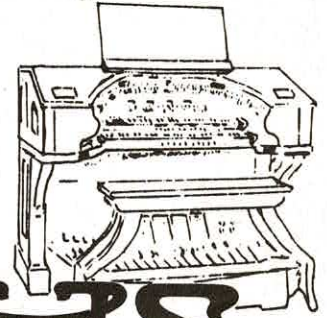


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T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

Vice Presidents John Weismantel, Herbert Wyatt Sec. Kevin Eadie
Treasurer Mark Gabriel Membership Secretary Ron Smith 529-7379
Practise Convener Chris Palmer 92-6534 Research Ian Cameron

" T.O.S.A. DIARY "

February 3rd. Friday 8.00p.m.

This is our first concert of the year and we are happy to present Neil Jensen from Queensland as the artist you are to hear. The programme is described as a 'Musical Extravaganza' where you are invited to hear 'The Sounds of Today' presented by the Music Maker of Tomorrow. So come along to this, our first concert of the year. Admission \$3.00 TOSA Members \$2.50 Concession \$1.50

February 15th Wednesday 8.00 p.m.

The Annual General Meeting, held on November 30th was adjourned to this date. The Returning Officer will be in attendance from 7.30 p.m. to receive your voting papers. The Meeting will start at 8.00 p.m. The ballot paper will be found elsewhere in this issue and full instructions will be found thereon, You may post it in or bring it with you.

As this is an adjourned meeting all members who were eligible to vote on the 30th November(i.e. were financial) are eligible to vote on February 15th even if their 1978 subscriptions have not yet been received.

February 19th. Sunday, 6.00p.m.

The members of the Newcastle Organ Society have organised a Social Function on this date. They have arranged a lake cruise on the "Wangi Queen" which will leave Toronto Wharf at 6.00 p.m. sharp. There will be an organ on board to supply the music and an excellent Smorgasboard has been devised. They will return to the wharf at about 10.00p.m. Tickets a very reasonable \$7.00 per head. For reservations or more information ring Elsa Bock, 69 3103.

February 20th. Monday, 7.30p.m.

The next TOSA Committee meeting will be held in St Anne's Church Hall, Strathfield.

FUTURE CONCERTS.

The committee hopes to have a bumper year for concert artists this year. Enquiries are afoot concerning the following artists already - Tony Fenelon, Lee-Irwin, Hubert Selby, Jonas Nordwell, Maria Kumagai. If all these negotiations prove fruitful we shall indeed have a feast of music. Here's hoping.

EASTER CONVENTION - 1978.

There are still some rooms available in Adelaide if you wish to attend the Easter Convention in 1978. You will find an application form at the back of this issue. The excellent programme is as follows:-

Friday, 24th April, 7.00p.m. Registratio: Official Opening:

Featuring Anthony Taylor's "ELECTRO-PNEUMATIC SIGHT & SOUND SHOW". This will be in the Wyatt Hall, Pulteney Grammar School, 190 South Terrace, Adelaide.

Saturday, 25th. 10.30a.m. - 1.30 p.m.

ORGAN PLUS JAZZ PLUS LUNCH. Eight piece group.
Barry Hall - Ray Clements. in the Wyatt Hall.

Saturday, 25th. 2.00p.m. - 4.30p.m. FIRST CONVENTION CONCERT.

featuring Knight Barnett! David Johnson - Brian Richardson-
John Slater. St Peters College, Hackney Road, Hackney.

Saturday 25th. 6.30p.m. - Collapse. Sherries and Convention

Dinner Dance with our "Big Sound Band" compered by Ron
Sullivan. Organ Cameos during dinner. Dom Polski Centre,
230 Angas Street, Adelaide.

Sunday, 26th. 10.30a.m. "Organised" Hills Safari to David Walton's

"Pipepotamus". Lunch on barbecued missionary at Hahndorf
"Old Mill" then raid organ at Church of the Epiphany,
Crafers. Buses depart P.G.S., 190 South Terrace.

Sunday, 26th, 8.00p.m. Tony Fenelon and John Atwell in the second

Convention Concert. Wyatt Hall. P.G.S..

Monday, 27th. 9.30a.m. Cameo Spots and Open Console, Wyatt Hall.

Close noon.

For those nominating for all listed activities a package price is offered.- Adults \$32.00, Students/Pensioners \$30.00, Children under 14 \$28.00. For those who wish for a copy of the programme please ring Ron Smith, 529 7379.

WORKING BEE.

Ernie Vale advises that the working bees will get off to a good start on Wednesday, February 8th at 7.30p.m. For those that are new members and wish to assist the address is 49 Boomerang Street, Haberfield, Ph 798 6816. Ernie will be glad to tell you how you can help.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following people were elected members of the Society at the committee meeting held on the 9th January: Mr Herbert Smith (Davidson), Mr & Mrs A. Greaves (Lugarno), Mr & Mrs J. Pitcher (Epping), Mr & Mrs Don Fullerton (Katoomba), Mr & Mrs William and Addie Osborne (Kogarah), Neil Jensen (The Gap, Qld). We wish them a happy membership, lots of new friends to meet and many happy concerts.

PRACTISE SESSIONS.

There is still available some time for those wishing to practise on our Wurlitzer at Marrickville. If you are interested ring Chris Palmer, 92 6534 and he will organise it for you.

HOME ORGAN PARTY

A very pleasant evening was spent by a group of organ music lovers at the home of Herbert and Mona Wyatt. After supper many of those present enjoyed themselves playing Herbert's Allen Computer Organ. The sum of \$34.00 was raised for the Organ Fund.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir, Last night by a chance of luck I saw the half-hour segment on Channel 2, ABC, of Dennis and Heidi James. I was surprised and pleased to both hear and see, in my opinion, such an insight to the wonders of the pipe organ. I feel that we should make an approach to the A.B.C. to have this programme repeated in the near future and the date given to the Society in time for us to publish it in T.O.S.A. News as I feel that quite a lot of our members have never seen beyond the console. I was very lucky, as a young lad, to have seen these 'Mighty Wurlitzers' installed. Each day, in my lunch hour and at other times I would visit the Plaza, State, Regent, and Capitol theatres to watch progress, and I think you, Sir, would be the man to approach the A.B.C. as I feel sure it would give a deal of pleasure to our members to see this programme. Signed, Colin L.H. Stewart, 13 Montgomery Avenue, Revesby, 2212 (771 1370).
(Editors Note; It seems a good idea!)

EDITORIAL

Time flies quickly by and I find I have been Editor of your 'News' for the past seven months, since I wrote the July issue in fact. As you are probably aware I took it on because there were no other persons available. This has taken up a considerable portion of my time and has caused me to have less and less time for my other activities. I have really enjoyed being Editor and have been greatly heartened by the many people who have rung or written me to thank me for items or to give me news. To them I say 'Thank you'.

However Chris Palmer has intimated that he has the time and the wish to Edit TOSA News. As it is too late to withdraw my nomination as Editor I take this opportunity to ask you 'not to vote for me as Editor'. I still hope to serve you in other capacities. Good luck to you Chris, and I hope you make as many friends.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without saying a sincere 'Thank You' to Mark Gabriel, Bill Schumacher and Robert Gliddon who, ever since I became Editor have taken my typed plates and printed them, collated the sheets and taken them to Mr and Mrs Lance Wells who address the envelopes, insert the News and post them. To these

people the Society is deeply indebted. For some years prior to January 1977 Mark Gabriel and John Atkinson printed the Journal between them. We have been lucky to have had such devoted workers.

Once again, I thank you for your support.

ABOUT THE CANDIDATES.

In order to give members some knowledge of the background of the various candidates for election for the officers and committee for 1978 the candidates were asked to supply a short article in support of their nomination. It is hoped that this will give members the chance to pick the most suitable candidate for each position. Your attention is drawn to the fact that preferential voting is now the method of voting and that all spaces on the ballot paper must be filled in.

RON WILSON is a Company Director and has been a member of TOSA for eight years. He was formerly a member of the Concert Committee.

ALAN MISDALE is a qualified electrical tradesman and holds a Senior position in the S.C.C.. A member of TOSA for many years he has also served as a past Treasurer. He has a wide experience of committee work having been an Executive member of various organisations during the past 20 years. He assisted in the installation and is still actively concerned in the maintenance of our WurliTzer in the Marrickville Town Hall.

BILL SCHUMACHER is a City Representative for a well known international distilling company. He has had extensive musical training being now a professional musician in which capacity he has concertised extensively at formal and informal functions both here, in other States and in the U.S.A.. He has made four trips to A.T.O.S. Conventions where his appreciation of tonal and technical aspects has been enhanced. He has been a member of TOSA for fifteen years, fourteen of which a most useful member of committee. Bill was a long standing member of the Hammond Organ Society No.1 Chapter during which time he served on Committee and Concert Committee. He was for some time a Musical Director of that Society.

BARRY TOOKER works as a Colour Gravure Camera Operator for a large Sydney printing firm. He joined TOSA at the first Convention of N.S.W. Branch TOSA in 1962 and has seen TOSA grow and branch out interstate as well as gain affiliations all over the world. He joined the committee in 1965 and has served almost continuously save for about two years. He has worked on the State and Marrickville organs and was in charge of the Capitol maintenance group for many years and supervised that organ's removal from the theatre when it was purchased by TOSA. Gained valuable experience in tuning and maintenance under tuition of Peter Rowe - organ builder, who helped install many of the WurliTzers around Australia. He gave valuable assistance when the State organ was partly rebuilt for the Methodist Church after the Lyceum Theatre was burnt down.

ROBERT GLIDDON is an Airline Officer. He has had musical training in piano and organ and is part owner of a theatre pipe organ which he is currently restoring and enlarging. He has toured and inspected numerous overseas theatre organs both in the U.S.A. and in the U.K. taking particular interest in technical aspects. He has had extensive experience in organising TOSA functions and was an effective member of the organising committee of "Funtastic", the 5th National Convention staged in Sydney in 1976.

JACK LAWSON worked in the Railways for 34 years and is now an Express Driver qualified to drive all types of State and Interstate Express trains. He has held the position of Branch Secretary of the large metropolitan branch of the Enginemen's Union for 15 years. He joined TOSA in 1969 and has served for 2 years on committee where he has been particularly active. He has worked for over four years as a technician on both State and Capitol organs and is currently a member of the sub-committee concerned with the placement of the ex 'Capitol' organ. The organisation and successful running of our Cabarets has been guaranteed by his meticulous attention to detail.

JOHN ANDREWS is a Technical Officer (Electronics) with the Federal Department of Transport. He has been a member of TOSA for some years. Has been associated with theatre pipe organs for about ten years where his main interest lies in tonal and technical aspects, particularly in the application of new techniques in organ control systems and the application of current technology in the use of new materials. He has had considerable practical experience in the field of pipe organ restoration and is part owner of a theatre pipe organ now being restored.

CLIFF BINGHAM is a Sales Manager for a well known Sydney firm of organ retailers. He has been a member of TOSA for the past thirteen years, for some of which he was a committee member and Editor of TOSA News. He is aware of the organ scene having visited NAMM (National Association of Music Merchandisers) in 1975 and is a regular Concert Artist having performed for TOSA in N.S.W., Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania at both formal and informal functions. He has made several successful Recordings. Is Organist/Choirmaster at East Lindfield Baptist Church and has a 2/26 Pipe Organ built largely to his design.

RON SMITH has been a member of TOSA for 9½ years and the Membership-Secretary for the last two years. During this period he has come to know a large percentage of our members personally. His aim is to further promote our social activities while still assisting with maintenance work on the Capitol organ. He owns an Electronic Theatre Organ and occasionally plays socially at home meetings. Ron is a Consultant with Wales Travel and has handled arrangements for the 1977 and 1978 Interstate National Organ Conventions.

RAY THORNLEY "Most impressive Theatre Organist of 1977" - Keyboard World, December 1977. Ray is the only artist ever to receive a standing ovation for a pipe concert at Marrickville since the organ's installation there 8½ years ago. He recently spent nearly 2 years with Australian Musical Industries in Victoria during which time he presented concerts for TOSA Interstate Divisions. He is now National Keyboard Consultant for Rose Music in Sydney and concertises extensively throughout all States of Australia on Electronic Organs. He not only holds an Electronics Engineering Degree but also has a vast knowledge of pipe organ installations, operation and voicing. He has been a member of TOSA for ten years. In January 1978 Ray starts teaching master-classes in Popular Organ with a leading Parramatta teaching studio and aims to present pipe organ 'Workshops' to further the knowledge of the many members interested in the technical aspects of the Theatre Pipe Organ.

RITCHIE WILLIS has been a member of the Theatre Organ Society for the last 14 years and although not an organist he is very keen listener. He purchased an electronic organ 4½ years ago and since that time has held regular monthly organ recitals in his home at Mortdale. A t varioust times functions have been held to support TOSA funds. Served on committee during 1974.

ERNIE VALE is a Land and Engineering Survey Draftsman Grade 5. He has held many positions of responsibility in the Registrar Generals Office including 3 years as a Training Officer. He has been a member of TOSA for 8 years and for the past 6 years has stored a good deal of the ex Capitol Theatre Organ. He has been a very active member of committee during 1977 as well as organising working bees for members to help in the restoration of the ex Capitol organ. Some 330 hours have been spent on restoration work this 1977. He has attended most Society functions during 1977.

HERBERT WYATT A.S.T.C.(Chem.), A.R.A.C.I., F.O.C.C.A.A., Life Assoc. A.I.F.S.T., Fellow Victoria College of Music (Lond.). Herbert is a Fellow of the Oil and Colour Chemist's Assoc'n where he instituted the Annual Convention, a past Treasurer of the Aust. Inst. of Food Science & Technology and was by profession a Food Technologist and Bacteriologist. He has conducted about 145 different productions of Musical Comedy for various Societies, including being Musical Director of the Mosman Musical Society for 89 productions. Is an Organist and Choirmaster since 1933 and has produced many Oratorios as well as the more popular type of show. Is also conductor of "Mirabooka" Singers, a group that spends it's time entertaining in Senior Citizen's Centres.

He is a Past President of TOSA and has been Vice-President for many years. Has been Editor of TOSA News since July 1977 where he has come to know many more members of the Society. He is also a member of the ex "Capitol" Organ placement committee. He is a Musical Director of the Touring Theatre Company of Sydney and has conducted all their performances of "Paint Your Wagon" at various clubs and recently had the pleasure of conducting their presentation of "A Night with Sigmund Romberg" for two nights starring June Bronhill, Leonard Lee and Yussuf K eyrooz, at the Seymour Centre.

JOHN WEISMANTEL has been a member of the N.S.W. Division of TOSA for several years. Introduced by member/compere Frank Ellis, John has been keenly interested in the mechanics and the sound of the Theatre Pipe Organ for the most of his "membership life". He has actively participated in the maintenance of both of the Society's instruments and has contributed to the restoration of the Wurlitzer Organ installed in the State Theatre, Sydney. Being particularly interested in electrics and electronics, John has been responsible for the electrics involving the Theatre Pipe Organ currently being installed in the Star Theatre, Padstow.

During his membership years, John has served several terms on the committee and has just completed 12 months in the Executive position of Vice-President. John's musical experience involves organ, piano and violin, the latter involving him in youth orchestra presentations. He is also involved in live musical productions as the Lighting Director for the Touring Theatre Company of Sydney thereby making him responsible for the lighting presentation at the many varied performances of this company. TOSA has had the benefit of John's ability in this field when lighting effects were provided during the 1976 National Convention and many other evening performances at Marrickville Town Hall and other venues.

KEVIN EADIE has been a member of TOSA since 1968. He was elected to the committee in 1975 and 1976 and was our Secretary for 1977.

STEVE McDONALD was elected President for 1977 and has been Secretary for 1975 and 1976. He is the owner of a pipe organ (ex Plaza, ex Brisbane Wintergarden) which he is building and installing. He has worked on maintenance of the State Organ and is a member of the Capitol restoration crew. Steve has helped in producing TOSA News, printing, promotion of functions etc.. He has contacts in Theatre Organ World in U.S.A., Britain, N.Z. and Interstate.

NORMAN WIESMANTEL is a Training Officer for C.S.R. Chemicals. He has had wide experience of supervision and training particularly with regard to Safety in Industry. Norm is a member of TOSA of many years standing and has helped in many areas to promote the Society. He is a member of the restoration crew of the Capitol Organ.

FRANK ELLIS is well known to our members who attend our concerts as our popular Compere. He joined in the first year of TOSA, NSW, and was Vice-President for nine years and Editor for six years. Frank saw the Society grow from a small beginning to it's present stature. He was one of the original Prince Edward Organ Trust which bought the Prince Edward Organ for TOSA.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Anybody interested in joining a theatre party at "RAFTERS" formerly the Astra Theatre at Drummoyne should contact John Weimantel at 80 2680. The entertainment includes a Singalong and Featured Artists. If we can get 20 or more participants the charges will be \$12.00 per head which includes show, meal and a carafe of wine at the table.

T H E E A S T E R C O N V E N T I O N .

Application Forms for this Convention were printed in the September, October and December TOSA News. Fill in your copy now if you wish to attend this function and enjoy a perfect week end in ADELAIDE capably hosted by our South Australian friends. Ron Smith tells me he still has some reservations available but get in soon or accomodation will be difficult to obtain.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr H. Wyatt gave Notice of Motion "that the President should have a Casting Vote in addition to his normal vote. Such vote shall only be used to break a tied vote and in such circumstances will be used to maintain the status quo."