

Volume No. 18 No. 11

November 1979.

TOSA NEWS

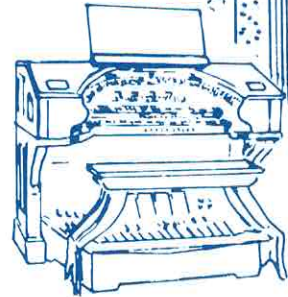
TONY FENELON AND JOHN ATWELL IN CONCERT.
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL, SUNDAY 18TH
NOVEMBER AT 2.30PM.



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

ADDRESS BOX A 584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B



Price 40¢

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS EDITION CONTAINS YOUR BALLOT PAPER WHICH IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, DETAILS INSIDE.

ALSO INSIDE YOU WILL SEE DETAILS OF THE ANNUAL CABARET TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 30th NOVEMBER AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL AT 6.45pm.

AT THE TIME OF WRITING A GROUP OF THE SOCIETY ARE RELAXING AT NORFOLK ISLAND. THERE ARE TOO MANY TO MENTION BUT OUR BEST WISHES GO TO YOU UP THERE IN THE SUN.

2.....

PATRON: Ian Davies.

PRESIDENT: Alan Misdale. (525-5554)

VICE PRESIDENTS: Doug Smith (750-0917, Frank Ellis (649-7011)

SECRETARY: Ernie Vale (798-6816), TREASURER: Edna Smith (529-7379).

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Ron Smith (529-7379), PRACTICE CONVENER: Chris Palmer.

RESEARCH AND ARCHIVES: Ian Cameron. RECORDING ENGINEER: Ray Garret (869-7247)

EDITOR: Chris Palmer (926-534).

DIARY DATES FOR BALANCE OF 1979.

SUNDAY 18th November: MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL. Concert 2.30pm.

This Concert features Tony Fenelon and John Atwell on organ and piano and will begin at 2.30pm. Admission is \$4.00 Adult Ordinary, \$3.00 Member and \$2.00 Concession.

***SUNDAY 25th November: ORGAN PARTY, 'SELWYN THEATRE' MORTDALE. 2.30pm.

This party is being put on by Ritchie Willis at the Selwyn Theatre, Mortdale for the Society, (you will remember that we are often asking people to allow the Society to use their home for a home party), and at all home functions such as this an organist or two is always doing something.

Tentatively, this party will feature the Vice President, Doug Smith and the Editor, Chris Palmer doing something as yet to be decided. However, as is often the case a young person by the name of Bernard Walz will be given the main billing at the request of Ritchie Willis. Bernard is a new member and, judging by his performance, may go a fair way on the organ in time.

***WEDNESDAY 21st November: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

All members are asked to attend this most important function which will begin at 8.00pm.

After the main business is completed there will be music played on the organ by various artists.

FRIDAY 30th NOVEMBER: MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL. ANNUAL CABARET.

Traditionally the last function of the year put on by the Society, this Cabaret is always a great, gala occasion to which anyone who goes will enjoy.

Our Patron, Ian Davies is the featured organist and there is also a Club Act which will help brighten up the evening. Jack and Pearl Lawson and Barry and Pam Tooker do most of the legwork to get this Cabaret under way and they also look after the mid-year Cabaret.

Please note that functions marked with *** are out of sequence.



Tony Fenelon, (left) and John Atwell, (right) taken recently.

TONY FENELON.

Tony Fenelon, B.Sc., L. Mus.A., is acknowledged by connoisseurs as one of Australia's finest organists. His superb musical ability and originality are built on classical training, having commenced musical studies on piano at the age of seven. In the 1961 Canberra Eisteddfod he won the open solo section, and at the age of 22 he won the Victorian State Finals of the A.B.C. Concerto Competition. Later he appeared as soloist with the Victorian Symphony Orchestra.

Tony's first public performance on the Theatre Organ was at Hoyt's Regent Theatre, Melbourne, on Christmas Eve 1964, so successful was this appearance that he was appointed Resident Organist thereafter. Tony has played the Melbourne Regent Wurlitzer for numerous A.B.C. broadcasts.

In more recent times Tony has played both Theatre Pipe and Electronic Organ Concerts throughout Australia, and has completed four highly successful tours of the Concert circuit in the U.S.A. Tony has been featured at numerous T.O.S.A. Conventions in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, and is currently under a recording contract to Festival Records.

Living in Melbourne in the outer suburb of Ringwood, Tony is married and has two children, one daughter and one son. To Tony, however, music is not a career, as his full time employment is as an Electronics Engineer at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. His writings in the field of Medical Electronics have been published all over the world and translated into several different languages.

4...

JOHN ATWELL.

JOHN ATWELL, Phd., was born at Murray Bridge, South Australia, and commenced learning classical piano at six years of age. This classical piano training was put to good use when John commenced learning classical organ in 1965 at age 16.

John first came to the attention of theatre organ enthusiasts Australia wide, when he played a solo spot at a T.O.S.A. Easter Convention in 1968 at the Dendy Theatre, Brighton, Melbourne. He was, however, well known to local enthusiasts in his home town of Adelaide. The following year John commenced playing full length theatre organ Concerts.

During 1971 John was married, and two months afterwards the Atwells moved from Adelaide to Melbourne, where John was to continue his scientific studies at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.

Not unknown to Sydney audiences, John has appeared in a Cameo performance at the T.O.S.A. Convention, 1973, and has also played one Concert for the N.S.W. Division of T.O.S.A. at the Marrickville WurliTzer in 1974. He has also concertized in Western Australia, Tasmania and the A.C.T., for the respective divisions of T.O.S.A. Lately John has commenced writing a column in the music magazine JAMM (Journal of Australian Music and Musicians.).

John lives with his wife Joy and one son in the Melbourne suburb of Glen Waverley. Currently John holds the position of Research Scientist with the C.S.I.R.O.

A BOOKING FORM IS ATTACHED TO THE END OF THIS MAGAZINE TO ASSIST TO TO SEE AND HEAR THIS WONDERFUL CONCERT.

ADMISSION CHARGES ARE \$4.00 Adult, \$3.00 Member, \$2.00 Concession.
DON'T FORGET, THE CONCERT STARTS AT 2.30pm at MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

ANNUAL CABARET. Friday 30th November at Marrickville Town Hall at 6.45pm.

As mentioned on the front page, the Annual Cabaret will be held at Marrickville Town Hall on Friday 30th November at 6.45pm.

This Gala End of Year Function is the result of much hard work by a small team of four, Jack and Pearl Lawson and Pam and Barry Tooker with as much assistance as they can muster up thrown in.

Marrickville Town Hall is always beautifully decorated and the night will be one that you will remember.

The night commences at 6.45pm with Sherries and Biscuits and during the evening you will be able to dance in a similar manner to the Blackpool Tower Ballroom on what is recognised as probably one of the finest dancing floors in Sydney, fully sprung and with the pattern of the flooring so arranged for such dances as the Pride of Erin and so on.

There is a three course, entertainment by a top act from the Club Circuit with plenty of time for dancing the night away. Everything is provided except what you may require in the way of liquid refreshments.

The cost of this great evening is only \$17.80 a double or \$8.90 a single. Please book as soon as possible on the form attached to this issue.

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS FOR BOOKINGS IS C/- Mrs. TOOKER, 114 Mitchell Street, CROYDON PARK and also please enclose Christian and Surnames of all members of your party to assist in the preparation of name tags.

BOOKINGS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 23rd NOVEMBER, Dress Optional, Phone enquiries to Mrs. Lawson on 569-3775 or Mrs. Tooker on 74-1535. Please send stamped, self addressed envelope if you require confirmation of bookings as tickets are not forwarded.

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS.

The following is a reprint of the Amendment proposal to By-Law 26, of our Constitution, which was printed in the May issue of TOSA News for your perusal.

I would like to stress again the importance of this proposed amendment to the Society in general which now covers our present greatest asset, the Capitol Wurlitzer.

A vote for ratification of this proposal will be taken during our annual general meeting on November 21st at Marrickville Town Hall.

CLAUSE 26. First part of a Clause which deals with calling an extraordinary meeting to stand.

"The decision to wind up the activities and affairs of the Society can only be made by at least two thirds, (2/3), of the members present and entitled to vote at such an Extraordinary Meeting. In the event of a decision to wind up the Society being made, the Meeting may appoint trustees with the following duties and powers:-

- (a) To hold in trust subject to the remaining provisions of this clause, all organs, moneys, other property and assets belonging to the Society,
- (b) To perform the rights and obligations of the Society under any agreement existing between the Society and any person or persons at the date of winding up until the expiry of such agreement.
- (c) To realise the reasonable value of all such property and assets, (other than theatre pipe organs), and utilise the proceeds together with moneys belonging to the Society and any income which the Society may be entitled, in maintaining any theatre organ or organs owned or controlled by the Society, and in the Society's outstanding debts.
- (d) To ultimately vest in any public body any theatre pipe organ freely owned by the Society on condition that such organ not be sold or otherwise disposed of within the space of twenty five (25), years; any monies remaining at that time of such vesting to be utilised in installation, continued maintenance or other costs reasonably incurred to accomplish such vesting.

I sincerely hope that you read this at least twice, and be prepared to vote when necessary.....See you at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 21st November.

DOUG SMITH. Vice President.

Copy of letter received C/- Mr. Doug Smith from Mr. Bernard Strocchi of Pukekoe, N.Z.

T.O.S.A. N.S.W. Division, Sydney.

Dear Folks,

To all members and the executive, I would like to record my appreciation for the kind hospitality and consideration extended to me on my recent visit.

Meeting you was not only a pleasure, but I feel an experience of finding true friends. I hope it is not too long before I am able to be with you again, assuming that you can put up with me, of course! My thanks to all.

yours sincerely, B. Strocchi.

6....

LISTING OF RECORDED CONCERTS 1974 - 1979 Further enquiries please phone Ray Garret on 869-7247.

Most of the concerts listed are available to members. Additionally a number of concerts prior to 1974 are available including such artists as Vic Hammett, Cecil Cranfield, Cliff Bingham, David Pitts, David Johnston and Tony Fenelon and many others, as well as the final recordings of the Capitol Theatre Organ.

1974

February 24	Marrickville	Byron Melcher.
May 10.	Marrickville	Jonas Nordwall.
May 31.	Chatswood.	Jonas Nordwall.
September 11.	Marrickville.	Bill Thompson.
September 22.	Marrickville.	Peter Held.

1975.

January 19	Marrickville.	Cliff Bingham, Peter Held. Bill Schumcaher, David Parsons.
February 23.	Marrickville.	Neil Jensen.
September 21.	Marrickville.	Tony Fenelon.
October 19.	Marrickville.	David Parsons.

1976.

April 17.	Marrickville. Sydney Town Hall.	Jonas Nordwall-Tosa Convention. Jonas Nordwall-Tosa Convention.
December 12.	Marrickville.	Denis & Heidi James.

1977.

February 20.	Marrickville.	Tony Fenelon.
June 12.	Marrickville.	Maria Kumagai.
September 25.	Marrickville.	Peter Held.
October 9.	Marrickville.	Byron Melcher.
November 13.	Marrickville.	Ray Thornley.

1978.

February 3.	Marrickville.	Neil Jensen.
April 16.	Marrickville.	David Parsons.
May 14.	Marrickville.	Lee Erwin.
June 18.	Marrickville.	Bill Schumacher and Cliff Bingham.
July 30.	Marrickville.	Tom Hazleton.
September 23.	St. Colomb's West Ryde.	David Parsons.
September 24.	Marrickville.	David Johnston.
November 19.	Marrickville.	Tony Fenelon.

1979.

February 25.	Marrickville.	Peter Held.
March 18.	Marrickville.	Cliff Bingham, Bill Schumacher Paul Maybury (Vocal).
April 29.	Marrickville.	Valda Lang (Charity Concert).
June 24.	Marrickville.	Margaret Hall, Richard James, Janice Wilson, Noel Smith.
July 29.	Marrickville.	Eric Smith.

PLEASE SEE ORDER FORM ATTACHED TO THIS MAGAZINE FOR THE ABOVE CONCERTS.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE 1980.

As mentioned on page one, this edition contains your Ballot Paper for the Election of Office Bearers for 1980.

Since I started to type this edition out, the draft of the actual Ballot Paper has come to hand and which shows that the Ballot will not be as hard as last year.

In fact the only change will be that Ritchie Willis is not standing for re-election and that in his place Jack Lawson has been nominated for Vice-President and also for Committee.

Should Jack become elected to the position of Vice-President then it may be that a nomination will have to be called at the Annual General Meeting for the position of one Committeeman.

There were no nominations received for the position of Minute Secretary. Please see Ballot Paper at the back of this issue.

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. WEDNESDAY 21st NOVEMBER 8.00pm
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

1. Ballot for election of officers for 1980.
2. Minutes of A.G.M. of 22nd November 1978.
3. Treasurers Report.
4. Appointment of Auditor.
5. Secretarys Report.
6. Presidents Report.
7. Correspondence.
8. Motion for amendment to clause 26 of the Constitution.
9. Election of Patron.
10. Capitol Organ placement committee report.
11. General Business.
12. Results of Ballot.

THEN AND NOW - OUR COMPERE COMPARES.

Dear Members,

As compere of all TOSA functions over the past 14 years or so, I have seen many changes occur since the rather shaky beginnings of our first years. Our newly formed Society was, at that time, regarded by many, as a small group of 'organ nuts' with little hope of surviving more than a couple of years and, certainly if it survived, it would have little hope of any growth. But we did survive, and moreover we grew at a consistently steady pace. When we bought the Prince Edward Theatre Wurlitzer it was said that we would never find a home for it, and even if we did, we wouldn't have the 'know how' to install it. How wrong our critics were! Today our Wurlitzer is known and acclaimed in both USA and Great Britain for it's superb sound which is enhanced by the good acoustics of the Town Hall we regard as 'our home'.

To have been compere, or, if you prefer, Master of Ceremonies, for so many years, has been for me, a great privelege and honor, of which I am proud indeed, but, as I face you, the audience, at each Concert, I cannot help but compare the audiences of those early days with the audiences of today.

In the early days, almost all of our Metropolitan members attended the concerts, and it didn't seem to matter who the organist was, we were hungry to hear him play our Wurlitzer - we couldn't get enough of that beautiful sound, and as I stood before the audiences of those days, I was greeted

THEN AND NOW - OUR COMPERE COMPARES.

Continued.

by a sea of familiar faces - the faces of my fellow members. That's how it was then - alas now, as I look around the audience most of those faces are absent, they only appear for a special event such as an overseas celebrity organist, and the audience these days mainly consists of regular members of the general public whose faces, although becoming familiar, are not the faces of my fellow members at all, and this makes me very sad indeed.

Although we are a non-profit society, we do need adequate funds to keep going, or to improve the organ or to upgrade facilities and concerts. If each member were to attend more concerts and to bring just ONE FRIEND with him our audience would double in size and bring worthwhile benefits to each and every TOSA member. Let me mention but a few of those benefits:-

1. A larger audience is more exuberant and responsive thereby creating an atmosphere which encourages the artist to give of his very best.
2. Your Committee could plan future functions with complete confidence in their financial success instead of being plagued with the ever present fear of not meeting the expenses of that function.
3. Larger audiences would ensure that our admission charges are held at the lowest possible level - we are, as I've already said, a non-profit making organisation. It's your Society and we all share its successes and failures - financially speaking that is.

It is for the above reasons that I write this letter to you. Don't leave it to the other fellow - this letter is not written to the 'other fellow' - it is written to you personally. Please gratify my wish to see ~~all the old~~ familiar faces in our audience again. Can you imagine the impact on those who are not members of TOSA, were they to see most of the audience wearing TOSA badges indicating they were members, Many would feel that perhaps they too, should join TOSA and enjoy the benefits of our Society. Once started, these things can snowball.

Make a start now to help the Society grow by attending the next Concert and bring a friend with you. For me, it's a privilege to 'comper' the show but I would like to be able to 'compare' the size of the audience and to find that we outnumber the size of those earlier audiences. That would be thrilling indeed.

see you soon, Frank Ellis.

BEREAVMENTS.

Member Bill Litchfield of Burwood passed away on 19th August last. He was a 'Railways' man and leaves a wife, Elaine, and two sons. Elaine teaches organ, and is connected with the "Music Man"- Lowrey Organs. The sympathies of the Society are extended to the family at this time.

HAMMOND ORGAN SOCIETY No. 1 Chapter Christmas Dinner Dance.

This will be held at the N.S.W Masonic Club on Saturday December 15th in the Adam Room. Cost is only \$10.00 per head, this will include all food, table wines and soft drink.

There is also another evening at 25 Walter Street, Mortdale on Saturday 24th November at 8.00pm. PLEASE CONTACT VERA DUSTING ON 570-1296 as I can assure you that you will have a good time. I speak from experience.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT.

Doug Smith.

Yes, 1979 is slowly, (or quickly), drawing to a close, and it won't be long before our annual Cabaret Ball is here. It's on Friday 30th November, in case you've forgotten.

I think that this year for the Society has been a good one, with nearly all of our Artist-members taking part. In February we had Peter Held who brought along a singer for us, Mr. Brian Wood. March saw Bill Schumacher at the console with Cliff Bingham accompanying that great artist, Paul Maybury. April gave us that wonderful charity concert with Valda Lang playing for all artists as well as solo items for us. Then the younger members practiced hard, (Janice Wilson, Margaret Hall, Richard James and Noel Smith), and together they rendered a supreme concert for all in June.

During July we had the pleasure of hearing that well known Sydney organist, Eric Smith. September...(after much organisation), gave us two superb concerts by the visiting American organist Ron Rhode, who did an Australia wide tour, completely organised by our own Division.

Sunday the 18th November, will see one of the best concerts ever at Marrickville Town Hall, when we present Australia's best, Tony Fenelon and John Atwell together on piano and organ,.. I won't miss this one I know.

All of these memories leads me to our final get together of the year, our Annual Cabaret Ball. I see this night as a gathering of all our members to enjoy an evening of Dining, Wining and Dancing as well as being entertained.. and the best part of all to talk!, and go over the various concerts, think and remember what people have given and done for the Society and reminisce in general and to hope that next year it will be just as good or better, and to enjoy our organ in a completely relaxed manner.

Jack & Pearl Lawson and Barry & Pam Tooker are the two dedicated families who go to no end of trouble to arrange this Annual event for us, Booking, Catering Entertainment ... the whole works and they both take a day off from their normal employment just to decorate the hall for this (your) function. I think that we should all make an effort to attend and show our support and thanks for all this wonderful effort given without any hesitation on your behalf.

Get your friends together and book your party now, and don't miss out on the Annual get together.

ARE YOU COMING???

(I'll see you there)

DOUG SMITH. Hon. Vice President.

FOR SALE.

Thomas Organ Model 726 'Lawrence Welk' (1975), excellent condition with the following features; 2 x 44 note manuals, 25 pedals, Vibrato and reverb, attack, repeat and sustain, cancel pistons, 3 speed leslie, 3 pre-sets, etc.

Price \$2995.00 or nearest offer.

Please contact Mrs. Rossiter on 631 3512 or 872 2915.

10.....

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 1980.

As mentioned earlier, there are only three people involved in the Ballot, the others coming direct from the 1979 Office bearers as there were no further nominations received.

This simplifies the Ballot Paper and involves only the position of Vice-President.

For this position there are three nominees, Mr. Doug Smith, Mr. Jack Lawson and Mr. Frank Ellis.

So, instead of having to present a paragraph on quite a few people, this has also been cut down to three people only:-

MR. FRANK ELLIS.

Frank Ellis has been a Vice President for the last 10 years, was Editor of the TOSA News for 6 years, has acted as Master of Ceremonies at all Concerts and has been a member since the inception of the Society. Frank is a hard worker who always has the Society's best interests at heart. Frank Ellis is currently one of the two Vice Presidents of the Society.

MR. DOUG. SMITH.

Doug Smith is just another organ lover who would like to be allowed to continue to serve the Society. In 1978 Doug Smith was Secretary and there was not one person who was not able to communicate with Doug at any time. Doug was a great, practical help in getting things into the TOSA News, and, as Editor, I cannot speak highly enough of the assistance that Doug has given me in my task.

As both Secretary in 1978 and also Vice President in 1979, Doug has always been full of practical suggestions which have benefited the Society. Not one to come along for the ride, Doug has been a solid worker in all the time that I have known him.

MR. JACK LAWSON.

Jack works in the Railways and has done for 36 years and is now an Express Driver qualified to drive all types of trains. He has held the position of Branch Secretary of the large metropolitan branch of the enginemans union for 17 years.

He joined T.O.S.A in 1969 and has served for 2 years on Committee where he was particularly active. He has worked for over four years on the 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. Jack is not presently holding any position of Office.

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP.

The Theatre Organ Society of Australia is a group of people with a common interest; enjoying popular and evergreen music.

Our activities include:- The care and preservation of Theatre Pipe Organs.
Concerts of Theatre style organ music.
Publication of a monthly journal of Theatre Organ News.
Presentation of informal evenings in members homes and similar.

There is a division in each State and membership is open to all who have an interest in these activities.

Application for Membership is attached.