

JULY, 1994



2/11 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ
Marrickville Town Hall

TOSA *NEWS*



3/17 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ
Orion Centre Campsie

One of America's top Artists Direct from the USA **CHARLIE BALOGH**



First Australian Tour
ORION CENTRE, CAMPSIE
Sunday, 24th July at 2pm

Volume 33
Issue 7
PRINTED BY TOSA

The Official Publication of Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc.
G.P.O. Box 67, Sydney, NSW, 2001
Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. N.B.H. 1038

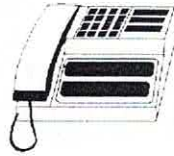
Price
\$1.00

TOSA NEWS

JULY, 1994

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (NSW DIVISION) Inc.

* DIRECTORY *



PATRONS:

Ian Davies
Mayor of Canterbury, Ald. John Gorrie

PRESIDENT:

Cliff Bingham (Work) 708 6566
(Home) 482 1438 (before 9pm)

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Frank Ellis 649 7011
John Shaw 759 5825

SECRETARY:

Mary Stewart 557 5045
G.P.O. Box 67, Sydney, 2001

ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

Robert Gliddon

TREASURER:

Jim Booker 644 5929

ASSISTANT TREASURER:

Bill Schumacher 985 7318

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Walter Pearce 716 0151 (after 7 pm)
P.O. Box 243, Burwood, 2134

COMMITTEE:

Neil Palmer 798 6742
Ross Adams 639 6343
Barry Tooker 744 1535
Colin Groves 745 2417
John Parker

Paul Luci (043) 74 1108

PRACTICE CONVENOR (Orion):

Paul Luci (043) 74 1108

RESEARCH & ARCHIVES:

Ian Cameron (048) 411 616

TOSA NEWS EDITOR:

Colin Groves 745 2417
P.O. Box 1257, Burwood, 2134

TOSA PRINTER:

Robert Gliddon

CONCERT TAPE HIRING:

Neil Palmer 798 6742

TICKET SECRETARY (Concert Bookings):

George Newell 750 0362 (Mon - Fri: 10am - 6pm)

ARTIST LIAISON OFFICER:

Bill Schumacher 985 7318
8 Wharf Rd, Brooklyn, 2083

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Kevin Rowland, noon - 8 pm
Mobile Phone (018) 44 2308 (STD rates apply)
Barry Tooker (Home) 744 1535 (Work) 550 5400

CONCERT RECORDINGS:

Bill Schumacher 985 7318

PROMOTIONS OFFICER:

Kevin Rowland (018) 44 2308

PUBLICITY OFFICER:

John Shaw 759 5825

LIBRARIAN:

Mary Stewart 557 5045

TRANSPORT OFFICER

Ritchie Willis 580 3581



COMING EVENTS

JULY

Monday	4	at	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Monday	18	at	7.30pm	Committee's Planning Meeting
Sunday	24	at	2.00pm	Charlie Balogh Concert Orion Centre Campsie
Wednesday	27	at	7.45pm	Charlie Balogh Workshop Orion Centre Campsie

AUGUST

Monday	1	at	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Wednesday	10	at	8.00pm	Thomas Murray Concert Sydney Town Hall
Sunday	28	at	2.00pm	Ray Thornley Concert Orion Centre Campsie

SEPTEMBER

Monday	5	at	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Wednesday	14	at	7.30pm	Members' Playing Night

OCTOBER

Sunday	9	at	2.00pm	Walter Strony Concert Orion Centre Campsie
Monday	10	at	7.30pm	Committee Meeting



**REMEMBER TO TUNE IN TO
2CBA-FM 103.2**

EVERY MONDAY AT 9.00 pm.
For "Theatre Organ Highlights"
Presented by Chris Styles

Editorial

After a false start or two our Half Yearly General Meeting was successfully conducted on Wednesday, 25th May. It proved to be a very pleasant and informative time for all those members who took the trouble to attend. For those who were unable to be there, some reports and other jottings from the meeting appear on pages 6 and 7 of this issue. It would be a pity if these friendly meetings have to be disbanded through lack of interest on the part of the general membership. This is something that will have to be considered in the near future.

At this meeting a report was made by Vice-President, **John Shaw**, about the setting up of a building fund which has the potential to be of great benefit to the Society and a full outline of this new initiative will appear in next month's **TOSA News**.

On the Wednesday after the **Charlie Balogh** concert, we are fortunate to have secured the services of **Mr Balogh** to run a theatre organ workshop, in which he will pass on many of his suggestions on improved organ playing. This should be of interest to all our members, whether players or simply listeners and it is a rare opportunity to discuss playing techniques and learn more about the **Wurlitzer** itself with a world-famous organist. The workshop is on Wednesday, 27th July and will commence at 7.45pm at the **Orion Centre, Campsie**. The cost is \$15 and we ask that you inform our ticket secretary, **George Newell**, of your intention to participate so that we can cater for the light supper that is provided.

A final reminder to the members who have not yet renewed, that your annual subscription is now overdue. A "last chance" renewal form appears on page 13. Notice too, that these forms can be used by anyone who wishes to join the Society for the first time and can be passed on by you, our current members, to interested friends and acquaintances.

Best Wishes
Colin Groves



On the mailing sticker on the back page of your **TOSA News** you will find the date your membership is paid up to, after your name and membership number. If it still reads 30/6/94 (or before) then your fees are probably due for the year, July '94 to June '95. We remind you that all subscriptions are due in **JUNE** regardless of the month in which you originally joined.

Now is the time to keep continuity of membership, and don't miss out on TOSA's news and activities!

If you sent payment DURING THE LAST THREE WEEKS don't worry. TOSA News and Membership Cards are printed and labelled well in advance - your subscription will be processed in-time for the next issue.

On page 13 of this issue you will find a **Renewal Form** to fill in and present with your subscription. The small print will explain the amount to be paid. Since there was no concert last month and the next one is not until the 24th July, I hope you will send your subscription by post if you are running late.

And what better time to have your friends join for the first time!

It was good to see how many members' spouses have joined up for the first time this year (about 16, so far). Their names, along with 3 other brand-new members, will be found in the New Members column on this page.

Walter Pearce

Membership Secretary

P.O. Box 243

Burwood, 2134

WELCOME TO
NEW
MEMBERS

We are very happy to welcome the following new members. TOSA wishes you all a long and musical association with our society :

- John and Patricia Neech - Charmhaven
- Phillip Bongers - Yagoona
- Iris Walkley - Goulburn
- Ann Berry - Charmhaven
- Maria Cornish - Mona Vale
- Michelle McLean - Queanbeyan
- Marjorie Gordon - Epping
- Albert Hardy - Bexley
- Noreen Salmon - Glenhaven
- Helen Leeder - Croydon
- Doreen Tuck - Mosman
- Max Wootten - Peakhurst
- Elvy Groves - Casula
- Betty Rose - Macquarie Fields
- Jennifer Pearce - Croydon
- George Minett - Regents Park
- Juanita Weekes - Wentworthville
- Jean Newell - Punchbowl

Articles in this journal do not necessarily represent the views of the committee nor those of the editor

THE DEADLINE FOR EACH EDITION OF TOSA NEWS IS THE 12TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH



by Neil Palmer

MAKING LOWERY MAGIC

Tony Fenelon at the Lowery C500 Celebration Symphonic Console. Tracks include : *Swingin' Safari, These Foolish Things, Strike Up The Band, Song For Anna, Nola*, plus more. Compact Disc: \$15.00 Cassette: \$12.00

BEYOND THE ORGAN

Tony Fenelon at the incredible Lowery MX-1. Tracks include : *It's De-Lovely, Hoop De Doo, Green Grass of Home, Summer Samba, All Of Me, Caravan*, plus more. Cassette: \$12.00

Available by Mail Order from :
TOSA (NSW Division) Inc.
304 Parramatta Rd
ASHFIELD NSW 2131

Postage :

Compact Disc - \$2.90; Cassette - \$2.45

N.B. Stocks of these items are very limited!

FOR SALE

Three manual Classical Organ with full 32 A.G.O. Pedalboard. The unit was made in Germany and comes with lots of technical diagrams and instructions, etc., but are all in German. The purchaser will need to spend some time cleaning various contacts on the keyboard and will have to be patient working out what the myriad of controls actually do. There are 6 sets of drawbars for various functions, some sort of synthesizer and even a really good rhythm generator. The stop tabs function correctly and comprise a wide range of sounds in many pitches, including every mutation pitch known to man! There is no guarantee with the unit but at the asking price of only \$1000 it is an experimenter's dream!

For further information, call Colin Tringham on 419 3739.



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

COLIN ADAMSON

Norm Weismantel of Ryde tells us that Colin Adamson will be playing a concert on the Rodgers Classic Organ in the Concord Uniting Church on Sunday, 31st July at 2.30pm. The Church is situated on the corner of Concord Road and Wunda Road, Concord.

Admission is \$5.00, which includes afternoon tea. Proceeds will be given to the Bill Crewes' Exodus Foundation at Ashfield.

A BIG THANK YOU

Vice President, John Shaw, would like to thank, on behalf of the Committee, Mrs M. Zipsin for her donations of hand-woven goods which have been frequently presented as raffle prizes.

Also we wish to thank Colin Tringham for his recent raffle prize donation.

ORPHEUM

The Cremorne Orpheum has recently changed its policy and increased the use of its WurliTzer. This great theatre pipe organ is played for about 20 minutes before the 6.30 and 9.30pm sessions in the main auditorium on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, in addition to the special "Shoppers" sessions held some Wednesday mornings.

The usual, resident organist is, of course, Neil Jensen, but sometimes other well-known organists can be found at the console, including recently our own President, Cliff Bingham.

David Davenport can be heard at the piano in the foyer at most evening sessions.

CHATSWOOD

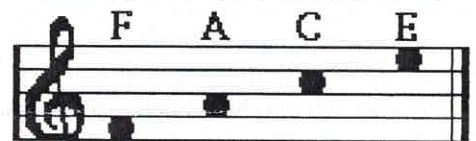
The ex-Arcadia WurliTzer in Willoughby Civic Centre, Chatswood, seems set to open on Sunday, 31st July with David Parsons at the console. Details are not forthcoming at the moment but it will probably be at 2pm.

FOR SALE

WurliTzer Organ
Omni 6000
Hardly Used
Beautiful Unmarked Cabinet
Roll Top
8 Speakers
Padded Stool
Original cost: \$12,000
Selling for \$5,500 o.n.o.
Phone: (047) 36 3451

FOR SALE

Not an organ, but a small audio Cathode Ray Oscilloscope which is almost essential for troubleshooting electronic organs. Now surplus to my requirements, I am asking only \$30.00 for it.
Colin Tringham - 419 3739



THE MUSIC
With Allan Tassaker

Allan Tassaker had occasion to visit his optometrist last week. And who did he notice impatiently loitering outside?

His organ teacher...

"What are you doing here?" asked Allan.

"Waiting for some new 'pupils'!" replied the organ teacher.

The Organ Society of Sydney in association with the
Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division)
proudly present a

Celebrity Recital by Thomas Murray

*Professor of Music and Organist,
Yale University, U.S.A.*

**William Hill & Son, Grand Organ
Sydney Town Hall**

Wednesday, 10 August, 1994 at 8.00 pm.

PROGRAMME

(to include, subject to confirmation)

J.S. Bach – ‘Sinfonia’ from *Cantata No.29*

Two pieces transcribed from the piano repertoire:

MacDowell – ‘A.D. 1620’ from *Sea Pieces, Op.55*

Debussy – *Deuxième Arabesque*

Wagner – ‘Grand March’ from *Tannhäuser*

Mendelssohn – *Sonata No.1 in f minor, Op.65*

Kreisler – *Liebesfreud*

Grieg – Selections from *Peer Gynt Suite No.1*

Thalben Ball – *Elegy in F*

(in memory of C. Hubert H. Parry)

Vierne – ‘Final’ from *Symphonie I*

Tickets \$10.00, \$8.00 (concession) or \$25.00 (Family)

Thomas Murray, concert organist and recording artist, is University Organist and Professor of Music at Yale University, where he conducts the University Choir, teaches graduate and undergraduate organ students and performs on the famed Skinner organ in Woolsey Hall. Widely known for his interpretations of Romantic repertoire and orchestral transcriptions, his recordings (on Gothic, Priory and other labels) are highly acclaimed. *High Fidelity* magazine credited him with “. . . consummate skill and artistry in treating the organ as a great orchestra.”

As a young performer Thomas Murray was a first-place winner of the American Guild of Organists national competition. He has appeared in recitals and lectures at five national conventions of the AGO, which named him International Artist of the Year for 1986. As the recipient of this award he followed such luminaries as Marie-Claire Alain, Jean Guillou and Gillian Weir.

Among his appearances in England have been recitals at the International Congress of Organists in Cambridge (1987) and a lecture/recital for the Incorporated Association of Organists’ London Organ Day (1993). His first performance in Japan came in 1990 with a recital at Suntory Hall in Tokyo. During 1993 Thomas Murray appeared for the first time in South America in two recitals for the Festival Permanente de Organo de Buenos Aires. His current tour, with recitals in Melbourne and Sydney, marks his first appearance in Australia.

Reports from the Half Yearly General Meeting

Secretary's Report

Dear fellow members of TOSA (NSW),

Thank you for all turning up tonight in such splendid numbers, and for helping make our **Half Yearly General Meeting** such a success. We are very grateful for your support and loyalty, and for your strong attendances at all our recent, monthly concerts. We hope you will keep up the good work you have been doing for our Society, and don't forget to bring a friend along as well.

The past 6 months have been a strange mixture of sadness and gladness - sadness at losing our much-loved "first lady", **Miss Noreen Hennessy** and our first Secretary, **Mr John Clancy**; and gladness at the upsurge of young talent, which **TOSA (A'asia)** is currently experiencing, including especially the tremendous success of young **Chris McPhee** internationally. He won the Overall title of the **American ATOS Competition**, as well as the Senior Section, literally "beating the Yanks at their own game".

I would particularly like to thank our two Organ Builders and Technicians, **Mr John Parker** and **Mr Neil Palmer**, without whom the show just couldn't go on. They are both indispensable. And there is a special "thank you" for all those tireless workers behind the scenes, whose selfless and dedicated efforts on behalf of **TOSA (NSW)** never cease to amaze me!

Last of all, I would like to congratulate the President, Executive and Committee of **TOSA** who donate so much of their time, experience and expertise voluntarily, and who work so well as a team. It is mainly due to their efforts that **TOSA** has become the strong, well organised, high-tech, international organisation that it is today, and it is the "envy" of many other musical societies, or so I hear.

Best wishes to you all and I hope to see a lot more of you in the future at some of the Members' Nights, the monthly concerts and the next Annual General Meeting.

Bye for now,
Mary Stewart
Secretary
TOSA (NSW) Inc.

President's Report

Fellow members,

The first six months of my presidency have been both challenging and rewarding. My first challenge was to don a T-shirt and jeans and spend a day with other masochistic members, shifting our latest organic purchase, the **Gordon Kings Christie**.

Activities have included five very successful **Orion** concerts, where attendances have been most gratifying, especially for **Chris McPhee**, when over 500 people turned up to this **Sydney** premiere concert by the most exciting young **Australian** talent to emerge in recent years. Other artists featured were **Tony Fenelon**, **John Atwell**, **David Johnston**, **Bill Schumacher** and myself.

Future concerts will feature a **Fenelon / Atwell** double, leading **American** organists **Charlie Balogh** and **Walter Strony**, in addition to a welcome return appearance by **Ray Thornley**.

On the social side, 45 people enjoyed a members' afternoon at **Epping Baptist Church** in April, when some excellent music was played on the **Christie** organ by **Tom Barber**, **Colin Adamson** and **Chris Styles**, with a short closing number each from **Bill Schumacher** and yours truly.

Sydney is currently rather well-stocked with theatre organs, with more to come, and so another members' afternoon has been arranged at **Mosman Baptist Church** on the rather unique **Standaart** theatre organ. This will be on Sunday afternoon of 12th June.

We are indeed grateful to the diaconates and members of these churches in making their buildings, instruments and kitchen facilities available to **TOSA** in a most willing and agreeable manner.

Members' playing nights at **Campsie** are always popular and more are planned for later this year, with the first being on 29th June.

In August this year, we are joining with the **Organ Society of Sydney** in what is a new and, I believe, exciting venture. We are pooling our resources to present a major organ concert in the

Sydney Town Hall, featuring **Professor Thomas Murray**, University Organist and Professor of Music at the famous **Yale University** in **America**. Widely known for his orchestral transcription playing, his concert on the world famous **Town Hall** organ is not to be missed. More details with biographical notes and sample program material will appear in future issues of **TOSA News**.

May I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to those members who tendered their congratulations and encouragement to me on my election as President. They are genuinely appreciated.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Executive and Committee members for their support and tolerance in what are sometimes lively, long and late committee meetings. I would particularly like to thank our Vice-Presidents - **John Shaw**, whose knowledge of things legal and procedural I have found invaluable in this, my maiden presidency; and **Frank Ellis**, whose vast general experience of things theatrical we have all come to appreciate.

May I also thank the dedicated group of workers behind the scenes who sell tickets, tea, tapes and anything else we can find; who maintain our instruments; who usher at concerts and who generally "get their hands dirty" to make **TOSA** what it is.

Finally a big "thank you" to you, the members, for your support of the various society activities; for indeed, without you there is no society.

Thank you.

Cliff Bingham
President
TOSA (NSW) Inc.

FOUND

Left under a seat in the **Orion Centre** after the May concert - a Christmas table-centrepiece. If the owner is a member who reads this, would you please contact the editor on 745 2417.

Half Yearly General Meeting Reports (Cont'd)

Marrickville Organ

The progress so far :

The instrument was finally taken out of service on 12th February. Work then commenced on preparing the console, ready for its move. This involved carefully removing the combination action's wind chests and associated wiring.

The console was then dismantled into several sections for easier removal.

The main cable had to be pulled through the wall behind the console, up through the dressing room floor and ceiling, through the main chamber into the relay room. Although the cable was cut into sections to make it easier to manage (!) it was still a back-breaking job, as it is extremely heavy.

The section of cable which was coiled in the console dais required two people to get it upstairs into the relay room.

On 7th May, the console was moved to the **Manly Vale** premises of **Peter Jewkes, Pipe Organ Builders** where it will be rebuilt by **John Parker** to accept the new electric stop and combination actions. The manuals and the pedal clavier will be refurbished and the console will be re-polished.

Thanks to **Ross Adams** for providing the transport and to **Barry Tooker, Chris Styles, Bill Schumacher** and **Ian Tullock** for providing the extra muscle needed. **David Morrison**, from **Peter Jewkes'**, was on hand at the Manly Vale factory to accept delivery. Fortunately there were enough people to off-load the console, which meant that **Ian Tullock** and myself were able to remain at **Marrickville** to continue working in the chambers.

The Vox Humana chest and pipe-work have been removed from the main chamber and re-located in the solo chamber. The chimes and sleigh bells units have been removed from the main chamber and stored in the solo chamber, where they will eventually be installed. The 8' Flute offset chest and pipe-work have been placed against the wall previously occupied by the chimes and sleigh bells.

At the time of writing, new PVC

wind lines have been fitted to the 8' Flute offset, to the English Horn chest, to the main tremulant and to the main swell shutters. I can also report that the chamber printed circuit boards for the new relay are well under way.

Neil Palmer

Organ Builder

The console of the **Marrickville Wurlitzer** organ was delivered to the workshops of **Peter D. G. Jewkes Ltd** on Saturday, 7th May and since then has been totally stripped of components.

Work has already begun on refitting the console for the new electric action, with the stop-tab rails being remade to suit the new direct, electric action tab units.

The pedal board is yet to be restored, but the frame has been prepared to be sent to the polisher with the rest of the console cabinet.

It has been realised that it is necessary to have the top of the console and the "horseshoe" facing-top re-veneered. This is due to old age, scratching and general wear and tear. Likewise, other console parts will require special attention to repair split and broken veneer work.

All new equipment has arrived from the US for the job, and it should not be long before we see a revitalised console.

Also at the factory we have the 16' Tibia chest - an addition to the specification. This will undergo a total restoration in the works and be ready for installation to increase the range of the Tibia from 8' pitch to 16'.

All work on the **Wurlitzer** is progressing well and to time schedules in the workshop. As per the agreements made with **TOSA** prior to my merger with the **Jewkes** firm, all work on the **Wurlitzer** is being personally attended to by me, and any staff recruited in assistance are supervised to ensure total quality in workmanship.

I will be pleased to inform you of further information on the work as it comes to hand.

John W. Parker
Director
Peter D. G. Jewkes Pty Ltd

*Barry Tooker has provided some photos which show the removal of the **Marrickville** console and its arrival at the **Jewkes** factory. They are to be found on page 8 of this issue.*

General Business

Amongst the interesting general discussion after the formal reports there were some suggestions made by members for the Committee's consideration. These included the idea that a large TV screen could be used in concerts to show the organists' skills at closer range to the audiences. Also it was noted that the **Wurlitzer** piano is not easily seen to most members of the audience and that something could perhaps be done to raise the piano or to make it more visible when in use by the organist.

Other **Sydney** theatre organs were mentioned by various members, and it was reported :

that the **Hills Centre Christie** project is stalled through lack of funds on the part of the Council;

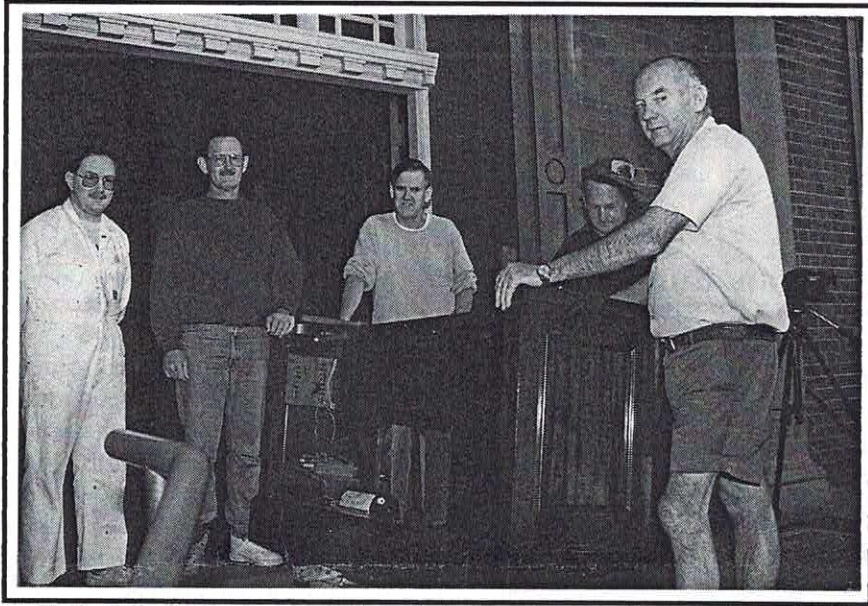
that the **Chatswood Wurlitzer** is nearing completion, but that exact details were unavailable at present;

and that the **State Theatre Wurlitzer** has suffered another serious blow, with some careless party-goers smashing the console into the metal girders of the covered stage. This has caused serious, but repairable, damage to the console. However, it is rumoured that Greater Union is preparing to spend some money on the restoration of the organ. We all certainly hope that this is not just a rumour but a fact.

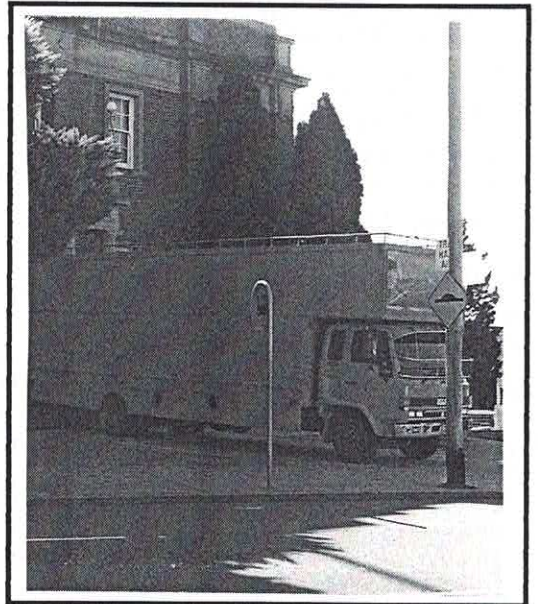
Some time was also spent considering ideas for the placement of **TOSA's** newly acquired **Christie**, with suggestions ranging from Masonic Halls, Leagues Club Auditoriums, church halls, ex-theatres, wedding reception centres, etc. However the President suggested that the first priority for **TOSA** at present is to pay for the refurbishment of **Marrickville**, to fine tune the **Orion** and the **Marrickville** organs and then to provide a suitable venue for the **Christie**, which will hopefully allow easy access for player members.

Marrickville WurliTzer on the move

Saturday, 7th May, 1994



Neil, Bill, Chris, Ian and Ross bringing the console out of the Hall



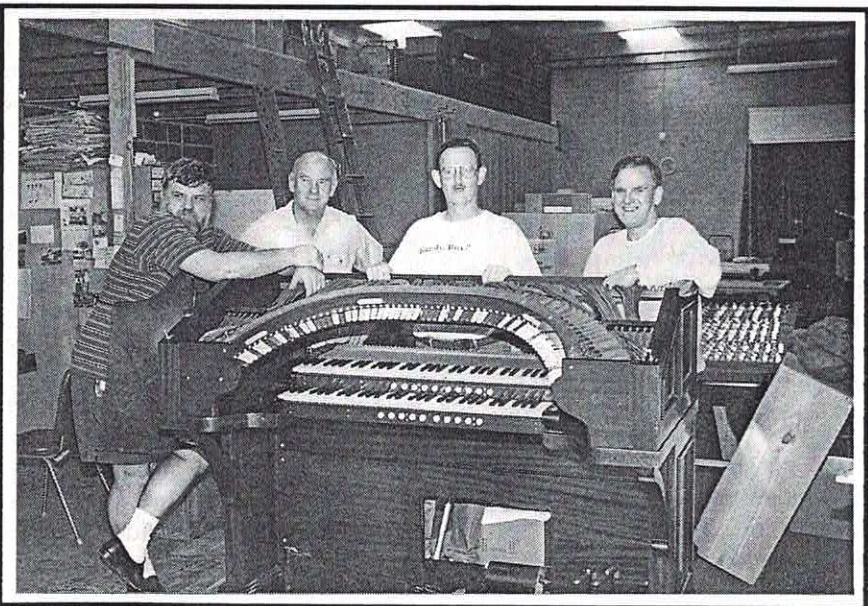
Ross' BIG truck at Marrickville Town Hall



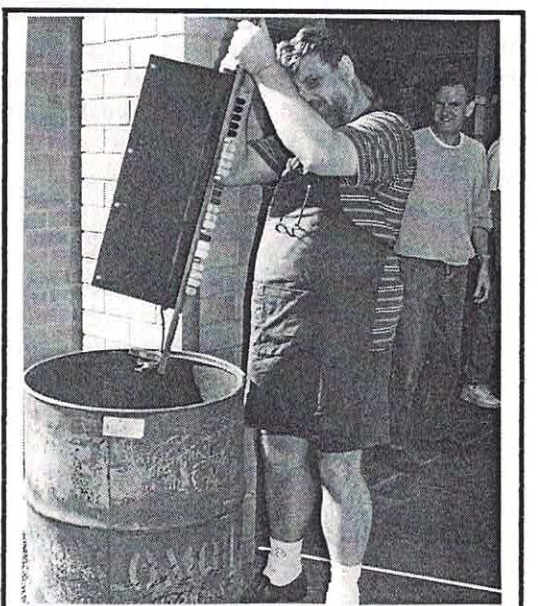
Bill leaves with a 16' Tibia pipe



Re-assembling the console at the Jewkes factory in Manly Vale



David Morrison, Ross, Bill and Chris take a breather



David threatens to dispose of a vital part!

The **LES DENLEY** Story

Les Denley was only 6 years old when he commenced studying the piano under **Florence Young**. About 2 years later he became a pupil of **Dr Arthur Haigh** of **Burwood**, with whom he continued for several years. He took up the study of the church organ, again under the tutelage of **Dr Arthur Haigh**. He was then 13 years of age. It is interesting to note that another of **Dr Haigh's** pupils went on to become a theatre organist - his name was **Reubert Hayes**, who was an honorary member of **TOSA** and a famous name in the theatre organ world.

Les Denley heard his first theatre pipe organ when the **Roxy Theatre Parramatta** first opened its doors to the public, with **Eddie Horton** at the console of the **3/10 Christie** organ. Young Les was immediately captivated by the magnificent sound. His next step was to seek permission to practise on the **Roxy** organ, and this was granted. **Fred Burn**, the theatre's manager, advised him to give up the church organ if he wished to play the theatre organ, and Les accepted his advice.

He began studying under **Knight Barnett**, then in residence at the **Civic Theatre** at **Auburn**. As **Knight Barnett** moved around the **Western Suburbs Cinema Circuit**, Les found his lessons being given on different organs. During this period he played the organs of the **Strathfield Cinema**, **Palatial Theatre Burwood**, **Savoy Theatre Hurstville**, **Roxy** and **Astra Theatres Parramatta**, and **Savoy Theatre Enfield**. Then followed lessons with **Norman Robbins** and **Denis Palmistra**. Les made his first public appearance at the **WurliTzer** of the **Auburn Civic Theatre** (later installed in the residence of the late **John Clancy**). He was later appointed relieving organist for the **Western Suburbs Cinema Circuit**.

Just prior to the Second World War II Les was resident organist at **Reg Payne's Regent Theatre** at **Wentworthville**, at the console of a 3-manual theatre pipe organ of doubtful origin which was described in the theatre's programmes as a "concert organ". **Reg Payne** purchased the **2/7 WurliTzer** installed in the home of

Eustace Dodd, the **WurliTzer** agent, and removal of the "concert organ" from the theatre commenced. About 13 weeks were required to install the **WurliTzer** in the theatre and during this time Les became resident organist at the **Victory Theatre Kogarah**, and also did a season at the **Strathfield Cinema's** 2-manual **Christie** organ.

This was during the period when the **Western Suburbs Cinema Circuit** occasionally presented live stage prologues as part of their programmes and Les, along with every other organist from the Company's chain of theatres, was required to attend the **Civic Theatre Auburn** for a dress rehearsal, which was held on a Saturday morning. After having attended this rehearsal, each organist would be able to play for the stage show when it later appeared in his theatre, without any further rehearsals being necessary. I went along with Les to one of these rehearsals, where what could be expected to happen at such a gathering of top-line organists, did indeed happen - a jam session developed, and what a jam session it was too! Most of the great names were there - **Paul Cullen**, **Denis Palmistra**, **Norman Robbins** (who played *Jealousy*), **Knight Barnett**, **Ray Chaffer**, **Bert Myers**, and, if my memory serves me rightly, **Charles Tuckwell** and a couple of ladies, probably **Ruby Coulson** and **Carol Bowman** or **Ann Holmes**.

It was during his first residency at the **Regent Theatre Wentworthville** that Les and I became firm friends, an association that continued for almost 30 years. To put it in Les' own words, "It is through our long association that I have been kept in touch with the organ world". Which was a very nice compliment indeed.

During the war years Les was pianist in the **Army Entertainment Unit's** band of 10 pieces, which was led by the **ABC** dance band leader, **Jim Davidson**. Here he came into contact with many show business personalities, including **Horrie Dargie**. The first **Hammond** organ Les ever played was in the showroom of **F.E. Wilkes**, where he had been taken by **Knight Barnett** who prophesied that the electronic organ

would be the organ of the future. He was educated at **Parramatta High School** and one of his fellow pupils was **Wilbur Kentwell**. During holiday visits to **Melbourne** and **Brisbane** about 1948, he tried out the **WurliTzer** organs of both cities.

He joined the ranks of **TOSA** members and we were very pleased at that time to add yet another theatre organist to our growing list of "who's who" in the theatre organ world. A sincere, unassuming and very friendly person indeed was **Les Denley**.

Frank Ellis

Sadly, all good things must come to an end and this is the final profile in Frank's fascinating series. I hope we can persuade Frank to find some more historical pieces amongst his files or write down more from his excellent and comprehensive memory of the earlier days of TOSA.

Personally, I know I will miss reading about these great organists and where they played. As editor, I will also miss being able to rely on at least ONE page of every magazine that could be typed up well in advance of the deadline date!

Thank you, Frank, for sharing this knowledge with all of our members. I know a lot of interstate readers also found great interest in many of your profiled organists who had played for some time in their cities, as I have seen these articles mentioned in the Victorian, Queensland and South Australian equivalents of our TOSA News. - Ed.

FOR SALE

Lowery Organ Model H25

With separate Professional Leslie Tone Cabinet

- * Two 61-note manuals
- * 25 note Pedal Board
- * Solid Walnut Cabinet

* Complete with servicing sheets

\$2,000 o.n.o.

Contact: Sue Bills

Tasmania (002) 25 2029

THEATRE ORGAN HIGHLIGHTS - July Programme Features

Hello... Our erstwhile editor (I'd settle for "erudite", **Chris!** - Ed.) has again allowed me some space to run through July's programmes on FM-103.

Monday, July 4th - I've raided **Neil Palmer's** Record Bar, and some of my own CD's, for this **Programme Number 500** (yep folks!) and this programme is the start of my fourth year as presenter (yes, Mum, I've finally made it in **Sydney** radio!). We're featuring **Dwight Thomas, Melissa Ambrose, Arnold Loxam, Ron Rhode** and **Sidney Torch**.

Monday, July 11th - Again Neil has helped me with the recordings for this programme and this is an *all Blackpool-style* programme, featuring **Phil Kelsall, Arnold Loxam, Robert Wolfe** and **Nicholas Martin** - all favourites of the devotees of this kind of entertaining theatre organ music.

Monday, July 18th - In case you haven't made up your mind about **Charlie Balogh's** concert next Sunday (24th July) you will know you want to be there after tonight's programme featuring some tracks from a CD of

Charlie's and as well, the programme will feature our own **John Giacchi, Margaret Hall** and **Ray Thornley**, and **English** organist **Nigel Ogden** (of whom we'll have more in coming weeks).

Monday, 25th July - Talented young **English** organist **Simon Gledhill** in concert in the **UK** earlier this year. My thanks to **Geoff Moore** for this concert and also recordings of **Nigel Ogden's** playing. **Simon** features the **Compton** of the **State Grays** which has its original **Melotone** in use (and thanks to our President, **Cliff Bingham**, for an explanation of just what a **Melotone** is!)

In summary, if you weren't sure what you wanted in the way of new recordings from the Record Bar at our concerts I hope the programmes on the 4th and 11th will assist your choice. Also I can't pass up the opportunity that **Programme 500** brings without sincerely thanking our Vice-President, **Frank Ellis**, and President, **Cliff Bingham**, without whose untiring work on the radio programme prior to my taking over in July 1991 we would not

have got within cooee of five hundred programmes.

Happy listening on Monday nights at 9pm on FM-103.

Chris Styles

FOR SALE

German Organ "Nystrom"
Built in Karlstad

2 61-note manuals coupled
to pedals

32-note pedals coupled to manuals

Quiet German blower, 240v.

Stops 16' to 4' with couplers

3 swell pedals - 8 couplers

Excellent oak case and bench in
good condition - modern style

Tone like a pipe organ

Suit home or church

Ideal for serious student

\$1400

Phone : 521 4136



John and Tony rehearse before the performance



A report on
the concert
can be found
on page 12

Photography
by Barry
Tooker

At Tony and John's Concert on Sunday, 29th May

*Tony and John
congratulate each
other on a wildly
successful concert*

*Compere, Frank Ellis
and Patron, Ald. John
Gorrie draw the raffle*



Faithful concert-goer, "Penelope", poses with Jan Pringle, Shirley Lucke, and our artists



OUR NEXT ARTIST :

CHARLIE BALOGH

Our July concert introduces a new name to the **Australian** theatre organ scene, with the first tour by top **American** organist, **Charlie Balogh**.

Charlie Balogh (pronounced "Baylog") is originally from **Trenton, New Jersey**. His interest in music began at the age of 11, at which time he started organ instruction. He began playing theatre pipe organs in high school. He studied with various teachers and eventually attended **Trenton State College**, where he immersed himself in classical organ studies with **Albert Ludeke**. While in college he performed in supper clubs throughout the area. For a short while, he also studied with **Lee Erwin** in **New York**.

After his college years, **Charlie** worked as an organ technician for several builders on the East Coast of **America**. He also performed in **New Jersey** Night Clubs, travelled with a U.S.O. Show and appeared on **Philadelphia** TV.

From those beginnings, he has emerged to as an exciting and dynamic performer at the theatre organ. Under the guidance of **Lyn Larsen**, **Charlie**

worked as a staff organist at the "**Organ Stop Pizza**" in **Phoenix, Arizona**, from 1973 until 1976. In 1977, he moved to **Grand Rapids, Michigan**, to become organist at the "**Roaring 20's**" restaurant. He continued to perform at the console of the restaurant's magnificent **Wurlitzer** pipe organ for literally thousands of people who visited there each year.

In addition to being featured at the restaurant, **Charlie** and his family bought the business in 1986 and operated it for some time, aptly renaming the restaurant "**Good Time Charley's**". In 1991 they elected to close the business and move back to **Arizona** where **Charlie** rejoined the "**Organ Stop**" musical staff.

In the years he spent at **Grand Rapids, Charlie** recorded 3 very successful albums on the organ in his restaurant. He has also had his own radio programme on **WGHN** in **Grand Haven, Michigan**.

He now plays at the "**Organ Stop Pizza Restaurant**" in **Mesa, Arizona**, and keeps a hectic schedule of concerts throughout the **USA**.

His style can be attributed to a love of jazz and the music of the 30's and 40's, along with classical influences and an extensive background in traditional theatre organ techniques.

He has appeared in concert at many locations around the **USA**. Some of the installations he has played are : **Auditorium Theatre, Rochester, New York; Fox Theatre, Detroit, Michigan; Robertson Center, Binghamton, N.Y.; War Memorial Auditorium, Detroit; Senate Theatre, Detroit; Hinsdale Theatre, Chicago, Illinois;** and many others.

Charlie is a leading artist on the **American** theatre organ concert circuit, and his interpretations of big band jazz have earned him many accolades.

Furthermore, **The American Theatre Organ Society** has engaged him to appear at many of their **National Conventions** -the latest being at the **1993 Chicago Convention**. He is now, and will continue to be, one of **America's** finest artists and we welcome him to **Australian** shores on this his first of, what will prove to be, many successful trips down-under.

SPECIAL EVENT

TOSA has arranged a special **Charlie Balogh** workshop evening to be held at the **Orion Centre** on **Wednesday, 27th July** at **7.45pm**.
Come and learn more about the theatre organ from our distinguished guest.

Admission is \$15 and includes a light supper.

Please contact our ticket secretary, George Newell, on 750 0362 if you wish to attend.

REPORT on the TONY FENELON and JOHN ATWELL Concert

A special thank you to *Barry Tooker* for writing this concert report at very short notice, when the best laid plans of men and mice...!

SUNDAY 29/5/1994

Outside, a beautiful warm autumn day, and inside the ORION CENTRE awaits an expectant crowd. Our compere FRANK ELLIS running a few minutes late, makes his shortest ever introduction - " Ladies and Gentlemen, will you please welcome TONY FENELON & JOHN ATWELL."

An empty console rose from the pit in a blaze of light and from the back of the stage strode our artists, Tony to the grand piano and John to the organ. A nod of the head and they broke into a beautiful rendition of YOUR JUST IN LOVE followed by a nostalgic MIDNIGHT IN MAYFAIR.

Tony then transferred to the console for a solo spot playing THIS IS MY BELOVED and I LOVE TO HEAR YOU SINGING. In a tribute to the artist of the same name he played a FREDDY GARDINER SELECTION which included BODY & SOUL and several other numbers.

John returned to the console while Tony moved across to the piano again for a duet WALTZ IN SPRINGTIME.

It was now time for a solo from John. WHO was followed by a slow sentimental arrangement of DRINK TO ME ONLY. He concluded this spot with a beautifully syncopated BLUESETTE.

Tony now returned to the piano for another duet. This time they played SHOOTING STAR, a tune written by the late great SYDNEY TORCH during the 1940's. This was followed by a short 1500 mm long sheet of music with an arrangement of GEORGE WRIGHT'S QUIET VILLAGE without the birds.

Had Tony another pair of hands he may have been able to supply them.?

WHAT'LL I DO brought back memories of LINDA RONSTADT with NELSON RIDDELL backing her. A lively DANCE OF THE COMEDIANS took them out to interval.

After refreshments and the raffle drawn by our patron and Mayor of the CITY OF CANTERBURY- JOHN GORRIE-

Tony and John returned for another duet THAT'S A PLENTY.

John stayed for another solo spot playing TRUCKIN', an American slang term for strutting or swaggering whatever. A change of tempo took us into IF I LOVED YOU followed by the sweet and beautiful SLEEPING BEAUTY WALTZ composed by PETER TCHAIKOVSKY.

As Tony returned to the piano John told us of his great fortune in hearing the great GEORGE WRIGHT in concert in 1979 and seeing HARRY ZIMMERMAN conduct a stage orchestra while GEORGE accompanied them on organ playing SHEIK OF ARABY. We heard John's arrangement of the same tune.

Tony now returned to the console for another solo spot playing NETHER THE LESS in JESSE CRAWFORD style. After a wonderful RODGERS & HART MEDLEY the audience went wild with its applause.

Another duet featured a novelty number, SMASH & GRAB. John had been fortunate to get the music for this from WALT STRONGY after hearing him play it one time. Next came UNE SOSPIRO - SONG WITHOUT END. John scored and played the orchestral backing for this.

Our duo artists finished with a BEATLES CONCERTO or was it a RHAPSODY.

The audience would not let them go without an encore so

they returned and gave us that great BARRY MANILOW NUMBER I WRITE THE SONGS.

We have been extremely lucky to hear this gifted DUO for a number of years now, and I expect that as long as they give performances of this calibre, we will insist on their return for many more years of encores.

Thank you TONY & JOHN for the wealth of MUSICAL ENJOYMENT you have given us.

One thing which cannot go without a word of thanks is the wonderful lighting effects conjured up by that master of STAGE LIGHTING - MILES PERRY. I am sure that our concerts would be only half as good without MILES' MAGIC.

B. TOOKER.

ANOTHER AUSSIE WINS.

Heath Whale from Victoria has won this year's American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition in the Intermediate Section (18 years and under). Heath, who is only 16 years of age, is the resident organist at the Dendy Theatre, Brighton, and was briefly introduced to Sydney audiences at David Johnston's concert in March this year. Previous winners in this competition have been John Giacchi, Sean Henderson and Chris McPhee.

Heath and his family will be flying to Fresno, California, to accept his award and to play in the winners' concert (2nd July) at this year's ATOS Convention, which will also feature last year's popular overall winner, Chris McPhee. This year there is a play-off for the award of "Overall Winner". Previously, the overall winner was chosen on the basis of the taped performances submitted for the competition, but this year the winners of each section will present a short programme, live before the judges.

Congratulations, Heath!