

# TOSA NEWS

December 2017  
Volume 56 No.9

Price: \$2.00

***TOSA's World of Entertainment  
brings you***

**Tony Fenelon & John Atwell  
playing**

## **The Christmas Concert**

Sunday 3rd December 2017

**Orion Centre Theatre**

155 Beamish Street

CAMPSIE

**2:00pm - 4:30pm**

 Find us on  
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**/tosansw**

# Directory

## **Patron**

Dr John Atwell

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Craig Keller 0418 484 798 phone or SMS

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Craig Keller 0418 484 798

**Photography** Barry Tooker 9744 1535

**Publicity Officer** Ernie Vale 0415 626 064  
**TOSA News** Ernie Vale & Graeme Costin

# President

Hello to everyone, and thank you to those who nominated and supported me for the role of president of this wonderful organisation. Thank you too for attendees and those who submitted postal votes for this year's AGM. The meeting ran well under the guidance of outgoing president and new treasurer, Geoff Brimley.

I thank Geoff for being the steady and guiding hand at the helm of TOSA NSW for 11 years. He has stayed on committee in the role of treasurer where he will still provide a steady hand. Simon Ellis is our new secretary and I'm sure he'll do a fine job. Neil and John have remained as VPs.

Welcome to the committee to David Badman. It was pleasing to see there were more nominees than positions for general committee and I thank all nominees for their interest. The full list of your new committee is on the opposite page.

I look forward to leading TOSA NSW into an exciting year ahead. We have two anniversaries in 2018 being the 30th year since the opening of the Wurlitzer at Orion Centre and 50 – yes 50 – years since our initial “box of whistles” opened at Marrickville Town Hall. Hard to believe!

We have concerts organised for next year and these include the return of Sydney native, John Giacchi to his favourite 2/11 Wurlitzer at Marrickville. We also have Rob Richards, Scott Harrison (Melb), UK favourite Simon Gledhill and wrapping up 2018 with Tony Fenelon and John Atwell.

Of course, the most important part of any concert is the audience! We need YOU and your friends to come along and enjoy the music and camaraderie

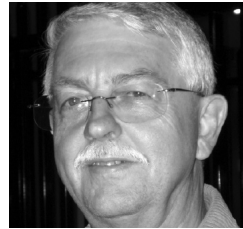
that comes with an afternoon of fine entertainment. For those involved in social/community groups remember that bulk ticket prices are available and we're only too happy to talk to you about that.

See you at the traditional Christmas Concert with Tony and John on December 3rd. I know they have a couple of new and wonderful pieces up their sleeves for this year.

Merry Christmas!

Craig Keller

## Editorial



Hello Members,

The new Uniflex 4000 system has been fitted at the Orion Theatre.

All reports for the AGM 2017 have been included in this issue for those members who couldn't attend the AGM.

See the page opposite for all Executive & Committee members for 2018. Please note the new address for correspondence to the Secretary, Simon Ellis.

There are 5 concerts confirmed for next year so you can now apply for a Season Ticket if you wish before the first concert in February 2018.

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

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### **Urgent Update on the Orion Wurlitzer**

The new UNiflex 4000 system has now been installed at the Orion - see the Uniflex Upgrade Report in this issue.

The purchase cost was just under A\$6,800.00 and to date there have been donations of \$1,400. Thank you members for your contributions. Members are again invited to donate towards this cost. Any amount, large or small, will be gratefully

received. Donations can be made in any of the following ways:

1. Cheque or Money Order payable to TOSA and forwarded to:-

Treasurer, TOSA,  
26 Maple Crescent  
Lithgow NSW 2790

2. Direct Deposit to the Society's account through any branch of the ANZ Bank (there is no cost using this system)

Details required are:

BSB 012430,

Account No. 2321 40985,

Account name Theatre Organ

Society of Australia (NSW

Division). Reference 6800

3. Cash or cheque payment at the December concert - please see Geoff Brimley: a receipt will be issued.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Geoff Brimley

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"Whatever the price may be, wine surely is worth more than the money that it costs to buy when it brings joy to your home, the joy of sunshine"

*Andre Simon (1877-1970.)*

***The exception to this is the current price of some Penfolds wines***

## ***To Watch Out for***

**Concert artists and venues  
for 2018**

**26 February - Rob Richards  
Orion Wurlitzer**

**3 June - John Giachhi  
Marrickville Wurlitzer**

**9 September - Scott Harrison  
Marrickville Wurlitzer**

**18 November -  
Simon Gledhill  
Orion Wurlitzer**

**9 December - Tony & John  
Orion Wurlitzer**

**You can order your Season  
Ticket Now.**

See the Season Ticket Order Form in this issue of TOSA News or attached if receiving it by email.

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"Would you convey my compliments to the purist who reads your proofs and tell him or her that I write in a sort of broken-down patois which is something like the way a Swiss waiter talks, and that when I split an infinitive, God damn it, I split it so it will stay split."

*Raymond Chandler (to Edward Weeks)*

## **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**

**December 14th**

**January 11th**

**Convenor is**

Craig Keller on 0418484798

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**Marrickville Town Hall  
4th Monday afternoon/evening  
at 1:20pm to 9:00pm**

**November 27th  
December No Players day  
as it is Christmas Day  
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**

# **Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc.**

## **President's Report to AGM 2017**

Firstly, may I thank all members, and particularly those present at this AGM, for your continued support of the Society.

How does one measure success of a Society? By the number of members? Or the financial position of the Society? Or maybe, by the number of people attending concerts? Each of these plays a part in the overall picture. Looking at the past year each of these might be said to have shown a measure of success but it is also obvious that we need to improve considerably to be truly successful.

Our shows throughout the year have been well attended and our artists have excelled themselves. Each show has been presented in a professional manner thanks to them and a dedicated group of supporting volunteers. This has been particularly evident in the high standard of maintenance of our instruments, sometimes under difficult situations with ageing electronics. Thankfully the operating system at the Orion has since been upgraded although at considerable cost. A particular thank you to those who contributed financially towards this cost. Our audio and video personnel seem to conjure up something amazing each time and their experience has certainly done much to improve the overall presentation over recent years. To each member who has contributed throughout the year, whether by direct involvement in the production or by stocking, setting-up and serving afternoon teas or the recordings bar, my sincere thanks.

In addition there are those who look after ticket sales, membership, production of TOSA News, purchase of supplies, maintenance of our instruments – and so the list goes on. Behind all that is a Committee who give unstintingly of their time and effort. To all involved we, the members, owe a great debt of gratitude.

Having listed some of the areas of member involvement I must say again that we are always looking for additional volunteers and would welcome your assistance. Just speak to one of the Committee.

So again, what is success and how does one measure it? Earlier I mentioned membership, finances and concert attendance as possible ways of measuring success. Looking at those three areas:

1. Our membership continues to decline in numbers – a characteristic shared by many societies. However that is no excuse. The good thing is that our membership is, basically, loyal. Now we need that loyalty to extend to a conscious effort to encourage others to join them, not just at concerts, but in committing to the Society.

2. Our finances continue to show a decline in cash holdings as money is expended on the Christie. Some concerts are financially successful and others not. One thing that must be realized is that our overheads are substantial. Both venues grant us some consideration based on our not-for-profit status. While our hire costs are well below commercial rates, the actual cost puts us behind financially even before we consider all other costs. That is where we need particular support – it's a simple equation, the more patrons attending the more likely each concert will be financially successful. As you will hear later, our overall result for the year is a small profit – a reasonable result following last year's loss, which might just get us over the line in the definition of success.

3. Concert attendance becomes harder to evaluate. There can be many varied reasons for fluctuating attendances and some are legitimate. The disturbing aspect is when members choose to stay away because the Artist is someone they do not know, possibly someone new to the performing circuit. The Artists you see and hear concert by concert are decided after considerable Committee discussion and, in the case of overseas Artists, considerable input by all Australian Divisions. Regarding overseas Artists we are indebted to John Fuhrmann in Western Australia for his many years of negotiating with Artists and then pursuing all the necessary formalities such as visas, travel arrangements both to and from overseas and all internal flights within Australia, taxation etc.

One dictionary defines success as "a happy or favourable ending; the getting of what has been aimed at..." Based on that definition we have had a successful year – most of our members have renewed their membership; our finances are okay and,

generally speaking, our audiences are of a reasonable size at most concerts. Now comes the "but" or the "however" However, there is vast room for improvement on each of those aspects of TOSA. We have to increase membership, we need to replace some of our cash reserves for instrument maintenance and we must increase concert attendance starting with our own attendance whenever possible.

The restoration and installation of the Christie is progressing. It has taken a long time but our stated aim at the commencement of negotiations with the church personnel was that we wanted an instrument as near to perfect for our members pleasure as well as an aid to their members when they meet for worship – something we can both appreciate and enjoy. The current position will be elaborated on a little later in proceedings.

Also a little later we will know the results of your voting for Committee persons. A change in composition will bring new life, new thoughts and, hopefully, a measure of success to the Society.

While possibly preempting the announcement by our Returning Officer, I think it is apparent who our new President will be. It has been my pleasure to nominate Craig initially to Committee, then Vice President followed by Secretary and finally as President. The latter was later substantiated by two other members also submitting his name for nomination. I believe you will offer him the same support which I enjoyed as he brings fresh thoughts in his leadership of TOSA NSW .

Many are aware that a couple of days after our last AGM my wife suffered a severe medical occurrence. I thank the entire Committee for their support, their preparedness to continue when, for me to resign may have been simpler and particularly for their friendship. Special thanks to Neil and Craig who picked up some of the workload. I considered it preferable to not seek re-election to the position of President.

I have had the pleasure – and it has been a pleasure – to lead this organisation for eleven years. The original intent was for a twelve month term with the aim to rebuild Committee morale - I believe that aim was reached within that time and has continued. That's not to say there is not vigorous debate nor does it mean that there



have not been times of conflict. The good thing is conflict has quickly been resolved and cooperation restored.

To the outgoing Executive and Committee, and also those who have occupied a position in the past, I say "thank you for your friendship, help and cooperation".

To our members who have taken the time to email, write, phone and even talk at concerts, offering suggestions and making comments, a special thank you.

Finally particular thanks to the lady who has stood by me and put up with the disruptions to daily life, my Ruth.

Thank you,all.

Geoff Brimley

18th November 2017

## 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](mailto:membership@tosa.net.au)

## **Secretary's Report to TOSA AGM 18 November 2017**

As reported at the last AGM, all committee members are active email users enabling the whole committee to communicate rapidly on matters requiring quick decisions. Distribution of minutes and the agenda and related reports for the forthcoming meeting is all undertaken by email. Committee members are able to attend and commence meetings more quickly as any required reading can be undertaken prior.

Apart from one handwritten letter from a member who had moved into aged care and wished to advise of his cessation of membership and a return to sender TOSA NEWS, there has been no incoming mail to the secretary postal address this year. How times have changed!

Social media (Facebook etc) and our internet site continue to be an important communication tools for advising members and interested parties of news about TOSA NSW. All communication regarding member days at Orion Centre and Marrickville is now undertaken using a combination of Facebook posts, email, updates to our website and last but not least, SMS messages.

Regarding Facebook posts we now utilise paid Facebook advertising for concerts which gives us excellent reporting tools and allows us to get our message in front of targeted audiences rather than rely on the "cross your fingers" approach of expensive paid print advertising. Our recent concert events, for an outlay of less than \$150 have seen our ads get to over 7,000 people in the greater Sydney area. Now if we could just get them to come along to a concert... It has been an interesting couple of years serving our society as secretary.

Working with the guidance of President Geoff we have worked well together to uphold the aims of the society. I thank all who nominated me to step up to the role of President of TOSA NSW and I hope, with the support of the committee and executive, to continue the legacy of many years of dedication and hard work by current and former committee members and all TOSA NSW members in the interests of the continued preservation and presentation of theatre organs and events in New South Wales.

**Craig Keller**

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## **Marrickville Organ Report for November 2017 AGM**

In my report last year it was mentioned that the organ's electronic relay system had malfunctioned during the November concert and that this was under investigation. We found that one of the backup power supplies had become dislodged in the console dais base. John

Weismantel also detected that the backup battery voltage was not up to scratch and replaced the battery. The relay then appeared to behave normally for the March concert until I detected some problems on the day of tuning for the September concert although we were still able to complete the tuning. The relay's designer John Andrews came out the following day and replaced the relay's main power supply and after extensive testing we left with everything appearing to be back to normal however, further problems were encountered on the day of the September concert. After a couple of frantic phone calls and some on/off power cycles, the relay behaved normally for Tony Fenelon's rehearsal and the concert itself. To say I was on-edge for the duration of the concert would be an understatement! After this event John Andrews replaced the clock-multiplex circuit board on the relay and further testing was carried out. A couple of weeks later we encountered a continuous snare drum roll which appears to be an electrical problem. At the time of writing the drum has been temporarily disconnected until the problem is resolved. Apart from the unavailability of the snare drum, there were no other problems encountered leading up to and including the November concert. Other work carried out has mainly been repairing dumb notes, some regulation of the Chrysoglott and Marimba-harp percussions and the Auto-horn effect which is currently offsite under repair.

The Leichhardt Espresso Chorus requested use of the organ for their Handel's Solomon concert in July where TOSA member Simon Ellis accompanied the Arrival of the Queen of Sheeba. The positive in this is that the organ was exposed to a new audience albeit only briefly. As Simon commented afterwards "four hours duration for three minutes of fame". The concert ran way overtime.

We were again invited by Marrickville Library to showcase the Wur-litzer as part of three tours of the Town Hall building conducted during the Marrickville Festival in October and these were played by member John Batts but he had to contend with the noise of a book sale being conducted in the hall at the same time. It required someone from TOSA to be on duty between 10am and 4pm. I gave a talk at the conclusion of the first tour but had to leave shortly after, leaving John to run the organ segment for the remaining tours. Again this was another opportunity for the organ to become known to a wider general public. Comments were heard such as "we didn't know this was here" or "I often wondered what was in that box near the stage". I would like to thank John Batts, John Weismantel and Ernie Vale for their assistance with organ maintenance during the year and to those who help with setup /pack up on concert days.

I move acceptance of this report. **Neil Palmer**

**TOSA Presents**  
**Sunday 3rd December 2:00pm - 4:30pm**  
**The Fabulous Duo Musicians**  
**Australia's**  
**Tony Fenelon & John Atwell**



**play**

**“ The Christmas Concert ”**

Come and hear “The Holy City”, new arrangements of some popular up tempo Christmas carols, a potpourri of other duos, including ragtime, film themes including the theme from “The Deer Hunters” and a new arrangement of the famous “Cornish Rhapsody” by Hubert Bath written for the 1940 film “Love Story”

**on one of Sydney's fine Wurlitzer Theatre Organs**

***The Orion Centre Theatre,***  
***155 Beamish Street, Campsie***

***Sunday 3rd December 2:00 – 4:30pm***

***Come and Join us - bring the grandchildren***  
***Bring your friends***

***Tony and John will put you in the Christmas mood***

## **Tony Fenelon**

Tony showcases his incredibly wide repertoire in music genres at his concerts. He provides a tasteful balance between popular and light classics, including music from movies, stage shows, jazz and great standards.

Internationally acclaimed, Tony has performed countless major concerts in prestigious venues throughout Australia, New Zealand, USA, Japan, UK, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan on Roland's extensive range of contemporary keyboard instruments.

Over the years Tony has displayed an ability to skilfully arrange and sensitively accompany soloists and choirs. He is regarded highly by his peers as a musician's musician for his unique approach and examples of artistry and taste.

## **John Atwell**

John Atwell receives repeat invitations to play concerts at theatre organ venues around Australia both as a solo performer, as well as in piano/organ duo combination with his long-time colleague and friend, Tony Fenelon.

John has also taken his talents overseas on many occasions, playing performances in the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom Europe and New Zealand.

John's musical activities have not been limited to theatre organs. He is an experienced classical organist and pianist, having played many classical organ recitals, participated in concerts 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'.

In 2012 John accepted the invitation of the City Organist, Robert Ampt, to play a lunchtime performance on the Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ and was very well received by the large audience. John has performed overseas on many occasions in recent years playing theatre organ in Europe, the UK and USA.

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

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

Adult Group of 10 or more \$22/person

For the best reserved seats you can book securely on  
[trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com) by going to [www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au) then Events.

**or**

**Phone Theo Langenberg on 0410 626 131  
before 8:00pm please**

# **Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc.**

## **Acting Treasurer's Report to AGM 2017**

May I commence by saying that John Wall, elected as Treasurer at the last AGM, had a stroke about midway through this year and has been unable to continue with his duties. At this time John is struggling and his aim is to be able to walk on two feet unaided by the end of the year. He has been told that regaining use of his arm will be of a longer term. We wish him well for the future and thank him for his contribution to the Society in the past.

Our Trading Statement reflects sales and purchases relevant to Afternoon Teas, Raffles and the Recordings Bar. Total sales from these sources totaled \$3,515 from which a profit of \$1,879 was earned.

The Profit and Loss Statement includes the above profit and all other receipts and payments of the Society. These receipts include, among others, donations \$1,025, donations for the Christie restoration \$3,620, membership fees \$5,597, and concert ticket sales \$21,539. Major items of expenditure include venue hire \$12,485 and artists fees and expenditure \$10,018. In the President's Report, reference was made to the substantial costs incurred in producing concerts and from the last three amounts mentioned you can see that against ticket sales of \$21,539 there is venue and artist costs totaling \$22,503. On top of those costs there is insurance, tuning and so on.

So what is the answer – it is simple but can be unpalatable. We need to increase income, reduce expenditure, or both. Reducing expenditure is not possible – artists have to be paid and their expenses covered, also hire of venues is already at a lower- than-commercial rate. That unfortunately leaves the question of an increase in income. Here you have a choice – you can have the good or bad method. The good is to increase attendance numbers (and hopefully a flow-on to membership). It has always been said that the best method of advertising is word of mouth – a personal invitation, and the personal cost is nil or minimal. The unpalatable method is to increase ticket prices which is undesirable for a number of reasons. This is my appeal to all

members – aim to introduce another person to our concerts and keep ticket prices down.

Now back to the Profit and Loss Statement: Total Income is recorded as \$36,283 and Total Expenditure \$35,149 with a net profit of \$1,134.12. Although small, this at least shows a turnaround from last year's loss of \$2,577.

Cost of work on the Christie during the year totaled \$9,002 which does not appear in the Profit and Loss – rather it is reflected in the increased value of the instrument in the Balance Sheet. It is a matter for debate which method of accounting is used (we do have the Auditor's approval for using this method) and it can rightly be said that by using the alternate method, an overall loss of \$7,868 would have been recorded.

Members who have any questions or who wish to inspect the accounting records should feel free to ask. These are your accounts and as such you are entitled to have any question answered to your satisfaction.

Geoff Brimley  
18th November 2017

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## **ORION WURLITZER REPORT to AGM 2017**

2017 is ending as a year for ongoing improvement to the Orion Wurlitzer.

Some may have noticed or heard that the organ was misbehaving during Justin Stahl's concert in June. Further issues had appeared in aged Uniflex components that caused Justin some challenges and required continual minor hand registration changes.

In the past few months I proposed to the committee that we "bite the bullet" and upgrade the Uniflex software to provide the latest possible development giving enhanced operability to the system for artists, members and even our organ tuner. The software upgrade and components were purchased recently and 10 days ago a small team assembled to install updates and provide other enhancements to the organ. There is a full report in your next TOSA NEWS. Thank you to those members who made contributions to assist with these upgrades.

The solo string celeste is still in need of a major overhaul/replacement and this is getting closer to being finalised. Earlier this year the chest was removed from the chamber and is currently in the care of the "West Ryde Docents". When it or its replacement is ready to be installed the pipes that sit in the chest will likely also receive a servicing and addressing minor repairs and regulation. A pipe support rack will also be installed. Fortunately the celeste is not a vital rank for performance so artists are not too disappointed when told it's not available. The Marimba Harp, whilst still serviceable, is in need of restringing and we are trying to source the correct diameter cotton cord. Hopefully we will have that early in the year.

The "piano pump rattle" was addressed during a technical day earlier this year. Rob Gliddon and I ventured to Clark Rubber at Summer Hill to source some suitable form of hose so that the pump could be located backstage and not directly behind the piano. We ended up buying a 10m length of pool vacuum hose. **Rob and his team** then constructed a new brass elbow to fit on the pump housing. It now functions far better and piano volume has increased due to the better suction. The Wurlitzer piano is also being tuned prior to our Christmas concert as it has not been tuned for at least four years.

Member days have been more regular this year and the changed times continue to prove popular with members. Attendance has always been reasonable with four plus players at most days and often a few listeners too. We have also had visitors come along for a first time play of a theatre organ.

Thank you to **John Batts** for being the other half of organising and conducting member days at Orion. Between us we send text messages and emails to all who wish to receive them. **John** is also the active organiser of member afternoon/evenings at Marrickville.

In February we will be hosting a visit by a group of visually impaired people in cooperation with **Vision Australia**. They will be given the opportunity to touch and feel pipes – spare pipes we have lying in storage – not pipes from chambers! They will also be given the chance to sit at the console and play if they wish.

Relations with Orion Centre management continue to be excellent. Thanks to **George** and **John Houry** for their cheerful and helpful attitude.



For 2018 we will have performances at the Orion by **Rob Richards**, **Simon Gledhill** and our traditional Christmas Concert with **John Atwell** and **Tony Fenelon**.

Thanks to all the people who assist in maintaining and presenting Opus 1813 – your efforts and time commitment is greatly appreciated by all the committee, members and audience.

**Craig Keller**

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## **Uniflex upgrade installation**

Hi All,

A team gathered on Thursday 9 November at Campsie to undertake the Uniflex upgrade installation and re-string the marimba harp.

**John Weismantel** lead the charge assisted by **Theo Langenberg** and soon the back was off the console and some electrical upgrades were underway. The old style power connection (an adapted 15 amp caravan socket) was removed to enable the installation of an IEC socket - like on the back of your computer or most plug in appliances that have a separate cord. Another update was to mount a power board onto the rear of the console so that the additional music lamps can be easily plugged in without the need for extension cords and power boards.

**John** and **Theo** soon realised that there was no space available to allow the installations to happen as planned as they would make the console wider at the rear. As the doorway at the bottom of the lift shaft is only just wide enough to enable the console and platform to fit through this was not acceptable. **John** realised that the small door at the back of the console could be a good location. **John** quickly made an executive decision and completely removed the door and installed a panel slightly inside the door-hole that would allow the power input and a four port power point to be safely installed.

Next **John** mounted the new Uniflex board inside the console. A simple cable connection was attached to the existing network of

cards inside the console.

Meanwhile I worked on installing the upgraded Uniflex 4000 software after taking a backup of the existing Uniflex 2000 software "just in case". The software installation went surprisingly easily - to my relief. I also upgraded the software on our emergency "hot swap" PC that is stored at the theatre.

I took the opportunity to tidy the cables inside the computer cabinet as, like all cables, had mysteriously tangled themselves.

As we had decided to leave the old Uniflex 2000 cards in place, again "just in case" it was necessary to remount the card that connects the computer to the chamber output boards. I moved the card further to the rear of the cabinet. I then mounted the new Uniflex card inside the cabinet and adapted an existing power supply to provide a 12 volt feed. With some trepidation I plugged the power supply in and the LCD screen on the new card lit up indicating it was ready to go.

Next it was time to setup the new network as Uniflex now works on a data network rather than an older style and fragile ribbon cable. I undertook some IT geek work and configured two network routers - one for inside the computer cabinet and the other for inside the console. I had hoped to get both routers to communicate wirelessly as this makes it simpler for setup of the console as there will be no need to connect a network cable between console and computer. However I was not successful at this task but I did get it to the point where the two routers communicate by network cable.

Next it was time to turn on the blower and see if it all works. The honour of who played first was given to **Richard Hills** - not in person but via a playback from a track we recorded to Uniflex during Richard's last concert at Campsie in late 2013. Soon we were revelling in the delightful sounds of one of the world's finest theatre organists playing our 3/17 Wurlitzer while the tabs flicked up and down as his phantom fingers pushed pistons. If only there was a way to make the keyboards move too!

The team was quite happy with the outcome to say the least. While the Uniflex and electrical work was happening another team

was looking at restringing the Marimba Harp in the solo chamber. However it was soon discovered that the narrow sash cord that I had bought was too thick and therefore impossible to string through the existing eyelets. A disappointing outcome but one that we can resolve sometime in the next couple of months when we source narrower cotton cord. Fortunately the Marimba still functions but its sound and resonance will improve when this job is completed.

Of course no work day can operate without snacks and drinks and **Barry Tooker** was at hand providing some lovely fruit scones and the urn was bubbling away for tea and coffee. **Barry** was also workshop photographer snapping many pics as we worked.

Thanks to the team for the day - **David** and **Margaret Badman**, **Theo Langenberg**, **Barry Tooker** and of course **John Weismantel**. Together we've made some excellent improvements to the Uniflex operating system at Campsie.

The new Uniflex system will enable remote control of the pipe ranks for tuning and even, if necessary, that an artist can utilise MIDI control of the organ or playing of MIDI instruments from the console. It also enables far easier reassignment of tabs, pistons and levers according to each artist's needs. For playability reasons some artists prefer to reassign tabs to different voices or combinations. For example **David Gray** chose to reassign the 4' pedal tibia to another voice for his concert in 2016. He also chose to make use of toe pistons for combination set changes. To undertake this task in Uniflex 4000 is far easier than the multi layered process in the old software and hardware. It may sound "way out there" for some, but I always like to say to people "what would Robert Hope-Jones think of all this? No doubt he would be amazed at what has happened in pipe organ control systems since his development of large electro-pneumatic relays."

Thank you too to those members who have generously contributed funds to assist in covering the cost of this **important upgrade**.

**Craig Keller**

# PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INSTALLATION OF THE CHRISTIE UNIT ORGAN - ST. COLUMB'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WEST RYDE.



## THE CONSOLE.

On Easter Monday last the restored console was moved into the Church. I'm sure you'll all agree with me it looks magnificent! Apart from the keyboards which were professionally restored the rebuild is the work of **David Badman** with some help from **Margaret**. Many, many hours of work have been put into a totally new console casework which is much more appealing than the original plain sided one whilst still replicating one of Hill, Norman & Beard's design for a more expensive casework. **David** also constructed a new horseshoe to accommodate new "Syndyne" direct electric stop actions and fitted the brand new stops. These "bakelite" stops were manufactured in Wales by **Ben Snowdon** who also replicated the original "Christie colours and engraving. A special donation by one of our Committee Members covered the cost of this work. **John Weismantel** has done most of the console wiring with some input by David Badman.

**David** also built from scratch the new console dolly which has a solid steel frame and laid the wooden parquetry flooring.

Just in the recent past **Graham Glendenning** has made a beautiful tailored padded cover which will protect the console over the years to come. We really have some very talented people in

the Theatre Organ Society. Yesterday I received the re-chromed console light covers from **S. Cook & Co.** of Brisbane [a firm owned by Lance (Qld. T.O.S.A. President) & Heather Hutchinson] who donated this work along with the polishing and refinishing of the brass resonators of the Marimba Harp.

## **ACCOMPANIMENT CHAMBER. (Left Hand Side)**

This area had shown the most progress this time last year. Since then we have installed the non-tonal percussions (bass drum; snare drum; tap & hi-hat cymbal; tambourine; castanets; wood-block; triangle; jingles; sand block and orchestral cymbal roll). The chamber has virtually all the pipework installed in the chests as this is the only available storage space. It now remains to place the regulators and windlines as all the wiring for this chamber is complete back to the relay boards.

## **SOLO CHAMBER. (Right Hand Side)**

All the tuned percussions are in place except the 18-note tuned bird whistle unit and are wired back to the relay boards. Walkways are positioned to allow easy access for tuning and we thank **John Parker** for his advice on this aspect of the layout. The Vox Humana and Tibia chests are piped up as well as the Tuba and Tibia 16' offset chests. Yet to come are the Krumet & Tuba manual chests which will be positioned adjacent to the 8' Tibia offset chest. Work continues on the Krumet and Orchestral Oboe Chests. Again we have to thank **David Badman** for making up the steel chest legs which work so much more effectively and save so much space compared with their wooden equivalents.

Finally I must thank **Graham Glendenning, Theo Langenberg, John Weismantel** and **Barry Tooker** who have given so freely of their time and abilities to bring this project considerably closer to completion than at this time last year. Thank you to those who have contributed in many and various ways both monetary and with other skills.

**ROBERT GLIDDON.**

## **Your Executive and Committee for 2018**



**Back row L-R Ernie Vale, John Shaw, Barry Tooker, Craig Kellar  
& Simon Ellis**

**Front row L-R Geoff Brimley, David Badman, Neil Palmer and  
John Weismantel. Robert Gliddon & Theo Langenberg are  
out having afternoon tea.**



**TOSA Members enjoy afternoon Tea and a chat after the AGM**



## **Members Diary**

Next Committee Meeting - Monday 11th December at  
7:00pm West Ryde Anglican Church

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**Purchase your 2018 Season Ticket now  
see the form in this issue**

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**Sunday 3rd December 2:00pm - 4:30pm  
Orion Centre Theatre Campsie  
Tony and John**

**Play**

**The Orion Wurlitzer**

*see centre pages for details*

**Book your reserved seats through the TOSA web site  
[www.tosa.net.au/Events](http://www.tosa.net.au/Events) - trybooking  
or by contacting  
Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 Before 8:00pm please**

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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>

# TOSA NEWS

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