

TOSA NEWS

August 2019
Volume 58 No.5

Price: \$2.00

Ken Double - USA



**Former
President
of
ATOS**

**will entertain you
at the Orion Centre Theatre
on Sunday August 25th 2:00pm**

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TOSA News David & Margaret Badman

Printer Printers of Richmond

President



Hello members,

Some interesting news in this issue about progress on the Christie installation. It progresses well but I will leave the details for John Weismantel's report. Exciting times ahead!

We have our first international artist for 2019 heading our way at the end of the month in the form of Mr Ken Double from Atalanta, Georgia. Ken is a fine musician and a great story teller. You may have seen Ken play before but he is always worth seeing again and it's a great time to bring along your family, friends and even your social club to experience a fine afternoon of music on our excellent 3/17 Wurlitzer on Sunday 25 August (details this issue)

I remember when I saw Ken play at Campsie nearly 10 years ago that to open the second half, he performed a self-duet. Not the style we're used to with organ and piano, but organ and voice. Yes – he sang to his own

pre-recorded Wurlitzer backing track thanks to the magic of Uniflex. Will he do the same this time? Come along and see.

I have now finished my chemotherapy treatment for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and I am feeling better every day. Fatigue is less, hair is growing back (some of it dark) and I'm even able to

work two or three days per week. I have a full body PETScan on 5 August and hopefully nothing "glows in the dark" and I will receive a clear report. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support and encouragement as Debra and I faced this challenge head-on.

Thanks to all the committee for stepping up to the plate to keep matters functioning during my illness.

I'm looking forward to seeing lots of happy TOSA and friends' faces at Ken's concert on 25 August!

Cheers,
Craig Keller

Editorial



NBN is installed and working fine. The Pomona Compton is now open after many years of restoration - Sound familiar. It is well worth looking at the link to the Pomona Opening Party links.

I hope you enjoy the article on Wilbur Kentwell from Down memory Lane for those of you who don't receive TOSA News by email.

Look forward to seeing you at the Ken Double concert. Do come along as Ken is very entertaining.

Ernie Vale
editor@tosa.net.au

From the Mailbox...



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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
or in writing to:

The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)
PO Box A2322
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

Sydney Town Hall Organ Events

Following the need to install a new organ blower motor at the Town Hall adjustments have had to be made to the lunchtime organ recital series as follows:

Simon Nieminski's cancelled concert will now take place on 29th July at 12:30pm
Concerts then follow as originally planned:

- Monday 9th September, 12:30pm-Thomas Trotter
- Monday 30th September,

- 12:30pm-Christopher Wrench
- Tuesday 5th November, 12:30pm-Robert Ampt with the NSW Police Band
- Tuesday 17th December, 8:00pm-Christmas at Sydney Town Hall
- Saturday 28th December, 12:30pm-Young Organist's Day

Robert Ampt
Sydney City Organist

Time to Renew Membership

Membership renewal was due by 30th June 2019 if you haven't already done so. If you haven't renewed by the end of July this will be your last TOSA News.

Please Note Change to TOSA Bank Account

The Society's only bank account now is with **St George**. Details are **BSB 112-879, account number 0442 088 530**

Please direct all payments to this account with St George Bank.

My wife is a light eater; as soon as it's light, she starts eating

Henny Youngman

To Watch Out for

Ken Double is on August 25th at the Orion Centre Theatre, Campsie.

David Gray has kindly substituted for Dave Wickerham on October 27th at the Orion Centre Theatre, Campsie.

You can now pay for tickets at the box office by credit card.

Organ Historical Trust of Australia

42nd Annual Conference
30 September - 4 October 2019
Adelaide, South Australia
The conference will be based in Adelaide with a day in the Barossa Valley. Based around three organ building approaches of Restoration, Rebuilding, and Reconstruction to be explored in a series of lectures and organ visits. This will include a visit to St Peter's College Wurlitzer, the theatre organ previously located in the Adelaide Regent Theatre. Two cathedral organs in Adelaide the newly installed in 2016 (Casavant Freres/Wakeley Pipe Organs), and the fully restored in 2018 (Hill, Norman & Beard/Harrison & Harrison) are included.

See www.ohata.org.au

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
Second Thursday of the
Month**

**August 8th
September 12th
Convener is**

Craig Keller on 0418484798
or John Batts on 0420424103

**Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday afternoon/evening**

**Start time is 6:00pm
August 26th
September 23rd**

Convener is

John Batts on 0420424103
will email you to confirm the day is
available or
Neil Palmer on 9798 6742 after
7:00pm
to confirm availability

Christie progress report for August 2019 TOSA News.

Accompaniment (left) chamber:

- Manifold manufactured and installed for Diapason/Flute wind supply.
- Regulator installed for offsets (16', 8' Diapason, 8' Flute, 16' Violone) and winded to chests; still needs pressure adjustment to 6" water gauge.
- Clarinet wind trunking re-routed to improve access to regulators; now in its final configuration.
- All pipes in this chamber are now winded and potentially playable from the console, but some voicing and tuning to be done by John Parker.
- Only Celesta and Marimba/Harp to be winded to complete this chamber.
- Tremulants to be installed, winded and adjusted.

Solo (right) chamber:

- Dodd chest completed, mounted on supports and Krumet pipes installed.
- Tuba chest mounted on supports and pipes installed, including top note module.
- This completes the pipe complement for this chamber.
- Walkway installed for Orchestral Oboe access.
- Manufacture continues of narrow regulator and its air supply box for Orch Oboe.
- Manifold manufactured and mounted for Tuba/Krumet wind supply.
- Regulators still to be mounted and wind trunking installed.
- Tremulants to be installed, winded and adjusted.

Console:

Drawers (both left and right) to be populated and wired.

Long time TOSA Member celebrates 95th Birthday

“Long time TOSA member **Betty Weismantel** reached a milestone recently when she celebrated 95 years young.

Betty has performed many duties for TOSA over the years since joining in the 1970's, including serving afternoon teas at concerts, refurbishing organ components for the Society's Wurlitzers at members workshops, helping move organ items, packing organ pipes for movement and storage at various locations and providing storage for, most recently, pipes and percussions for the Christie being installed at WRAC.

She is still mentally active and regularly walks around her aged care facility at Winston Hills for exercise, and looks forward to reading TOSA News each month to keep up with the latest.”

The Pomona Compton Theatre Organ was officially opened on Sunday 14th July

From: David Bailey
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 7:56 PM
To: Info OzSilentFilmFestival
Subject: Opening Party for Pomona Compton

Hi Ronnie and Sharon,

Here is a link from the opening of the organ at Pomona! It finally happened. Some great footage and sound and also about 5 mins of the film we did at the end.

<https://www.facebook.com/167458470027436/posts/2016521725121092?s=1170616731&v=i&sfns=mo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uONNyB2iQfU>

Copy and paste these links into your browser. Well wirth a watch.

See more details elsewhere in this issue

Macquarie Singers,

**together with friends from Sydney and beyond, meet
for a day of exuberant music-making on
Vivaldi's iconic Gloria RV589.**

**Come and experience the result in concert, along with
some sparkling classics from
Macquarie Chamber Orchestra.**

Conductor: Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith

Soprano: Hester Wright

Mezzo-Soprano: Alexandra Mathew

Organ: Titus Grenyer

Saturday 10th August 2019 at 5pm

Turramurra Uniting Church

Adults \$30

Concession \$25

Family \$60

Children under 10 free

Tickets at Trybooking.com/BCMBQ

Note:

the organist for this event is *Titus Grenyer*

Three Yamaha Organs for FREE

2 Yamaha FX 20s and one Yamaha FS 70

All have some faults to be fixed

Contact Allen Spicer on 02 6569 0432

Mid North Coast at Stuarts Point

Rodgers 321Trio theatre organ for sale

Nice instrument, but makes a squealing sound when a G key is played.

Selling to make room for another organ. \$500.00 ono

This organ is in Harrington Waters near Taree.

Phone Phillip 02 6556 1249 or 0450093187

Show & Membership Prices

	All Artists
Non-members	\$40
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$35
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 \$25 cash by completed Voucher at Box Office

Annual Membership Fees 2019-20:

\$50.00 Full membership, \$40.00 Concession, Interstate or

Overseas \$50. \$5 discount if TOSA News emailed to you

Membership enquiries David & Margaret Badman

(02) 4776 2192 membership@tosa.net.au

Associate Membership for a spouse/partner is an additional 50%

Vale Brian Firman

I am sad to report the passing of one-time tosa member and good friend, Brian Firman on the 18th June at the Mayfield aged care centre. Brian was a CountryLink train driver and close acquaintance of our late president, Jack Lawson. In fact, Brian fired for Jack on a number of heritage steam excursions including a memorable Maitland Steamfest weekend when I was privileged to ride the cab of locomotive 3001 from Broadmeadow to Hornsby and watch these two masters of their craft at work.

Brian was an enthusiastic hobby organist and owned several assorted organs including examples from Gulbransen, Kimball, Hammond and Thomas. He enjoyed the tosa concerts whenever his work schedule allowed and was a great fan of Tony Fenelon in particular.

Brian suffered a stroke several years ago and developed Parkinson's disease which collectively left him paralysed and bedridden. I visited him regularly at Mayfield and was saddened to watch him deteriorate to the point where he was essentially unable to communicate. In his final weeks I was able to play some theatre organ cds using a portable player kindly supplied by the nursing home. I know he enjoyed listening to the playing of the likes of Tony Fenelon, George Wright and even a few tracks of yours truly.

At his own request there was no funeral service and he asked that his ashes be scattered on the railway lines from Maitland Station.

Cliff Bingham

THE MAJESTIC'S COMPTON

Pomona's wildest pipe dream has been realised in the best possible fashion.

Seven years ago, the Majestic Theatre's classic organ was damaged beyond repair when floodwaters rose above the floorboards triggering an SOS call to organ enthusiast John Brooks.

The theatre's supreme organ player, Ron West, was even more delighted when John summoned the expertise of Don Clark to help with a task that seemed all but lost.

In fact, all agreed the grand old organ was a lost cause, however Don recalled there was a similar organ in Brisbane that may be looking for a new home.

Every cloud has a silver lining, and in this case, it was a rare, 1937 Compton Theatre Organ owned by the Linett family, who were keen to see its complex restoration completed before being permanently placed in a special venue such as the Majestic Theatre.

It was a huge job to dismantle the many parts of the organ and bring it to the Sunshine Coast where it would undergo a mammoth restoration of every component.

For more than six years, John and Don have worked tirelessly rebuilding and restoring it to its former glory, sourcing parts from all around the country to ensure its authenticity.

In a labour of love, every part was stripped down and rebuilt with tender loving care by the two dedicated volunteers and their skilled helpers.

Finally, the restoration is complete and The Majestic Theatre will be celebrating its rejuvenation in style on July 6. Ron will be playing his favourites, followed by a concert by renowned Brisbane theatre organist David Bailey. Local pianists James Warner and Chris Rose will be tickling the ivories while a free afternoon tea is served.

In true Majestic style, David will perform to a short silent film as a tribute to the local landmark - the world's longest running authentic silent picture theatre.

(from "Noosa News")

Ken Double - USA
Americas renowned Theatre Organist
ATOS Convention MC
and Entertainer



Plays

The Orion Wurlitzer

Sunday August 25th at 2:00pm

155 Beamish Street, Campsie

Tickets : \$ 40; Conc \$ 35; Members \$25
First time patrons \$25 by Voucher at the Box Office
Credit cards accepted
Adult Group of 10 or more \$22/person

Students free on confirmation of student status. Students, bring your parents along for only \$25 each as a first time patron.

Book securely on line at Trybooking via www.tosa.net.au/events
click on the trybooking link

or

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

Ken Double

A former radio and television sportscaster who started taking organ lessons as an 8-year-old in Chicago, **KEN DOUBLE** has enjoyed a second career focused on his love of the music of the theatre pipe organ. He is preparing for his 7th tour of Australia and New Zealand set for August of 2019.

As a sportscaster, **Ken** broadcast NBA and major college basketball, NHL and AHL hockey, the worldwide broadcast of the Indy 500, and more. But since retiring in 2008, **Ken** has toured performing concerts on the great theatre pipe organs around the world. He also helped establish the Long Center Theatre Organ Society in Lafayette, Indiana; spent ten years as the President of the American Theatre Organ Society; and currently is the Director of Fundraising for the Historic Organ Restoration Committee, the organization restoring the largest musical instrument in the world, the Midmer-Losh organ at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Ken Double performed his first concert in 1978; has 20 recordings to his credit; will perform his 37th annual concert at Long Center in June of 2019; and is one of the organists at the famed Atlanta Fox theatre playing "Mighty Mo," the great Moller theatre organ heard there since 1929. His theatre organ credits also include performing the role of Master of Ceremonies for more than 20 ATOS annual and regional conventions.

Known for bringing wit and humor along with his lyrical arrangements, Ken is thrilled to be coming "Down Under" for another tour through this theatre organ-loving part of the world.

Don't miss this opportunity to be entertained in style by Ken. Sunday August 25th at the Orion.

You can now pay by credit card on the day

Down Memory Lane

An Excerpt from TOSA News August 1968

The late Frank Ellis was

Editor of TOSA News at the time

The Wilbur Kentwell Profile

This months Profile was jointly compiled from an interview carried out by Gordon H. Berry, Vice-President of TOSA's Queensland Division and TOSA News Editor's personal knowledge of WILBUR KENTWELL which extends over 25 years. Sincere thanks are extended to Gordon Berry for his ever ready help to TOSA News.

The life story of WILBUR KENTWELL is a fascinating one indeed, revealing as it does, that enterprise and hard work are the necessary ingredients if one is to climb the ladder of success. WILBUR KENTWELL has climbed that ladder to the top, and stayed there over many years. He was born at Castle Hill, an outer suburb of Sydney, about six miles or so from Parramatta. He started learning the organ at the age of eight years, and was playing the pipe organ for services in a Castle Hill church at the age of twelve years. Two years later, he heard LESLEY V. HARVEY play the Wurlitzer organ of Sydney's Prince Edward Theatre Beautiful, and he lost no time in commencing to study the complex techniques of cinema organ playing.

It was not long before he attained the standard necessary, and he was featured in duet work with well known DESS TANNER at the Roxy Theatre Parramatta, where a three manual Christie theatre organ was installed. In 1937, he was appointed pianist-accompanist to radio 2KA at Katoomba, in the heart of the famous Blue Mountains tourist mecca. In 1938, he was selected to be organist at the Savoy Theatre New Lambton, Newcastle, and signed a contract for six months with a further six months option. Such was his popularity in the City of Newcastle, that his contract was renewed several times, and he remained in residence for several years.

The Savoy Theatre, designed along ultra modern lines, was strikingly lit by tube lighting recessed into troughs in the ceiling and was a lovely theatre, which retained its intimate atmosphere,

despite its large size. The organ was a Hammond electronic one, equipped with an elaborate glass console, indirectly lit, and with full colour changing effects. In addition, a full set of real chimes was installed on the right hand side of the proscenium about half way up, and was in full view of the audience, who could see them operate. The chimes were played from a set of white buttons located just below the music stand of the organ, and were a most effective asset as electronic organs at that time, did not possess the electronic chimes now standard on almost every make of electronic organ.

Newcastle citizens were extremely organ minded and were very appreciative of the "organ spectaculars" which WILBUR presented from time to time. In one such "spectacular", a recording of Sir Malcolm Sargent conducting the "William Tell Overture" was played through the Theatre's sound system as WILBUR accompanied the orchestra on the organ. On stage, a forest setting with large trees made a most effective backdrop to the music, and in the finale, artificial rain came pouring down whilst lighting flashed during the storm sequence. This presentation so pleased the patrons, that it ran for several weeks.

WILBUR also featured at the theatre's grand piano for specialty presentations. This was located on a dais close to the organ console. Four or five mornings each week, WILBUR broadcast live from the theatre's organ at 8:15am playing for fifteen minutes, and he also broadcast again from the theatre for a further fifteen minutes on the same number of evenings. This latter broadcast took place during the 6:00pm to 7:00pm time slot and usually found WILBUR playing the grand piano, although the organ was used on some occasions. This meant that WILBUR was "on air" ten times each week without taking into consideration the special feature broadcasts which he did from time to time.

During the war, WILBUR saw Military service and rose to be a Sergeant. He was connected with the production of visual training films screened to servicemen. In 1945, he returned to civilian life again, and settled in Sydney, where radio 2CH signed him as staff organist and he played Hammond organ for the famous "Humphrey Bishop" shows, as well as appearing in numerous other productions. He had his own weekly thirty minute programme, sponsored by Farren Price Watch Salon, and aptly titled, "Music

Timed For A Lifetime" which ran for two or three years. As well as his radio work WILBUR became resident organist at the Vogue Theatre at Double Bay, once again at the console of a Hammond organ which was located in a recessed organ loft high on the left side of the proscenium. WILBUR has many recollections of climbing the steep steps to the organ's lofty position from the darkened backstage. During this same period, he became organist and speciality pianist at the Trocadero Ballroom in Sydney. TOSA News Editor, Frank Ellis remembers a number of occasions when he drove WILBUR in his car from the Vogue Theatre to the Trocadero Ballroom, then back to the Vogue Theatre, and finally back to the Trocadero Ballroom again. This was necessary so that he could do his solo presentation at the theatre around 8:10pm, dash to the Ballroom to play for dancing during the orchestra's fifteen minute break, return to the theatre to play the intermission music, and be back at the Ballroom in time for the orchestra's next break around 9:45 or 10:00pm.

In 1949 WILBUR was appointed Musical Director to Macquarie Broadcasting Service of 2GB and associated network stations. He was closely associated with the great Jack Davey Shows, which were probably the most listened to programmes ever broadcast on Australian Radio. He was a personal friend of Jack's and when the Davey shows originated from cities other than Sydney, which was quite often, WILBUR was there on hand at the keyboard to provide the musical part of each show. During the time he was Musical Director at Radio 2GB, he was associated with, and played for, many of the "big" stars who came to Australia including such names as Ann Ziegler & Webster Booth, George Formby, Wee Georgie Wood, Allan Jones, Joe E. Brown, Nat King Cole, Johnny Ray, Bob Hope, Donald Peers and many others. He also played for many famous Australian stars such as Gladys Moncrief, John Fullard and Strella Wilson.

In August 1959, the opening of QTQ Channel 9 in Brisbane, coincided with the Royal National Show Week, and Queensland citizens got their first glimpse of the wonders of television. WILBUR was appointed Director of Music at the Channel, and under his capable guidance, many noteworthy productions came to light. It has been said, that he was one of the few who did not get a blast from newspaper critics during those early days of T.V. in Queensland. In 1967 WILBUR was invited to become Musical

Director at TVQ Channel 0, and is currently in residence there. He presents a regular show entitled, "Musically Yours" in which he plays request numbers for viewers and also features a guest artist. For his Channel 0 appearances he is seen at the console of his own Conn 640 electronic theatre organ. He also plays for five pre-school shows called "The Wonder Shop" and a one hour talent seeking show called "New Faces". He is also featured in a 21/2 hour Childrens show televised "live" every Saturday morning. He also appears nightly at the Regal Motel in Brisbane, thus rounding off his busy day.

WILBUR KENTWELL was the first Australian organist to make a long play Microgroove record in 1950, and he was also the first organist to make a multiple track recording in Australia. On that occasion he was heard playing organ, piano and celeste simultaneously. It is also claimed, that he was the first Australian organist to be recorded in the Stereo process. Together with the late Flo Paton, one of Sydney's best loved and most popular pianists in the 1940s, he was responsible for many wonderful organ and piano duets on radio and on 78 RPM records. He was the first to use the Bourne Electronic organ on an L.P. record. This album, entitled, "Strolling Down Broadway", was an outstanding success. The organ was manufactured by a Newcastle firm trading as Bourne Organs Newcastle, and your Editor had the pleasure of accompanying WILBUR to Newcastle one weekend sometime in 1955, when he went to try out the Bourne organ and decide whether it was to be used for the "Strolling Down Broadway" recording. A tape recording made during that memorable weekend is still in my possession and is a valued souvenir indeed.

WILBUR is a most active and popular member of the Queensland Division of TOSA, giving frequent recitals for them, always to a capacity crowd. Possibly the most recorded organist in Australia, he is a polished performer on both organ and piano, with a flair for producing musical arrangements which please and delight his many fans. He is friendly, natural, and easy to get along with.

This then is WILBUR KENTWELL.

The Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ

Having advertised the changes to programming for lunch time concerts at Sydney Town Hall in the June - July TOSA News I felt compelled to attend the lunch time concert today, 29 July at 12:30pm.

The organist was **Simon Nieminski** who studied at the Royal College of Music, and was organ scholar at Pembroke College, Cambridge and then at York Minster. Before moving to Sydney to work at St Mary's Cathedral, he was successively organist at both of Edinburgh's St Mary's Cathedrals.

His work has taken him around the world, both in concert and over the airwaves, from 'The organist entertains' to 'Choral evensong' on BBC Radio, and 'pipedreams' in the USA. His recordings have helped to revive the music of unjustly neglected composers. His first album, for example, was of Eugene Reuchsel's Promenades en Provence ("This is a splendid release...There is a lot of poetry here." - The American Record Guide.). His latest album (his twelfth) also returned to Reuchsel's music, with 'La vie du Christ' and 'Bouquet de France', recorded at The High Kirk of St Giles in Edinburgh.

Simon's recent engagements have included York Minster and Durham Cathedral, Notre Dame in Paris, a Royal Canadian College of Organists annual convention, and twice at the International Organ Festival in Japan. He has also performed with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Northern Sinfonia, Scottish National Jazz Orchestra and Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and accompanied the BBC Singers.

Wow!! am I glad I went. The program was very suited to the Town Hall Organ allowing Simon to demonstrate a wide range of registrations and styles of music. He even played the fifth manual which links to the echo division. The 64ft stop was also heard as part of a quiet ending to one item. As you see from the program on the next page his choices were quite different to most programs I have heard at the Town Hall. This may be partly due to the expert and quite varied peddling involved in every piece he played.

Program

Rhumba

Robert Elmore (1913-1985)

Academic festival overture

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

arranged by Edwin Lemare

A little lunchtime music

I Feisty fanfare

II Lonesome lament

III Dainty dance

Adrian Self (b. 1952)

Handel in the strand (Clog dance)

Percy Grainger (1882-1961)

arranged by Wolfgang Stockmeier

Badinerie

(from Overture in B minor, BWV 1067)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

arranged by Thomas Murray

Trio in a style of Bach "Alles was du bist"

Billy Nalle (1921-2005) (All the things you are)

Suite: 'Scenes on the Wye'

I Rhyader

II Monmouth

III Tintern

IV Symonds Yat

Frederick Wood (1880-1963)

Simon had two wingmen in *Joshua* who stood to the right and turned the pages of the music that was used for every piece played and *Titus Grenyer* who stood on the left and assisted in changing stops as required.

AUSTRALIA'S SILENT FILM FESTIVAL

Presents

Sydney: State Library NSW Metcalf Auditorium

Harold Lloyd, a Prince of Clowns.

"The Kid Brother" (1927)

with Gaylord Carter's exquisite theatre organ soundtrack.

Sunday at 2pm September 15.

<http://decentfilms.com/reviews/kidbrother>

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2000/dec/15/guardiano-bituaries.filmnews1>

Laughter is the best medicine with Harold's supreme silent combining comedy, romance and drama.

NEWS FROM KIWILAND

Australian members may remember that the Wurlitzer Organ Trust in Auckland had to remove their 3/16 Wurlitzer organ (originally a 2/8 from the "Regent" Theatre, Auckland) from the "Hollywood" Theatre in 2015. They had "found a new home" - the "Playhouse" Theatre in Glen Eden (Auckland). Then apparently things started to go awry.

As 2018 drew to a close the Trust was facing the hard fact they might be forced into selling the organ and winding up. The building work at the "Playhouse" Theatre was unable to commence due to lack of funds.

However, luckily, circumstances changed in November:

- The Tauranga City Council purchased the lift for the Tauranga Wurlitzer organ from the Trust.
- The Heritage section of NZ Lotto had awarded the "Playhouse" Theatre Trust funding needed to build an annex on the rear of the theatre to house the organ chambers and blower plant.
- The builder contracted to complete the project wants to start now. A completion date is set for late April 2020.
- Finally, MOTAT has come to the Trust's aid by offering space at their new storage facility at Penrose to which the organ was transported for a temporary 3- 4 month stay.

From TOSA Member Rod Blackmore

Midmer-Losh organ at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Vice President, John Weismantel and his wife Sharon visited this instrument this year prior to heading to the ATOS Convention in Rochester, New York State, USA.

John advises that the organ is now 65% complete including restoration of the five manual movable console that was sitting in the foyer area of the auditorium when your editor visited in 2015 as part of the ATOS Convention in 2015 based in Philadelphia that year.

Ken Double is the Director of Fundraising for the Historic Organ Restoration Committee for the Midmer-Losh organ and visited Atlantic City in July this year during the ATOS convention. Hopefully Ken will be able to give us a further update on the restoration at his concert at the Orion Wurlitzer on August 25th in Sydney.

Jokes of the month

A psychologist once said that we know
little about the conscience except
that it is soluble in alcohol

Thomas Blackburn

Actually it only takes one drink to get me
loaded. Trouble is, I can't remember if it's
the thirteenth or fourteenth

George Burns

Members Diary

Next Committee Meeting - Monday August 5th

West Ryde Anglican Church

Sunday 25 August 2:00pm
Come along to enjoy
Ken Double
entertaining you
playing the Orion Wurlitzer

Book Tickets - www.tosa.net.au/events/trybooking
or
Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 Before 8:00pm please

It is time to renew your membership for 2019-20
if you haven't already done so

www.theatreorgansaustralia.info (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

www.omss.org.au (our sister society, Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)
www.ATOS.org American Theatre Organ Society

***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>

www.ATOS.org American Theatre Organ Society

TOSA NEWS

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