.4

Price: \$2.00

*Just a month until
TOSA's World of Entertainment
brings you*

Justin Stahl USA
on his first Australian Tour
playing
**The Mighty Wurlitzer
Unit Orchestra**
Sunday 18th June 2017
Orion Centre Theatre

155 Beamish Street, Campsie

2:00pm - 4:30pm

 Find us on
Facebook

[/tosansw](#)

Directory

Patron

Dr John Atwell

President

Geoff Brimley 6351 3122 *president@tosa.net.au*

Vice Presidents

Neil Palmer 9798 6742 (after 7pm)
John Weismantel 0435 258 287 *whitecoats@bigpond.com*

Secretary

Craig Keller *secretary@tosa.net.au* 0418 484 798
7 Aldinga Ave., Gerringong NSW 2534

Treasurer

John Wall *treasurer@tosa.net.au* 9528 9158

Membership Inquiries

David & Margaret Badman (02) 4776 2192
PO Box 589 RICHMOND NSW 2753

Committee

Barry Tooker 9744 1535

John Shaw 9543 3112

Robert Gliddon *christieorg@bigpond.com*

Ernie Vale 0415 626 064

Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

Simon Ellis 0403 548 354

TOSA NEWS Editor

Ernie Vale 0415 626 064 *editor@tosa.net.au*
P.O. Box A2322, Sydney South, NSW, 1235

Marrickville Players Convenor

John Batts 0420 424 103
Neil Palmer 9798 6742 (after 7pm)

Orion Players Convenor

Craig Keller 0418 484 798 phone or SMS

Ticket Secretary (Concert Bookings)

Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 before 8:00pm

Artist Liaison Officers

Geoff Brimley 6351 3122, John Shaw 9543 3112

Photography Barry Tooker 9744 1535

Publicity Officer Ernie Vale 0415 626 064
Printing by Ernie Vale & Graeme Costin

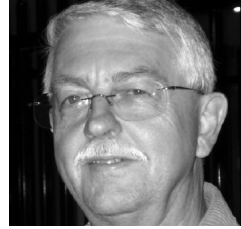
President



Looking forward to seeing you all and your family and friends at Campsie on 18 June.

See you soon!
Craig Keller

Editorial



From the Secretary.

Hello all, Geoff is still offline caring for Ruth, however it was a pleasure to see them both at our last committee meeting at St Columb's. Ruth is still in fine spirit and early during the meeting we were interrupted by howls of laughter coming from Ruth and Debra as they sat and chatted in a side room.

In other exciting St Columb's news, on Easter Monday a team of trusty volunteers delivered the most visible component of the ongoing Christie restoration. The console arrived and it was a tight squeeze - by design. Photos inside this edition. Well done to all concerned with particular thanks to the work put in by David Badman with his trusty support, Margaret. All the major work was undertaken in their home workshop and everyone who has seen the console is amazed at how great it looks. Work continues apace in the chambers with weekly achievements from the team.

Remember that on Sunday 18 June we have our first visiting artist for the year. Justin Stahl comes to us from the home of many fine USA theatre organs and organists - Indianapolis. He is an excellent musician and you are sure to enjoy his theatre organ style. His wife Lora is accompanying Justin on this their first journey to Australia.

Hello Members, Enjoy the Christie report from John Weismantel.

Please note the program of silent movies presented by Australia's Silent Film Festival 2017 - Ronnie and Sharon with some sessions accompanied by TOSA member John S. Batts.

The report on the President's Forum gives you an idea of the importance of this forum for TOSA.

The move of the Christie organ console to St. Columb's Anglican Church, West Ryde was carried out smoothly. I hope you enjoy the pictures of this excellent new console.

There are two electronic organs for sale in this issue.

An article about developing younger theatre organists is particularly relevant for TOSA to survive into the future.

I hope to see you at the Orion on June 18th to hear an organist who will help the Theatre Organ World to continue for the future.

Enjoy the music,

Ernie Vale
PO Box A2322
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235
editor@tosa.net.au

From the Mailbox...



Thanks for your responses and please continue to email or write in, telling us what you think.

Where space permits we will do our best to publish your comments, but as space is limited, the editor reserves the right to edit any submitted comments and, as always, the views expressed by any individual may not necessarily coincide with the views of TOSA NSW Div.

Please submit all comments via email to:

The Editor editor@tosa.net.au

or in writing to:

The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)

PO Box A2322

SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

Member News

Photos from TOSA member Alan Youle

I received in the post recently a large envelope from Alan's daughter, Ruth Salminer. Upon opening the envelope there was a note from Ruth advising she had been sorting out Alan's apartment and came across some memorabilia being many photos of british theatre organists. A number of the photos have been signed by the

organist in the photo. I propose to print a series of the photos in future TOSA News. Alan has been a theatre organ enthusiast for many years whilst living in the UK as evidenced by his collection of these photos. Alan also sent me the Cinema Organ Journal in recent years after he had read them. This enabled me to reproduce some articles of interest for our members. It seems that COS have not been able to find a volunteer Editor following the retirement of John Leeming who had produced the journal for some 25 years.

Editor

People are wrong when they say that opera is not what it used to be. It is what it used to be. That is what is wrong with it.
Noel Coward

Here is that marriage of style and content we look for in all great writing. A shatteringly vulgar and worthless life captured in shatteringly vulgar and worthless prose.

Stephen Fry, Paperweight, 1992

From the moment I picked your book up until the moment I put it down I could not stop laughing. Someday I hope to read it.

Groucho Marx (to Leo Rosten)

To Watch Out for

Your Executive and Committee are looking forward to Justin Stahl's concerts in June.

In 2018 TOSA NSW will be celebrating the **50th** anniversary of the opening of the Marrickville Wurlitzer in Marrickville Town Hall. TOSA NSW will also be celebrating the **30th** anniversary of the opening of the Orion Wurlitzer at the Orion Centre Theatre, Campsie.

Overseas artists for 2018 are Simon Gledhill to play at the Orion Wurlitzer, and Dave Wickerham.

It is going to be an exciting year in 2018 and a wonderful time for you to be a member of TOSA.

Please see the membership renewal form included in this TOSA News. Membership is due before June 30th each year to retain the priveleges that membership offers.

There will be more social events for members once we have the Christie Cinema Organ playing at West Ryde Anglican Church. The church has comfortable seating, video presentation equipment, and is air conditioned. The Christie project team are making good progress as you can see by the article in this issue of TOSA News.

Advertising

Rates in

TOSA News

For Members:

Small, Organ related ads = FREE!

For all other cases:

Quarter Page = \$25

Half Page = \$50

Full Page = \$100

Full Page Insert = \$125.00

**Members' Playing Dates
The Orion Theatre Campsie
2nd Thursday Morning
10:30am to 1:30pm**

**June 8th
July 13th
August 10th
Convenor is**

Craig Keller on 0418484798

**Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday afternoon/evening
at 2:20pm to 9:00pm**

**May 22nd
June 26th
July 24th**

**Under the Inner West Council
the time and dates may change
John Batts & Neil will keep
members informed**

Players and listeners welcome.

Please contact John Batts
0420424103 or Neil Palmer on
9798 6742 after 7:00pm

to confirm availability

Christie Organ Report February 2017

JOHN WEISMANTEL

- No word from Don Clark regarding progress of engraving on the remaining thumb and effect buttons.
- Pistol shot effect has been manufactured.
- String chests inlet and trem manifolds are in place; now chasing some air leaks.
- Assembly of the two-note offset for the 16' tibia is complete and wired after primary actions were manufactured.
- Racking has been fitted to the wall and the two Tibia pipes have been placed. Some adjustment to the action still needed after initial air test.
- Installation of the Tuned Sleigh Bells on the front wall of the Solo chamber is complete.
- The console was moved from Yarramundi to WRAC on Easter Monday.
- Since the move some fine adjusting of fitment of rear panels has been done, and Divisional Cancels have been installed.
- Graham Glendenning provided a temporary dust cover and has purchased material to make the final cover; work in progress.
- Consultation with John Parker has confirmed the Solo chests layout proposal.
- John Parker also advised on a proposal to use the chest originally earmarked for the Gedackt 8' to be modified to suit the 8' Tibia offset instead of the over-long original Tibia chest.

Cheers,
John Weismantel

Future Theatre Organists

One of the traditions that the various TOSA divisions have developed is to support up and coming theatre organists – both locally and internationally.

In Australia we have heard, in relatively recent years, the likes of **Chris McPhee, David Bailey, Ryan Heggie, Mathew Loeser** and **Debbie Fitzsummons**. From overseas shores, we have experienced **Richard Hills, Simon Gledhill, Donnie Rankin,** and **David Gray**.

In a few weeks TOSA NSW audiences, and other divisions, will continue this tradition and experience a theatre organist who is on his first tour of Australia – **Justin Stahl**.

Prior to my wife, Debra, and I going to our first ATOS Convention in 2014 at Indianapolis, the various TOSA Presidents asked me to “keep an eye and ear out” for new artists who may have touring capability. So, armed with that idea off we headed.

It was on day one of the convention, at a concert on the magnificent Barton at Warren Performing Arts Centre that we heard **Justin Stahl** play. Both Deb and I said “YES! This one’s great.” **Justin’s** concert was a wonderful blend of more traditional pieces such as the standards, medleys including “Gypsy” and some more recent tunes. One was a complete surprise being “Africa” a tune recorded by the band Toto in the year Justin was born - 1982. Boy did I feel old – I was in year 10 in 1982!

We were very impressed by his clever blending of theatre organ for all of his tunes. **Justin** is musically trained and works as a high school choral teacher and his musicality comes through in his outstanding use of harmony and counterpoint. He’s also been a band leader with the US Army Marines and had tutelage from expert organists such as Martin Ellis which shows in his playing.

Justin has been the resident organist for the Christmas Concert series at Indianapolis’ Hilbert Circle Theatre for over six years now and he also performs various concerts throughout the USA each year.

I really hope you can come along to see and hear this exciting new theatre organist from the USA and help continue the tradition of Australian audiences supporting up and coming artists. **Justin** plays your Wurlitzer at Campsie Orion Theatre on Sunday 18 June at 2:00pm.

Later in the year we will see the return to TOSA NSW audiences of another exciting USA theatre organist. In fact he's probably played more in Australia and New Zealand in recent years than any other USA theatre organist. That's Nathan Avakian.

We saw Nathan the first time in 2010 on his first tour when he played at Campsie. During that concert, he introduced us to his involvement in the International Youth Silent Film Festival (IYSFF) – a role he continues to this day and he has been to Australia every year since. He goes to Adelaide each time to play for the festival and accompany live the movies made by South Australian youth.

In recent years Melbourne and New Zealand have also been added to the schedule and Nathan plays those events too.

This year we've been able to combine Nathan's IYSFF visit with an Australian concert tour and he will be playing the Marrickville Wurlitzer for us on November 5. Sadly there is no Sydney round of the IYSFF but Nathan may include one or two short youth made silent films in his presentation. Nathan is sure to revel in the delights of playing Australia's Biggest Little Wurlitzer.

Fortunately ATOS is actively supporting the up and coming young artists by conducting the Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition – which has been won in previous years by a some of the younger theatre organists mentioned in my first paragraph. The competition continues and I can assure you that there is some excellent new talent "in the wings" who we hope to bring to you over the next few years. For some of the new players we have to wait while they undertake their college studies (in music – remarkably) before they can commit the time to undertake an Australia/New Zealand tour.

In the meantime, please come along and support the younger players as they are an important part of the future of theatre organs – both in Australia and elsewhere.

Craig Keller, Secretary TOSA NSW

Time to renew your TOSA membership

A membership renewal form is enclosed or you can download one from the TOSA Web Site www.tosa.net.au

FOR SALE

*ELECTRONIC ORGAN - TWO MANUALS AND 32 PEDALS
FIVE RANKS OF TONE GENERATORS*

*ADJUSTABLE COMBINATION ACTION
FIVE AUDIO CHANNELS*

*OWNER NO LONGER ABLE TO PLAY OWING TO FAILING EYESIGHT
COMPLETE SERVICE MANUAL*

PRICE NEGOTIABLE

RING PETER (02) 9773 7748 – REVESBY



Show & Membership Prices

	All Artists
Non-members	\$35
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$30
Family 2 Adults incl 1 child up to 19 yrs age	\$65
TOSA Members	\$25

All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status

All Children FREE accompanied by an Adult

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$22 per person

First time Adult \$20 cash by completed Voucher at Box Office

Annual Membership Fees 2017-18:

\$45.00 Full membership, \$35.00 Pensioner Concession, Inter-state or Overseas \$45. \$5 discount per membership if TOSA
News emailed to you

Membership enquiries David & Margaret Badman
(02) 4776 2192 membership@tosa.net.au

**Australia's Silent Film Festival 2017 and silent films
with organ accompaniment**

Note these events are not organised by TOSA

BOWRAL June 11 - Sunday, at 2pm St Judes. Classic silent comedies with live music, organ and grand piano, Paul Paviour OAM.

TERRIGAL June 17 - Saturday, Terrigal Uniting Church. Classic silent comedies with live organ music, John S. Batts.

Website: www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au

AUSTRALIA'S SILENT FILM FESTIVAL

Note this event is not organised by TOSA

**Hunters Hill Congregational Community Church
Corner of Alexandra and Ferdinand Streets
Hunters Hill**

Sunday @ 2 pm June 4th

**Tickets \$20/ \$15 concession
includes a light afternoon tea after the show.**

**Kings of Comedy
with live organ music by John Batts**

**Excursion to the Moon (1908)
Segundo de Chomon 7 mins**

The Cure (1917) Charlie Chaplin 24 mins

Dog Shy (1926) Charlie Chase 23 mins

Now You Tell One (1926) Charley Bowers 22 mins

Yamaha AR-100 Organ for Sale



This one owner instrument was bought new in 2007, and has been maintained in Mint condition.

Excellent realistic voices and a superbly elegant cabinet for that traditional organ appearance. Easy to operate control panel, with all functions to hand.

Registration menu offering instant access to 384 professionally- developed registrations. Flute volume controls give total flexibility for organ sounds.

Organ variations for Theatre, Jazz, Electronic and Classical Voicing. Additional specialist organ voices for ultimate realism. Six tremolo variations for total control.

160 new orchestrated rhythm styles to make amateurs sound like professionals.

Full range of editing functions offer total flexibility for voices and rhythms.

Powerful 340 watt amplification delivers sound with authority and clarity.

Full range of professional-quality digital effects further enhances all voices.

Comes with matching bench. Asking \$1,800. Ono.

I have been asked to help my elderly friend and long-time TOSA member to sell this fine instrument. Please contact me for further details. Simon Ellis 0403 548 354.

TOSA Presents

Sunday 18th June 2017 – 2:00pm – 4:30pm

An Afternoon with International keyboard musician **Justin Stahl (USA)**

playing

Sydney's Premier 3 keyboard Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe
Organ

Including theatre lighting and
video projection of Justin as he plays
an entertaining program of music from the movies, Broadway,
jazz and rock classics as part of his five week Australian tour. His
program will include stunning selections from hit musicals Cabaret
and Guys and Dolls, a delicious assortment from Willy Wonka,
frolicking rags by Scott Joplin and rock classics by Toto,
just to name a few!

Justin is an experienced musician and performs regularly to rave
reviews from his American audiences. This program will connect
with your musical soul and leave you wanting more.

at

The Refurbished Orion Centre Theatre,
155 Beamish Street, Campsie
Sunday 18 June 2:00 – 4:30pm

Free parking behind the theatre & good public transport access see
www.tosa.net.au

Justin Stahl is a native of Beech Grove, Indiana. Beginning at age five with the encouragement of his great-grandfather, **Justin** was mostly self-taught in piano and organ. His passion for music has reached many venues that have included accompanying for several choral departments, contributing as his church's music director, playing for community theatre, and serving for over fourteen years in the Indiana Army National Guard's 38th Infantry Division Band.

Justin has entertained thousands of patrons of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in the last five productions of their annual Yuletide Celebration, playing the 3/24 Wurlitzer installed at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Theatre organ has always been a passion of Justin's and has taken him to performance venues across the United States. Most recently, **Justin** was a featured artist at the 59th ATOS National Convention held in Indianapolis.

A graduate of Marian University with a Bachelor's degree in piano performance, **Justin** presently serves as director of music at the Horizon Science Academy in Columbus, Ohio where he resides with his wife, Lora. His approach and philosophy includes the continued promotion of the theatre organ by using a wide base of musical genres. **Justin** wishes to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in his first Australian tour!

This is a rare opportunity to hear Justin play a genuine "Mighty Wurlitzer" in Sydney on his first Australian Tour

Come and Join us - you won't be disappointed!

Book securely at www.tosa.net.au/events trybooking

Tickets : \$ 35; Concession \$ 30; Members \$25

Family ie 2 Adults including 1 or more children \$65

Adult Group of 10 or more \$22/person;

First time patrons \$20 by Voucher at the Box Office

Students up to 25 years Free on confirmation of student status.

TOSA Presidents Forum Sydney 2017

As you may know, the presidents of the various TOSA divisions meet on a semi regular basis to discuss matters pertaining to all divisions.

The latest meeting was hosted by TOSA NSW and was held on Saturday 6 May. Presidents and others who attended were Scott Harrison (Vic), Barb Cornish (SA), Kingsley Herbert (ACT) and John Fuhrmann from STOP (Sterling Theatre Organ Productions) Perth. John Sutcliffe, ex President of Victoria also attended as he now functions as the chairman of the forum.

Unfortunately due to a scheduling clash no one from Qld was able to attend - they had young Tony Fenelon playing a concert for them on the following day. Representatives from TOSA WA, TOSA Gold Coast and Tasmania were also unable to attend.

NSW was represented by a few members of your committee as is traditional when a division hosts the meeting. NSW attendees were Rob Gliddon, Ernie Vale, John Weismantel and Craig Keller.



**L-R John Fuhrmann, Craig Keller, John Sutcliffe,
Barbara Cornish, Kingsley Herbert & Scott Harrison**

Various matters are discussed during these get togethers including the ongoing issue that many societies - be it musical or otherwise - face. In particular is that of declining membership. People just don't seem to want to "belong" to anything these days. They might go along to an event once or maybe twice, tick the event off their "been there, done that" list and move on to the next "thing".

Generational change seems to be an influencing factor.

Due to the reduction in new members we are all facing the

challenges of “who is able to do stuff?”. Technical and historical knowledge is being lost as knowledgeable members decline and there are few people to pass the knowledge onto. The ability to actually provide physical assistance is also in decline for obvious reasons.

Except for Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane, we all face scheduling challenges for access to instruments. Then the ability to actually travel to and from the locations for technical crew and audiences also impacts.

In cheerier news we discussed visiting artists for next year (but we'll tell you more about them in months to come). These had been pretty much decided prior to the meeting, but in his role as overseas artists coordinator, John Fuhrman was able to provide some finer details. We also discussed 2019 which was somewhat of a revelation that we could start to plan TWO years ahead.

On the topic of John Fuhrmann, during the meeting he was presented with a National Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of all presidents and their committees. John voluntarily undertakes the huge task of making the arrangements for overseas artists when they are undertaking a concert tour. This includes initial contact with divisions and the artists, organising schedules, visas, tax, musicians' union, airfares and a myriad of other details. He also initially funds the costs until TOSA divisions reimburse him for the associated share of the considerable costs. John is a dab hand at sourcing the best airfares and coordinating the travel too. A well deserved award for John recognising this role he has undertaken for some years.



Presentation to John Fuhrmann of Certificate of Appreciation



As a matter of interest, if an Australian artist is doing an overseas concert tour it is very unusual for a single person or society to coordinate all their travel and administrative requirements.

During the day the attendees also inspected the ongoing Christie installation including the gleaming console and were all very impressed at the quality of work undertaken and are excited about what is to come.

It was a lively meeting at times with open and honest discussion occurring around the range of topics discussed.

On the Saturday night we adjourned to the Ryde Eastwood Leagues club for a "nosh up" in the Golden Wing Chinese Restaurant. During dinner many more problems of the world were solved.

On Sunday 7th most of us met at Orion Centre Campsie where by arrangement with lessee, George Khoury, we were able to "have a play" for a couple of hours. At previous meetings hosted in Sydney we have only been able to utilise Marrickville so none of the presidents had played Campsie before or heard it for that matter.

They were impressed. Much more informal chat happened too, further reinforcing the relationship between the divisions as we work together to support our theatre and cinema organs and the art form.

Thanks to John Weismantel for making some of the arrangements for the day and also to West Ryde Anglican Church - St Columb's - for making the facility available to us.

Craig Keller, Secretary TOSA NSW

An exciting phase in the Christie organ project

The Christie Cinema Organ Console arrives at St Columb's Anglican Church West Ryde, Sydney

On Easter Monday morning, the Christie console was transported from Richmond to West Ryde by David & Margaret Badman. David had built a new console in his workshop and together with John Weismantel had wired up everything so far. Simon Ellis had arranged the hire of a new four wheel covered trailer that enabled everything to be well secured for the journey to West Ryde. David had to have a tow bar fitted to his 4 wheel drive Toyota for the move.





Preparing to unload



Load secured



Console on platform Down the trailer tailgate onto entrance



Whew!! it fits through the doors into the church. David Badman had to remove the trimming around the console platform so it would fit through the doors. He had made the trim so it could be removed and refitted. The console platform had been made to measurements taken between the doors then David decided to finish off the platform with a nice Jarrah surround. The surround looks great along with the whole console and platform - a work of art that TOSA can be proud of thanks to David Badman.



Various panels including the top had been removed in order to secure the body of the console inside the trailer and avoid any potential damage during transit. As you can see David and Margaret had carefully wrapped every piece to eliminate damage or marking of the timber and its fabulous finish.



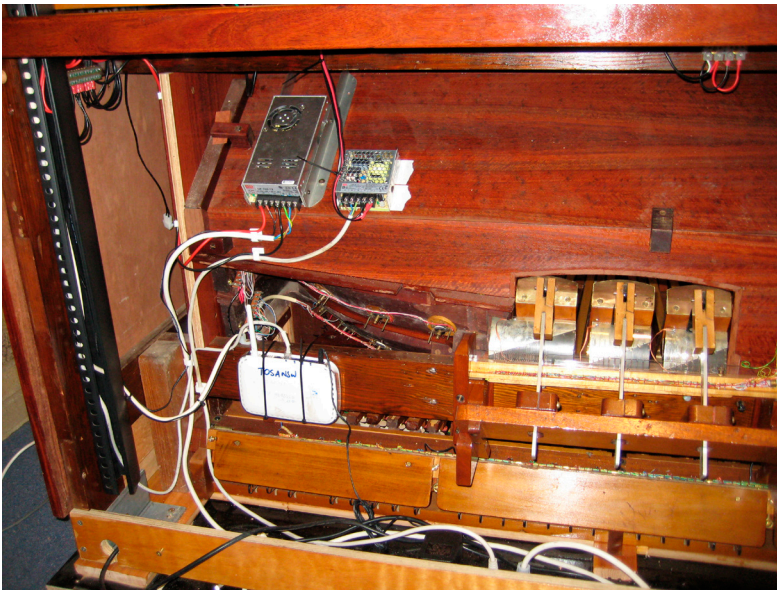
The console is heading for it's place in the corner of the church



Many hours of painstaking work has gone into wiring up components



Unwrapped at last



**Just some of
the
components**



David Badman prepares to refit one of the drawers that will house buttons for various purposes



Simon Ellis discusses with David what might be placed in this drawer on the right side



Time to fit the top



Now that looks like a Christie cosole



There is still quite an amount of work to be done in connecting up various items. Looking great so far.



The moving group; L-R Ernie Vale, Neil Palmer, David Badman, Margaret Badman, Graham Glendenning, Theo Langenberg, Simon Ellis and John Weismantel. Sharon Weismantel took the photo.

Members Diary

Next Committee Meeting - Monday June 5th at 7:00pm

West Ryde Anglican Church

Sunday 18th June 2017

2:00pm - 4:30pm

Orion Centre Theatre

An Afternoon with

Justin Stahl

from Indianapolis USA

see centre pages for details

**Book your reserved seats through the TOSA web site
www.tosa.net.au/Events - trybooking**

or

by contacting

Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 Before 8:00pm please

Radio FINE MUSIC 102.5 "Colours of the King" 2nd Saturday of each month,
6pm till 7pm.

****Theatre Organ Magic* on RNB - FM from Sydney, NSW, Australia.***

88.7 FM and 90.3 FM 12 noon first Sunday of the month for one hour

Web Sites of Interest: <https://www.facebook.com/tosansw>

www.theatreorgansaustralia.info (history of cinema organ installations in
Australasia)

www.omss.org.au (our sister society, Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)

www.ATOS.org American Theatre Organ Society

TOSA NEWS

May 2017
Volume 56 No.4

**PRINT
POST
100004836**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Official Publication of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc.
7 Aldinga Ave., Gerringong NSW 2534

If undeliverable please return to :

PO Box A2322 SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235 www.tosa.net.au

