

T.O.S.A. NEWS

incorporating

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WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH .

Wednesday, 8th July, 8 p.m. John Atwell in concert at Marrickville Town Hall. Since coming to Melbourne with his wife Joy over two years ago from his native Adelaide, John has played for many divisions of TOSA throughout the southern states. This talented musician is one of our leading younger generation of organists and it is with real enthusiasm that we look forward to what will be a rewarding night of theatre organ music for all ages and preferences.

Friday, 17th August, 11.15p.m. Nostalgia Night at the Lyceum Theatre, featuring Eric Smith and Robert Broughall at the Christie Organ. This evening looks to be a real fun time with such films as "Drenched" (1916), "Smithy" (Stan Laurel, 1924), an early newsreel and the original "Phantom of the Opera". Eric will do the movie accompaniments and Robert will be playing the intermissions. Prices are Stalls \$2.00, Circle \$3.00, and bookings can be made at D.J.'s, Mitchells and the Lyceum Theatre. Patrons are requested to come dressed in their latest 1920's gear.

Friday, 17th August, 8 p.m. Ray Thornley is the featured artist at the inaugural public concert of our newly-formed Central Coast Chapter of TOSA, to be held in the Ettalong Community Hall. Ray and his associate artist, Howard Maugham, will feature a Wurlitzer 4573 generously loaned by Wadsworth-Stamford (Gosford), the local Wurlitzer Agents. So, if you have a fast car and an iron constitution, you could go to Gosford first and be back in time for the feature at the Lyceum - a total of six hours organ music.

Friday, 24th August, 8 p.m. Vic Hammett will bring us his second TOSA concert this time in the Chatswood Town Hall at the Wurlitzer Pipe Organ. For those who enjoyed Vic's wonderful concert at Marrickville last month (full review next month), an entirely different programme should ensure your attendance at this final concert of his N.S.W. tour.

Friday, 10th August, 8 p.m. An organ party at the home of Richie Willis and Norm Read, 23 Selwyn Street, Paddington, Telephone 31-8883. The featured artist is well-known club organist, Reg Black, who will be playing Richie's Thomas organ. Admission is \$1.00 for the Capitol Organ Fund. Seating is limited to 25 so reserve your seat now by ringing on the above number after hours.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Sunday 16th September, Tony Fenelon, Marrickville Town Hall. This will be Tony's final concert on the eve of his departure on his third American tour. DO NOT MISS IT!

AROUND AND ABOUT.

A warm welcome to the following new members:-

Mr. & Mrs. Coucins of Beecroft.
Mr. & Mrs. Wickenden of Guildford.
Mr. & Mrs. Chesworth of Lane Cove.
Mr. & Mrs. Owen of Concord.
Mr. & Mrs. Clark of Greenacre.
Mr. & Mrs. Lockrey of Concord.
Mr. & Mrs. Drummond of Carlingford.
Mr. & Mrs. Beagley of Mortdale.
Mr. & Mrs. Rowland of Campbelltown.
Mr. & Mrs. Brown of Cheltenham.

selections from the ever popular "Oklahoma".

In the second half, a pleasing rendition of Schumann's "Traumerai" showed good presentation of a light classic. A stirring "Exodus" preceded some well-known favourites and the afternoon finished with selections from "South Pacific" and the rousing old favourite "Under the Double Eagle". The "Tritsh Tratsch Polka" as an encore closed the program.

I remarked earlier that the organ was particularly well-controlled and extremely responsive; obviously the organist was very familiar with the organ. This reflects careful and frequent practice. Although registrations have not been detailed, some members were so impressed with them that, according to rumour, some of the settings have been retained for members playing nights.

Congratulations Ray! A fine concert (J. M. S.)

ORGAN PARTY - RICHIE WILLIS TURNS IT ON.

Surprises were many and varied (and all pleasant) during the recent organ party at the home of Richie Willis and Norm Read and some unexpected talent was heard for the first time.

Opening the proceedings was our ever-popular member Lance Wells who played for a commendable hour and a half. His repertoire was attractively varied and ranged from the evergreen "Charmaine" to the more recent "Never on Sunday".

The next organist to play turned out to be the dark horse of the evening. From his first number Doctor Warren Robins left quite a few people wondering why he hasn't been heard before (Music must run in the Robins' family - Warren's father was the well known and talented theatre organist Nicholas Robins). His selection included many of the quite difficult arrangements by the American Organist, David Coleman. Any of our members who have attempted these arrangements will know that they are not for beginners. Warren's clear and precise playing was warmly appreciated by all present.

Mr. & Mrs. Bickhoff of Concord.
Mr. Lambert of Berala.
Mr. Gabriel of Oatley.
Mrs. Barr of Marrickville.
Mr. Pike of Rydalmere.
Mr. McLaren of Ashbury.

We look forward to seeing and meeting up with you at our future functions.

Congratulations to member Lawrence Dunk and his new wife Pat (nee Moen), daughter of past treasurer Oscar and Mrs. Moen on their recent wedding.

Congratulations also to Tony and Kaye Fenelon on the arrival of their latest addition to the family, a son Christopher (a brother for Nicole) during the week following our National Convention.

REVIEWS.

Ray Thornley in Concert.

On Sunday, 27th May, our Marrickville Wurlitzer was in the competent hands of member Ray Thornley for a full afternoon concert. The writer had only briefly heard this organist previously and was assured by various members that he was an "up and coming" young organist. However, judging his performance against other more senior performers, I could only add that Ray Thornley is not just "up and coming". He has arrived!

The program opened with John Hartford's award-winning song "Gentle on my Mind" played up tempo and was followed by an expressive "My Cup Runneth Over" from "I Do, I Do". The novelty "Cuckoo Waltz" was followed by what was for the writer, the highlight of the afternoon, "In the Mood". This member featured Ray's excellent control of the instrument with his quick, accurate pedalling. This eight to the bar number proved wrong those who have thought the organ was too unresponsive to swing.

Other numbers included "In a Persian Market" and the old Victorian war horse "Holy City". Although well-played, perhaps these numbers could be left to more "Victorian" organists. With a little tolerance from older members, perhaps Ray could be allowed to "have his head" in the choice of program and choose instead some more modern numbers in keeping with his image. The first half ended with

Jim Birkett also surprised a number of people during his twenty minute stint particularly as he was not too familiar with Richie's recently acquired Thomas organ. We look forward to hearing these folk again.

After an enjoyable supper, Warren Robins was prevailed upon to close the evening with another short selection. Congratulations and thanks to Richie, Norm and our artists for an extremely successful night which also raised \$27 for the Capitol Organ Fund.