

TOSA NEWS

March 2016
Volume 55 No.2

Price: \$2.00

**Australia's World Class Musician
Tony Fenelon OAM plays
a World Class**

**Mighty Wurlitzer
and more**

**at the air conditioned New Orion Theatre,
155 Beamish St., Campsie**

Sunday 17 April 2016

2:00pm - 4:30pm



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www.tosa.net.au

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Printing by Ernie Vale & Graeme Costin

From the President



Our year of theatre organ concerts got off to a great start with David Bailey and his easy listening style of music. He can draw out the wonderful sounds of the Wurlitzer to suit whatever genre of music he chooses.

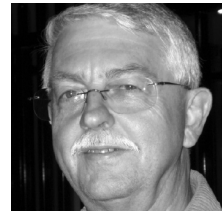
As those who attended are aware, the day was not without its "difficulties" for which I apologise profusely. Fortunately these difficulties are few and far between. Our next show in April should be free of these distractions.

I have regularly pointed out that this is your Society and its successful operation is dependent on you. Certainly the actual production of a concert is attended to by a small dedicated group of members but we also rely on you.

Your regular attendance at concerts, continued membership, introduction of others to concerts and encouragement for others to "belong" to the Society - all are necessary for the continued success of your Society. A "selling point" when discussing membership is that applications over the next couple of months will cover the period to 30th June 2017. Other benefits are outlined elsewhere in this publication. To paraphrase that old saying - "Your Society needs YOU"

Sincerely,
Geoff Brimley

Editorial



Hello Members, Please continue to promote TOSA concerts to friends and acquaintances. If TOSA is to survive for future generations we need your help to increase the membership. There will be more opportunities to get together in a social atmosphere when the Christie Organ comes online.

As you will read in this issue quite a lot of progress has been made with the restoration and installation of the Christie in recent months.

For those of you who couldn't get to Hector Olivera's concert at Sydney Town Hall there is an article about it in this issue. He certainly gave every rank a work out.

The American Theatre Organ Society Convention this year will be an opportunity to hear 5 different makes of organ, 13 different organs & organists in 12 different venues in and around Cleveland. What a smorgasboard of talent, different theatre organs and installations. It is great to see that Donnie Rankin, Nathan Avakian and Justin LaVoie are included in the program.

Enjoy the music,
Ernie Vale
PO Box A2322
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235
editor@tosa.net.au

From the Mailbox...



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

Vale Edith Rohanek

TOSA members will be saddened to hear of the passing of Edith Rohanek (late of Croydon Park and latterly of the Bupa Aged Care Facility, Ashfield) on 11th February, aged 90.

Edith and her late husband Frank were stalwart members of the Society mainly involved with the refreshments and candy bar during interval at concerts for many years.

Vale former TOSA President, Walter Pearce

TOSA members will be saddened to learn of the passing of former President and Membership Secretary Walter Pearce on 23rd February. Walter joined the Society in 1993 and my first memory of his "hands-on" approach to the Society was helping to re-wire the wind chest bottom boards for the Marrickville Wurlitzer. Walter later became Membership Secretary then served as President between 1997 - 2004. Walter and his late wife Jenny were involved with the set up/pack up before and after concerts as well as Member's playing events. Walter really enjoyed taking his turn at the console on players days playing his favourite numbers.

Walter also negotiated the current Member's practice access at Marrickville with the co-operation of the Marrickville Library. Walter also wrote the computer program for membership - one which provided much detail not available on current commercial programs.

Neil Palmer & Geoff Brimley

To Watch Out for

TOSA NSW accepts monetary gifts and bequests.

TOSA is very grateful for the gifts and bequests received from members and friends in recent times.

These gifts and bequests have enabled us to continue the maintenance, operation and presentation of our instruments and to provide a high standard of Musicians including overseas artists to play Theatre Organ for your enjoyment.

We are asking our membership to think seriously about long term support of the Theatre Organ art-form through Estate Planning by remembering TOSA NSW in your will.

When writing or updating your will, please consider including a gift or bequest to the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (New South Wales Division) Incorporated so that future generations may enjoy the theatre organ art-form that we all love.

TOSA NSW ABN 644369019

Increase in Postage

Dear Members, the cost to post TOSA News has increased. To manage costs TOSA invite those who receive TOSA News by Post to consider receiving it by email.

The benefits of receiving TOSA News by email are that you see all the Photos in colour, you receive it directly and on time. You can print it out if you have the facility for "Booklet Printing" on your printer. You can also file the digital copy on your computer or external hard drive thereby saving storage space.

Please email the Editor if you are happy to move to TOSA News by email at:
editor@tosa.net.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

Thursday 14 April

Thursday 12 May

**These dates have been
confirmed by Craig**

Craig Keller on 0418484798
Players and listeners welcome.

**Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday afternoon/evening
at 2:30pm to 7:00pm**

**Monday 28th March is
Easter Monday
Monday 25 April is Anzac Day**

**Both days are Public Holidays
so no players days**

Players and listeners welcome.

Please contact John Batts
0420424103 or Neil Palmer on
9798 6742 after 7:00pm
to confirm availability

Omni D180 Wurlitzer Organ

This organ which was purchased in 1989 by my father and after his death in 1991 it was placed in my storeroom. Although it is in mint condition the playing mechanism has deteriorated as a result of never being played and because of its age I feel it would be almost impossible to have it repaired .

I thought someone might be interested in it for parts or maybe a rebuild into something else as it has a solid timber body.

Contact Marlene Beer at design.team@live.com.au



Free to Valve - Era enthusiast/collector

Lowrey FL 220 console with 2 x 61 note keyboards, 25 note detachable pedal dept., and all stop switches. Approximately 75 valves together with heavier internal items removed for ease of lifting; stored nearby.

Played in the same church since 1961. Maintained by Peter Held since 1989. Schematics etc., available.

Possibly adaptable to "Virtual Organ" concept.

Location: Clempton Park

Phone Peter on 02 9759 5174

Original 1940s Hammond Solovox Organ attachment for piano

This musical treasure was purchased in Shanghai in the 1940s by Raisa Andreevna Dunn and brought to Australia in the early 1950s when she migrated here with her husband and two children.

Raisa's daughter Irina Dunn remembers the musical evenings at home around the piano in Cammeray in Sydney, when Raisa played the piano and little organ simultaneously, the left hand taking the bass line on the piano and the right hand playing the treble on the Solovox.

"We sang everything, from Russian folk songs, to the current musicals, to Australian favourites like Waltzing Matilda, and these are among the happiest memories of my life," she says.

The family's friends and relatives gathered regularly at Raisa's household on Sunday afternoons to sing and to listen to recitals by Raisa and many of her gifted musical friends.

From the age of five, little Irina began to take music lessons and started performing on the Solovox and piano, much to the delight of the music lovers in attendance.

Some guests brought their instruments along, including piano accordions, a clarinet and guitars, and when that happened, the entire neighbourhood of Folly Point rushed to join in. The Aussie housewives contributed plates of lamingtons, sausage rolls and sandwiches to add to the Russian fare Raisa had prepared, while the men in their shorts and thongs lugged Eskies of beer and wine to add to the vodka already on the table.

The resulting parties of native and new Australians were the jolliest ever held on that little peninsula!

Years passed, and in the 1990s, the Solovox was in need of repair and restoration, so when Irina approached the eccentric Jed Stone, "the piano man", for advice, he recommended Hammond organ specialist Peter Held.

This is what Jed wrote to Irina at the time (when letters were still being written):

"The job is beyond me and my mate Robbie, the electronics hobbyist, but I've tracked down a mad Irishman, Peter Held, who specialises in early valve Hammond organs which he repairs for churches. He knows and loves the Hammond Solovox and is prepared to repair your mother's at a Non-Megabuck Rate as long as you're not in a hurry. He has the schematics and know-how to do so. I've checked him out and, although I am Jewish myself, I have many contacts among the

Christian persuasion, and his work is first class and very reasonable as regards rates."

Peter Held did a brilliant job and Irina enjoyed the Solovox for many years until now, when she wishes to sell it and find a good home for it.

As an added bonus, Irina has recently uncovered the original settings sheet for the Solovox, which lists the combination of stops on the side of the little organ to mimic the strings, woodwinds and horns of the orchestra.

In all, there are 77 combinations!

"I would love my Solovox to go to someone who appreciates not only the technical construction of this antique instrument, but also its versatile musical qualities," Irina Dunn adds.



If you are interested, please contact Irina on 0403 486 363, or email irinadid@ozemail.com.au.

The Solovox keyboard is fitted under the upper register of the piano keyboard.

The Solovox organ is valve operated and sits on the left in this photo.





Show & Membership Prices

	All Artists
Non-members	\$35
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$30
Family 2 Adults incl 1 or more children	\$65
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 \$15 cash by completed Voucher at Box Office

Annual Membership Fees : \$35.00 for Full membership, and \$25.00 for Concession, Country, Interstate & Overseas.

Membership enquiries Geoff Brimley (02) 6351 3122
membership@tosa.net.au

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

ATOS Annual Convention *The In-Theatre Sound*
Cleveland 2016 USA

TREASURES OF THE WESTERN RESERVE II (PLUS 3!)

Overture - Sunday, July 3, 2016

Detroit Senate Theatre - *Richard Hills* at the 4/34 Wurlitzer
Stahls Automotive Museum, Chesterfield, Michigan -
Justin LaVoie at the 3/23 Wurlitzer

Monday, July 4, 2016

Cleveland Grays Armory - *Mark Herman* at the 3/15 Wurlitzer
Cleveland Masonic Auditorium and PAC -
Jonas Nordwall at the 4/28 Wurlitzer

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Cleveland Masonic Auditorium (PAC) -
Young Theatre Organist Competition
Cleveland Masonic Auditorium (PAC) -
Don Minervini at the 4/28 Wurlitzer
Mansfield Renaissance Theatre -
Jelani Eddington at the 3/20 Wurlitzer

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Sandusky State Theatre - *John Lauter* at the 3/8 Page
Lorain Palace Theatre -
Ron Rhode at an original 3/10 Wurlitzer installation
Connor Palace Theatre - *David Gray* at the 3/17 Kimball

Thursday, July 7, 2016

Members' Forum, Seminars, and Workshops
Canton Palace Theatre - *Nathan Avakian* at the 3/10 Kilgen
Akron Civic Theatre - *Jerry Nagano* at the 3/19 Wurlitzer

Encore - Friday, July 8, 2016

Marion Palace - *Donnie Rankin* at the 3/10 Wurlitzer
The Ohio Theatre - *Clark Wilson* at the 4/32 Robert Morton

For more information go to www.atos2016.org

Julius Organ Available

Julius Electronic Organ. A product of the 1960s with solid state circuitry and valve amplifier.

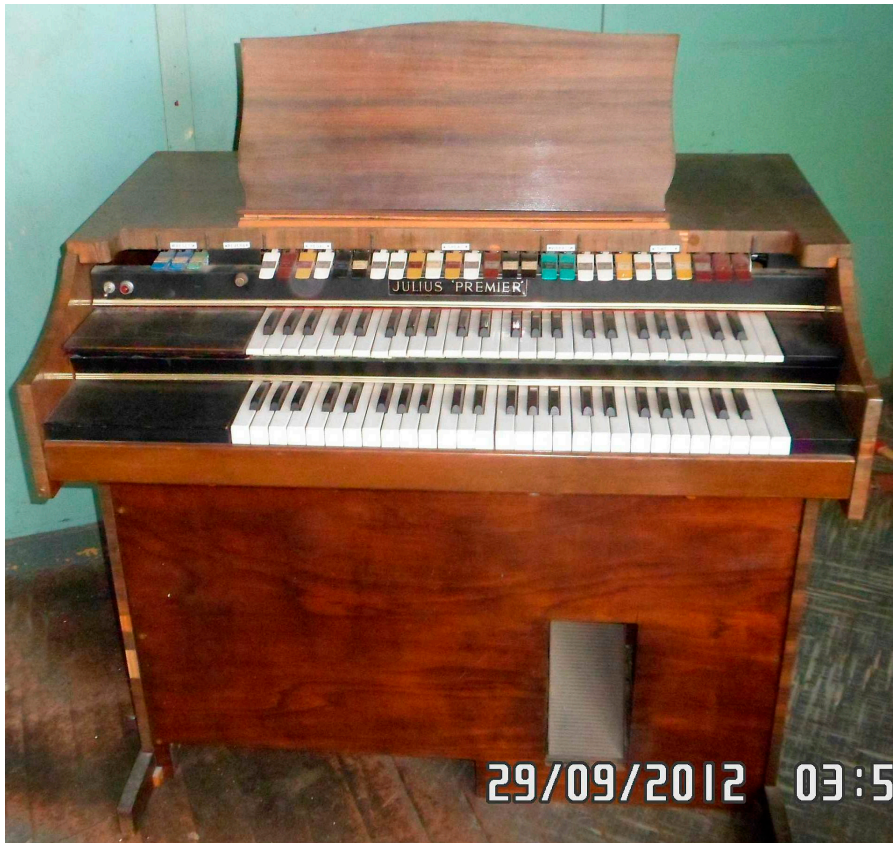
Two manuals of 4 octaves (49 notes) FF-f. One octave of pedals (not shown on photograph) and an organ bench (also not shown).

Documentation relating to circuitry available.

Needs work with particular focus on amplifier.

Available for removal from Asquith.

Contact Geoff Lloyd on 0419 261 218



Australia's World Class Theatre Organist

Tony Fenelon OAM

plays

our World Class Mighty Wurlitzer



including accompanying
the **Tom & Jerry Cartoon - The Cat Concerto**



playing Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody"

**Do you remember "Cinerama" at the movies?
Tony takes you on a *Roller Coaster Ride*
in Blue Ray on screen
playing the music titled "Roller Coaster"**

Sunday 17 April 2016 2:00pm - 4:30pm

at the air-conditioned for your comfort

**New Orion Theatre
155 Beamish St., Campsie**

**Please come along for a fun afternoon
and bring your friends**

***Remember if it is your friends first time
they only pay \$15 by completing a voucher
available on www.tosa.net.au or
at the door on the day of the concert***

Tickets : \$ 35; Concession \$ 30; Members \$25

Family ie 2 Adults including 1 or more children \$65

Adult Group of 10 or more \$22/person

Students up to 25 years Free on confirmation of student status.

First Time Patrons to a TOSA Concert, \$15 by completing a Voucher and paying at the box office on the day of the show. See www.tosa.net.au

For the best reserved seats you can book securely on trybooking.com by going to www.tosa.net.au then Events, click on the Artists name/show title then scroll down to buy your ticket, click on it, select your preferred seat/s and complete the purchase. Visa & Mastercard accepted.

CHRISTIE REPORT. FEBRUARY 2016.

From Christie Project Leader Robert Gliddon

Photos by Barry Tooker and Ernie Vale

Work resumed at West Ryde on 11th. January following the Christmas break. Prior to this time John Weismantel and myself visited David & Deirdre McMullan's place at Mittagong to remove more of the Christie pipework which has been stored there for some time. The McMullan's storage space is required to accommodate the household effects of one of their family members. We intend soon to remove the remaining Tuba pipes as a few of them will require work prior to installation.

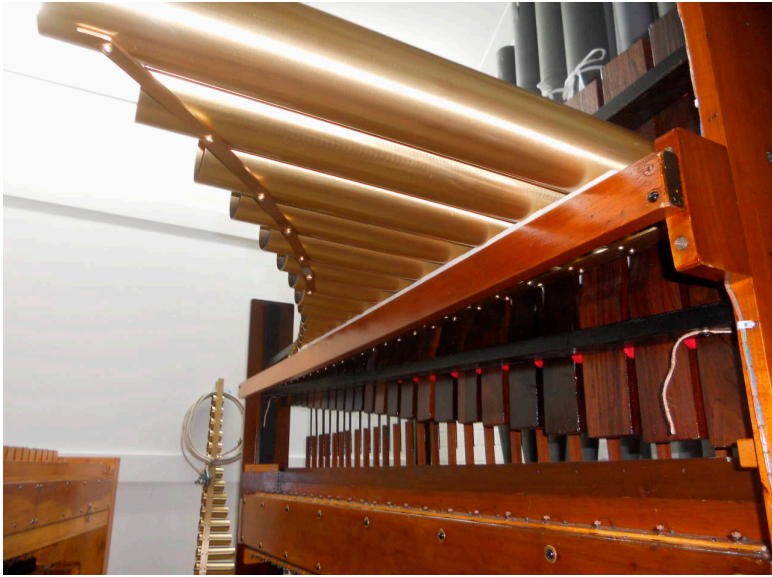
A great deal of time has been expended in re-assembling the Christie Marimba/Harp Unit as there are almost 1,000 screws in it. Final adjustment on wind is currently being undertaken before mounting in the southern end of the Main Chamber.



Marimba ready to be mounted on the wall in main chamber

During the Christmas Holidays I collected the fully restored heavy brass resonators from Lance and Heather Hutchinson's. Their family business (which has been operating for over 100 years) refinishes and/or plates metal and I think our brass

resonators probably didn't look this good when new back in 1930.



Note the lustre on the Marimba resonators

The Hutchinsons donated their time and work to the project. A letter of thanks from the Committee to them is in order. If you wish to know further about their business there is a very interesting web site if you Google - S. Cook and Sons.

It has been decided the Kimball Celesta unit (a donation, fully restored, by Russ Evans) will similarly be elevated adjacent to the main swell shutters after the Marimba is mounted.



The Celesta as it was being unpacked from the shipping crate

Restoration of the tremulants is almost complete. The metal supports for the Main Chamber manual pipework have been painted ready for erection when the Marimba and Celesta are in position.

Just this week John Andrews has made a trip to Melbourne including a visit to Tim Gilley the pipemaker and repairer. John transported some pipes for Tim to work on that were badly damaged during storage . These included three Diaphones, 8ft "C" and "C#" Diapasons and seven Strings from the 8' octave. He returned with a repaired "A#" Diaphone which had been badly "hacked about" either in the theatre or in its first installation at the Church.

John also collected the Christie Sleigh Bell Unit (ex Savoy Theatre, Enfield) which is a donation to the project from T.O.S.A. (Victorian Division) They are the only set in Australia and we're grateful for their gift which should be acknowledged by letter.

The Roxy, Parramatta, Christie Piano has been inspected recently and the "player action" removed for restoration. Likewise the rotary pump will need rebuilding. The piano whilst it needs the cabinet refinished is in quite good condition and the piano action which received attention from David Cross sometime ago only requires minor adjustments.

CHRISTIE REPORT - MARCH 2016.

From Christie Project Leader Robert Gliddon

Photos by Ernie Vale

CONSOLE

- Accompaniment 1st. & 2nd. Touch keys wired to Uniflex Input Boards.
- Solo keys wired to Uniflex.
- Buttons and keycheek Buttons wired to Uniflex.
- Woodwork is nearing completion.



Uniflex Input Boards at rear of console



David Badman and John Weismantel connect wiring to stop rail

CHAMBERS

Thanks to David Badman, together with his equipment and expertise, last Wednesday saw the positioning of the very heavy Kimball Celesta Unit. It would have been impossible without suitable lifting gear to locate the unit in the corner of the Main Chamber.



The Celesta now in place in the Main Chamber

Russ Evans has been notified and thanked for his donation of both the unit and its restoration prior to it leaving his workshop. He has expressed great pleasure at being able to contribute to our latest instrument.

- Full rebuilding of the Sleigh Bell Unit (kindly donated by T.O.S.A. Victorian Division) is almost complete.
- The Tuba rank has been transported to John Parker's Workshop at Ermington. An assessment of repairs has been completed and will be the subject of a separate paper to be presented to the Committee on Monday night. This is the final rank which requires a good deal of restoration necessitating work by Melbourne Pipemaker Tim Gilley.
- We have removed the final items stored at McMullan's in Mittagong and we thank them for their participation in our project.

- The 37 note (from Middle "C") Chrysoglott original to the instrument has been stored at Betty Weismantel's.
- Making of muffler covers for the Marimba/Harp Unit is well underway. The Marimba hammers will need to be refaced to increase the volume from that unit. Once these two items are done the Marimba will be positioned on legs already constructed adjacent to the Diaphone/Diapason Offsets.
 - Rebuilding of the last tremulant is nearing finality.



One of the completed Tremulants

- Two pipe feet from the 16' octave of the Tibia which have been missing for sometime have been located on the roof of the Main Chamber at Marrickville.

Robert Gliddon.

I said to the wife, 'Guess what I heard in the pub? They reckon the milkman has made love to every woman in our road except one.' And she said, 'I'll bet it's that stuck-up Phyllis at number 23.'

Max Kauffmann

Hector Olivera plays The Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ

Monday 7th March at 12:30pm saw many organ enthusiasts and lunch time patrons assemble in the Town Hall to experience the musicianship and mastery of one of the world's most dynamic organists - Hector Olivera from Argentina.

It was some 30 years since Hector had played in Sydney and Queensland. Those members of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (TOSA) who attended the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) Convention based in Philadelphia last year enjoyed Hector playing the Kimball Theatre Organ at Dickinson High School as part of that convention program. We certainly looked forward to hear Hector on the magnificent Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ. Thank you Robert Ampt - City Organist - for inviting Hector to give this organ a work out.

Hector entered the Buenos Aires Conservatory as a child prodigy at the age of six and since then Maestro Hector Olivera has become one of the world's most sought-after concert organists.

America's The Times-Reporter describes an evening with Mr. Olivera as:

"An event, a happening, a joyful celebration of the sheer power and pressure that a true virtuoso like Hector Olivera can unleash in a concert hall."

Born in Buenos Aires, Mr Olivera began playing the organ when he was three. At age five he played for the legendary Eva Peron. At 12 he entered the University of Buenos Aires and by 18 had performed for heads of state and celebrities throughout Latin America. When offered a scholarship at the renowned Juilliard School of music in New York, he moved to the United States. Three years later, Mr. Olivera's outstanding professional career was launched when he won the American Guild of Organists' National Improvisation Contest.

Mr Olivera has performed solo concerts throughout the USA, Europe, Asia, Australia, Central and Latin America and as guest

soloist with prominent symphony orchestras world wide.

He has performed in venues from Carnegie Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, Constitution Hall to the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, as well as major events like the Olympic Games and the Newport Music Festival.

He played the following program on March 7th 2016:

Prelude and Fugue in E flat Major

"St Anne" BWV 552

Johann Sebastian Bach (1658-1750)

Prelude Fugue and Variation

Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

Suite Gothique

I *Choral*

II *Minuet*

III *Priere a Notre-Dame*

IV *Toccata*

Leon Boellman (1862-1897)

Improvisation on a submitted theme

The submitted theme being "Waltz Sing Matilda"

Hector Olivera

Hector was given free rein at the console, having to select all the ranks he wanted to use as he played each piece of music as well as having to turn the pages of the music himself. Thankfully he had been able to spend several hours practising the pieces of music and familiarising himself with the organ the day before. From where I was sitting he appeared to use every rank on the organ at various times during the performance, including the 64ft reed. It was an absolute treat to see this master organist at work fully utilising all the sounds available to him as appropriate to each

piece in the program. At one point during the Prelude Fugue and Variation his registration seemed somewhat muddy and Hector quickly closed several ranks to bring back a better clarity of sound. It was a truly dynamic and fearless exhibition of an artists enjoying the instrument including some magic pedal work throughout.

Thank you again Robert Ampt - City Organist for the opportunity to hear a master at work on one of the world's best concert organs. Thanks must also go to Sydney City Council for the restoration and maintenance carried out on this organ over recent years and for continuing the Free Lunchtime organ recital series.

**Hector remarked as he left Sydney Town Hall -
"Unbelievable".**



**Hector at the console of Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ
post the concert**

Photo by Ernie Vale

Members Diary

Monday 4th April Committee 7:00pm

**St Columb's Anglican Church, West Ryde
Home of the Christie Cinema Organ**

Sunday 17 April 2016

2:00pm - 4:30pm

Tony Fenelon OAM

plays

Our Mighty Wurlitzer

at the air-conditioned

New Orion Centre Theatre

155 Beamish St., Campsie

**Try and bring a friend or two
as Tony has some treats in store**

Book at www.tosa.net.au - Events **OR**

Contact Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 Before 8:00pm

Radio FINE MUSIC 102.5 "Colours of the King" (program of the Organ Music Society of Sydney) 2nd Saturday of each month, 6pm till 7pm

***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.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

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**PRINT
POST
100004836**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Official Publication of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc.

7 Aldinga Ave., Gerringong NSW 2534

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