

PRICE 40c

# t.o.s.a. news

incorporating **THE DIAPHONE**

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

Volume 11, Number 4.

APRIL 1973.



Registered for posting as a periodical - Category B.

SOCIETY DIRECTORY:

PATRON: Ian Davies.

PRESIDENT: Tom Halloran, 66 Flinders Road, Cronulla. 2230. (523-5077)

SECRETARY: John Roberts, 5 Wyleena Place, Punchbowl. 2196. (70-3650)

TREASURER: Alan Misdale, 74 View Street, Gymea. 2227. (525-5554)

T.O.S.A. NEWS EDITOR: Cliff Bingham, 17/26 Huxtable Avenue, Lane Cove. 2066.

---

EDITORIAL.

Whoopee - It's Convention time again. ( As if you didn't know.)

An Easter feast of popular organ music featuring some of Australia's finest popular organists - Tony Fenelon, Wilbur Kentwell, Eric Smith, Ian Davies, Ray Thornley, Bill Schumacher, Cliff Bingham. ( ahem - who asked him?)

I know, you've heard all this before; we've been advertising it for months, so why the necessity for an editorial about it. ? Well here's why.

For some time now your committee has seen the need for drastically enlarging our membership, ( more members mean more money, which means more scope for a more interesting and varied annual program, which will attract more members, which means more money etc. etc.....) The two public concerts which form part of our Convention ( Saturday and Sunday evenings ) are your opportunity to bring your friends and acquaintances to hear top-line programs presented by two of Australia's finest musicians, Tony Fenelon and Wilbur Kentwell.

This is also your opportunity, fellow members, to present to these people the advantages of belonging to TOSA.

We want to see Marrickville and Chatswood Town Halls jam-packed with the results of your personal P.R. work. See what you can do towards achieving these aims.

---

STOP PRESS

Due to unfortunate circumstances, American organist Bill Thompson will be unable to undertake an Australian tour this year. However, Australia's top organist, Tony Fenelon has agreed to step into the breach, a decision that will delight all members, in the light of Tony's brilliant performances for us in the past.

Our cover photo shows Tony at the magnificent Dendy Wurlitzer in Melbourne.

APRIL - CONVENTION TIME AT LAST!!

Six course feast of organ music!

Four course convention dinner!

The second NATIONAL convention takes place in Sydney for the first time ever.

THE THEATRE ORGANS TO BE HEARD.

State Theatre - 4/21 Wurlitzer.

Lyceum Theatre - 2/9 Christie.

Marrickville - 2/10 Wurlitzer.

Chatswood - 2/10 Wurlitzer.

Bondi Junction - 3 Manual Rodgers

Electronic Organ.

FIFTEEN DIFFERENT ORGANISTS INCLUDING.

Wilbur Kentwell (Qld.)

Ian Davis (N.S.W.)

Cliff Bingham (N.S.W.)

Ray Thornley (N.S.W.)

Peter Held (N.S.W.)

Tony Fenelon (Vic.)

Eric Smith (N.S.W.)

Bill Schumacher (N.S.W.)

Ray Clements (W.A.)

Neil Jensen (Qld.)

Fully catered, four course, convention dinner in modern hall at Annandale.  
Guests will be served sherry and savories on arrival.

NOTE: N.S.W. members are reminded that it will be four years before the Convention can be held in Sydney again, SO DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS SPECTACULAR EVENT. Every N.S.W. member is URGED to be present and support this Convention. Bookings should be sent to Oscar Moen, 68 Shepherd Street, Ryde as soon as possible in order to facilitate catering arrangements. Bookings MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 14th.

FINAL NOTES ON CONVENTION.

Applications for Convention tickets should reach Oscar Moen by Saturday, 14th April at the latest. Earlier booking is strongly advised in order to facilitate catering arrangements and seating plan for the Convention dinner. Every member is asked to support this National Convention which will be the most exciting and costly Convention ever staged by N.S.W. Division. Remember too, that it will be 3 or 4 years before another such Convention can be held in Sydney. No Convention was held in Sydney in 1972 so that we could concentrate our efforts toward a spectacular National Convention this year, so all members who have joined the Society in the last 18 months or so will have the opportunity of attending and enjoying their first TOSA Convention.

An Information Sheet will be supplied with Convention tickets and this gives full directions on how to get to the various locations by car. Due to a "one way street" which was not known at the time of printing the Information Sheets, members should make the following corrections to their own copy of the Information Sheet as follows:-

A to B. On line 4 delete the words "White City Stadium on your right," and substitute, "Lodge 44 Motel on your left."

On line 6 delete "Elizabeth Street" and substitute "Jersey Road" which is one street further along Paddington Street.

B to C. On line 4 add the word "Randwick" to the Boys' High School on the corner. Please note that you will pass another Boys' School before reaching the Randwick Boys' High School, and this should not be confused with the correct one which is on the corner of Rainbow Street.

Our New Zealand member, Maurice Carbines from Auckland, is flying over to attend the Convention and the President of the West Australian Division, Ray Clements, is driving over from Perth with his wife and parents. A chartered motor coach will bring the South Australian party of about 40 members to Sydney for the event but it is not yet known whether Victoria and Queensland Divisions will be chartering coaches for their members. It is understood that a goodly number of our members in Newcastle will be attending as well as a party from our

youngest Division at Canberra, A.C.T. So this will be the largest gathering of Australia wide TOSA members yet held in Sydney. Don't miss this outstanding event - order your tickets now for the Second National Convention on April 21st and 22nd.

---

A MEMO FROM THE SECRETARY.

Hello to all members near and far. I have had the privilege of serving you as honorary secretary for two months now, and in that time I have been analysing and dissecting the administrative and social functions of our society. I am saddened to find such a lack of enthusiasm among a large number of members and that, generally, it's the same names and faces that pop up when volunteers are needed for various functions and duties. These people are not looking for platitudes or gracious handouts, but are aiming to foster and further the aims of our organisation. Why should all the work be left to so few?

You may well ask "How can I help?"

There are many ways in which you can help us to help you. Do you consider that you are getting enough value out of your annual subscription? If the answer is "no", then ask yourself "Can I help in some way?" The answer is definitely "yes". You can simply sign up a new member, serve on a concert, social or promotion committee, or in many other smaller capacities. If every member gave an hour per month, we could easily become the top society, the active society, the niciest society, and the most alive and well known society.

So, members, let us awaken from our lethargy, put more into our society individually and reap the rewards collectively. If you can help, please call me any evening on 70.3650, and I will soon find a job for you to do to our mutual benefit.

Your Society Needs You.

---

SPECIAL NEWS!!

DON KINGSTON IN CONCERT.

THE PLACE: RYDE CIVIC CENTRE AUDITORIUM (Top Ryde opposite the Supermarket)

THE DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 4th, 1973.

THE TIME: 8.p.m. (Doors open 7.p.m. - Be early as seats cannot be reserved.)

ADMISSION: DOOR SALES ONLY: \$2.00 (TOSA Members \$1.50)  
Pensioners and children half price.

Don has for some years travelled around the world demonstrating and giving concerts on Conn organs. We are grateful that the Conn Organ Corporation of America has arranged a further visit to Australia of this eminent musician who will be presenting an all new programme for this occasion featuring Conn's "One Man Band". He will be ably assisted by two leading exponents of the King of Instruments, Les Wells and Reubert Hayes.

The Sydney Conn Distributors, R. H. Elvy Pty. Ltd., and Alex Britton Music Centre Pty. Ltd., are in charge of organising this not to be forgotten evening. See you there!

---

LATE NEWS

Another young organist to be added to our Convention lineup is Robert Broughall, associate teacher with Eric Smith. Robert will be featured in a segment on Sunday afternoon at the Lyceum Theatre's Christie organ. I'm sure we will be looking forward to the pipe organ debut of this talented musician. Our thanks should go also to Eric Smith for making this opportunity available to his associate.

## JOH CONGERT PLEASES AT MARRICKVILLE.

At the first free concert of the 1973 Marrickville season, a most appreciative audience gave Joh Congert an enthusiastic reception, and there was little doubt that they went away very well pleased with the musical fare provided for their entertainment.

The program was richly endowed with a number of old favourites not often heard these days, and these came across with a new and quite delightful impact because of their long absence from concert programs. They were treated with great respect by organist Joh Congert who selected a wide variety of solo stops which did much to enhance the melody line of each of these items. He also employed a considerable number of highly unusual registrations throughout his playing, thereby creating interest in the music being performed.

A bracket of two numbers made famous by the Great Glenn Miller orchestra, brought back very vividly the sounds of the "big band era" in a very authentic way indeed - probably the closest approach to the Glenn Miller sound that one could expect from a Wurlitzer organ. These were "Moonlight Serenade" and "American Patrol" the first mentioned being taken in perfect Glenn Miller deliberate time.

Two or three marches with unfamiliar names, but which nevertheless did seem familiar, were presented with a typical German band sound, or something as close to it as the pipework of Wurlitzer would allow.

Memories of Marlene Dietrich were revived in a bracket consisting of "Lilli Marlene" and "Falling In Love Again."

Romantic Vienna was remembered with "Vienna, City of my Dreams" and the "Blue Danube."

Space does not permit a full listing of the entire program which concluded with a warmly nostalgic "We'll Meet Again."

In response to prolonged applause he encored with the almost forgotten "Smile A While" which, like other old favourites already mentioned, came up all the more appealing because of its long silence.

In all a most enjoyable afternoon and a fine start to the 1973 series of free concerts.

---

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

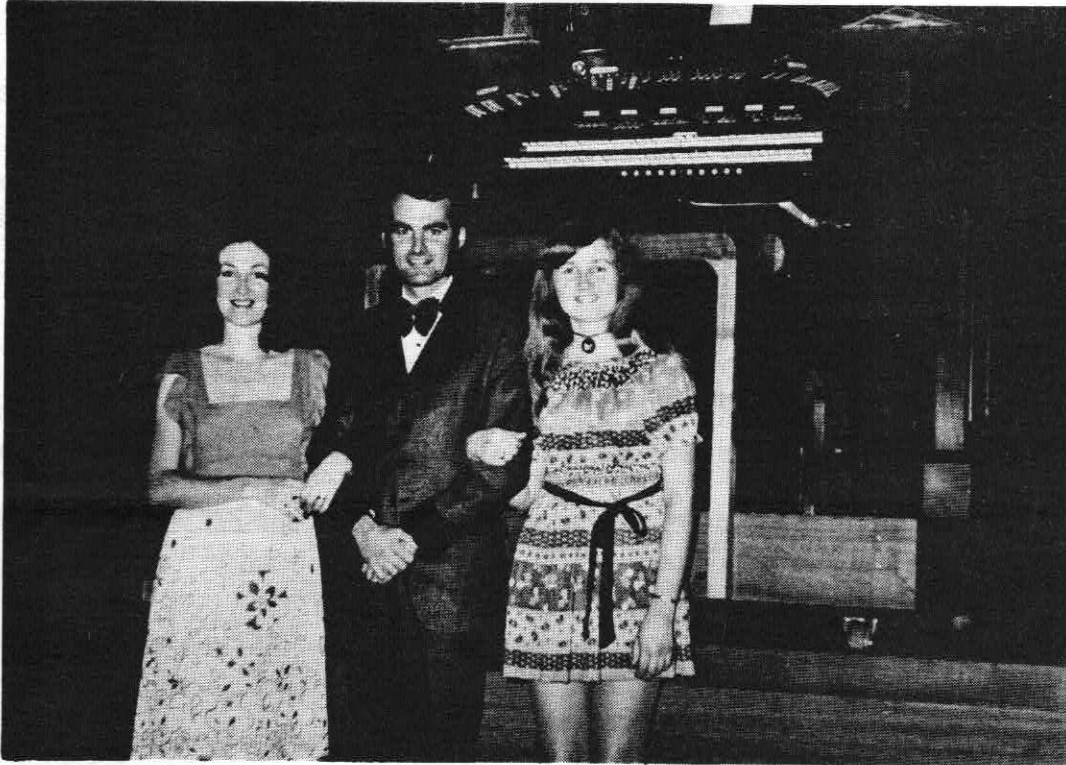
Sunday 27th May, 1973 at Marrickville Town Hall. Another of our popular free Sunday afternoon concerts will feature our talented member Ray Thornley, a talented young organist with a refreshing approach to the theatre organ. More details next month.

Sunday 8th April, 1973 at 3.p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Penshurst Street, Penshurst. The organist is David Parsons who will be playing a Conn "Rhapsody" organ.

---

### CLOSING CHORD

It is with regret that we announce the passing of our member Jack Sutton of Oatley on 28th February, 1973. Jack had been an enthusiastic member of TOSA for some years. I know the committee and members of TOSA will join me in expressing our sorrow to Mrs. Sutton on her recent bereavement.



Julie Madden, Heather Moen, and Cliff Bingham seem pleased with their performances at the Chatswood Community Hospital Concert.

#### CHATSWOOD CONCERT PLEASURES.

Tuesday evening, 6th March, saw an appreciative audience enjoy an interesting and entertaining evening of organ music presented by two of our more useful members, Heather Moen and Cliff Bingham.

Heather's programme was made up of two segments of classic organ music, which included "Nun Danket alle Gott" by Karg Elert (a very impressive piece with which to begin the evening). This was followed with works by Mozart, Mendelsohn, Handel and Bach, including the very beautiful "Sheep May Safely Graze". The magnificent "Gothique Suite" by Boellmann concluded a well-played programme from a talented young musician. Mention should also be made of the excellent stop registration employed by Heather (in spite of several ciphers from the organ.)

Cliff's programme was in the traditional theatre idiom and included "That's Entertainment", "Clarinet Polka", "Twelfth Street Rag", and the "Washington Post March". A dashing "Chit Chat Polka" ensured an encore and Cliff responded with a very grand and moving performance of "Amazing Grace".

Associate artist for the evening was popular soprano Julie Madden whose presentation included "Summertime", "I could have Danced all Night", "Climb Every Mountain", and a beautiful "Danny Boy". She was very tastefully accompanied by Cliff at the Wurlitzer.

To sum up, an enjoyable and varied evening of music from three talented young musicians.

BIG 1920's NOSTALGIA NIGHT!!

SILENT MOVIES AT MIDNIGHT.

At the Lyceum Theatre Sydney on Friday, 17th August; there will be a SILENT FILM NIGHT commencing at MIDNIGHT, with an organ interlude from 11.30 p.m. on. The programme will consist of a 1914 Newsreel - a 1916 Charlie Chaplin comedy - a 1918 Stan Laurel comedy (note - Stan Laurel solo and not with his partner Oliver Hardy), AND Lon Chaney in the full length film "Phantom of the Opera". The audience are asked to wear 1920's costumes or gear if they possibly can. Our member Eric Smith will provide the organ accompaniment to the movies as well as the 11.30 p.m. interlude. Proceeds will go to the Methodist Homes.

With the vast amount of promotion available to the Wesley Centre through the medium of the Lyceum Theatre, this looks like being a SELL-OUT. Keep Friday, 17th August at midnight FREE on your calendar, for it looks like being a WILD and WONDERFUL night of nostalgic fun.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS BACK FOR ONE FABULOUS NIGHT ONLY!

---

BITS AND PIECES.

Ritchie Willis and Norm Read, who operate the Selwyn Theatre, have recently purchased a Thomas "Lawrence Welk" horseshoe spinet organ and have offered it to TOSA for four organ parties per year in aid of the Capitol organ fund. Many thanks to these enthusiastic members for their very generous offer.

Past Committee members are asked to return any committee badges they may have salted away, as present committee members are having to appear badgeless at TOSA functions. Contact the secretary.

Committee members are also reminded that the next committee meeting is on 7th May, at 7.15 p.m. sharp in St. Anne's Hall, Strathfield.

Deadline for the May issue of TOSA NEWS is 24th April. Address all copy to the editor at the address in the society directory.

TOSA NEWS urgently requires the services of a competent and fairly accurate typist for one night a month. If you can help in this very practical way, please contact the editor on 798.3127 during office hours.

Ray Garrett informs us that while he is overseas, all sales of the tapes he was handling will be managed by Jim McKern who can be contacted on 84-3546.

FOR SALE:- Latest A.W.A. all-transistor 30 watt stereo amplifier with matching speakers in cabinets. New price - \$550. Sell for \$360. Phone 759.2731 evenings.

---

EXTRACT FROM THE "GOSFORD STAR". We wish our new chapters in both Gosford and Nowra every success and are happy to offer them the facilities of TOSA

GOSFORD STAR, Wednesday, March 14, 1973.

## Theatre organ society chapter

The NSW Division of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia has given Max and Dell Geddes of Gwendolen Avenue, Umina Beach, permission to form the Central Coast Chapter of the society.

The inaugural meeting of the Chapter will be held at their home on Friday evening, March 23, at 8 pm.

Max and Dell Geddes both feel that on the Central Coast there are many owners of electronic organs who originally purchased their instruments as the home counterpart of the mighty theatre pipe organ.

Unfortunately the halcyon days of the theatre organ has passed; but thanks to the efforts of the members of the Theatre Organ Society not quite, for the Prince Edward Theatre Organ is safely housed and regularly played at the Marrickville Town Hall and the Capitol Theatre Organ is for the time being in the care of the society.

In calling the inaugural meeting of the Central Coast Chapter of the Theatre Organ Society, it is hoped that organ enthusiasts will come forward and meet for regular social theatre organ style musical evenings, participate in the organising of popular concerts, participate in discussions on all types of organs, whether they be electronic or pipe; and from time to time the opportunity of meeting and hearing some of the well-known theatre organists who are members of the society.

Max and Dell Geddes have lived at Umina for

just on 10 years and they have always taken a keen interest in the promotion of organ music on the Central Coast.

When living in Sydney they were both very active members of the Theatre Organ Society's NSW division.

Max held the positions of committeeman, T.O.S.A. magazine editor and society auditor. Dell held the position of society hostess.

SEE YOU AT  
THE  
CONVENTION!

Printed for T.O.S.A. by Lindsay Offset, Summer Hill.