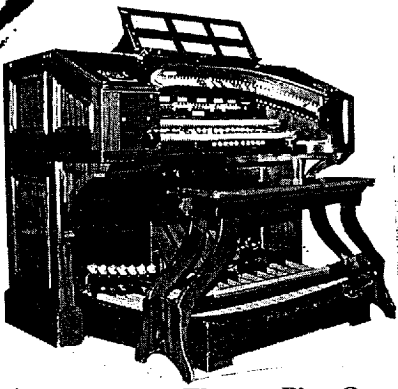
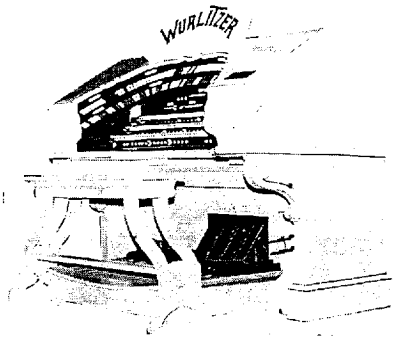


AUGUST, 1999



2/11 WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ  
Marrickville Town Hall

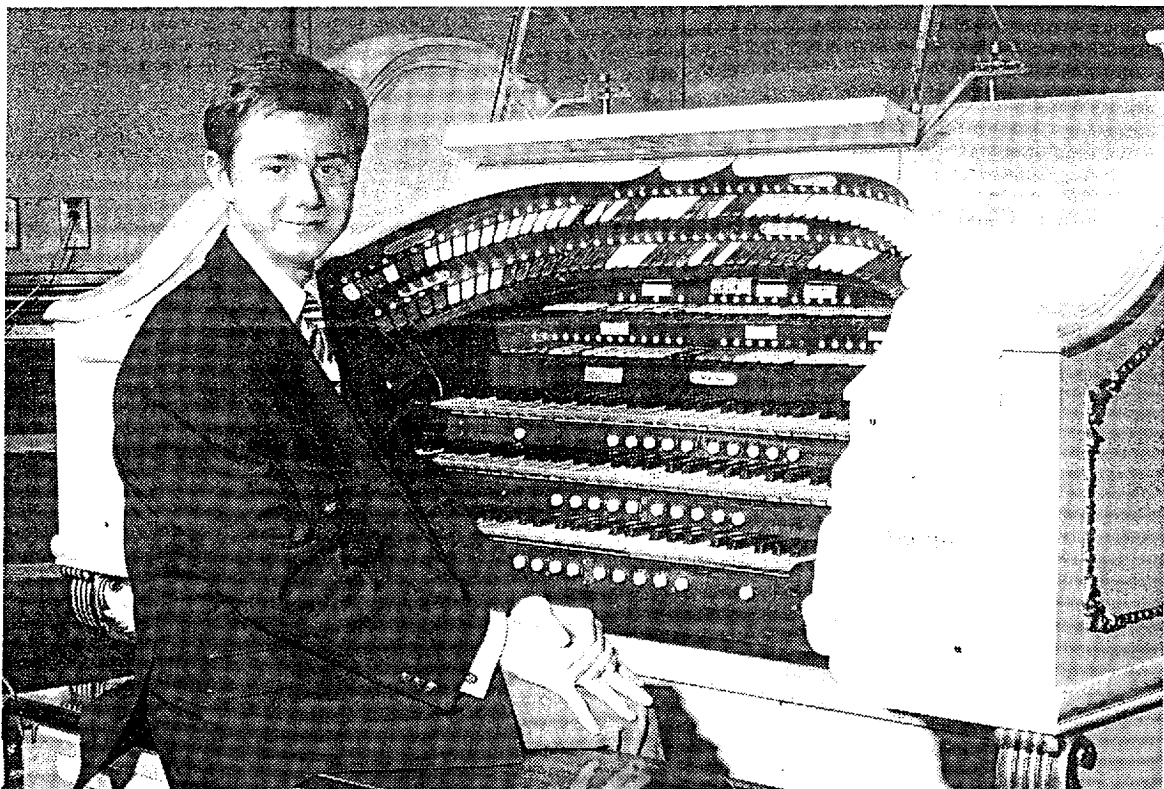
# TOSA NEWS



3/17 WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ  
Orion Centre Campsie

Come and Hear for the First Time in Australia  
The UK's Latest Young Star  
The Sensationally Talented

# RICHARD HILLS



Sunday, 19th September, at 2pm

Marrickville Town Hall

*Patrolled Parking Area Opposite*

Volume 38  
Issue 6  
PRINTED BY TOSA

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\$1.50

# TOSA NEWS

AUGUST, 1999

**THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (NSW DIVISION) Inc.**

For the smooth running of TOSA, please contact the right person :

General Business - **SECRETARY**

Ticket Bookings - **TICKET SECRETARY**

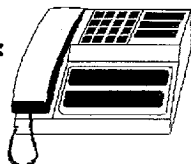
Membership, Renewals, Change of Address -  
**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

TOSA NEWS Items, Advertisements - **EDITOR**



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#### TREASURER:

Geoff Brimley 02 6351 3122

#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Walter Pearce 9716 0151 (after 7 pm)

P.O. Box 243, Burwood, 1805

#### COMMITTEE:

Barry Tooker 9744 1535

Peter Harding 9629 2257

Peter Held 9759 5174

Margaret Hall 9584 2353

Ross Adams 9639 6343

Amy Caldwell 9997 5907

#### RESEARCH & ARCHIVES:

Ian Cameron 02 4841 1616

#### TOSA NEWS EDITOR:

Colin Groves 9745 2417 (phone or fax)

P.O. Box 1257, Burwood, 1805

#### TOSA PRINTER:

Robert Gliddon

#### CONCERT TAPE HIRING:

Neil Palmer 9798 6742

#### TICKET SECRETARY (Concert Bookings):

Jean Newell 9750 0362

(Mon - Fri: 10am - 6pm)

#### ARTIST LIAISON OFFICER:

Bill Schumacher 9985 7318

P.O. Box 36, Brooklyn, 2083

#### PHOTOGRAPHY:

Barry Tooker (Home) 9744 1535

(Work) 9550 5400

#### CONCERT RECORDINGS:

Bill Schumacher 9985 7318

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John Shaw 9759 5825

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#### WORLD WIDE WEB HOME PAGE - TOSA (NSW)

<http://www-personal.usyd.edu.au/~sgroves/tosa/home.html>

## AUGUST

Monday 2 at 7.30pm **Committee Meeting**

Thursday 26 at 7.30pm **Members' Playing Night**  
Marrickville Town Hall  
Phone 9798 6742 to confirm

## SEPTEMBER

Monday 6 at 7.30pm **Committee Meeting**

Sunday 19 at 2.00pm **Richard Hills Concert**  
Marrickville Town Hall

Thursday 23 at 7.30pm **Members' Playing Night**  
Marrickville Town Hall  
Phone 9798 6742 to confirm

## OCTOBER

Monday 11 at 7.30pm **Committee Meeting**

Sunday 31 at 2.00pm **Cliff Bingham and  
Bill Schumacher Concert**  
Marrickville Town Hall

Thursday 28 at 7.30pm **Members' Playing Night**  
Marrickville Town Hall  
Phone 9798 6742 to confirm

# From The President

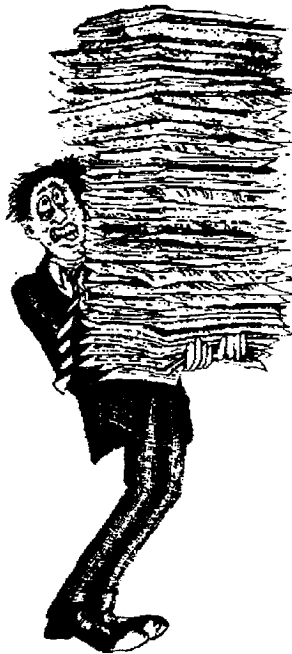
I'm writing this the day after **SIMON GLEDHILL'S Orion** concert - from a holiday spot on the **South Coast**. If the postie can get through the rain and tempest then **Colin** will put it in the **TOSA News**.

But it truly was a beaut concert. It was good to see a nearly packed theatre, and at interval to see the enthusiasm of the people who came to have a good look at the Organ Console, and peer through the shutters at the pipes. We were able to let a number come and look into the workings from back-stage. Nice to have some younger people along.

It was a pleasure to have **Simon** at the console, and he put on a great show. Noticeable too, was his dedication to giving us the maximum of actual playing time - long medleys and pieces. Thank you, **Simon**.

I also want to pay tribute to **John Weismantel** and **Ian Ackland** - the two of our new 3 man lighting team who were on duty for this concert. On Thursday before the event **John** had spent some hours servicing most of the lighting at the request of the **Orion** management. Unfortunately they had allowed the battery in the mobile hoist to go flat and it didn't have enough kick to get **John** right up to the auditorium ceiling. However, on Sunday **John** and **Ian** wired in extra equipment, and they put on a lighting show that, I suggest, has not been bettered at the **Orion**.

Thank you, too, Fire-chief **Steve McDonald** for compering the show. Wasn't it fun to have **Shirley Lucke** draw the raffle and to have her Guide Dog, **Pilot**, on stage. (**Pilot** is her new friend since **Penny** was retired). **Steve** reminded us not to pat **Pilot** - the dog is "On Duty" and must not be



distracted - but **Pilot** is such a beautiful animal it's hard to resist. When questioned, **Shirley** explained she had prepared **Pilot** for sitting through an organ concert by playing loud Theatre Organ CDs at home for a week. And it worked!

On another subject, I've been given a copy of the minutes of the **Delegates' Meeting** at the **Melbourne TOSA Convention** held earlier this year. Two quite practicable schemes are being put into effect. One is the creation of a "National Register of Australian Concert Artists" This will bring together details of organists' playing experience and history, and even include colour photos. It will all be available on the Net. This is an opportunity for organists to make themselves known, and for **TOSA** branches to find **Australian** artists for concerts.

Another plan is to create a "National Home Page" on the Internet for **TOSA** and its divisions in **Australia**. Four **TOSA** divisions (including **NSW**) have a local Web Site, but the object is to create an **Australia**-wide information interchange. Seems the way to go!

Watch this space!

**Walter Pearce**

(Also, see **Walter's** article on page 11)

# Editorial

**Simon Gledhill** certainly lived up to his reputation and our expectations of him, and gave us a wonderful concert - most enjoyable music and superb playing. I hope you able to be there to hear him.

Our next artist, **Richard Hills**, is also from the **UK** and comes highly recommended by everyone who has heard this young organist play, including a special recommendation from **Simon Gledhill** himself. **Richard** is playing for us at **Marrickville** on Sunday, 19th September. Please make a special effort to hear him as he is sure to gain rave reviews from everyone present - don't forget, too, that the **Marrickville** concerts cost you less and that **TOSA** hires the security guards to patrol the parking areas opposite the **Town Hall**.

A sincere thank you to all contributors to **TOSA News**, and especially, once again, to **Barry Tooker** who, with limited time available, has managed to supply a report on the **Melbourne Convention** and on one of the special afternoons with **Ian Davies** and friends at **Bondi Junction RSI Club**.

Best Wishes,  
**Colin Groves**

## Welcome To New Members

**TOSA(NSW)** gives a warm welcome to the following new members and hopes they have a long and enjoyable time in our Society :

**Elaine Bennett - Northmead**

**Laurel McNally -Lidcombe**

**Jan and Barry Pearson -  
Padstow**

**Brian Potter - Doonside**

**Elizabeth and John Varley -  
Kiama Downs**

Articles in this journal need not represent the views of the committee or the editor

The deadline for each edition of **TOSA News** is the 12th of the preceding month



**TOSA RECORD BAR STOCK AT  
30th JUNE 1999**

**A PARAMOUNT SELECTION**, 17 organists Paramount/Odeon/F.T. Hall WurliTzer Manchester Cassette \$18

**ATWELL** John, *Sounds of Wonder*. Capri Theatre Pipe Organ, Adelaide. CD \$25.00 Cassette \$15.00

**BAKER** Barry, *For the Very First Time*. Wehmeier WurliTzer, Ohio. CD \$25.00 Cassette \$18.00

**BALOGH** Charlie, *Pipes Plus*. Good Time Charley's WurliTzer, Grand Rapids. Cassette \$18.00

**EDDINGTON** Jelani, *Rhapsody*. The Saunders WurliTzer, Ohio. Cassette \$15.00

**ELLIOTT** Chris, *Shuffle Off To Buffalo!* vol II. Shea's Buffalo Theatre WurliTzer. CD \$27.00

**ELLIOTT** Chris, *That's Entertainment*. The Wilcox Residence WurliTzer. CD \$27.00

**FENELON** Tony, *Interval at the Regent*. Regent Theatre WurliTzer, Melbourne (1950's). CD \$17.00

**HALL** Margaret, *Kitten on the Keys*. Orion Centre WurliTzer, Sydney. Cassette \$12.00

**HILLS** Richard, *Alive to the Sound of Music*. Southbank WurliTzer, London. CD \$25.00

**LARSEN** Lyn, *Tribute to George Wright*. The Hollywood Philharmonic Organ. CD \$28.00

**McPHEE** Chris, *Concert Hits*. Orion Centre WurliTzer, Sydney. CD \$25.00

**McPHEE** Chris, *Polished Pipes*. Capri Theatre Pipe Organ, Adelaide. CD \$25.00 Cassette \$15.00

**MILLER** Ashley, *The Famous Radio City Music Hail Organ*. CD \$20.00

**NORDWALL** Jonas + *Donna Parker + Tom Hazleton*. Kimball Pipe Organ + Midi. CD \$25.00

**NORDWALL** Jonas, *In a Persian Market*. Berkeley Community Theatre WurliTzer. CD \$29.00

**RICHMOND** Robin, *The "Original" Organist Entertains*. The Diss WurliTzer, UK. CD \$25.00

**RIGGS** Jim, *Granada*. Grande Barton Organ, Kansas. Cassette \$15.00

**RIGGS** Jim, *Singin' in the Bathtub*. Alabama Theatre WurliTzer. Cassette \$15.00

**RODWELL** Bryan, *Aspects of Rodwell*. Granada WurliTzer, Manchester. Cassette \$15.00

**STOP TAB/KEYRING**. Original 1927 WurliTzer stop tab converted to keyring. \$10.00

**TOMLIN** Keith + John Barnett, *WurliTzer Wonderland*. WurliTzer Pipe with rhythm accomp. CD \$27.00

**TUDOR** Stanley, *Powder Your Face with Sunshine*. Gaumont, Manchester. Cassette \$20.00

**TUDOR** Stanley, *Singin' In the Rain*. Gaumont WurliTzer, Manchester. Cassette \$20.00

**VANDERWERP** Gary, *Music Maestro Please*. Capri Theatre Organ, Adelaide. CD \$25 Cassette \$14

**Postage: Compact Disc \$2.20  
Cassette \$2.95**

Available at TOSA concerts or by Mail Order from TOSA (NSW Division) Inc. 304 Parramatta Rd, Ashfield, 2131



**NEWS FROM ALL OVER**

**Allen Organs, NSW**

**New Representatives for Allen Organs in NSW**

In 1971, the Allen Organ Company of Macungie, Pennsylvania, USA, was the first to utilise digital technology in musical instruments. Today, they are world leaders in the production of digital organs, utilising the highest sampling rate to produce the most realistic pipe organ sounds. Allen are the Rolls Royce of today's organ manufacturers, perfectly blending 21st century technology with tradition.

The Gold Coast-based company, **All Organs Australia**, is authorised

importers of **Allen Organs** and have recently expanded their operations into NSW. In June, they were pleased to appoint **Margaret Hall** and her husband **Robert Nelson** as the NSW representatives for **Allen Organs**.

**Margaret** and **Robert** advise they are planning a launch for **Allen Organs** and will keep **TOSA** members informed. In the meantime they can be contacted by phone, or fax, on **02 9584 2353** or visit their web site: [www.users.bigpond.com/Nelson-Hall/](http://www.users.bigpond.com/Nelson-Hall/)

**Closing Chords**

**TOSA (NSW)** members were saddened to hear of the following deaths in recent months :

Long-standing **TOSA** member, **Ron Solomon**, passed away in hospital after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, **Marge**, also a **TOSA** member, and his son, **John**.

We have been advised that long-time **TOSA** member, **Ian Roach**, passed away recently.

Advice has been received from America that **Virginia Carley**, mother of well-known organist, **Candi Carley**, passed away recently after a long illness.

**Father Jim Miller**, who toured Australia twice and was one of the most popular figures in the contemporary theatre organ world, died of heart failure earlier this year.

**Free Lunchtime Organ Recital**

A reminder that **TOSA** member, **Colin Adamson**, will play a variety of pieces on the historic **J.W.Walker & Son** pipe organ at **St John's Anglican Cathedral, Parramatta**. All welcome.

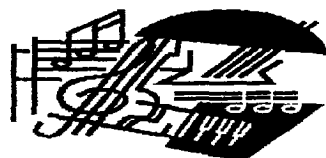
**Wednesday, 11th August  
12.30 - 1.10pm**

**Sick List**

We hope that the following members, who we've heard were recently in hospital and now feeling much better :

**Ritchie Willis,  
Vera Dusting  
and Robert Gliddon**

# A Festival of Theatre Organ 2000



*21st - 24th April 2000*

Dear Members,

Our **Festival of Theatre Organ 2000** will proudly showcase TOSA NSW's own two **Wurlitzer** Organs at the **Orion Centre** and **Marrickville Town Hall**. The **Festival** program will include two concerts on each of these instruments.

**Sydney**, of course, can also boast at least three other accessible venues where theatre organs are housed. Namely, **Mike Walsh's Orpheum Picture Palace** at **Cremorne**, **Willoughby Town Hall** (at **Chatswood**) and the **Epping Baptist Church**. (We look forward to the day when the **Wurlitzer** organ in **Sydney's Stale Theatre** is fully restored and can be featured once again at a **Convention**.)

We are grateful for the co-operation of these other venues who have indicated enthusiastically, they want to be part of our **Festival**.

In addition to the theatre organs of **Sydney**, we of course have two very famous concert organs. Namely, the **Sydney Town Hall** and the **Opera House Organs!** Over the last few **Sydney Conventions** we have featured one or other of these world famous instruments,

As a special **Pre-glow Event** to our **Festival 2000**, it has been negotiated with **Sydney City Organist, Robert Ampt**, to schedule one of the *free Town Hall Concerts* in next year's series for **Maundy Thursday** (20th April), prior to our **Convention Registration** on Good Friday afternoon. The concept for this concert is very exciting ... **Duets for Grand Organ**, i.e. *four hands and four feet*. **Robert** will be joined at the console by his wife, **Amy Johansen**, who is organist at the **University of Sydney**. What a fantastic bonus to our **Festival** program!

Keeping you informed is our priority. More next month.

**Margaret Hall-Nelson**

Convention Convenor

# 1999 Convention Impressions.

Friday, 2nd April (12.30pm)

by Barry Tooker

from Richard Rodgers' *Carousel*.

Malvern Town Hall was the venue for the registration and start of the Melbourne National Convention on Friday, 2nd April, 1999.

Delegates from all Divisions of TOSA were at a meeting (- report in next month's *TOSA News*) in an upstairs room, as most conventioners arrived and were presented with the bag of "goodies", their tickets and some light refreshments. On sale was a good selection of CDs, videos, books and souvenirs.

Friday, 2nd April (2.30pm)

The formal part was opened by David Johnston, who introduced young organists Melina Brewer (14 years old) and Nicholas Cooper (16) to impress us with their talent on the 3/16 Compton.

David also played some selections, then introduced Sergei Golovko - an absolute wizard on the xylophone. Indeed Sergei's acrobatics whilst playing were so strenuous that, unbeknown to the audience, he put his back out and was in great pain. It was only due to the efforts of a visiting American chiropractor who was attending the Convention that he could perform again after interval, with his colleague, Alexander Bindirovski. They nearly brought the house down with their facial contortions and antics during their duets.

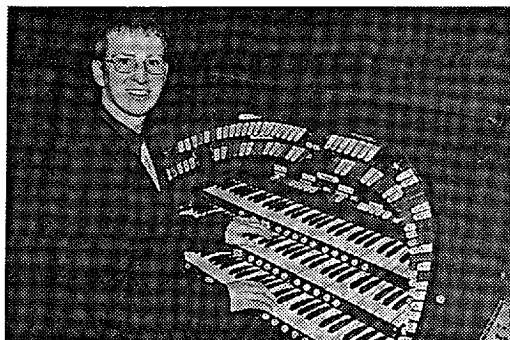
Friday, 2nd April (8.00pm)

After a buffet dinner served in a side room at 6.00pm, the evening program continued with Terry Georgiou (16) playing the Compton. He played a varied and entertaining program which took us up to interval.

John Giacchi was the featured artist for the second half of the evening and I must say I have never heard him play better. John is always good, but in this concert he was excellent.

Saturday, 3rd April (8.00am)

The Dendy Theatre, Brighton, was the next venue in the wee small hours of Saturday morning. A sleepy-looking David Johnston was there to welcome us and to introduce Chris McPhee at the 3/15 WurliTzer. Chris played music composed by Tom King



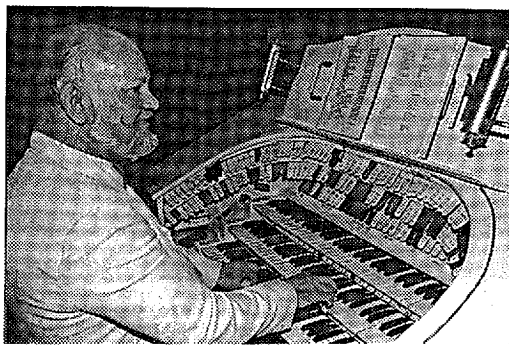
for the Adelaide Regent organ, *When I Take My Sugar to Tea*, and a medley of Sigmund Romberg tunes.

Carol Wyatt followed, playing tunes such as *Get Happy*, *Too Young*, plus selections from *Wizard of Oz* and *Forgotten Dreams*. Carol often plays for a funeral home and David Johnston reckoned people were just dying to hear her play!



After a short interval Chris returned to play *Elenora*, *Make Believe* from *Showboat* and Leroy Anderson's *Trumpeter's Lullaby*. After that came *Something's Gotta Give* from the 1955 Fred Astaire movie, *Daddy Longlegs*.

Carol joined us again with *Happy Talk* from *South Pacific* and a combination of *Don't Bring Lulu* and *She Wears Red Feathers and a Hula Hula Skirt*. She also played a medley



At the Dendy we were issued with a packed lunch and boarded our coaches for a tour around the waterfront of Port Phillip Bay and on to Williamstown to enjoy our lunch in the park. After a leisurely look around this historic village we again boarded our coaches for the trip to Coburg Town Hall.

Saturday, 3rd April (2.00pm)

Coburg Town Hall is the home to the 2/9 Blackett and Howden recently installed there. Gail Dibben opened with *Say It With Music*, *Mr Wonderful* and *Ecstasy Tango*. This was followed with the *Knightsbridge March* and a German tune whose title translates as *The Black Horse*.

Due to a mix up with dates the other planned organist did not appear, so without hesitation our compere, David Johnston, sat at the console and gave an impromptu performance to complete the first half of the concert.

For the next half Glen Maus who is in charge of the installation and maintenance of this instrument, demonstrated his versatility at the keyboard. The efforts of Gail and David (left) rounded off the afternoon and showed the potential of this organ when finally finished.

Saturday, 3rd April (7.30pm)

The Convention Dinner Dance was held at the Malvern Town Hall and featured John Ferguson (below) at the 3/16 Compton, alternating with the Clarrie Findley and Frank Charles "Take Note" Band. Alcoholic refreshments were included as part of the menu which seemed to be mostly finger-type food. A good night was had by all and at about 11pm our coaches were ready to take a lot of weary people back to the Victoria Hotel.

At least on Sunday we had a chance to sleep in and have a free morning.

Sunday, 4th April (2.00pm)

St John's Anglican Church at Toorak was the next venue on the list and Thomas Heywood was featured on the 3/40 Hill classical organ. Built in 1913, it is the largest 20th century Hill organ in Australia. Thomas Heywood has a most engaging



personality and projects his enthusiasm to the audience in such a way that you cannot fail to enjoy his music. Amongst his selections were *Grand March* from *Aida*, *Minuet in A*, *O Sole Mio*, *Overture in F minor*, *Anvil Chorus* and the *William Tell Overture*. Indeed this last one was so popular that he had to play it again for an encore.

After hearing this performance by **Thomas Heywood** (right) I felt compelled to buy one of his CDs as a memento of his artistry.

### Sunday, 4th April (8.00pm)

A short coach trip took us to **Moorabin Town Hall** where 6.00pm we partook of a spit roast and sweets before being ushered into the hall proper to hear the featured artist, **David Wickerham** (right), on the **4/22 WurliTzer**.

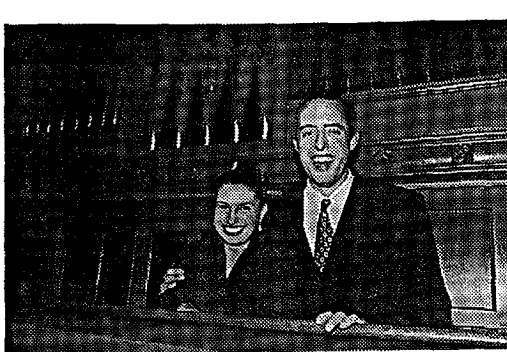
Problems with the P.A. system didn't seem to worry our artist who proceeded to announce his program without the aid of a microphone. He opened with **On With The Show**, the *Bugs Bunny Show*'s theme, so well beloved by our own **Cliff Bingham**. The grand piano attached to the organ was featured in some **Scott Joplin** rags and this was followed with **Franz Léhar's** *Yours Is My Heart Alone*. *Petite Waltz* as played by **George Wright** during the 1950s and selections from *Oklahoma* completed the first half of the program.

With the sound system fixed after interval, **David** proceeded with an appropriate *Easter Parade* selection, and *Brazilian Sleigh Bells*. *A Kiss In The Dark*, inspired by the **Jesse Crawford** style, was followed by **Chopin's** *Polonaise in A major*, the *Colonel Bogey March* and a **Gershwin** selection. As he would normally have been playing in church at this time back home, **David** played some Easter hymns and, after a standing ovation, came back for two encores.

### Monday, 5th April (8.00am)

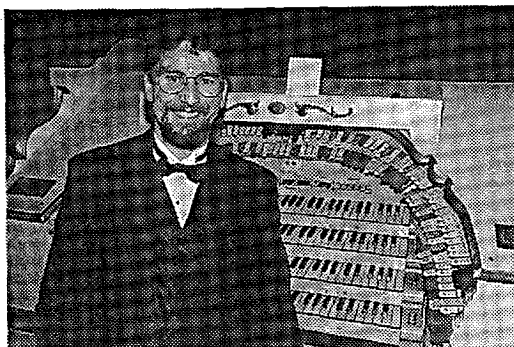
Monday morning saw us back at the **Dendy**, with **David Johnston** again as M.C. introducing **Heath Wooster** at the console. **Heath** opened with a fanfare featuring the 32' Diaphones, then *From This Moment On* and *Anthem* from *Chess*, *Butterflies In The Rain* played as a novelty number, and selections from *Les Misérables*.

Now it was **Ryan Heggie's** turn and



his contributions included *Lover Man*, *The Hunters*, *Meditation* from *Thais* and *Nancy*.

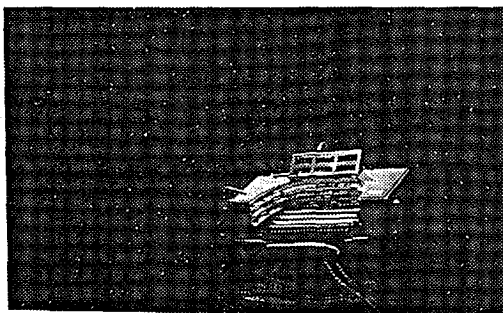
After an interval, they both returned and we heard selections from *Showboat* and *Disney* shows, amongst other tunes.



One thing that was prominent amongst most of the organs in **Melbourne** was their 32' Diaphones which most organists seemed to enjoy featuring a lot. I'm sure they would keep any vermin out of the buildings that hold these instruments!

### Monday, 5th April (2.00pm)

My good friend **John Thiele** has very ably reviewed, and provided photos of, the **Regent WurliTzer** (below) concert featuring **Tony Fenelon** and **Lyn Larsen** (published in last month's *TOSA News*).



### Monday, 5th April (8.00pm)

On Monday evening **Malvern Town Hall's** **Compton** was made available for those who wanted to play. Whilst I did not get to this function, I believe

that **David Wickerham** provided an impromptu 90 minute concert. Oh how I kicked myself for missing it!

### Tuesday, 6th April

On Tuesday morning, for the **Afterglow** at **Ballarat**, a bus from **Davis Coaches** picked us up and we received a running commentary on all the sights and historical landmarks from the **Westgate Bridge** to the **City of Ballarat**. Morning tea was served on arrival at **Lake Wendouree** and we had enough free time to wander around the beautiful botanic gardens and the begonia display in the **Robert Clark Conservatory**.

A packed lunch, including a locally-produced **Mars Bar** and fruit, was given to everyone boarding the *Golden City* paddleship for a cruise around **Lake Wendouree**. Even here we were destined to enjoy theatre pipe organ music afloat, played on an extraordinary portable CD system, as we drifted around the point.

The pièce de resistance was the visit to **Her Majesty's Theatre** to hear the **3/9 Compton** organ. **Ballarat** has a wealth of young talent studying the theatre organ and we were privileged to hear two brothers, **Jeffery** and **Troy Andrews**, **Clayton Smith** and **Paul Forte** playing such varied choices as *Fascination*, *Barnum*, *Ma Na Ma Na*, *Memories* and *Give My Regards to Broadway*.

After this the organ was thrown open for visitors. **David Wickerham** made the instrument sing and he was followed by **John Batts**, **Errol Storey**, **Cliff Bingham** and **Glen Maus**.

An inspection of the organ chambers and relay system below the stalls showed the meticulous care and attention to details and layout that the **Ballarat Theatre Organ Society** has put into the project. Given the limited space, their installation is a credit to them all.

Before returning to **Melbourne** we were all invited to the upstairs Long Room, where tea and freshly brewed, real coffee, together with home-made cakes and biscuits were served. Truly a wonderful day and our ever-obliging coach captain continued his entertaining commentary on the way back to **Melbourne**.

In all it was a satisfying conclusion to a memorable Convention and we look forward to the next one in **Sydney**. Well done, **Victorian TOSA**.

Photography by **John Thiele**

## Organs in the Movies

This is a listing of movies in which an organ of one kind or another is featured:

\* **Abominable Dr. Phibes** (1971), Vincent Price. Crazy doctor has futuristic pipe organ he plays.

\* **Angel in My Pocket** (1969), Andy Griffith. New preacher comes to church, gets theatre organ from local theatre to increase attendance and improve church. Church burns down. Great scenes of the console, wonderful story overall.

\* **Annie** (1982), Albert Finney. Features a large concert organ in a mansion - good console shots.

\* **Arthur** (1981), Dudley Moore. There is a brief shot of a church instrument in an actual church being played at Arthur's aborted wedding between him and a rich girl that he doesn't love.

\* **Bank Robber** (1993), Judge Reinhold. In the BANK lobby, a little old lady is doing something that hit too close to home. She is playing a Baldwin model 170 or 172 spinet organ, and the footage appears to be real live playing, and the sound is definitely the Baldwin organ. A real hoot.

\* **Bathing Beauty** (1944), Red Skelton, Esther Williams, and Ethel Smith. Ethel plays the Hammond a couple of times in this one. Including Tico Tico.

\* **Beneath the Planet of the Apes**, (1970), Kim Hunter, James Franciscus. James Franciscus pounds on the console keys with the stock of a machine gun.

\* **Black Cat, The** (1934), starring Boris Karloff as the leader of a sect of devil worshippers, and Bela Lugosi, in a role reversal, as the hero. There are two shots of the organ being played, first by then bit actor John Carradine, and later by Karloff.

\* **Brief Encounter** (1945), Celia Johnson. Includes a brief scene in a cinema with a comic lady playing a snatch of "March Militaire" on an organ. WurliTzer used was Metropole, Victoria, London, UK. Organist (NOT the Lady) is James Whitebread, see J. Courtney book "Theatre Organ World". This console was originally a 2-manual in the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, no less !!

\* **Britannia of Billingsate** (c.1933), Violet Loraine, Gordon Harker, and John Mills (in minor role). London fish

cafe owner is suddenly launched into starring role in movie (Piccadilly Playground). She attends premiere screening of the film at the Gaumont "Palace", Hammersmith - the title song is played by the house organist just before the lights go down.

\* **Carnival of Souls** (1962), Candace Hilligoss, Frances Feist. Actually about an organist. Part of film takes place in an organbuilder's shop (Reuter's in Lawrence, Kansas)

\* **Chappaqua** (1966). Allen Ginsberg plays harmonium, chants.

\* **Christmas Without Snow** (1980). Made for TV Movie starring Michael Learned & John Houseman, takes place in San Francisco. As a new conductor tries to teach a church choir Handel's Messiah for Christmas, the angry son of the pastor destroys the pipe organ. After an hilarious attempt to replace it with an electronic organ, the choir bands together and restores the pipe organ just in time for Christmas.

\* **Comedy of Terrors, The** (1963). Shady funeral parlour directors, Vincent Price, Boris Karloff, & Peter Lorre, employ a wheezy reed organ at their establishment.

\* **Cuban Pete** (1946), Desi Arnaz, & Ethel Smith as herself, playing "The Breeze and I" in this old black and white movie. She's at the Hammond, on a revolving turntable. Excellent sequence.

\* **Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde** (1932), starring Fredric March, who won an Oscar for Best Actor. The film opens showing the hands of Dr. Jekyll playing a 3-manual residence organ in a scene that lasts about two minutes.

\* **Dr. Phibes Rises Again** (1972). Dr. Phibes packs up his organ & takes it with him to be installed in his new residence in Egypt.

\* **Ed Wood** (1994), Johnny Depp. A party scene features Korla Pandit, of all people, playing the Hammond, just like he did on TV in the fifties, when the film was set.

\* **Frances** (1983). Film covers the life story of Frances Farmer - a well remembered film star who was committed to a mental institution at the peak of her career. A brief glimpse of a 3-manual WurliTzer appears during her arrival at a movie premiere, along with

some nice scenes of the theatre interior.

\* **Front Page** (1974), Walter Matthau, Jack Lemmon, Susan Sarandon. Susan Sarandon's character in the film is a cinema organist - some very good shots of her playing for a picture.

\* **Ghost and Mr. Chicken, The** (1966), Don Knotts. Takes place in Kansas, the "ghost" plays the organ. Scenes of the console and pipework.

\* **Giant** (1956), Elizabeth Taylor, James Dean, Rock Hudson. There is a two-manual horseshoe console shown in the Reata residence several times and fleetingly "played" on two occasions by Chill Wills ("Clair de Lune" if I am recalling correctly). Display pipes were located at the rear of the first stair landing going from the living room to the second floor. The console seemed to look more like a Marr & Colton than a WurliTzer, but was probably a studio concoction at any rate. The sound was similar to a residence-type organ rather than a true theatre instrument, but it was clearly not a Hammond or other electronic monstrosity which Hollywood all too often uses when a pipe organ is supposedly being played.

\* **Great Race The** (1965), Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon. Features a modified WurliTzer console that the late Dave Junchen built for the picture.

\* **Help** (1965), Beatles. Compton electronic rising from the apartment floor in the first 10 minutes.

\* **King of Marvin Gardens, The** (1972). Jack Nicholson in a movie which I believe has a shot of the Atlantic City Convention Hall console although the sound is Hammond.

\* **Lady and the Tiger, The** (?50s/'60s), British. A short, saw back in high school, as an adjunct to English short story stuff. Top-down shot of 4-manual horse-shoe console.

\* **Mannequin** (1987), Andrew McCarthy, Kim Cattrall. The Wanamaker Organ, with the Mannequin playing.

\* **Man of Flowers** (1983). Norman Kaye plays organ to relax after paying Alyson Best to disrobe while he watches.

\* **Melody Time** (1948, re-released in 1998). This is a Walt Disney animated



film with a substantial piece by Ethel Smith playing the Hammond organ. Organ blown up by cartoon characters using TNT. A must have for any Hammond lover.

\* **Midnight In the Garden of Good and Evil** (1997), Kevin Spacey, John Cusack. Story takes place in Savannah, GA. Prominent classical organ in the mansion is played briefly, curtains open revealing pipework.

\* **My Summer Story** (1994), Charles Grodin, Mary Steenburgen, Kieran Culkin. A compilation of some of Jean Shepherd's hilarious stories about growing up in the Midwest. Of interest to the TO fan is the retelling of "Leopold Doppler and the Great Orpheum Gravy Boat Riot", including the rising console and the community singing.

\* **Nothing But Trouble** (1991), Chevy Chase, Dan Aykroyd, John Candy, Demi Moore. Trapped in a mad house in Valkenvania, the judge plays the pipe organ with the "Digital Underground".

\* **Pink Panther Strikes Again, The** (1976), Peter Sellers, Herbert Lom. Herbert Lom's second console appearance, the first was in the 1964 version of the Phantom. In this case he is Clouseau's demented ex-boss now turned into an evil scientist trying to take over the world just to get even with the inept inspector. His final number at this weird open console session is Tiptoe through the Tulips, played as he dematerialises.

\* **Phantom of the Opera** (1925), Lon Chaney. Features an organ in the sewers of Paris, of all places!

\* **Phantom of the Opera** (1962) Herbert Lom, Heather Sears. Features a small, self-contained organ in the sewers again. Organ is used quite a bit.

\* **A Private Function** (1985), Michael Palin, Maggie Smith. Maggie plays a 3-manual Compton for cinema intermission, with mother sitting on end of bench as they rise out of pit.

\* **Radioland Murders** (1994), Brian Benben, Mary Stuart Masterson, Ned Beatty, George Burns. At station WBN the "hits" just keep coming. People dropping dead during a live broadcast - the show must go on! Several shots of the organ and organist .

\* **Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm** (1938), Shirley Temple. A wonderful movie in which she shares a scene in a radio studio with the "relief organist" sitting at a Theatre Organ console. The

organist is always ready to jump in but the next act or whatever always shows up just in time to go on. Later on, when there really is a "no-show" and he has to play, ... he faints dead away!

\* **Rocky III** (1982), Sylvester Stallone. Boxing match in Vegas has 3 manual Rodgers playing on side wall.

\* **Santa Claus the Movie** (1986). At one point, well-meaning (but naive and sloppy) elfin mechanical engineer Patch (Dudley Moore) is shown playing a large, tinkertoy-looking organ, to entertain the factory elves.

\* **Scorpio** (1973). An espionage thriller starring Burt Lancaster as an ex-CIA operative called back for one last assignment. Part way through the film he meets with one of his contacts in the America On Wheels Roller Rink in Alexandria, VA. When the film was made, it was the home of the ex-Center Theatre NYC 4/34 WurliTzer (little sister to the Radio City Music Hall organ). The several-minute scene begins with close-ups of the unclosed pipes and percussions, and of Jimmy Boyce playing at that fabulous Art Deco console, then cuts to the men talking at the edge of the rink with skaters and organ behind. Boyce plays throughout the scene.

\* **Shine** (1996), Geoffrey Rush. Another movie that contains good shots and playing of organs. The movie is about the once forgotten concert pianist David Helfgott

\* **Spaceballs** (1987), Mel Brooks. Organ specifically in Princess Vespa's wedding scenes at the beginning [to Prince Vallium] and end [to Lone Star] of the picture.

\* **They Might Be Giants** (1971), George C. Scott plays a Sherlock-Holmes-like sleuth with Joanne Woodward as his Watson. In one scene they walk into a big old movie palace and have a chat in the balcony while the "movie" plays. The theatre is the Brooklyn Fox, and as I recall the scene opens with a long shot of the auditorium showing the console of the 4/37 WurliTzer in the pit. The film was shot just before the building was razed, and it had not been used for a number of years.

\* **Tony Rome** (1967), Frank Sinatra. 3-manual WurliTzer Console in large living room.

\* **Twelve Monkeys** (1995), Joseph Melito, Bruce Willis. The Wanamaker organ makes an appearance

\* **Sunset Boulevard** (1950). Erich von Stroheim plays pipe organ in Gloria

Swanson's mansion.

\* **Smallest Show On Earth, The** (1957), Margaret Rutherford, Peter Sellers. A young couple inherit an aging cinema in England. They go to a Gaumont theatre and see and hear a large Compton played for intermission.

\* **Sound Of Music** (1965), Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. Contains pictures and music of the Abbey organ (location uncertain) of Maria's wedding.

\* **20,000 Leagues Under the Sea** (1954), James Mason, Kirk Douglas. Captain Nemo plays a lot of modified Bach while doing soul searching under the ocean. As a side light this console can now be seen in California's Disneyland ride "Haunted Mansion" in the ball room, and there is a rather dilapidated console in the attraction called "The Mysteries of the Nautilus" in Disneyland Paris.

\* **Valley of Gwangi, The** (1969). An Allosaurus that has escaped from a Mexican circus chases James Franciscus into a church. The church had a large organ in the Spanish style complete with "trompetas". Someone taking refuge in the loft sounds the instrument. I wonder who was pumping the bellows? Maybe there was still a little wind left in the reservoir from the last service!

\* **Who Framed Roger Rabbit?** (1988), Bob Hoskins, Christopher Lloyd. Theatre scene (shot in Britain) shows 3-manual console in orchestra pit plus the band organ in the climax of the whole picture.

\* **Yanks** (1979), Richard Gere. The organ is featured in England for a sing-a-long in a cinema.

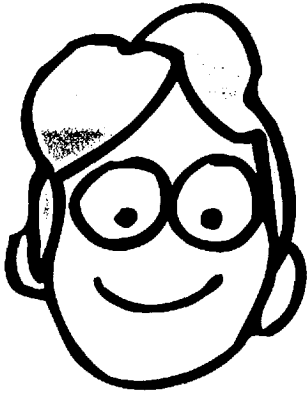
\* **Younger And Younger** (1993), Donald Sutherland A very strange film, but "starring" a WurliTzer pipe organ installed in a U-Lock-It type warehouse, with Donald Sutherland shown as the organist - not much organ music, but no list would be complete without this film.

*Anyone with Internet access may wish to e-mail additions or corrections for this listing to :*

**[Jkautz@theatreorgans.com](mailto:Jkautz@theatreorgans.com)**

*Ian Cameron also suggests that if you are ever looking for information on movies/movie stars, etc., an interesting web site is :*

**<http://www.uk.imdb.com>**



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# HOLIDAY TECHNOLOGY

by Walter Pearce

After the **Orion Gledhill** concert, the team put the **Wurlitzer** to sleep, and we got away around 6pm. **Jenny** and I called home to pack the Ford Laser with the cat and most of our belongings and we motored through the rain to a holiday cabin just north of **Bateman's Bay**. Climbed into bed around 4am. Didn't rise until late the next morning.

The cottage is right on the beach and comes with an oldie but goldie "**Marantz**" amplifier - but has no tuner or player. So I plugged in my super AM FM SW SSB stereo tuner but got not a sound. Had it been damaged in travel? Pressed all its 30 buttons and switches together and separately - but not a sound, only garbage on its little screen. Finally, half an hour later, twigged that its *computer* ("*Microprocessor*") back-up battery was flat. Replaced that and it worked fine! Sounded good through the **Marantz**, and it searched for local stations. Thank heavens for ABC FM radio.

While **Jenny** messed with unimportant things like clothes and food and a stressed cat, I turned to our **Sony CD Walkman**. At the expense of an extra blanket we had brought lots of CDs, but I couldn't get the thing to work at all. Fortunately I'd packed my *Microprocessor* volt-meter, and was able to measure things like the power supply output. But after doing that and pressing all the **Walkman's** 7 buttons repeatedly I had no sound. Finally discovered a little "Resume" switch (never noticed before) which had been knocked to "HOLD" in travel. Turned it on and, presto! we had "**Galapagus Duck**" and **Beethoven's Ninth** loud and clear. (Played some **Fenelon** later in the evening).

Another half hour gone, and

**Jenny** had the place in good shape for our holiday.

Now for the TV. Has a *Microprocessor* that looks up the local stations - but we hadn't brought our roof-top aerial, and our son has the Rabbit Ears in **Lismore**. So, cut up some old wire and strung it up - now we have TV. Except the new *Microprocessor* Remote Control doesn't know how to change channels up and down, so I have to leap out of my chair. Will buy Rabbit's Ears in town tomorrow.

Now, I'd brought in my ageing **286 Laptop computer**, and it worked first go! It has all the backup **TOSA** Membership files in it. Even did quick Year 2000 compliance check and it came through fine - it had only lost track of today's time and date. Not bad for a ten-year-old.

Tomorrow, I'll learn how to use the *Microprocessor's* touch-sensitive controls on the cottage Microwave oven. Then run out in the rain and have the *Microprocessor*-controlled car-radio search for the local stations.

And, of course, I'll have to play a game against the *Microprocessor*-controlled Chess Set we brought along. Never been able to beat it! Even at its lowest level of thinking.

Oh, did I mention we brought our *Microprocessor*-controlled Blood Pressure monitor? Yes we did! Cat probably needs it more than I do.

Takes me back it does ... to last Thursday at the **Orion Wurlitzer**. **Ron** and I set up and tested an entire back-up system using the NEW and the OLD computers. So we had a good chance of continuing the concert

if one went down. (Yes, *computers* DO go down!!) But then, at this the last organ access before the concert and only a few minutes before the tuner was due, we had to do something about the **CHIMES** that kept playing regardless of whether the organist wanted them or not. Then when he DID turn them on, they didn't all work. Should we unplug them altogether?

However, by a process of brilliant reasoning, **Grandad Ron** knew the problem was in the *computer*, but we didn't know how to fix that. Conversely, by a cool piece of **Sherlock Holmes** deduction, I (another **Grandad**) deduced that the trouble would be on a *circuit board* in the pipe chamber. I was even able, amazingly, to point to a set of three *chips* that should be replaced. But **Ron**, awesomely, while agreeing with my choice of which *board* from the umpteen *circuit boards*, pointed to three **different chips** nearby. Something was a bit fishy.


Anyway, **Ron**, being a sporting gentleman, swapped over my choice of three. Powered up the organ and - no improvement. Shock-horror, and the tuner had arrived! So ... we swapped over **Ron's** choice, powered up again and everything worked fine. He was right.

All went well at the concert, and **Simon** used the Chimes quite a lot.

Ah well ... sometimes I'm tempted to live outback and survive on low-tech Bush Tucker. I mean all this *Microprocessor* and *Computer* stuff is fine ... only if everything is working!

Trouble is, I love modern technology.

**Grandad Walter**



# From The MAILBOX

Ritchie Willis, TOSA's transport officer, writes telling us of a unique telephonic experience :

29/6/99

A friend of mine was on holidays in England recently and went to the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool. He heard Phil Kelsall playing the WurliTzer Organ and thought, "I wonder if there is a telephone near the door of the ballroom?" And sure enough, there was one.

So he propped the ballroom door open, stretched the telephone cord as close to the door as possible, and rang me in Mortdale. I heard the organ playing four songs quite clearly.

I wonder if that had ever been done before?

Yours faithfully,  
Ritchie Willis

Macquarie University is presenting a series of free concerts, called Music on Winter Sundays :

Sunday, 8th August at St Alban's Church, Pemboke St, Epping, at 2.30pm - Jeannine and Philip Cansler from Portland, Oregon, play Organ and Trumpet duos.

Sunday, 22nd August at Macquarie Theatre, in the grounds of Macquarie University at 2.30pm - Gusztáv Fenyó plays classical piano.

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## Report on "Ian Davies and Friends" Afternoon

by Barry Tooker

Bondi Junction-Waverley RSL Club was alive and well on Saturday, 20th February when Ian Davies presented another of his popular free afternoon shows for TOSA members, RSL Club members and their guests.

The afternoon started with Bill Schumacher, who traditionally plays the opening bracket. Bill entertained us with tunes including *It's All Right With Me*, *In The Still Of The Night*, *You Took Advantage Of Me* and *My Funny Valentine*. These were followed by selections from Gershwin which included *By Strauss*, *They Can't Take That Away From Me* and *Swanee*.

Next at the console was Valda Lang. She had had an accident just prior to the concert, which physically precluded her from playing some of the numbers on the piano. However she soldiered on at the organ, playing such melodies as *Lady of Spain*, *Romance* from *The Gadfly* and *Trish Trash Polka*. This number brought nostalgic memories for Valda who had been introduced to TOSA by our late member John Congert and had heard it played on our Marrickville WurliTzer 25 years ago.

A surprise was the introduction of Welshman John Batts from Canada. John lectures in English at the University of NSW, and plays in the British style. John played *Polly* and *Everything I Have Is Yours* - a tune not to be hummed when doing tax returns! A few bars of the *Wedding March* introduced *Abba Dabba Honeymoon*.

Ian in his inimitable style followed with a bracket of *Louisiana Hayride*, *For Sentimental Reasons*, *Bye Bye Baby*, *Take Me Off To Dreamland*, *Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah*, *All God's Children Got Wings* and, to demonstrate the cathedral possibilities of the Rodgers organ, finished with *March Triumphant*.

After a short interval Bill returned to play a Cole Porter selection, including *It's De-Lovely*, *Another Opening Another Show*, *Always True To You In My Fashion*, *Wunderbar*, *Just The Way You Look Tonight*, *I Get a Kick Out Of You*, *Begin The Beguine* and *Night and Day*. What a wonderful mixture!

Valda again took her place to play *Belle Of The Ball*, *Moonlight In Vermont*, *Moonlight Mood*, *Dizzy Fingers* and the *Swan Theme* from *Swan Lake*. She finished in typical style, as always, with audience participation, clapping in time over several bars at a given signal.

John Batts took another turn, playing *Please Remember Me*, *Five Foot Two, That's My Weakness Now*, *The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise*, *Ain't She Sweet* and *Sunnyside Up*.

After this it was Ian's turn again and he entertained us with an old favourite - *Whistling Rufus*, using the piccolo stop. *My Captain's Working For Me Now*, *Doing What Comes Naturally* and *Alexander's Ragtime Band* followed.

A singalong made up the finale with Bill on piano and Ian at the Rodgers. The audience were in fine voice, singing *I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover*, *I'm Sitting On Top Of The World*, *Margie* and *Side By Side*.

Ian thanked the artists and the lady serving liquid refreshments at the bar, and presented a small gift to Valda.

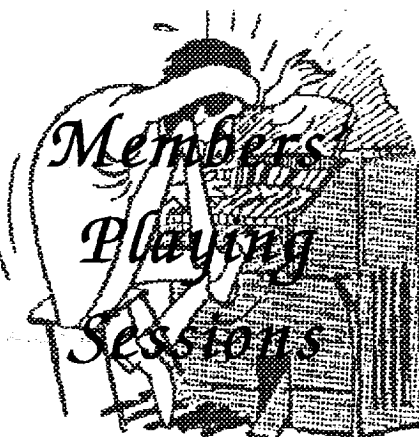
A well packed auditorium was promised another concert later this year and we all look forward to it.

Thank you, Ian, and to the management and staff of Bondi Junction-Waverley RSL Club for a most enjoyable afternoon.

Marrickville Members' Playing Evening, on Thursday 24th June, saw 6 players give the WurliTzer a try-out - Jack Rose, Wendy Hambly, Walter Pearce, John Batts, Frank Lewis and Graeme Costin.

Also present to hear the performances and to participate socially were Betty Rose, Edna and Ray Hambly, Neil Palmer, David James and Ian Tullock.

Remember every 4th Thursday of the month at Marrickville Town Hall.



# OUR NEXT ARTIST

## Richard Hills

**Richard Hills** became interested in the theatre organ at the age of seven, when he saw and heard **Robert Wolfe** at the 3/19 *Wurlitzer* of the **Thursford Collection** in **Norfolk**. Having taught himself to play a **Yamaha Electone**, **Richard** turned his attention to Theatre Organ playing. In 1990, **Richard** began studying the Theatre Organ with **John Norris**, and since then his musical interests have broadened to encompass the music of both **American** and **British** organists. As well as Theatre Organ music, **Richard** enjoys **British** light music and a wide variety of classical music.

In 1993, **Richard** entered and won the **American Theatre Organ Society London's Young Organist of the Year Competition**, and two years later was judged overall winner of the international **A.T.O.S. Young Organist Competition** in **Detroit**. He then played the following year at the **San Gabriel Civic Auditorium** for the 1996 **A.T.O.S. Convention** and was invited to give a concert at the **Oakland Paramount Theatre** at last year's convention in **San Francisco**. In addition to these concerts, **Richard** has played throughout the **British Isles**, and in 1997 was invited to give a number

of concerts in **Holland** and **Germany**. A concert tour of **Australia** is underway at the present time.

**Richard** is the current holder of the **Cinema Organ Society's Ian Sutherland Memorial Award**, which he was presented to him at **Cinema Organ Society Scotland's 21st Anniversary Convention** in May, 1996, and he also studies classical organ with **William Whitehead**. **Richard** is Organ Scholar at **King's School** in **Rochester**, where he plays the organ in **Rochester Cathedral** for numerous services.

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The time: **2pm on Sunday 19th September**      The place: **Marrickville Town Hall**

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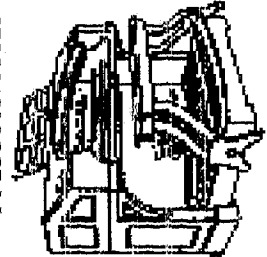
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**AUGUST, 1999**

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