

VOLUME 21

ISSUE 4

APRIL 1982

PRICE 40c

T.O.S.A. NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION

ADDRESS: BOX A 584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST - PUBLICATION No. N.B.H. 1038



HEAR HIM AT
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL
SUNDAY APRIL 11th
AT 2.00 PM

TONY
FENELOON

DIRECTORY.

PATRON: Ian Davies

PRESIDENT: Alan Misdale (525 5554)

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Frank Ellis (649 7011) Doug Smith (750 0917)

SECRETARY: Ernie Vale (798 6816)

TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Edna Smith (529 7379)

RESEARCH & ARCHIVES Ian Cameron

RECORDING ENGINEER Ray Garrett (869 7247)

PRACTICE CONVENOR Jim Crombie (750 4294)

COMMITTEE Mrs.Phil Wilson, Ron Wilson, Bill Schumacher,
Robert Gliddon, John Weismantel.

MINUTE SECRETARY Norm Weismantel.

TOSA NEWS EDITING & PRINTING Ron Wilson & Doug Smith.

*****A SINCERE WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Arthur Cooke,Cronulla: Daphne Smeal,Greenacre: Beryl Osborne,
Bondi: Max & Gladys Skeggs, Bardwell Park: Bert Fitzgerald,Liverpool:
Jack & Val Brisby,Bundeena: Warren White, Camp Hill, Qld: Donald &
Esmay Lougheed, Cronulla: Elizabeth Andrew,Carlingford: Claude &
Dorothy Lucas, Cremorne: Inez Wilson,Campsie: Josef Maennl,Oyster
Bay: Gloria Lougheed,Caringbah: Douglas & Peggy Adams,Caringbah:
Keith Milton,Bellevue Hill.

CONCERT CASSETTES.

As in accordance with our Constitution, concerts by the various
Artists are recorded for Archives purposes.Our RECORDING ENGINEER,
Mr.Ray Garrett, is always present behind the scenes with his electronic
equipment, recording for every concert.

When Artists are NOT under recording contracts, permission
is requested to release their recordings to financial members of
the Society, and generally this is granted on the same day as the
concert. Our M.C., Frank Ellis advises the audience that cassette
tapes of the concert will be available for ordering, and to save
any further confusion, a table will be set up at the rear of the hall
where order forms can be filled in for your requirements. The cost
of a normal concert tape is \$11.00, which covers approximately 2 hours
of the complete presentation.

Dont forget, tapes are available ONLY to financial members
of the Theatre Organ Society, and if your friends are disappointed,
they can join the Society and get their tapes also!

KEYBOARD WORLD MAGAZINE.

Keyboard World is a monthly publication printed entirely
in Australia. Items of interest to keyboard lovers, either
listeners or players are many and varied. They are supplied by
the joint efforts of several well known artists from around
Australia and feature articles on tuition both on advanced or
beginners levels, as well as a mine of information on new organs,
music, and record reviews.

A proposed new column is to be included in this magazine
from March called "THEATRE ORGAN SCENE" under the direction of
Ian McLean from the A.C.T. This could be an ideal way to keep in
touch with happenings around Australia and read about what goes
on elsewhere in the Theatre Organ Society Divisions.

You can have KEYBOARD WORLD delivered to your letter box
each month by forwarding your name and address plus \$17 for 12
months or \$32 for 24 months to:-

Keyboard World, P.O.Box 2104, North Parramatta NSW 2150.

(It is also available from selected newsagents)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



APRIL

Monday 5th, 7.30pm Committee Meeting at St.Annes Church Hall, Beresford Road, Strathfield. Visitors are welcome.

Easter Sunday 11th, 2pm. TONY FENELON .. SPECIAL EASTER CONCERT
Marrickville Town Hall.
(see inside for booking forms)

Sunday 18th, 11.30am Home Organ Party with Barbecue Lunch at the home of Arthur and Ruth Sims, Lot 5, Bargo River Road, Tahmoor.

Come and spend a relaxing day at the property at Tahmoor and enjoy a barbecue lunch, walks etc and good music. Bring your own steak and drinks, and salad will be provided.
Gents: \$2, Ladies \$1.50 plus a plate towards afternoon tea.
PLEASE RING: 046 81 9335 for bookings after 7pm.

(Please note the change in the area prefix, which was printed incorrectly in the last issue)

MAY

Monday 3rd, 7.30pm Committee Meeting at St.Annes Church Hall.

Sunday 16th, 2pm NEIL JENSEN in Concert at Marrickville Town Hall.
(see inside for booking forms)

JUNE

Sunday 6th, 2pm FREE CONCERT, featuring our Patron IAN DAVIES
Marrickville Town Hall.

Monday 7th, 7.30pm Committee Meeting at St.Annes Church Hall.

Wednesday 16th, 7.30pm CLUB NIGHT at Marrickville.
A chance to play your Wurlitzer Organ,
Supper will be served.

WARRINGAH ORGAN SOCIETY.

Our well known Committee Member, BILL SCHUMACHER will be presenting a concert for the above group on Monday, April 5th at Narrabeen RSL Club, commencing at 7.45pm.

Bill will be playing one of the top Hammond organs and this should prove to be a great night of good entertainment. All TOSA Members are cordially invited to attend.

OUR SINCERE THANKS to CHRIS GORMAN and DAVID JUDD who recently presented a recital at the Selwyn Theatre and donated their respective fees to the Theatre Organ Society funds.

The Executive and Committee and Members wish to say thanks to these two fine artists for their very generous gesture, and no doubt it will be put to very good use.

BUS TRIP FOR 1982.....SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS OF OUR COMING BUS TRIP FOR THIS YEAR...ON THE WEEK-END OF 23/24 OCTOBER 1982.

4..

REVUE OF CONCERT, Sunday 21st February. (by Peter Held)
Beverly Kennedy, Patricia Guthrie, Neil Palmer.

Despite a playing commitment that same evening, I resolved to make time to be present for most of the tripartite musical afternoon on February 21st at Marrickville.

The youthful trio had obviously worked in preparation; registration changes were deserving of praise; here I think Beverly Kennedy showed most promise.

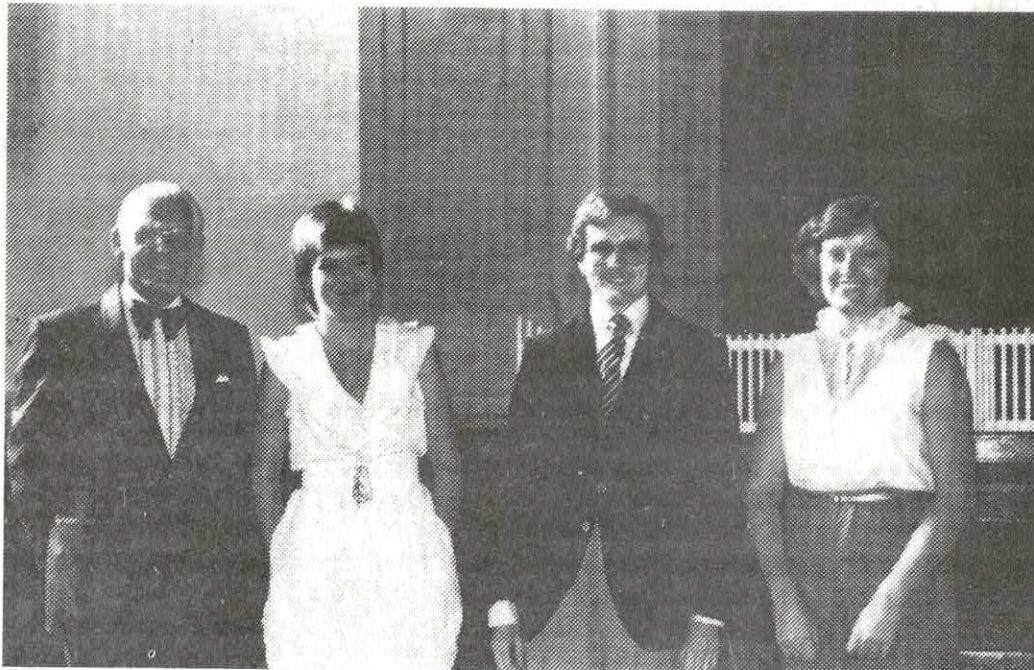
It was a pity that Patricia Guthrie did not spot the Chimes tab being on, before beginning her opening march. I am told it was her first appearance at Marrickville. On further mitigation I must tell our readers that this organ feels and handles quite differently when there is an audience present from when the building is empty!

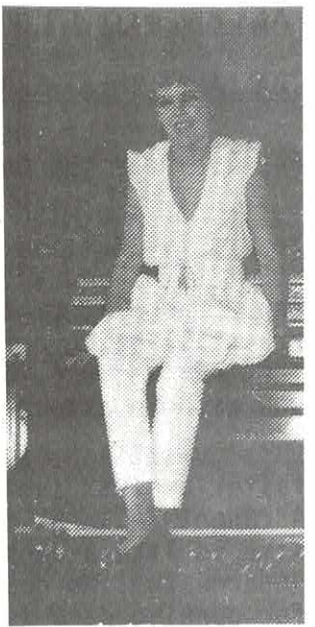
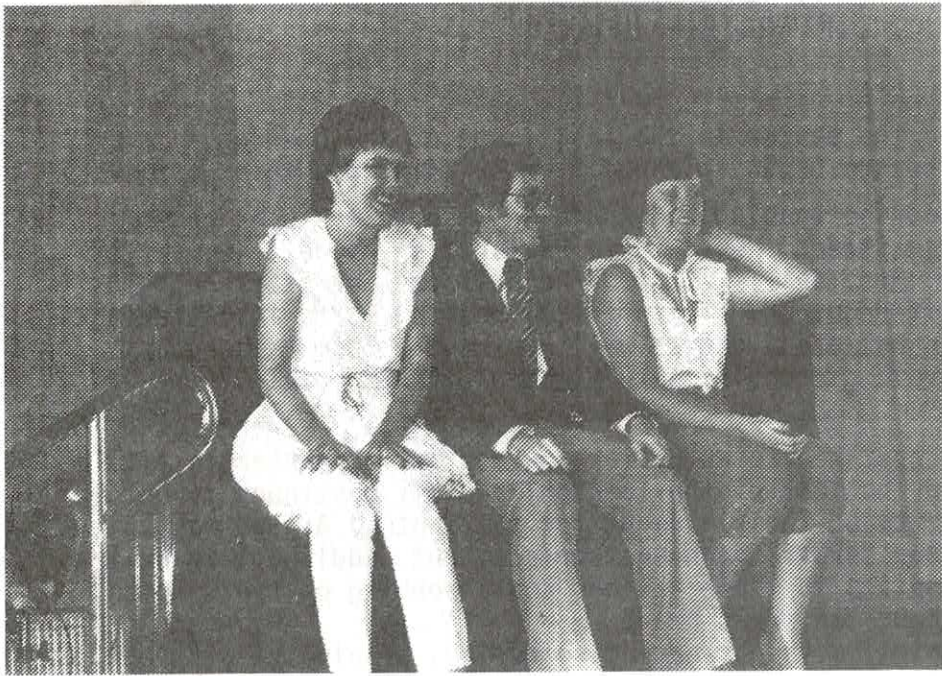
Neil Palmer, despite an uneasy posture on the bench was well controlled in his playing. I liked his 'Stars fell on Alabama' best.

I feel constrained to comment that I wholeheartedly endorse the concept of encouraging and promoting the younger recruits to the 'business'- whereby they can 'serve their time' as I and others before me did, playing a real cinema organ before live audiences. I do feel that they should not try to play works that are, to me, beyond their reserve of TECHNIQUE. Beverly Kennedy's 'Skaters Waltz' was just not Emile Waldteufel- that type of music is supposed to 'bubble along'. Till one can do this with ease before an audience, it should definitely NOT be attempted.

Student pianoforte technique (on the manuals) wont do for presenting music of this calibre on a pipe organ and, please, younger organists, be concious of the IMMENSE dynamic range this organ can now unleash. Believe me, it CAN be played with only a couple of units in each hand!

Frank Ellis, dapper and eloquent as usual was the compere. My compliments and approbation!





Beverly Kennedy



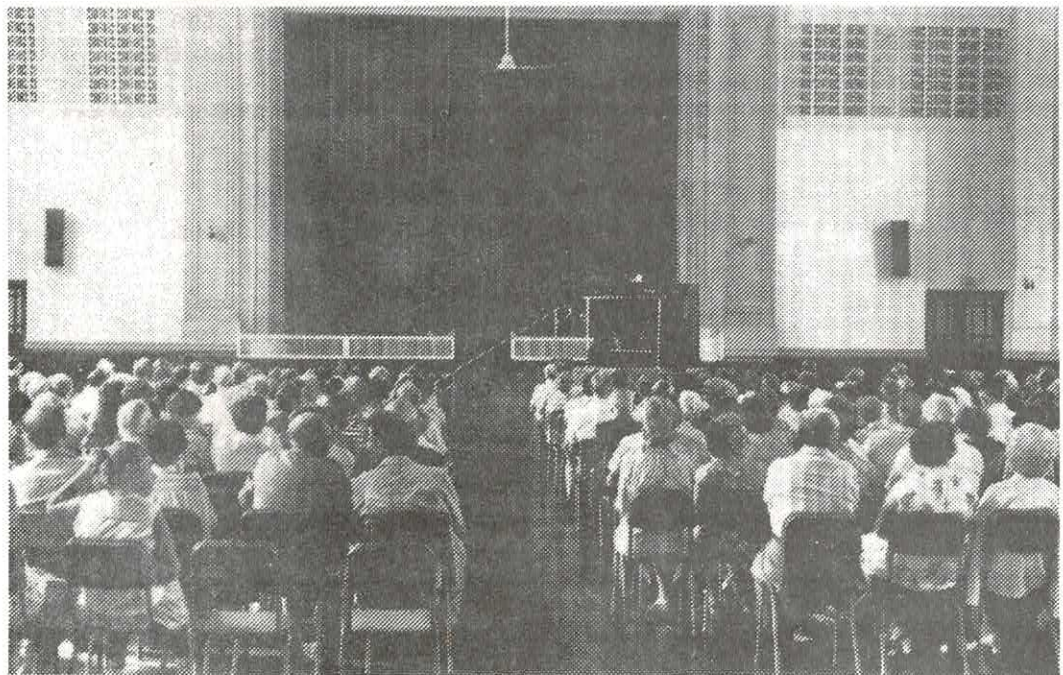
FREE
CONCERT



SUNDAY
FEB 21
1982



Neil Palmer



Patricia Guthrie



overseas news

..7

DONATION OF THREE MANUAL CONSOLE TO CARNEGIE HALL THEATRE.

Manhattan's Little Carnegie Theatre, New York, home of the late Ben M. Hall's "Little Mother" Wurlitzer, may soon become a twin console venue. Donation of a three-manual console will make it possible in the near future to add the larger unit to the organ. Initial plans call for the added console controlling the present 12 ranks. The original console, which is a two-manual job, will be wired into the five rank instrument it played when the organ was installed in the Garden Theatre. It can then be heard in its original state.

The organ is heard frequently by patrons when it is used for silent film presentations with Lee Erwin at the console. Members of New York Theatre Organ Society frequently hold concert meetings at the theatre and also have open console sessions. The instrument is owned by the A.T.O.S. National.

DINNER-DANCE HELD ON STAGE OF THE RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL.

Radio City Music Hall, New York, was aglow from cellar to ceiling on January 19th and some 250 hoi polloi from the business and theatre world were on hand to help the grand dame of theatres kick off its Fiftieth Anniversary with a black tie gala.

Following cocktails in the spacious art deco foyer, dinner guests were treated to an experience few non-professionals have ever had; the view of Radio City's cavernous dimension as seen from the 144-ft. wide stage. With a Manhattan skyline backdrop, guests were served a five-course dinner and danced to the flawless music of Radio City's Jack Schnupp Orchestra, and also saw a mini show. Honorary co-chairmen of the bash were former New York Mayors:- Robert F. Wagner, Vincent Impellitteri, John Lindsay, and Abe Beame, who lent the affair a sense of heritage from the years gone by.

The Hall was opened December 27, 1932 and has since admitted 255,000,000 paying customers. (The twin console 4 manual 58 rank Wurlitzer is featured at every session - it is the World's largest Wurlitzer - Ed.)

KILBURN STATE WURLITZER STAYS IN U.K.

Turning down several tempting offers from the U.S.A. and Canada, Odeon Theatre in London have announced the Kilburn State Wurlitzer organ will remain in Great Britain and be donated for installation in a "purpose-built hall" in Northampton to be disclosed publicly when legal agreements are executed by both parties.

UCLA, PACIFIC THEATRE OFFICIALS WILL TALK ABOUT KIMBALL.

Initial talks regarding the 4/37 Kimball organ now stored in the former scene dock at Pacific's Hollywood Theatre was due to take place February 5th. between Pacific Theatres and the University of California Los Angeles officials. The talks will centre on some type of arrangement to re-install the huge organ in the Wiltern Theatre which will be used by the University as a performing arts facility.

Gene Davis, past chairman of Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society, engineered the meeting. The organ is owned by the theatre chain and officials of the firm have indicated they desire to see it put to use rather than continue to store it.

8.. OVERSEAS NEWS....Cont.

OLD TOWN MUSIC HALL TO HAVE NEW RELAY SYSTEM.

Old Town Music Hall's Wurlitzer in El Segundo, California, which is owned and operated by Bill Coffman and Bill Field, is scheduled later in 1982 to have a new computer control system to replace the present ailing Wurlitzer switch stack and combination system.

FAMOUS WURLITZER TO BE INSTALLED IN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE.

Reversing the trend of removing theatre organs from theatres, one of the U.S.A.'s most publicized instruments will be removed from a residence and re-erected in a former motion picture palace. A televised newscast of January 12th. disclosed that Byron Carlson, owner of the former Chicago Marbro Theatre 5 manual 21 rank Wurlitzer pipe organ (one of only 3 ever 5 manual organs built in the Wurlitzer Factory), has sold the instrument to the Ocean State Performing Arts Centre, in Providence, Rhode Island. Sale price of the organ was reported to be \$85,000 and the final total including installation will be in the neighborhood of \$115,000. The Performing Arts Centre was originally the Loew's State Theatre.

Purchase of the organ was made possible by grant of \$50,000 from the City of Providence. Balance of the money will be raised through a series of events designed to generate the necessary money to pay for the complete installation.

----- News source "The Console" Magazine.

A NIGHT WITH THE ROGERS

(by Jack Lawson)

Once again TOSA were invited to an evening of Theatre Organ music, played by an ex-theatre organist on the closest resemblance to a pipe organ, the Rogers electronic.

The night I speak of was Tuesday 9th February. The organist..none other than our Patron, Mr.Ian Davies, and the location the Bondi Jnct-Waverly RSL Club, our Patron being a member of the Club Board of Directors arranges these when the auditorium is available, so members may come along, sit in a relaxed atmosphere and enjoy a "free" night of music of the type we, as a Society are hoping to see preserved.

On this occasion Ian was the sole organist, unlike previous evenings when he called in some other Society organists to perform. We enjoyed a wonderful selection of music from a variety of composers played in Ian's usual talented and experienced style. As the night progressed Ian called on Bill Schumacher to come on stage and do a piano-organ duet.

It must be very disappointing to arrange these evenings and be greeted with the small number of TOSA members who turned up on this and the last occasion Ian set these nights up. So when he next advertises such a night,I can recommend that you come along and join us for a free and easy evening of good music. Watch TOSA NEWS for the date and we'll see you there.

WEDDING BELLS

Our heartiest congratulations to members Robert Weismantel and Brenda Simmons who were joined together in Holy Matrimony at a beautiful service at Ranleigh at Parramatta, on Saturday 6th March 1982.

We join together in wishing them all the best in their future life together.

From the Executive and all Members of TOSA.

23/24 October
1982

COACH TOUR

23/24 October
1982

..9

MUDGEE AND GULGONG

DAY 1 We depart MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL at 8.00am travelling through Sydney's Western suburbs crossing the Nepean River at Penrith and beginning our ascent to the scenic Blue Mountains follow the steps of explorers Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson.

After a morning tea stop at Katoomba, we descend Mt. Victoria to the western slopes and Lithgow. Skirt Lithgow and continue on through Cullen Bullen and Capertee to Mudgee.

Mudgee is the centre of a flourishing wine producing area so we visit one of the local wineries for winetasting, allowing ample time to purchase if you wish.

Honey is the other product Mudgee has become known for and we visit the honey company to watch processing and packing before "Kinloch-leven" where mead is produced from honey. Overnight is spent in the picturesque Cudgegong Valley at Mudgee.

DAY 2 Our day begins with a short journey to Gulgong - The Town depicted in the Ten Dollar note - to wander in streets of by-gone days and visit the pioneer museum which houses the most comprehensive collection of goldrush and pioneering days.

In the afternoon, we return to Sydney via Mudgee, Lithgow and Bells Line of Road, to Bilpin and Windsor arriving in Sydney at approximately 6.00 pm. at Marrickville Town Hall.

COST \$69 per person.

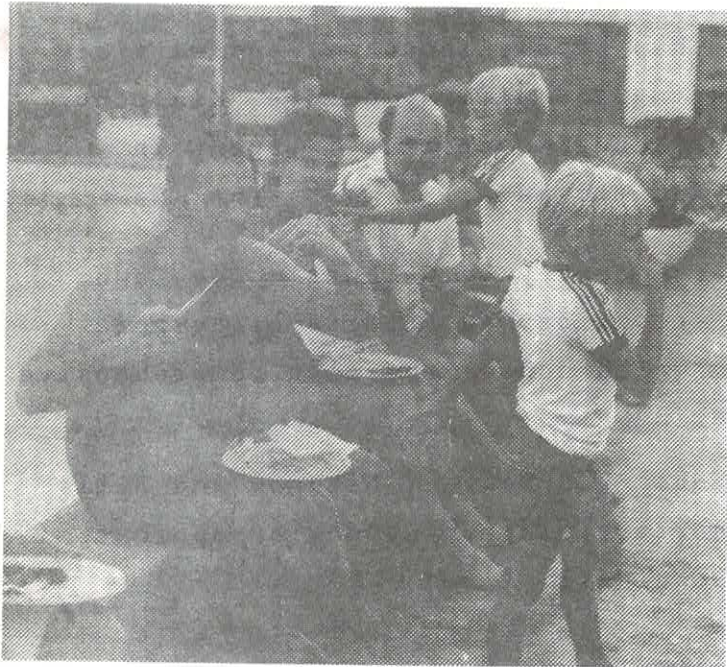
The cost includes all travel, dinner, bed and breakfast twin share accommodation at the New Mudgee Motel, the winery and honey factory visits and the entry to the Pioneer Museum.

A deposit of \$20 for each person is required when making your bookings and payment of the final balance must be made by the end of SEPTEMBER.

Please make cheques payable to T.O.S.A.

People interested in this tour, please contact Mrs. Wilson, 120 Dennis Street, LAKEMBA 2195 or by phoning 759 6050.

LOOK



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Photos by
Barry Tooker

IMPORTANT!! Election of Committee Member for balance of 1982. ...11

TWO persons have been nominated for the above position, so a BALLOT must be held for you to choose which one you desire to occupy this position. A BALLOT paper is included in this issue.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE BALLOT AND RETURN IT AS DIRECTED ON THE BALLOT PAPER: AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PLEASE.

NOTE!! A further choice for you to make is stated on the second sheet included in this issue, which is explained as follows:-

IF THE SUGGESTION TO RE FURBISH THE CAPITOL CONSOLE AND THEN SWAP IT FOR THE MARRICKVILLE CONSOLE(to undergo repair) IS CARRIED OUT, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE CAPITOL CONSOLE RE-DONE IN A POLISHED TIMBER FINISH OR REMAIN IN ITS PRESENT FINISH OF ANTIQUÉ WHITE AND GOLD?

The final decision is up to the members to make, and their does exist many reasons for and against each preference. I appeal to you to remember where the console will be placed and used, how it will stand out against the background, the fact that we rarely have night concerts, and dont forget the dust situation, of which there is plenty at Marrickville. The general usage that a console will receive at Marrickville is 'often' and small chips and tiny scratches dont show out on polished finishes as readily as on white.

However, the console is at present done out in its White and Gold finish (even though a bit dull, at the moment) and perhaps you would prefer it to remain that way, as in the Capitol Theatre, for the sake of posterity. There's no doubt that a White & Gold console shows out to extreme under a spotlight, but I'd hate to see a nasty scratch on it (accidental of course) which couldn't be readily covered up with Mr. Sheen!

Please record your preference on the BALLOT PAPER and tick ONE box only.

AN HISTORICAL NOTE Just for your own personal interest, the Capitol Organ Console was polished when it first came here, and was re-painted White & Gold AFTER it was installed in the theatre.

CLUB NIGHT Wed. March 10th at Marrickville.

This was a well attended night and over 70 people saw a very well thought out 'slide' trip to the U.S. west coast, which was really marvellous. This trip was of the type planned for our 1983 visit and a very enlightening commentary was provided by Robert Gliddon and Bill Schumacher, who both added tid-bits of 'local' knowledge of the various places we visited.

We 'left' Sydney in a Jumbo and went to Hawaii, L.A. International, Disneyland and a very interesting tour through Fantasyland. On to Vegas for a flight over the Grand Canyon area, and we saw some great shots of the Casinos and entertainment spots at night when the city really comes to life. We then visited Seattle, the ship-building yards, Boeing Factory, and many other places too numerous to list here. Of course some absolutely great organs were also seen with a visit to a private home containing two organs and general scenery of this very beautiful city. Portland came next with its theatres, pizza parlors and organs, and then on to San Francisco where we saw many places including the famous Fishermans Wharf and Golden Gate bridge. We 'stopped' again at Hawaii on the way home and saw the popular Waikikki beach with its surrounding high-rise, and finally 'arrived back home in Sydney.

Thanks indeed to Robert and Bill and Ron Wilson who spent hours sorting these slides for our benefit. The Ladies served supper, and a few people played the wurlitzer to round off the evening.

12...

YAMAHA 14th ANNUAL ORGAN FESTIVAL

The Metropolitan Regional Final of the Yamaha Organ Festival is to be held at the Lidcombe Hospital Hall on Saturday May 8th 1982.

There will be two sessions, the first commencing at 2.30-5.00pm approx. and the second at 7.30-9.30pm approx. A total of 28 entrants will be performing on the day. They will be the Finalists for various heats.

Proceeds from the day will benefit Disabilities Unlimited, a Charitable organisation providing transport for the Disabled.

Further details will be published in next month's TOSA NEWS.

PIPE ORGAN DEFINITIONS

Ballarat recently printed some very informative pipe organ definitions and I am taking the liberty of re-printing them here, for the benefit of our members who are always anxious to learn.

PALLET The valve that admits wind to a pipe's foot.

FOOT OF PIPE The conical portion at the bottom of a pipe, supporting the pipe, and conveying wind to the flue. It forms a valuable resonance cavity.

FLUE The 'wind-way' between the languid (or block) and the lower lip (or cap) of a flue pipe. The flue's design is of great importance to timbre.

TIMBRE Tone quality...depends upon the pitch, number, relative loudness and design of HARMONICS present in a stop.

BOOT A cone-shaped enclosure of a reed pipe containing the shallot and its reed. It permits pressure to be built up around the reed.

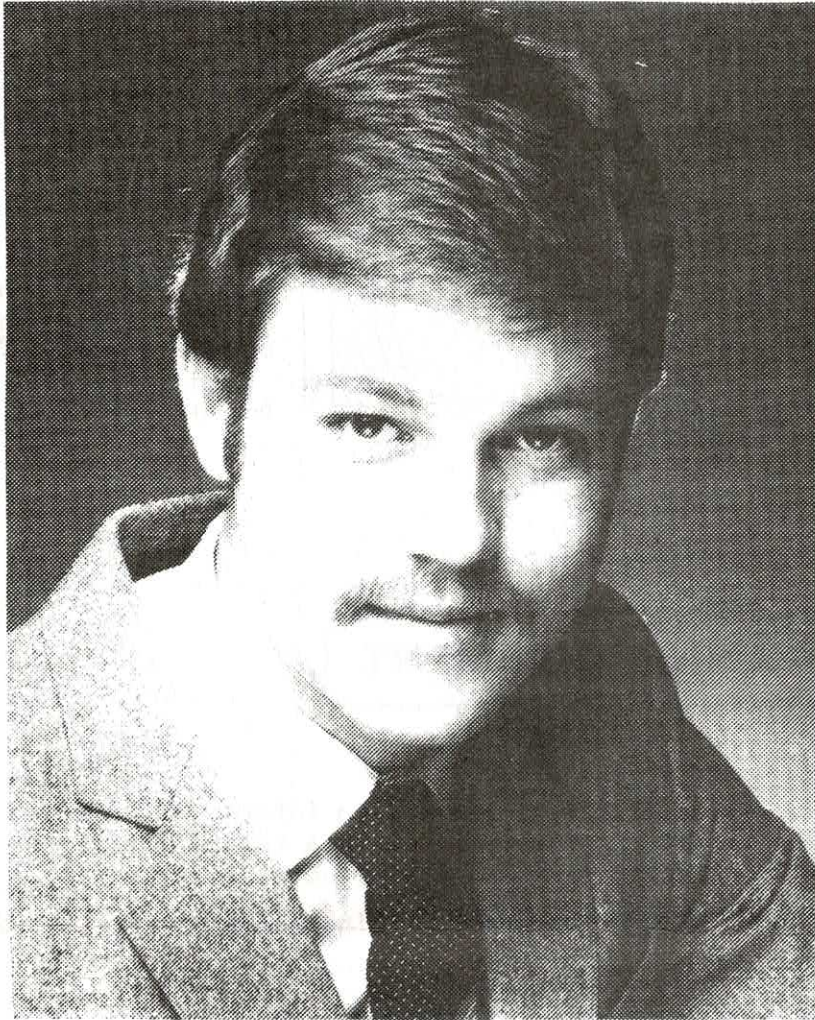
REED STOPS The opposite to 'flue' stops, which have no moving mechanical parts in their interiors, the reed stops have vibrating tongues of soft brass, each one held up against its shallot by a wooden wedge.

SHALLOT A hollow, conically shaped brass tube mounted on the bottom of the block of a reed pipe. Its larger diameter is towards the bottom of the boot, in which it is enclosed, and is sealed by a cap. The smaller open end, is inserted in the block and serves as the bottom of the air column of the resonator.

RESONATOR The 'pipe' of a reed stop, designed to keep under control the reed's motions, and at the same time give strength by resonance to the important harmonics created by the reed. The resonator cannot create any musical tones itself, it merely resonated by sympathy those created by the reed.

FLUE PIPES Organ pipes that sound their notes from edge-tones supported by air columns within the bodies of the pipes. This air-mechanism is so efficient that the whole eleven octaves of the organ can be so produced. Flue stops consist of non-reed stops- Foundation, Flute, and String families.

(Courtesy of Ballarat Theatre Organ Society)
(TOSA.)




NEIL JENSEN

WILL BE FEATURED IN
CONCERT AT MARRICKVILLE
ON SUNDAY, MAY 16TH
AT 2PM.

BOOKING AVAILABLE
IN THIS ISSUE.



Neil Jensen is unquestionably the most exciting young talent to emerge on the Australian Theatre Organ scene since Tony Fenelon rose to international prominence in the mid sixties.

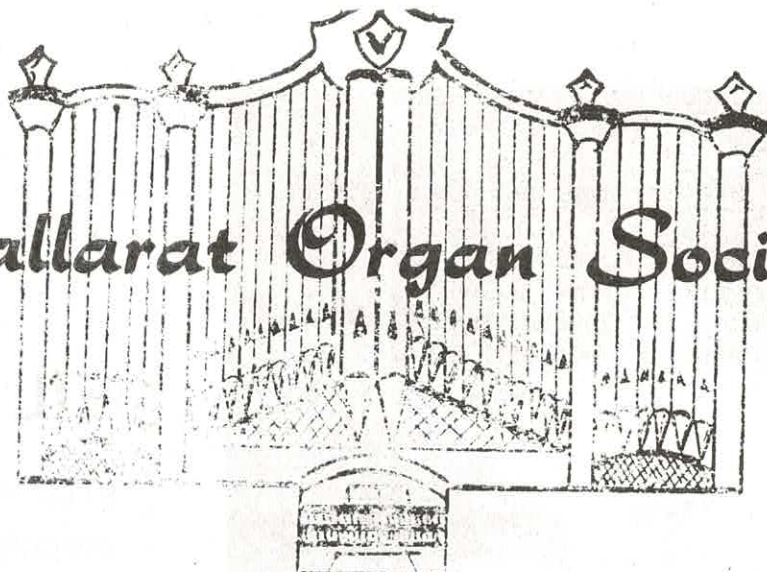
A good stage personality combined with superb musicianship and obvious dedication to the instrument make Neil an outstanding favourite with audiences everywhere. His programmes are packed with variety and interest, and always include new material. As a result, Neil's repertoire is rapidly coming to rival those of artists who have been around for decades. He does the old favourites (which enable the organ buffs to compare him with other artists doing the same material) but he also performs tunes that leave other organists exclaiming, "why didn't I think of that".

Neil was born in Brisbane only 25 years ago. He studied piano and vocal throughout his school years, then went on to qualify as a graphic artist. Neil fell in love with theatre organ the first time he heard it, and at only 18 years of age he was to give his first concert at Brisbane Town Hall. His performance there brought him instant acclaim, and since 1973 his career has blossomed. Neil gave concerts throughout the country, but because of the relatively few pipe installations around Australia, he developed his stagecraft and musical abilities by also touring for various electronic organ companies.

Neil is an unusually talented freelance performer who is equally at home on theatre organ and piano; beyond that he is an accomplished arranger and composer whose work is increasingly in demand in these fields.

Ballarat Organ Society

A Chapter of the
Theatre
Organ
Society of
Australia



President : W.F.Kittson,
12 Raglan St. Nth.,
Secretary : BALLARAT 3350
Treasurer : 15/2/82

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We are delighted that our interstate friends are so interested in our Opening Festival and willing to assist us with publicity as we can assure you all that this will be a colourful and exciting event as promised.

We are not quite ready to announce the participating organists (4) but the time-table will be as follows:

SAT. 12 JUNE: FROM 3.30 P.M.

Social "get-together" with visitors with Afternoon Tea.

5.30 P.M.

Buffet Dinner for visitors.

8 P.M.

Opening Concert at Memorial Theatre.

SUN. 13 June: Morning free, with optional tour of Ballarat.

2 P.M. Variety Concert with the Compton..Memorial Theatre.

8 P.M. "Club Night" with members and visitors. Cameo Spots by local and visiting organists followed by supper.

MON. 14 June Free

Thanking you again for your support.

Yours faithfully,


(WARWICK KITTSON), President.

STOP PRESS

Wednesday 8.00 pm. 19th May 'Paddington Town Hall

Patron Ian Davies Will be playing a 3 Manual Conn Theatre Model organ complete with tone cabinets and electronic pipes.

All TOSA members and friends are welcome.