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# T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

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Patron: Ian Davies.

President: Steve McDonald (599 7092)  
Vice Presidents: Frank Ellis, Alan Misdale.  
Secretary: Doug Smith Treasurer: Mrs. E. Smith.  
Membership Secretary: Ron Smith (529 7379)  
Practise Convener: Chris Palmer (926 534)  
Advertising: John Atkinson (587 3374)  
Research: Ian Cameron.

Please address all correspondence to  
The Secretary, P.O. Box A584, Sydney South 2000.

## ANNUAL ELECTION AND GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting adjourned from November 1977 to Wednesday 15th February was held with the following results in the Ballot for the Election of Officers for 1978.

Patron: Ian Davies. Unopposed.  
President: Steve McDonald.  
Vice Presidents: Frank Ellis and Alan Misdale.  
Secretary: Doug Smith. Treasurer: Mrs. E. Smith.  
Committee: Ernie Vale, Ron Smith, Rob Gliddon, Cliff Bingham,  
[redacted] Thornley and Bill Schumacher.  
T.O.S.A. News Editor: Chris Palmer.

The Editor was not able to attend the Meeting owing to a family bereavement with the Funeral taking place on the same day.  
The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th March.

2.

EASTER CONVENTION - 1978.

Membership Secretary Ron Smith advises that booking arrangements for the Easter Convention 1978 are now closed and that booking arrangements have been sent to Adelaide.

THE MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA - Neil Jensen in Concert 3rd February.

(by Ernie Vale).

The evening of 3rd February saw one of the most exciting concerts ever staged at Marricville because it was well presented, both visually and musically giving one the feeling of being back theatre.

Neil had obviously spent a lot of time preparing the Concert resulting in a selection of music to please everyone. Neil's style is quite polished and improves every time we hear him in Sydney resulting in this concert's excellent music to the extent that the audience response demanded two encores. Neil was admirably assisted by John and Rob Weismantel in the lighting of the concert including the stage where at times various pyrotechnics accompanied the music thereby creating the appropriate atmosphere. The lighting of the organist provided the audience with silhouettes, (upon which my eyes became affixed several times) of the artist at work adding a further dimension to the presentation. The stage had been set with some most effective props for the polished arrangement of 'Slaughter on Tenth Avenue' so that the effective use of the lighting really impressed this number on everyones mind. We were treated, as Neil had promised, to the full score of the movie 'Star Wars' which showed that the organ is most suitable to todays music.

Finally, it was gratifying to hear from two first time visitors that they had thoroughly enjoyed, indeed were almost ecstatic, about the Concert loving every minute of it and were keen to know of more concerts being arranged.

Thanks a million to our artist from Queensland - Neil Jensen.

CAPOL ORGAN. Progress Report by Ernie Vale.

Further progress was made on the organ at the last working bee when the buffer rails were replaced in a four rank chest preparatory to gluing in the secondary motors. Numerous gaskets were cut for the motors, top boards cleaned, bottom boards examined and primary motors recovered. We also had a visitor from Mudgee, member Max Murphy who had quite a chat with John Weismantel about the wiring of plugs and sockets. The cutting of the gaskets kept several of us busy for some time however by 11.00pm there was quite a pile of gaskets both cardboard and blotting paper. The background music of Maria Kumagai created the right mood and reminded us that the work being done on the organ is worthwhile and very satisfying.

Alan Misdale joined the group on this occasion and gave considerable advice on the state of the bottom boards and the requirements for their restoration.

The next working bee will be March 18th, 1.30pm at the Organ Loft, 49 Boomerang Street, Haberfield.

Look forward to seeing you - Ernie Vale.

3.

GENERAL NEWS.

Mrs. Betty Weismantel would like to express her appreciation to all the kind people who offered their condolences in the passing away recently of her mother Mrs. Booth.

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As your new Editor I am struggling along trying to present my first edition of a Society Journal which, in the seventeen years it has been published has seen many changes with many people sitting up doing what I am at present doing. I would like to express my thanks to Herbert Wyatt for both showing me how the Society's I.B.M. Typewriter works and also for a very pleasant evenings music on the 'Allen' organ of which Herb is both proud owner and accomplished artist.

I would like to see contributions to the magazine by anyone who can spare the time to set them out and also letters to the Editor for publication or non publication will looked forward too.

The only requirement is that the contributors name and address should appear for record purposes though not necessarily for publication if indicated. I mention this as it was discussed at length at a Committee in 1977.

I hope that I may be able to maintain the high editorial standard that has been set by my predecessors and welcome any comments in this regard.

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PRACTICE SESSIONS.

Certain vacancies exist in the present practice schedule and there are free spots on a couple of Tuesdays and also on a Thursday evening. Some trouble has been experienced by some members as a result of the Town Hall being double booked but this has been investigated and we have been assured that it should not happen again. Notes left on the console indicate that some members opening up have found the console not secured properly and, in one instance it seems that the console had been wheeled out and not replaced and was also left unsecured. I feel that the best way to hear the instrument is with the console out from the wall but if this is not done properly and the due care taken with the umbilical cable then an awful lot of damage to wiring overy fifty years old could happen if the cable were snagged and I think that the console should only be moved under the supervision of either Alan Misdale or Tom Halloran. If any members are available for a cancellation and would like to be contacted should one occur please contact Chris Palmer on 926 534 but please note that Mondays are exceptionally rare. All members are entitled to practice, it is simply a question of vacancies being available so, if there are any members who are practicing but feel they would like to retire for a while please just get in touch. The practice record book shows that there have been occasions when ther has been a vacancy and it would appear that either someone has forgotten to attend or were not able owing to some prior arrangement. We would like anyone who finds they cannot practice to contact the practice convener so that somebody else may be given the chance.

Good luck and keep practicing and remember that a wise man once said that music is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration!!!

4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Wurlitzer Theatre Organ Concerts.

In 1978 the Wurlitzer Pipe Organ, formerly installed in the Civic Theatre at Auburn, will be celebrating its golden anniversary. It was shipped from North Tonawanda, U.S.A, in 1928 and is from the same production line as the State Wurlitzers, Sydney and Melbourne.

Having completed the cycle from residence to theatre to residence, it has been installed at Wentworthville for the last 20 years.

A special series of Concerts has been arranged to celebrate the Wurlitzer's fiftieth birthday.

Saturday Evening 15th March, 8.00pm. Organist Cecil Cranfield, (former resident organist on this organ when it was installed in the Civic Theatre).

Saturday Afternoon 8th April, 2.30pm . Organist John Congert.

Saturday Evening 29th April 8.00pm. Organists Denis Bedson, (former English Theatre organist) plus Bob Ransley. This will be a fun Concert labelled "Mayhem at the Manuals". Date of this concert pro tem - to be confirmed later.

Admission to each concert is \$2.50 which includes afternoon tea.

Due to limited seating all seats must be booked in advance.

Due to a recording contract tape recorders and cameras are not permitted at Concerts, except that a special exception has made for recorders for the 8th April Concert, Ring 631 6189, (evenings), for bookings for the concerts.

The Autumn series of theatre organ concerts will be followed by another series in the Springtime, of which details will be announced later in the year. The Wurlitzer Organ will have a very happy duty to perform in February when it provides the ceremonial music for the wedding of Celeste Clancy.

yours sincerely.

signed.. John Clancy.

FOR SALE:

Thomas Celebrity Model 821C, \$4,000.00 or near offer. Please phone Mr. A. Brawn on 84 7824. 19 Lorrina Close Pennant Hills.

Farfisa Model 248, Spinnet, 13 pedals, Automatic and Walking Bass. 12 Months old. \$650.00 or nearest offer. D. Cargill 628 9192. 11 Mindan Avenue, Lethbridge Park. Condition as new.

Conn Deluxe Theatre Model 645. Fullconsole organ with external Leslie Model 147 coupled with Pipe Speakers 145 and 146. Rhythm Unit etc., in good condition. No reasonable offer refused. Mr. Nitschky on 450 1533 anytime.

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM ATTACHED AND, IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED PLEASE DO SO NOW AS THE MARCH ISSUE OF TOSA NEWS IS THE LAST THAT WILL BE SENT OUT TO UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS,