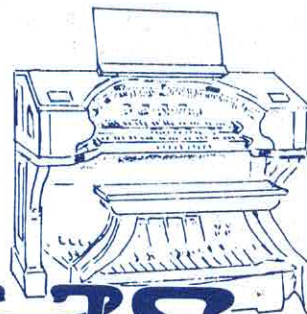


Volume 16, No. 7 PRICE 40 cents July 1977



EDITOR.
Herbert Wyatt
39 Roland Avenue, Wahroonga, 2076
Ph. 48 3427

T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

ADDRESS BOX A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

Patron Ian Davies

President Steve McDonald, (31 7414 or 599 7092)

Vice Presidents: John Weismantel (80 2680) Herbert Wyatt (48 3427)

Secretary: Kevin Eadie (81 4268) ADVERTISING: John Atkinson (587 3374)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Ron Smith (529 7379)

RESEARCH: Ian Cameron.

Please address all correspondence to

The Secretary, P.O. Box A584, Sydney South, 2001.

"T.O.S.A. DIARY"

Sunday, July 3rd, 2.00 p.m .

Members are advised that MECCA ENTERTAINMENT ENTERPRISES & PHILIP W. DOYLE presents the Organ Concert of 1977. Returning to Sydney for one concert only RAY THORNLEY ENTERTAINS AT THE MIGHTY MECCA THEATRE, KOGARAH, adjacent to the Kogarah Railway Station, plenty of free parking. Ray will be playing the ALLEN DIGITAL COMPUTER ORGAN. This will be the biggest, bounciest, most musical event ever. Special Guest Artists and Special Guest Mystery Person of Great Note, - try picking him/her out. See silent movie plays accompanied live at the ALLEN organ by Ray himself. Tickets: \$2.50, TOSA Members \$2.00, Y.O.A in uniforms \$1.00. Entire proceeds of concert donated to Y. O. A.

PRINTED BY T.O.S.A. PRESS

Sunday, 10th July at 2.30 p.m. FREE CONCERT.

In conjunction with the Marrickville Municipal Council, the Theatre Organ Society of Australia, N.S.W. Division, will present the first of three free concerts to be held at the Marrickville Town Hall. Performing on the Prince Edward Theatre Wurlitzer Organ will be Society members Greg Abrahams and David Smith. These are two young organists well worth hearing. Greg performed under great difficulty to members at the 1976 Annual General Meeting, and at the request of members returns to the bench on this occasion. Greg comes all the way from Canowindra. David on the other hand is unknown to most members having only recently joined, but is none the less quite at home on the Wurlitzer.

The format will also be different on this occasion as the auditorium will not be set out in the customary manner. Those present will have the opportunity of mingling together over a cup of tea or coffee and have the chance to hear two very talented artists. (20¢ per cup).

Saturday, 9th July at 1.00 p.m. WORKING BEE.

Members interested in assisting to bring the ex-Capitol Organ, now owned by your Society, back to perfect condition are invited to ring Mr Ernie Vale of The Organ Loft, 49 Boomerang Street, Haberfield, Ph. 798 6816 for details. This is your chance to assist the Society and at the same time learn just how these instruments are constructed.

Sunday, 25th Sept. Free Concert, Marrickville Town Hall. Date to be confirmed

Sunday, 4th September. The Newcastle Organ Society will be having a function to wind up the end of the 'MATARA' week Festival. On Sunday, 4th September at 11 a.m. their members will meet in the Great Hall of the University of Newcastle where they will have the opportunity of playing the CONN Custom Organ. A picnic lunch in the grounds of the University will follow. After lunch members and visitors will be able to enjoy listening to a concert, featured organist David Parsons, which will wind up the Matara Week Celebrations. This will conclude at approximately 4.30 p.m. Newcastle members often hire a bus to visit our functions and we are very grateful for their support. Some of our Sydney members have expressed a wish to visit the Newcastle Branch and I am informed that if enough members wish we can hire a bus for \$200 dollars, which at 40 members would work out at \$5.00 per person. We would leave Sydney at about 7.00 a.m and be back at about 9.00 p.m. Any members wishing to know more can contact Mrs Phyllis Wilson at 759 6050 for all details of what could be a most enjoyable outing.

Sunday 13th November. Free Concert, Marrickville Town Hall. Details to be advised.

Saturday, 5th November, QUARTERLY MEETING. 2.00p.m.-AND a Barbecue and Pool Party at the home of Mr & Mrs R. Wilson. Full details in the next issue.

Friday, 18th November. Our Christmas Cabaret. Once again this ever popular function and again our Patron, Ian Davies will entertain us. You will see this function advertised each month so why not book it in NOW and make it the biggest and best ever.

Review of MARIA KUMAGAI'S Marrickville Concert.

I think everyone who came to this concert would agree that Maria is a very talented musician and she played a well-balanced programme of beautiful music. Her style is sparkling and she produced some fine arrangements of music from the organ. The organ, incidentally was in first-class order and well in tune and all those people who helped to provide the instrument in top condition for Maria are to be congratulated.

She played Selections from Carmen, Kismet, My Fair Lady and the Sound of Music to name but a few of the items. During the performance I 'couldn't help noticing, from my position at the front, how she was using all the facilities of the organ, the pistons, the swell pedals (independantly at times to high-light certain stops), the crescendo pedal with excellent

results and her footwork on the pedals was a dream to watch, it being so precise and effective which proved that a classical training can improve the sound of a Theatre Organ. Her encore was Toccata Festiva written by Richard Purvis and what an interesting and appealing piece of music to say nothing of the fact that it enabled Maria to show us what an accomplished organist she is and at the same time giving a lesson in how to use almost every pedal in one piece of music.

Having been on the organising committee for this concert I was fortunate enough to hear Maria practise on the Saturday prior to the concert and this resulted in my purchase of all three of her records that were on sale at the concert.

Members and Organists, I recommend that when Maria Kumagai pays us a return visit that you keep the date free in order to attend because you will be amply rewarded with fine music from a lovely musician.

E. Vale.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Well, another month over and it's encouraging to review some of the occurrences of the last four weeks or so.

On the 8th of last month, the second quarterly meeting of members was held at St. Columbs Church of England, West Ryde. The business presented was dealt with in an orderly and expeditious manner and resulted in the motion presented in last month's issue of TOSA News by Mr Norm. Weismantel relating to the introduction of Associate Membership of the spouse of a member on the payment of a additional 50% of the set Annual Subscription being adopted into the Bye-Laws. This is a move I think will be welcomed by many as it now gives wider opportunities for the usually unheard 'other half' of our members the right to vote on issues concerning the Society. During the course of the meeting we regretfully accepted the following resignations:

Betty Weismantel, who for several years has served in the position of Minute Secretary. Betty has been a tremendous asset to us in this capacity and has given service to the Society over and above anything that was desired. I know that without her assistance my job both as Secretary and now as President would have been extremely difficult to manage. The membership present joined with me in expressing our sincere thanks and appreciation to Betty for her diligence. Ian Hansen resigned as Editor owing to a move to Melbourne. Ian is succeeded by Vice-President Herbert Wyatt. To both these gentlemen we offer our thanks and wish them luck in their respective undertakings.

Ernie Vale has vacated his position on the Editorial Committee as his job as Convenor of the team working on the Capitol Organ is taking up all his spare time. Also our thanks go to John L. Smith for his invaluable service as our printer. The privilege of printing our News-sheet has been taken over by Treasurer Mark Gabriel.

The notice of motion presented by Vice-President John Weismantel relating to the National Secretariat was deferred owing to John not being available to attend the meeting.

Following the general business, a report was presented by the Capitol Organ Placement Sub-Committee suggesting a proposal that the auditorium in the Sydney Technical Boys High School be investigated. Apparently, the building has the features of a small theatre, incorporating a Bio-Box (Projection Booth), screen, large stage area, orchestra pit, sloping floor and provision for 2 large pipe chambers. I am told even the 32' Diaphone can be accommodated. Well, an evening has been arranged for you, the members, to have a look and see for yourselves. This will be one of our often requested 'Members Nights'. For details see the Notice on a following page.

After the business meeting Member Cliff. Bingham entertained us at the magnificent Christie Theatre Pipe Organ. Cliff. varied the arrangement of the programme from classics to popular music thus presenting this fabulous

instrument at it's best. Following his recital a collection was taken from those present towards Cliff's fee, which Cliff very generously donated back to be put towards the Capitol Wurlitzer fund. On behalf of the membership I would like to once again express our sincere thanks to Cliff for once again showing your generosity to the Society in this regard.

At the last Committee meeting, our Practise Convenor, Mrs Phyllis Wilson tendered her resignation from the above position. Another of our members who has shown enthusiasm and efficiency in the tasks she has undertaken we owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs Wilson. On behalf of us all, Phyll., thanks a million. I'm sure we'll hear some more of Phyllis and Betty Weismantel with the formation of the proposed Ladies Auxillary.

It's pleasing to note the increasing attendances of interested members at the Committee Meetings. Any member who wishes to attend and observe the proceedings is most welcome. The next meeting will be at St. Annes Church of England on July 25th at 8.00 p.m. We look forward to your company.

Regards,

Steve McDonald, President.

WHAT THE COMMITTEES DID.

The committee met at 8.00 p.m. on June 15th. Aprehension was manifest that some of the Society's correspondence was not being presented at previous meetings. The committee then discussed the President's letter in the June issue of T.O.S.A. News. Mr T. Halloran asked for permission to speak and stated that from his knowledge and experience of all concerned he was quite convinced that all were genuinely concerned as to the welfare of the Society. A motion was carried that the Executive and committee did not agree with the President;s opinion with 1 abstaining and 2 against. Further discussion centred on the dates for the concerts for the rest of the year as well as fixing the dates for the Christmas Cabaret and the Annual General Meeting. The meeting closed at 11.45 p.m.

The Capitol Organ Placement sub-committee met three times during the month, twice at the Sydney Technical High School where they inspected the auditorium and looked at the possibility of installing the organ there. It was felt that many of our members would wish to see the site before any decision was made. A date therefore has been arranged, it is Wednesday, August 10th, at 8.00 p.m. Members are invited, in fact strongly urged to come to the Sydney Technical High School, Forest Road, Bexley, (almost opposite Croydon Rd.) on this night. Alex Britton has kindly agreed to supply an organ for the night's programme which will include topical films. We understand that Our Patron, Ian Davies hopes to be present. This will give all our members a chance to see the potential of the auditorium and they can decide for themselves whether it would be a suitable home for the ex-Capitol Organ. Members are asked after the inspection to submit their views in writing to the Editor, (Herbert Wyatt, 39 Roland Avenue, Wahroonga) or better still, to express them at the next Quarterly Meeting. In the meantime your sub-committee will be in touch with the Education Department to discuss what conditions would be acceptable both to us and the Department.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Society welcomes the following New Members. We trust that they will find us a worth-while group, able to assist in their organ problems, if any, and that we will see them at our future gatherings. Would you please make yourselves known to the committee at the next meeting you attend. They are Mr Neil Palmer, (Ashfield) Mr & Mrs Bill & Mary Hardman (Old Toongabbie) Mr R. Chambers (Manly Vale) Mr & Mrs Jeffrey & Joan Ibbotson (Cremorne) Miss Janice Wilson (Lakemba) and Mr & Mrs Alex Britton (Hurstville).

Associate Members. The following are the first three associate members admitted under our new bye-law; Mrs Betty Weismantel, Mrs Phyllis Wilson and Mrs Helen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

I have just read my copy of TOSA NEWS April 1977 and, in particular the letter to the Editor from Diana Brown. While I do not profess to any skill in the field of pipe organ construction both ancient and modern, the logic (?) contained in Mr/Mrs/Miss Brown's dissertation certainly prompted me to thumb through the February and March issues of TOSA News to acquaint myself with the substance of this absorbing little hassle!

I find it hard to class the proposed four manual theatre organ described by Diane Brown as one representative of super technology built to 1970-1980 standards. I find it even harder to refer to the instrument by the name of WurliTzer as the minority WurliTzer ranks seem to be rubbing noses with a healthy number of other makes from all points of the globe.

Just what it is that makes this "super cinema organ" one representative of 1970-1980 technology and not just a conglomeration of pipe collecting gone berserk. Does it have digital switching, multiplexing and memory-programmed rhythm patterns? Is it blown from some new kind of wind? The pipe-work certainly doesn't sound exclusively 1970-1980 vintage.

While we're avoiding 'old fashioned thinking' incidentally, let's talk about the other exciting organ being built in the Opera House!, the tracker action. Exciting? - not really, interesting perhaps. Perhaps you should lend a hand, Diane, we'd all like to hear it playing!

I would hardly class Mr Gliddon and Mr Lawson as backward thinkers. The very fact that their knowledge extends to the 1916 era of theatre organ construction is highly in their favour. After all, why is it that the top experts in theatre organ restoration in the U.S.A. are still striving for the sounds produced by instruments at the hands of people like Jesse Crawford, a long recognised authority?

Why also is the modern Opera House organ based on it's smaller counterpart of many centuries ago? Has pipe building progressed or deteriorated since 1716 let alone 1916? No Diana, historical knowledge is certainly not 'old fashioned' but rather an invaluable tool and reference for restoration work carried out in this age of developing technology.

Mr. Glidden's restoration work on the Christie Theatre Organ has been painstaking and impeccable, an opinion shared by many highly reputed organ builders in this country. I have seen much of his work over many years and would certainly regard his opinions and experience as authoritative. (He has toured the U.S.A. too, you know!)

Like Mr Gliddon and Mr Lawson I have never heard of Diane Brown, nor have certain people I have enquired of in the U.S.A. I too, would like to meet her and perhaps see some concrete examples of her expertise. After all the world's 'perfect' theatre organ has been talked about for years. How about Diane lending a hand to straighten out our ailing theatre organs already installed instead of planning a theatrised monster organ which may never play. A picture is worth a thousand words.

Yours sincerely, Tony Fenelon.

Editor's note. Correspondence on this subject is now closed!

F O R S A L E.

Conn Theatrette, Model 552, as new condition, inquiries invited, Ph.84 2923.

Thomas 'Paramount' Electronic Organ, 25 note Pedal, Spinet. Internal Speakers include Leslie, excellent condition. Ph. 599 7092 (Steve McDonald).

PERSONAL PARAGRAPH.

Friends of Cliff and Mrs Bingham will be glad to know that the youngest Bingham (Scott) is back home after a short stay in hospital and is now returned to perfect health.

Committee members Bill Schumacher and Bob Gliddon are at present holidaying in the U.S.A. where they will be attending the National Organ Convention and doing an 'organ crawl' around other parts of the home of the theatre organ. Doubtless they will have much to tell us of organs in P. Pizza Palaces which seem to be peculiar to the American scene.

Ian Hansen, who has been our editor this year has now found that job opportunities are more attractive in the southern state, hence he now lives in Melbourne. Doubtless he will be attending the Victorian Division meetings. Good-luck, Ian.

Fairly new member Joe Lefcovitch has completed his service in the army to give full-time attention to teaching organ at his studio, previously part-time. His studio is at 93 St Johns Rd, Campbelltown. Here his students can practise on the only Allen Computer Organ in a teaching studio in this country. Good luck, Joe.

SYDNEY ORGAN SOCIETY.

Our sister organ society, which caters for the classical organ buffs has given me details of their July meeting, on Saturday July 9th. They will assemble at the Church of the Holy Family, corner of Pacific Highway and Highfield Rd at 2.00 p.m.. From 2.00 till 3.00p.m. there will be a short demonstration on their Allen Digital Computer Organ by Peter Kneeshaw, followed by interested people trying their skill. From there they will move on to St Paul's Church (C. of E.) where Heather Moen will play on the large Rogers organ installed there. Again interested members can try their skill. St Paul's Church is in Fuller's Rd, Chatswood, two doors from Pacific Hghy.

EDITORIAL.

There may be those who, on reading this issue of our News may feel it is too meagre. Others on the other hand may feel that it is still too verbose. Coming into the position so late in the month and trying to get all typed for the printers to print for your edification I have not yet got a circle of enthusiastic contributors. I would like to make personal news of our members a continuing contribution. It seems to me that more social news about members, their organ parties, trips by parties to look at organs of interest, Births & Deaths, purchase by the lucky member of a new organ are all of interest to members. We need more social get-togethers, so please write me about any of these projects you have in mind. I commend to your attention Phyllis Wilson's endeavour to arrange a party for the Newcastle Organ Society mentioned in TOSA Diary. I hope to see articles on how A WurliTzer organ works, this may draw more members to Ernie Vale's "Organ Loft". So, if you have anything to contribute please write to The Editor, 39 Roland Ave, Wahroonga, 2076, and we may be able to use it. However I must stress something about letters when published that I should have perhaps put in earlier, it is this:-

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PRINTED ARE NOT NECESSARILY
THE VIEWS OR POLICIES OF T.O.S.A. N.S.W. DIV.

October 15th is the closing date for nominations for all executive and committee. Application forms, signed by proposer and seconder and the signature of the person proposed, signifying his wish to be so proposed must be in the hands of the Returning Officer, 66 Flinders Rd, Cronulla, 2230 by that date.

SYSTEM 416 ALLEN DIGITAL COMPUTER ORGAN

The Organ for the organist!

A full console residence organ with unmatched tone quality. Advanced tone generation system stores actual theatre pipe organ sounds in digital form, recreates them at a touch of the keys.



STANDARD FEATURES:

- Horseshoe console, 61 note manuals, 32 note concave scaling pedal board, transparent music desk
- Multi-coloured stop tablets, illuminated stop rail
- Exclusive Allen digital tone generation requires no tuning or regulation
- Five preset pistons
- Self-contained console speakers, solid state amplification
- Bells, percussions on both manuals, variable sustain length
- Automatic rhythms
- Couplers
- Authentic 'theatrical' tremolos
- Separate vibratos
- Five year warranty includes free travel time.

STOP LIST

SOLO

Tibia	16'
Trumpet	8'
Tibia Clausa	8'
Oboe	8'
Salicional	8'
Vox Humana	8'
Clairon	4'
Tibia	4'
Salicet	4'
Twelfth	2-2/3'
Piccolo	2'
Larigot	1-1/3'
Fife	1'
Percussion	
Vibrato	
Chiff	
Fast Attack	

ACCOMP.

Tibia	16'
Horn	8'
Clarinet	8'
Concert Flute	8'
String	8'
Cello	8'
Concert Flute	4'
String	4'
Piccolo	2'
Mixture IV	
Percussion	
Chrysoglott	
Vibrato	

PEDAL

Ophicleide	16'
Diaphone	16'
Tibia	16'
Lieblich Gedeckt	16'
Tuba Horn	8'
Diapason	8'
Tibia	8'
String	8'
Tibia	8'
String	
Tibia	4'
Short Sustain	
Accomp. to Pedal	
Solo to Pedal	

Prices are within the reach of most home organists — YOU CAN AFFORD

Allen organs

LADIES' AUXILIARY.

A great deal of extra help is needed in many aspects of the society's activities and it is not always possible for the committee members to do some of these tasks. It has been suggested by some of our lady members that they would be only too happy to lend a hand if asked and if they knew what was required. Accordingly your committee decided at their last committee meeting to accept this very welcome offer and to form a Ladies Auxiliary. Three of the ways help is needed are

- a) To act as hostesses at our concerts at Marrickville Town Hall. At these functions we like to sell tea and coffee to our patrons and incidentally make a little profit to help our funds along.
 - b) The addressing of envelopes and to assist with the correspondence.
 - c) To assist in collating the issues of TOSA News each month. This means meeting once a month to staple the News together in the right order.
- Ladies interested to help us in this and other ways, e.g., in social aspects of our Society, parties and dances, B.B.Q's are invited to contact Betty Weismantel at 80 2680 for details.