

# TOSA NEWS

Jan/Feb 2010  
Volume 49 No.1

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**HAPPY Musical NEW YEAR to  
all Members of  
TOSA NSW DIVISION**

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**50th Anniversary Celebrations  
Saturday March 13 2:00pm Orion Theatre  
Campsie with John Atwell at the Wurlitzer  
&  
Mathew Loeser on Grand Piano with vocals  
then  
Sunday March 14 2:00pm Orion Theatre  
with Bill Schumacher at the Wurlitzer  
&  
Bernard Walz at the Grand Piano**

# Directory

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Printing by Rob Gliddon

## From the President



A Happy New Year to all. I trust that your Christmas and New Year festivities were enjoyable and that 2010 will bring you good health and happiness.

It was great to see some 480 people at the Orion for the Christmas concert with Tony Fenelon. As always, Tony produced an excellent show with the audience clamouring for more. The lighting and video guys did an exceptional job ensuring that we not only heard the music but had a visual experience as well. This is an aspect of the shows that is constantly being refined with the aim of presenting the Theatre Pipe Organ and the Organist in the best manner possible.

A great line-up of artists has been arranged for this year and I'm sure you won't want to miss one show. You should already be aware that we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary in March, and bookings are already being received for this weekend of celebration and great music. Later in the year we have three overseas artists, each with their own style of presentation and each of world-class standard.

While it is a little late, can I suggest a New Year resolution for you: to be, if at all possible, at each concert at the Orion Centre, Campsie. You won't be disappointed.

Happy organizing

Geoff Brimley

## Editorial



Our thanks to everyone who came to the Christmas Show with Tony Fenelon. Many thanks to Members who also brought their families and friends. We were particularly pleased to see the number of patrons who had come to a TOSA Show for the first time.

The Executive and Committee look forward to seeing many members and friends and first timers at the 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend on March 13 and 14.

**Please note** that both the Saturday and Sunday shows on 13th and 14th March will now be held at the Orion Theatre Campsie. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond the control of TOSA, we are unable to use Marrickville Town Hall on Saturday 13th March.

Members planning to go to the A.T.O.S. Convention in Seattle this year must be a member of A.T.O.S. You can apply for membership via a link on A.T.O.S. Website. see [www.atos.org](http://www.atos.org)

There is now an excellent outline of Seattle Convention on their website also.

Deadline for TOSA News is the 12th of the previous month.

Enjoy the music,  
Ernie Vale  
PO Box A2322  
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235  
[editor@tosa.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:editor@tosa.net.au)

or in writing to:

The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)

PO Box A2322

SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

## New Members

TOSA (NSW) welcomes these new members and wishes them a long and happy stay:

Mr Ron Bottrill	Northbridge
Mrs Alma Jones	Beverly Hills
Mrs Diana Thompson	Hurstville
Mr Geoff Stutchbury	Mount Colah
Mr Graham McBain	Auckland NZ
Mrs June Pearce	Kogarah

## Members Change of Address

If you are going to move house, or change your email address please advise the Membership Secretary of your new address and/or email address.

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## New Service for TOSA (NSW) Divn Members

*Theatre Organ Sheet Music Collection & Lending Library*

Would you consider donating unwanted theatre organ sheet music (of any condition) to help get a new collection started? All genres, styles and complexities are welcomed.

Please contact TOSA member  
Graham Glendenning on  
Tel: (02) 9680 3122  
Mob: 0401 094 884  
Email: [gcglen@gmail.com](mailto:gcglen@gmail.com)

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## Apology

In the December 2009 issue I incorrectly labelled the photo of Jim Clinch at the organ at Peter Robinson's Home Party as Jim Childs. My apologies to Jim Clinch for this error - particularly as Jim Clinch was involved in the voicing of this organ with Mark Herman *Editor*

# To watch out for..

**50th Anniversary Celebration  
Weekend - Musical Extravaganza**

**Saturday March 13 Orion Theatre  
Campsie 2:00pm**

*John Atwell & Mathew Loeser*

**Sunday March 14 Orion Theatre  
Campsie 2:00pm**

*Bill Schumacher & Bernard Walz*

**A.T.O.S. Convention, 2010 will be in  
Seattle, Washington.  
Overture June 28  
Main Events June 29 - July 3  
Encore July 4**

- 7 music filled days including concerts on 14 organs by world - class performers and local stars
- Several historically significant instruments and venues
- Based in Seattle with day-trips to the north, south, and east
- Luxury hotel accommodations at an incredible bargain price

*For T.O.S.A. members to attend you need to be a member of A.T.O.S. There is a link on the A.T.O.S. website to enable you to join.*

From the organ point of view there are quite a few original installations as well as some excellent latter day ones.

Go to [www.atos.org](http://www.atos.org) and click on the text referring to the convention - all the links are on the left side of the page.

## Advertising Rates in TOSA News

For Members:

Small, Organ related ads = FREE!

For all other cases:

Small bubble = \$11.00

Quarter Page = \$24.75

Half Page = \$49.50

Full Page = \$99.00

Full Page Insert = \$125.00

## Members' Playing Events 2010 Dates

### The Orion Campsie 2nd Thursday 1:30pm

February	11
March	No members event due to Anniversary weekend shows
April	8
May	13
June	10

To be sure there is no last minute cancellation at the Orion please ring Walter on 9716 0151

### Marrickville Town Hall 4th Monday evening at 7:30pm

February	22
March	22
April	26
May	24
June	28

To be sure there is no last minute cancellation at Marrickville please ring Neil on 9798 6742 after 7:00pm

# **50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Founding of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia NSW Divn**

In March 1960, on the strength of a featured article in the Sydney Morning Herald, the Theatre Organ Society of Australia held its first meeting at the Paling Concert Hall with the object of attracting members. Palings, being a prominent Sydney music and instrument retailer who also sold Hammond Electric Organs, kindly donated the use of the premises without charge and even provided an organ to be played at the meetings.

Several of the Sydney Theatre Organists also freely gave their time and talent to play for the TOSA members at these early meetings.

Now it is time to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of NSW Divn with a weekend of Mighty Wurlitzer Musical Magic played on the former Capitol Theatre Wurlitzer owned and operated by TOSA NSW Division in Sydney.

Saturday 13 March at 2:00pm will feature our Patron Dr John Atwell playing the 3 manual 17 rank Style 260 Wurlitzer at the Orion Theatre, 155 Beamish St., Campsie supported by Mathew Loeser playing piano and singing to his own accompaniment.

On Saturday evening there is an optional dinner at Dedes Restaurant, Sydney Rowing Club, 613 Great North Road Abbotsford. This venue is a great location with water views and patrons should aim to

be there from 6:30pm for 7:00pm dinner. Parking is available at the venue. This will be a three course meal with several choices on the menu at \$54.50 per person. Drinks are not included in the dinner price so that patrons have a choice of refreshments.

Sunday 14 March at 2:00pm will feature the very experienced Bill Schumacher playing the 3 manual 17 rank Style 260 Wurlitzer at the Orion Theatre, 155 Beamish St., Campsie supported by Bernard Walz playing Grand Piano.

Details about the weekend, including booking forms, are on the web site [www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au) and information about the dinner venue can be seen at [www.dedes.com.au](http://www.dedes.com.au)

For those requiring accomodation they should arrange it by contacting the motels direct.

Suggested accomodation is:

The Comfort Inn, 117 Liverpool Road, Burwood, Phone 02 9744 0521 @ \$130 per night.  
Reasonably new motel.

Philip Lodge, 156 Parramatta Road, Ashfield, Phone 02 9797 9411 @ \$110 - \$125 per night.

The Executive and Committee invite you to come and join in the celebrations.

## **TOSA MEMBERS AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL: 26 October and 30 November, 2009.**

Members' Evenings for TOSA(NSW) at Marrickville Town Hall have been held in September (no report) and on Monday, 26th. October. Those who played at the 2-11 Wurlitzer were Tom Barber,

Graeme Costin, Kath Harding, Frank Lewis, Deirdre McMullan, Walter Pearce and John Batts. David McMullan was on hand to listen and provided a helping hand with the portable staircase and refreshments. Once more we also benefited from Deirdre's culinary expertise.

The fifth Monday of the month proved to be bonus for TOSA(NSW) members in November. Having lost our regular evening spot (4th Monday of the month) to another engagement, this event was put together at the very last moment. Nonetheless, mostly thanks to the wonders of email, a number of stalwart supporters managed to attend. It was particularly gratifying to see Jack and Betty Rose once more, not least since Betty was kind enough to bring along some home-made Christmas cake.

As this was to be the last Marricville meeting of the calendar year, the season was acknowledged by some of the music heard, so that Chimes, Sleigh-Bells, and the newly re-installed Chrysoglott (thanks Rob & Neil) were in evidence.

Those who took a turn at the console to enjoy the Wurlitzer were Graeme Costin, Ian Georgeson, Craig Keller, Frank Lewis, Jack Rose, and John Batts.

The ever-industrious Betty Rose was on hand to encourage those who played.

jsb/12/2009.

### **TOSA MEMBERS AT THE ORION: 9th. October & 12 November, 2009.**

TOSA(NSW) members returned to The Orion Centre, Beamish Street, Campsie, for the monthly players' afternoon on an especially warm Thursday afternoon, 9th October.

Those players in October who are always happy to renew acquaintance with this 3-17 (ex-Capitol Theatre) Wurlitzer were: Ian Georgeson, Craig Keller, Deirdre McMullan, Walter Pearce, and John Batts. Once more David McMullan was present to encourage the players and to oversee the refreshments kindly provided by his wife, Deirdre. Other listeners were Graham Wykes and Robert Gliddon.

The inner-city west suburb of Campsie on 12th November promised to be stormy, and that may have deterred some of our regular attendees. Those organists who enjoyed extended console time were Tom Barber, Deirdre McMullan, Walter Pearce, and John Batts. Once more David McMullan was on hand as a listener, as was, perforce, John Weismantel, who was keenly taking measurements and experimenting with possible technical improvements. And latterly John was joined by John Andrews.

If you would like to attend one of these relaxed, social afternoons to hear some happy music and to chat with fellow enthusiasts, don't forget to phone Walter (9716-0151) on the day to ensure that our regular spot on the second Thursday of the month is going ahead.

jsb/12/2009.

### **What is a members' playing event?**

Many members of TOSA NSW may notice in their TOSA News that Members' Playing events are advertised on a regular basis. Some may wonder what these are and who is involved.

Well, to clear up some mysteries...

These events are typically held on the second Thursday afternoon of each month at the Orion Centre, Campsie and on the fourth Monday evening of

each month at the Marrickville Town Hall.

The events (they sound frightfully important) serve two purposes. Firstly they are a social event for members and friends attending. They of course are also an opportunity for those who like to play either of our wonderful instruments to "have a go".

Some people are very familiar with either or both WurliTzers and will salivate at the thought of getting their chance to belt out a few tunes. Other people are somewhat shy and maybe still feeling their way and they might choose to only play one or two tunes. Then, as with many endeavours in life, there are those who have always wanted to have a go and have never had the chance or are too frightened of "stuffing it up".

Well as one who up until only three years ago had always dreamt about but had never played a theatre organ of any sort, I have found members' playing events to be fantastic. I turned up at my first event at the Orion Centre one Thursday afternoon. I had only ever spoken to Walter Pearce on the phone, had never met any other TOSA member and walked into the centre with excitement and a great degree of trepidation. "Will I be good enough? Will I stuff up? What if I break something?"

The warm welcome I received that afternoon was a great start to making me feel like it was just something I could have a go at regardless.

I wrote my name on the player's list, rattled through my bag of music for a few tunes and waited my turn. Time is evenly allocated through the afternoon or evening depending on how many people turn up. Most players turn up in the first 30 minutes and rather than each person getting a large chunk of time in one go, each person typically gets two turns and sometimes a third

"quick couple of tunes" depending on how time goes.

So that day I received two turns at the console and was greatly relieved that not only was I not "judged" but I was also gently guided and instructed by the more experienced in the arts of playing these wonderful beasts. For example I had never heard of "double touch" before, and all of a sudden my sometimes heavy left hand was causing these extras blasts of sound to emit from the chambers! What the??

I became a semi regular attendee at Campsie as my work permitted, and as I still lived in Wollongong at the time, I had to plan ahead on flex days etc and make the trek to Sydney - but it was well worth it.

In early 2007 my work caused a move to Sydney and this is when I started to get to Marrickville for evening sessions. At first I was a little nonplussed with Marrickville - it looked tiny, there was no lift and it seemed strange to climb up to the platform. Then I heard it played! WOW! What an amazing instrument. I had heard its sister at Willoughby Town Hall just before its closure and I found it difficult to believe that they are essentially the same organs. Anyway, I soon became familiar with this sweet WurliTzer and felt very lucky to be able to play it. I know it has a well earned international reputation!

The move to Sydney also enabled me to schedule in some calendar time so that I can get to Campsie a little more often. I have also been guided by Walter Pearce in how to setup the console for the day. I feel a little privileged in learning "the knowledge".

As time has gone on I have developed more and more confidence in playing Marrickville and to some extent Campsie, but you know, I really prefer



Marrickville... But hey, I'm a WurliTzer devotee - I'll play any of them!

Now you may be asking, "What has this got to do with me - I'm only in it for the listening" or "I'm not good enough".

Well, you are a member of TOSA, which is why you are reading this magazine. This means that you would be more than welcome to come along to any of the advertised playing sessions and just listen if you like. Clapping and cheering are optional, but always appreciated by the players. This is also a great way to bring a friend along who may never have heard a WurliTzer, so they can hear it for themselves.

I recently brought eight friends to a members' evening and they loved it! The old architecture of the hall, the great acoustics and the variety of tunes from all players had them in raptures, and to have your own cheer squad there is an added bonus. These people now all want to know when the next evening is on so they can come again and will likely come to concerts too. Although I think some are keen to hear Graeme Costin do his "Toccat

and Fugue in D Minor/The good, the bad and the ugly" medley again...

Now if you think you're "not good enough" you can at least have a go and try it for yourself. There are those that come to afternoons or evenings who, as I said before, only have one turn, but in the past three years I have noticed distinct improvements in their playing and they should be proud of their work.

So, if you can get a chance please come along to either Campsie or Marrickville and join in on a social and musical event. Your only caveat is to make sure you check that the events are actually on. Typically you can only do this the day before by phoning the advertised numbers. Sadly we are occasionally not able to have the events because of other bookings at either venue, but at least you can check before trekking all the way to either venue.

I hope to see you at Campsie or Marrickville in the near future

Craig Keller

## Concert & Membership Prices

The following TOSA concert ticket prices now apply:

	Australian Artists	Overseas Artists
Non-members	\$25.00	\$27.50
Non-member Pensioner	\$22.00	\$25.00
TOSA Members	\$20.00	\$20.00
Students 15-21yrs	\$10.00	\$10.00

Child under 15yrs accompanying an adult: FREE!

Annual Membership Fees are now:

\$30.00 for Full membership, and

\$20.00 for Concession, Country, Interstate & Overseas.

Membership enquiries Bob Alleway 9524 7203 [membership@tosa.net.au](mailto:membership@tosa.net.au)

Associate Membership for a spouse/partner is an additional 50% only.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 2:00pm**

**Dr John Atwell & Mathew Loeser**

**Orion Theatre**

**JOHN ATWELL** is amongst a select group of Australian theatre organists who have achieved international recognition. He has developed a reputation for providing programs, whether in concert or on recordings, which are carefully prepared to provide a variety of enjoyable music. His playing style reflects the diversity of his musical experience. **John** has taken his talents overseas on several occasions, playing performances in the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

**John's** musical activities have not been limited to theatre organs. He is an experienced classical organist and pianist, having played for the 'All Stops Out' series on the Melbourne Town Hall organ, 'Music for the People' at the Myer Music Bowl and Melbourne Town Hall, and 'Carols by Candlelight'.

**John** is one of the house organists at the Melbourne Regent Theatre, home of the 4/36 Wurlitzer organ formerly installed in the Paramount Theatre, San Francisco.

**MATHEW LOESER** is an entertainer armed with a passion for nostalgia and a flamboyant personality, **Mathew** sings and plays the piano, breathing new life into the songs of yesteryear. His love of cabaret is evident, as he creates an intimate connection with audiences.

In August 2001, **Mathew** won the junior Theatre Organ Section of the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Organists Competition. He then travelled to Indianapolis in the USA to perform at their annual convention. Since 2003, **Mathew** has travelled and performed nationally, making cabaret the major focus of his career. To touch the lives of others with music is a gift for which he is eternally grateful and his aspirations are to continue doing what he enjoys most of all ... making people smile.

**Optional:** Dinner at Dedes Restaurant, on the water at Sydney Rowing Club, 3 course meal @ \$54.50 per person – drinks not included. 6:30pm for 7:00pm - Parking at the club see [www.dedes.com.au/](http://www.dedes.com.au/) for more details

**Tickets to each show: Members \$20; Non Member Pensioner \$22  
Non-Members \$25; Student (15 – 21 Years) \$10  
Children accompanied by a paying adult free**

**Group bookings for 10 or more adults \$20 per person**

**Bookings: (02) 9629 2257**

Visa & Mastercard accepted

Please come and enjoy the Music

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of TOSA NSW Divn  
Mighty Wurlitzer Musical Extravaganza  
Weekend Celebration**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010**  
featuring Patron Dr John Atwell playing



**The Mighty Wurlitzer & Mathew Loeser on**  
formerly **Capitol Theatre, Sydney** **keyboard with vocals**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010 2:00 pm**  
**Orion Theatre**

**155 Beamish Street, Campsie**

*(Disabled Access available at the entrance in Beamish St)*

*Free parking at rear of the Theatre*

see [www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au) for TOSA NSW events etc.

Please come and enjoy the Music in

**Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the founding of  
TOSA NSW Division in 1960**

featuring **Bill Schumacher** playing



**The Mighty Wurlitzer**  
formerly **Capitol Theatre Sydney**



**& Bernard Walz**  
playing **Grand Piano**

**Orion Theatre**

**155 Beamish Street, Campsie**

*(Disabled Access available at the entrance in Beamish St)*

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 2:00pm**

*Free parking at rear of the Theatre*

see [www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au) for TOSA NSW events etc.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 2:00pm**

**Bill Schumacher & Bernard Walz**

**Orion Theatre**

**155 Beamish Street, Campsie**

**Bill Schumacher** was one of the first members of TOSA NSW Divn and has given interstate concerts in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. During several visits to the USA, **Bill** has played a recital for the Puget Sound Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, and has been guest artist at the Pizza and Pipes Restaurant in Seattle. **Bill** considers himself fortunate to have visited and played some major US theatre pipe organ installations including the Seattle Paramount and Portland Paramount's San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, the Kern Residence, Detroit Fox and Portland and Denver's Organ Grinder Restaurants.

**BERNARD WALZ** is no regular concert-pianist. His musical and technical brilliance is matched by his embracing and dynamic on-stage personality. And his extraordinary ability to perform every style from Beethoven to Boogie sets his performance apart from the ordinary. Australia's Maestro Tommy Tycho says, "*Bernard Walz is simply sensational*". England's Max Bygraves lauds **Bernard** for his "*tremendous...honest-to-goodness piano playing!*". Critically considered Australia's premier "Pops" pianist, Bernard has been awarded two "Entertainer Of The Year" awards and seven "Instrumental Performer of the Year" awards both locally and internationally.

**Bernard's** international reputation has led him from performances in the Concert Hall of the famed Sydney Opera House and the major concert halls and performance venues of Australia, to Royal Festival Hall in London (where he performed with the BBC Concert Orchestra), the legendary Village Vanguard in New York, and solo concerts across the USA and Europe. Be prepared for an afternoon of superb music with Bernard Walz and Bill Schumacher.

**Note:** *If your friends or relations and/or their children have never been to one of these Shows then the first time they come to a show it is free. See [www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au) for the free booking form. Please encourage your friends, relations and/or children to come to this special weekend of Wurlitzer magic.*

## TONY FENELON

*Interviewed by John S. Batts following the Christmas Concert at Marrickville Town Hall 2008 continued from December 09 issue.*

**JSB:** And the organ itself was great fun, wasn't it, an original 4-19 [Wurlitzer]?

**TF:** It was actually a "Bitzer", it was made up of two organs because The Regent burned down in 1945 or the auditorium and stage area was; the foyer was not too badly damaged. They rebuilt the Regent and reopened in 1947. Then it went on until about 1970. Actually, The Regent was closed for longer than any of its lives. The last time it was closed; it went dark from about 1970 or 1971 right through until 1996. And before that it had never remained closed that [length of] time. People argued about whether they should demolish it, then they wanted to build a hotel etc. Anyway, it was the Marriner group of companies and the [Victoria] State Government that preserved it.

**JSB:** And that's the family that has allowed the "big" Wurlitzer [4-36]?

**TF:** Yes, but the old one, after the Regent burned, there was [by then] a 4-manual, 21 rank, a beautiful organ, and it burned down. And they got hold of the organ from The Ambassadors' Theatre in Perth — it was a 3-manual, 15 rank organ — and The Lyceum Theatre in Melbourne. It was a small theatre and it had a 4-rank organ in there. It was made with a very small organ; it could have been another Foto-Player. So they used the four ranks from the Lyceum and added it to the fifteen; that's how they got to nineteen [ranks].

**JSB:** And that's a large number, really.

**TF:** The console was originally a 3-manual. If you look at the photographs [of

the Regent] you will find that the fourth manual that was added is actually not the same. The piston positions are in a different place. And it was modified into a four-manual console by the Howard Piano Company in Perth.

**JSB:** So it was professionally done.

**TF:** Yes, but it was never an original Wurlitzer console. They put all the scrolls on it but it was never [really exact].

**JSB:** But it sounds good.

**TF:** Oh yes, it does. But it is very Tibia and Diapason [dominated].

**JSB:** Don't knock it!

**TF:** No, well it was the sound of it; to me that was Mecca. And I had carte blanche into that place. I had keys to the theatre. I could go into there [at any time].

And I could say to whoever was in town for a show "let's have a jam session at The Regent." So we'd park our cars up in the back lane there, which you could in those days without fear of them being damaged.

Open the doors, and we'd go in and turn the blowers on and we'd sit in there until 2.00 a.m. The only people that would be around would be the night staff cleaning and they enjoyed the music. They were great years in the Sixties; that's why we do all this.

**JSB:** And obviously from there it all took hold for you. Your career was almost mapped out from that point.

**TF:** Yes... In 1969 I did my first tour of the United States; I did twenty-one concerts over a period of about six weeks. And it all took off from there.

**JSB:** Did you ever meet that fellow Webber?

**TF:** Horace Webber ... yes, many times.

**JSB:** And you heard him?

**TF:** Yes ... there was a series of concerts that the early Organ Society put on in Melbourne sponsored by a guy called Eric Wicks. Eric passed away about six or seven years ago, maybe longer than that. But Eric used to put on these concerts because we only had electronic organs at our disposal back in those days. But Horace played. There was a Conn organ that they had with reeds and electronic pick-ups; they made a theatre-organ with reeds. And I remember Horace playing there at one of the concerts. And I also met "Horry" when the Dendy Theatre organ went in; he actually did a concert there. I actually photographed him at the console.

**JSB:** This was the 3-15 [Wurlitzer].

**TF:** Yes. I also went to the final recital of the Capitol Theatre; Horace Webber played that. [That was] before the organ came out and the Organ Society of Victoria purchased it. Then I was involved with the restoration.

**JSB:** It's now the Dendy, Brighton, but that's a different cinema isn't it?

**TF:** That's right.

**JSB:** I remember hearing about you playing "Mrs Robinson"

**TF:** That's right too.

**JSB:** That was featured on [BBC radio programme] The Organist Entertains in Britain.

**TF:** ... with [Presenter] Robin Richmond.

**JSB:** about 1973 or thereabouts.

**TF:** That's exactly right. Your dates are good, John.

**JSB:** These things should, of course, stay in one's memory. Now, about the duos. You obviously enjoy them. I've heard you play with Lyn Larsen in Melbourne as well as with John Atwell. And you play along with yourself too. Do find audiences especially responsive to this, as perhaps a modern arm of theatre-organ playing?

**TF:** Yes, I think not many people were doing it before we did it. There may have been one or two, John, but it wasn't a very commonplace performance. I think we actually ... a lot of people all around the world. In the United States no-one else was doing it. Lyn Larsen and I did a tour in 1984, and then duos emerged from all over the place. There was Jelani Eddington with David Harris, the young guy; they started doing a lot of stuff. There was Ralph Wolf too. So that it seems to have taken off quite a bit in the United States and other countries too. People decided maybe after all the organ is called the unit-orchestra. Why not combine it with another instrument.

**JSB:** I've heard you also with John [Atwell] at Malvern for a TOSA event. It does seem to be received rapturously, with a Gershwin medley etc.

**TF:** Oh yes, it does add a totally different dimension.

**JSB:** I enjoyed, not that it was quite duo this afternoon, your opera stuff.

**TF:** Today, yes ... actually I did that in England on the [Roland] Atelier. They had heard me do the Puccini. I've got a proper orchestrated version that I can play on the Roland; and it can also play back audio files. Somebody dared me to do it actually when I was in Florida last year, and I said alright I'll give that a try. So I searched the Internet, as you can, for audio files and I found four or five versions of Pavarotti singing "Nes-

sun Dorma," and [in] one of them, the orchestra was a lot softer than the others. So I thought that would be a good one to use — just as a bit of a gimmick.

**JSB:** There used to be vinyl discs in a series called "Minus One"

**TF:** Yes, I've got the Grieg Piano Concerto.

**JSB:** I remember [organist] Gerald Shaw using that one at The Odeon, Leicester Square, back in ... when I was in London on a sabbatical leave, so it must have been 1973.

**TF:** That's right, Gerald Shaw, and also [English organist] Bill [William] Davies did the Litolff "Scherzo" too.

**JSB:** Yes, he has done that; he does both parts very well too.

**TF:** I was due to do a concert with Bill Davies up at Stockport [Town Hall; ex-Odeon Manchester] after the organ had been moved. It had been in the [Manchester] Free Trade Hall for quite a time I had played and recorded it. Then Nigel Ogden and I reopened it in 1992 or 1993.

**JSB:** But it's fairly recent. I was present at one of the very last broadcasts from The Odeon, Manchester, [ca. 1969] with [organist] Reginald Liversedge once of The Odeon, Sale, "coming back to play the theme from "The Desert Song" [his signature tune at the Pyramid Theatre, Sale, Manchester].

**TF:** Oh my! You could write a book about some of those old-timers.

**JSB:** So that day three of us seated in the Circle had quite a concert as well as the BBC recording. Now to the matter of organ influences. You did tell me about Buddy Cole, and I was wondering about some of the other names, like

George Wright, Crawford, Johnny Seng ...?

**TF:** Yes. Not so much, but I had a recording of Johnny Seng on a label called "Concert Recordings" where he did a recording at a place [near] Chicago, the Mundelein Monastery. And he did Porgy and Bess, and that arrangement blew me away. One of the best recordings ever put out of theatre organ. Johnny Seng ... I don't know whether he's still around.

**JSB:** No, he's passed on also.

**TF:** That's tragic. But "influences" — definitely George Wright, because his were the only records we heard back then. The Hi-Fi series. Any Hi-Fi shop worth its salt had George Wright.

**JSB:** That's why I was interested in your playing "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" yesterday. Those glissandos going up and down.

**TF:** George, definitely. Lyn Larsen, of course, when he hit Australia. I heard recordings of him, but it wasn't until he actually came out here and played the Dendy [Melbourne] that I thought "Oh! That's how you get that sound." Because we stumbled around where we tried to duplicate what we heard on records, but pictures are worth a thousand words. So that was a great influence. Buddy Cole, of course, — very orchestral. George Blackmore came out [from the UK] and opened the Dendy, so there was an influence there. Vic Hammett.

**JSB:** Yes, I have played his recordings on Theatre Organ Magic. Quite a stylist in his way.

**TF:** A funny guy! Yes, Vic was very nice to me. He looked after me. Vic and Ivy, his wife, met me one time I was over there [UK] doing a tour and they took



me out for the day ... [[ Windsor Castle and Stoke Poges [famed for Gray's 18th-century poem "Elegy in a Country Churchyard], ]] and gave me the British tour! We had a great time.

**JSB:** I never met him, but I know he was living near Reading [Berkshire] at one time.

**TF:** It was up near London. Not that far on the train to meet him. It was not long before he died actually. He'd lost a lot of weight. But when I got off the train I was searching for him and I couldn't find him. There was only this guy walking up and down, and it turned out to be Vic. I didn't recognise him. But he was wonderful. .

[TOSA (NSW) News is much indebted to Tony Fenelon O.A. for giving his time, especially having played a theatre-organ concert immediately before, to respond with such good humour to the discursive queries of the interviewer.]

## Our Organ Classified

*From Geelong College Community Magazine Ad Astra December 2009*

The historic Wurlitzer organ has been brought back to life thanks to a long and costly restoration process entirely funded by Old Geelong Collegian, Bert Fagg (OGC 1929).

The organ which was built in 1921 as the demonstration Wurlitzer for Australia, has been completely rebuilt and is now housed in the George Logie-Smith Auditorium of the Keith Humble Centre. It was classified by the National Trust (Vic) in 1992.

The restoration team of four men, ably led by Julien Arnold of Melbourne, has done a magnificent job of bringing the organ back to pris-

tine condition. Hundreds of hours of meticulous work are behind this achievement. We were fortunate in obtaining the services of two of America's leading 'tonal finishers' who spent a week fine-tuning the pipework to suit its new location. These experts had done the tonal finishing of the Melbourne Town Hall organ, and incidentally they described the oboe horn rank of pipes on the College's organ as the best they have ever heard! The only part of the organ visible in the auditorium is the console or playing desk.

Encased in repolished Honduras mahogany, it is a thing of beauty. The console is connected by cable to the organ itself and is on a moveable platform so that when wheeled out of its room it can occupy a variety of positions on the floor of the hall as the occasion requires. Members of the school's Music staff who have ventured into the large chamber containing the hundreds of pipes and working parts are always astonished at its extent and complexity.

How does it sound? "Superb!" "Magnificent!" are typical reactions after hearing the organ. The remarkable thing about an organ of this type is its versatility. It can sound like a concert or church organ or, taking on a lighter guise, it can 'sing' as if in a theatre.

Mr Glover is particularly pleased to have this organ remain in Geelong. The instrument had belonged to his father-in-law, Oswald C. Hearne, of Geelong since 1928. Alan was able to persuade the trustees of the Hearne estate to donate the organ to The Geelong College.

# The Orion Centre - How To Get There

The Orion Centre is located at 155 Beamish Street, Campsie.  
Disabled access is available at the Beamish Street entrance.

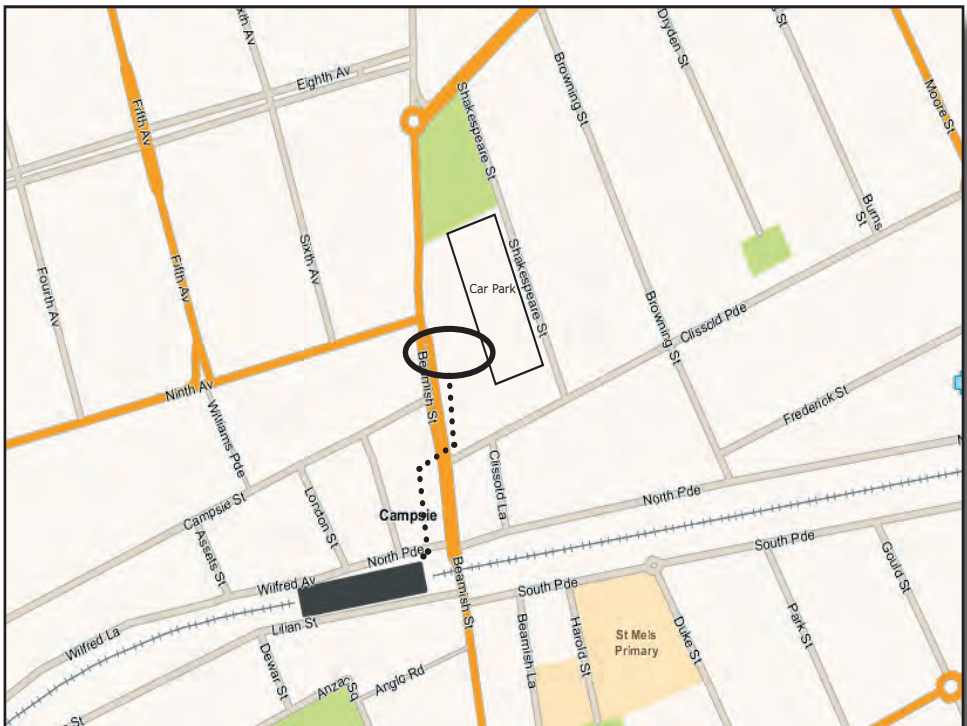
Buses to Campsie Station (on the Bankstown line):

415 from Strathfield Station 12.25pm, 1.25pm on Sundays only.  
400 From Burwood Station, Bexley North Station and Rockdale Station.  
492 and 494 from Rockdale Station and Kingsgrove Station.

Exit station on to Beamish Street, turn left to traffic lights, cross Beamish Street to the opposite corner (hotel). Turn left and walk down to the Orion Centre on your right.

Free parking is accessed from Shakespeare Street via Clissold Parade from Beamish Street or Brighton Avenue.

Please refer to the map below for a detailed view, or search for the Orion Entertainment Centre, Campsie NSW on [www.whereis.com](http://www.whereis.com) on the web, or [www.131500.com.au](http://www.131500.com.au) for transport details.



## **Congratulations**

The Theatre Organ Society of Australia NSW Divn send our hearty congratulations to Katrina & Chris McPhee on the birth of their daughter Louise June McPhee born 10.30am Friday morning 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010.



## **What an Anniversary Year in 2010**

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia NSW Division.

It is also the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia Victorian Division.

It is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Organ Music Society of Sydney – the classical organ society.

Who remembers the Roxy Theatre at Parramatta?

Well this year is the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Roxy Theatre which included a Theatre Organ. The theatre is currently run as a night club. If any members used to go to the Roxy in its heyday as a cinema please let the editor know of your memories. If you are interested in what is happening at the Roxy you could listen to Paul Brennan on radio ABC 702.

## **Colours of the King**

(Programme of Organ Music Society of Sydney) Prepared and presented by Andrew Grahame.

### **2MBS FM 102.5**

2nd Saturday of each month,  
5 – 6 pm

## **The Theatre Organ**

Prepared and presented by  
Andrew Grahame

### **2MBS FM 102.5**

3rd Saturday of each month,  
6.30 – 7.00 pm

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## **TOSA NSW Divn Inc 50th Anniversary**

### **Celebration Weekend**

*All members please note your 2010 calendar and diaries to keep the weekend of 13th and 14th of March 2010 free so you and your family and friends can come to a fabulous weekend of musical entertainment.*

*The enclosed booking forms set out the details of the artists and the venue and TOSA NSW Divn ask you all to come and enjoy the magical sounds of the Mighty Wurlitzer along with accompanying artists on Piano.*

**Please Note:** *Due to circumstances beyond the control of TOSA, we are unable to use the Marrickville Town Hall for this weekend celebration. Both shows will now be presented at the Orion Theatre, Campsie.*

*The **Capitol Theatre Wurlitzer** installation enables TOSA to present all the color and excitement that used to be possible in the Theatre.*

*Please come and participate in this special celebration.*

# Roland

[www.rolandcorp.com.au](http://www.rolandcorp.com.au)



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### Rydalmere

283B Victoria Rd. (cnr. Euston St.) Ph: (02) 9898 9887

### Seven Hills

3/81-83 Station Rd. Ph: (02) 9838 8832

**Members Club Afternoon  
at Christian Science Church  
45 South Parade, Campsie**

**Saturday 13 February 2:00pm to 4:30pm**

**Seattle ATOS Convention DVD**

The DVD presentation about the A.T.O.S. Convention in Seattle this year outlining the artists, the various Theatre Organs to be heard, and the theatres and locations to be visited is very well produced. If any member has been thinking about going to a Theatre Organ Convention in the USA this convention would be well worth the visit. Seattle is quite close to Vancouver, Canada which provides an opportunity to visit this lovely part of the North West of the USA and South West of Canada.

Even if you are not intending to go to Seattle this year you will find the DVD gives you an insight into the variety of Theatre Organs in and around Seattle and the enthusiasm of the Puget Sound Chapter of ATOS.

**Afternoon Tea**

Members are asked to bring a plate for afternoon tea. Tea and coffee will be provided.

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**A Note to members re the change in venue and organist for Saturday 13 March 2010.** Owing to the change in venue for the Saturday show due to circumstances beyond the control of TOSA NSW Divn, John Giacchi is unable to come to Sydney in time to prepare for the show due to work commitments and the courts scheduling. Consequently our co-patron Dr John Atwell has graciously agreed to play the Wurlitzer for you supported by Mathew Loeser at the Grand Piano with vocals cabaret style.

# Members Diary

**February 2010**

**Thursday 11th at 1:30pm Orion Theatre Campsie**  
*Members Playing Event*

**Saturday 13th 2:00pm Members Club Afternoon**  
at Christian Science Church, 45 South Pde, Campsie  
Members are welcome to play the Hammond Organ.

There will be a DVD presentation giving details of the artists and organs to be played at the A.T.O.S Convention in Seattle USA in June - July 2010

Plenty of free parking next to the railway.

**Monday 22nd at 7:30pm Marrickville Town Hall**  
*Members Playing Event*

**March 2010**

**Thursday 11th Orion Theatre Campsie**  
*No Members Playing Event due to preparations for the  
50th Anniversary Weekend Shows*

**\*\* Sat 13 & Sun 14, 2:00pm Orion Theatre, Campsie  
50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend of Music \*\***

John Atwell & Mathew Loeser, Sat - Bill Schumacher & Bernard Walz, Sun

## **Radio.**

Radio Northern Beaches 2MWM-FM 88.7 & 90.3 for "Theatre Organ Magic"  
the first Sunday of the month at 12 noon presented by John Batts

Radio 2MBS-FM 102.5 "Colours of the King" (program of the Organ Music Society of  
Sydney)

2nd Saturday of each month, 5pm till 6 pm

Radio 2MBS-FM 102.5 "The Theatre Organ" 3rd Saturday of each month, 6.30 - 7.00 pm

## **Web Sites of Interest:**

[www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au)

[www.theatreorgansaustralia.info](http://www.theatreorgansaustralia.info) (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

[www.sydneyorgan.com](http://www.sydneyorgan.com) (our sister society, the Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)

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