

TOSA NEWS

March 2019
Volume 58 No.2

Price: \$2.00

**Season Tickets for 2019
are available now**

**5 concerts for price of 4
Purchase a season ticket
until the March 17th Concert
where**

**Chris Powell from the UK
plays the Marrickville Wurlitzer**

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TOSA News David & Margaret Badman

Printer Printers of Richmond

President



Hi all from my hospital bed in Wollongong where at the time of writing I am receiving my first dose of chemotherapy to deal with a non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in my left maxillary sinus. Google that for more details.

However that is my problem that I am dealing with thanks to the excellent medical services in the Illawarra where Deb and I live - they have surrounded us with outstanding service and care as I commence this journey to healing. Deb's love and support is invaluable.

Fortunately due to the also excellent TOSA NSW team and our contracted artists, the show will go on! The first one of the year is Sunday 17 March at Marrickville with the always vibrant **Chris Powell** from the UK. He has already started his down-under tour in New Zealand just a few days ago.

Make sure you get along for Chris's excellent concert on our internationally famous 2/11 Wurlitzer. To improve the absorption of reflected sound and make the day more social, the seating will be in cabaret style. Remember to BYO snacks and drinks, wine and beer is OK.

The new improved and popular afternoon tea selections will also be available.

Cheers!

Craig Keller

Editorial



Hello Members, Welcome back to the first concert for this year featuring one of Britain's most entertaining Theatre Organists. I hope you enjoy the new segment "Down Memory Lane" featuring several responses from members about the channel 10 program on the Prince Edward Theatre and its Wurlitzer - the very first Wurlitzer installed in a theatre in Sydney and the Wurlitzer to be played by Chris for your enjoyment.

Do come along for a fun afternoon with plenty of music as well as some dancing if you are in the mood.

The Christie Report along with photos of activities that continue to progress the installation and finishing off of the Christie I hope gives you an idea of the work involved and the challenges faced in restoring this instrument. A great example of Christie organ building as well as enhanced reliability through the work of the TOSA Restoration Team to a level that members can be proud of and an instrument that will enhance church services at West Ryde Anglican Church as well as provide a modern example of a Christie Theatre Organ for members to enjoy.

Enjoy the music,

Ernie Vale

editor@tosa.net.au

From the Mailbox...



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Thanks for your responses and please continue to email or write in, telling us what you think.

Where space permits we will do our best to publish your comments, but as space is limited, the editor reserves the right to edit any submitted comments and, as always, the views expressed by any individual may not necessarily coincide with the views of TOSA

NSW Div.

Please submit all comments via email to:

The Editor editor@tosa.net.au
or in writing to:

The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)
PO Box A2322
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

JUST RELEASED

The Cliff Bingham Concert Collection.

A two CD set of popular and light classic organ music recorded 'live' at various concerts over the past 25 years.
150 minutes of music.

Featuring:
4 Wurlitzers
2 Comptons
1 Christie

The magnificent Adelaide Town Hall JW Walker concert organ
Price \$20.00

Available from the TOSA record bar or from the Soundwright professional audio online store at www.soundwright.com.au or phone Mal Abel on (02) 9555 9155

MAESTRO ON THE AIR

For those who may have missed hearing Tony Fenelon being interviewed over the air recently on 3MBS-FM by Loretto Perkins - have no fear, for a transcription is available on the internet at - <https://3mbs.org.au/tony-fenelon/>

In addition to the Archive magazines you have been receiving, we now have all the magazines from the first newsletter through to December 1989 available on the website. Soon the '90's will be complete as well.

A philosophical note

There are many humorous quotations which are not so much funny as resoundingly true, and rather than generating guffaws of laughter, produce in us a wry smile. As George Bernard Shaw said: 'My way of joking is to tell the truth.'

To Watch Out for

Chris Powell plays the Marrickville Wurlitzer

Please encourage friends and students to come along and enjoy one of Britain's great musical entertainers

**Seating is Cabaret Style
BYO food and drinks** as there will only be the enhanced afternoon tea for purchase including some gluten free items
See the seating layout near the advert for Chris Powell

2019 Season Tickets are now available by downloading a form from the tosa web site or alternately phoning the Ticket Secretary Theo Langenburg on 0410 626 131 before 8:pm please with your details

Early Bird Membership
Early Bird membership renewals will be available at the March concert, so why not buy a membership for a friend through to June 2020, order season tickets and enjoy the discounts?

Members can help TOSA by encouraging friends and acquaintances to become a member of TOSA as well as purchasing a Season ticket so they save money overall.

Advertising Rates in TOSA News

For Members:

Small, Organ related ads = FREE!

For all other cases:

Quarter Page = \$25

Half Page = \$50

Full Page = \$100

Full Page Insert = \$125.00

Members' Playing Dates

**The Orion Theatre Campsie
Second Thursday of the
Month**

March 14th

April 11th

Convener is

Craig Keller on 0418484798

or John Batts on 0420424103

**Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday afternoon/evening
at 1:20pm to 9:00pm**

March 25th

April 28th

Convener is

John Batts on 0420424103

will email you to confirm the day is available or

Neil Palmer on 9798 6742 after 7:00pm

to confirm availability

TOSA Members Off & Playing in 2019.

John S. Batts writes:

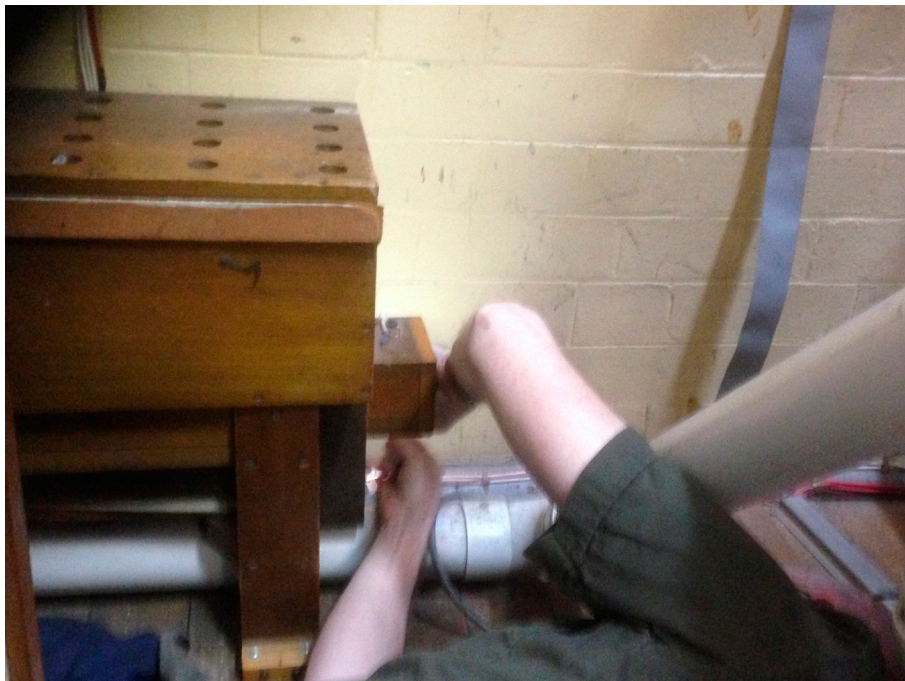
A cadre of players among our membership has begun the year in style with two meetings in both January and February. Moreover, the social aspect has been improved now with not only the introduction of ceramic mugs instead of polystyrene cups but also a table-cloth on each occasion; for these upgrades we are indebted to Margaret Badman, whose tray of a variety of sandwiches each time pleases everyone and threatens my waistline.

The year began with a meeting on Thursday, January 10th at The Orion, Campsie. We began late, as advertised, but much less than an hour was given to the installation of a refurbished power-supply unit inside the Wurlitzer console – you may recall that there had been a short that occasioned burning and smoke on the day that Simon Gledhill came in to rehearse. Thanks to John Weismantel this now has up-to-date circuit protection. Holidays traditionally mean that people go away for a while, but members on-hand that day included Margaret and David Badman, Tom Barber, John Batts, Graeme Costin, Doug Matthews, John Weismantel and Rob Weismantel (TOSA-Qld).

On Monday, 28th January, notwithstanding the Australia Day celebrations and despite the heat the Members' Event at Marrickville Town Hall attracted five players: **David Badman, Tom Barber, Noah Curran, Kevin Eadie and your scribe.** Adding to the conviviality were **Margaret Badman, Kevin Clancy, and Michael Curran.** The re-leathering of the off-set Diaphone pipes had been expertly done by Neil Palmer over the Christmas period, so members missed no official date for playing; and the new "motors" in the offset performed well this day.

Another booking at The Orion Centre on the usual second Thursday of the month meant that the TOSA Members' event was put back one week to Thursday, February 21st. That morning **David Badman, Tom Barber, John Batts, Kevin Eadie and Doug Matthews** took their turns on the bench, while **Margaret Badman, Kevin Clancy and Barry Tooker** made up the audience. In addition to his contribution of a plate of goodies, **Barry** took some photographs of the players.

Barely one week later the enthusiasts were back at Marrickville Town Hall on another very warm day, Monday 25th February. Seven organists took their turn on the Wurlitzer bench: **David Badman, Tom Barber, John Batts, Graeme Costin, Kevin Eadie, Ian Georgeson, and Doug Matthews.** The ill-performing bottom C Tibia had been attended to by Neil Palmer and was back on song.



**Vice President, Neal Palmer lies under the Tibia Tremulant at Marrickville to replace the magnet cap after cleaning the armature
Part of the ongoing maintenance of the Marrickville Wurlitzer**

Once more we were indebted to **Margaret Badman's** tray of (better than professional!) sandwiches. We are further indebted to member Doug, who solved what threatened to be a gustatory crisis – the hot-water cistern in the Hall's kitchen failed to work for the first time in living memory. But **Doug** not only went out and purchased a capacious electric urn to save the day for coffee and tea drinkers but also he has donated the urn to TOSA(NSW); it is currently stored within the console shell -- just in case the Inner-West Council maintenance moves with the rapidity of repairs to the lock of the hall's entrance door.



Vice President, Neil Palmer adjusts one of the keys on the lower keyboard on the Marrickville Wurlitzer

©jsbatts/1/3/2019.

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(John S. Batts),

Presenter of Theatre Organ Magic on RNB-FM from Sydney, NSW, Australia 88.7 FM and 90.3 FM (locally) at noon every first Sunday of the month and at that precise hour only streamed to the world-wide web via rnb.org.au.

The "live" first Sunday shows are usually re-broadcast on subsequent Sundays of the month at noon, and are also streamed. Elsewhere you may catch-up at any time with selected broadcasts by downloading them from: www.mixcloud.com/johnsbatts.

Down Memory Lane

Following the article and movie on channel 10 about the Prince Edward Theatre, Sydney, that Neil Palmer found and sent to the Committee thence to TOSA members by email from David Badman with a link to the movie, David and Margaret received the following responses.

Member Richard Benham wrote:

Hi David,

Thank you for this item I had a pair of misty eyes at the end of it. I remember taking my late mother there, in the early 50's, courtesy of one of my early pay packets and after treating her to dinner at the Ling Nam, one of the first classy Chinese restaurants in Sydney. My late mother-in-law was an usherette there for a few years. My in-laws owned the Theatre in Oatley which, thanks to television, went the way of the Prince Edward many years ago. I look back at that period, David; it was four and sixpence to sit in the Lounge and for that you got a Newsreel, then a support movie, then, after Interval, a Cartoon and the main movie. If you were lucky, you got to put your arm around the girl that you were with at the time. A box of Winning Post usually did the trick!! It was a

Show & Membership Prices

	All Artists
Non-members	\$40
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$35
TOSA Members	\$25

All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status

All Children FREE accompanied by an Adult

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$22 per person

First time Adult \$25 cash by completed Voucher at Box Office

Annual Membership Fees 2018-19:

\$50.00 Full membership, \$40.00 Concession, Interstate or

Overseas \$50. \$5 discount if TOSA News emailed to you

Membership enquiries David & Margaret Badman

(02) 4776 2192 membership@tosa.net.au

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

time when people dressed up to go to the "flicks" and, sadly, that era has passed for ever.

with my regards, David,

Dick Benham

Dear Margaret,

Please call me Richard. I am only too happy for you to use my reply re the Prince Edward and I hope that it prompts others to share their memories. I left school in 1952 and started working in 1953 so it was probably in 1954 that I took my Mum to the Theatre Beautiful. Television descended on those opulent "pleasure palaces" like a plague and we are the poorer for their demise.

I was raised in Oatley and worked as the projectionist at the Theatre there. By jingo, Margaret, it was full on.

I remember watching Owen Holland playing the Wurlitzer in the Savoy, Hurstville. I was studying organ at the time and I recall thinking "boy, I'd like a crack at that but it was many years before I got my wish and sat on the stool of our organ at Marrickville. It was worth the wait!. That eminent organist, Edwin Lemare, wrote a book entitled "Organs I Have Met" in which he stated that there are organs which embrace you and some that fight you all the way. When I first sat on the stool at M/ville and began to play I knew that I had found a friend.

Lordy, but I do waffle on ... I'm 81 and we oldies love to share our memories.

with my thanks to you and David and my kind regards,

Richard.

Hello David & Margaret,

Thanks for the vale Prince Edward email and link to the movie. I just watched and enjoyed it. I can remember going there to see "War and Peace" in 1957 (?). We walked from St Patricks school at Church Hill.

Of course I went there to see other movies and always enjoyed seeing Noreen Hennessey playing the organ,

Thanks again,
Love,

Veniece

David,

Many thanks for that – and to Neil for finding it.

Certainly brought back memories – I went to the last Show, with my fiancée and another couple to make up a foursome (they had just returned from overseas and I had never met the chap).

Oddly enough at the time, he seemed very interested and enthusiastic, which I put down to "trying to make a good impression". Over coffee after the Show, I hastened to apologise for any boredom he had experienced..... to which he responded by telling me that his family owned a chain of Movie Theatres across the Mid-West of the USA, and he had therefore been most interested in everything and had made some comparisons with his "home" experiences.

Small World

Anyhow just another Link in the Prince Edward Chain!

Regards

Paul Ballard

**Come along and enjoy
musically talented entertainer
Chris Powell from the UK
play
"The Best of British"**



Sunday 17th March 2:00 – 4:30pm

2 hours of wonderful music at bargain prices

Marrickville Town Hall

Cnr Petersham & Marrickville Roads, Marrickville

Good Public Transport access and free on street parking around the
Town Hall

Mobility card holders can park behind the Town Hall all day

Bring your dancing shoes if you like

Seating cabaret style & BYO Food & Drink

**Nice afternoon tea available for purchase
including some gluten free items**

Chris Powell

Chris Powell was born in Manchester in 1971. At the age of 2, his parents emigrated to live in Christchurch, New Zealand where he first became exposed to organ music as a pre-schooler at the Cathedral Boys Grammar School in this most 'English' of cities, albeit being some 12,000 miles away from the UK! A return to England in 1977 saw him further his musical activities both as a chorister and also with piano and subsequently electronic organ lessons.

By the age of 16, he was already giving concerts as well as playing for dancing around East Lancashire and West Yorkshire and had his first Club Residency during this time. Growing up in North West England, it was perhaps not surprising that it wasn't to be long before the family made an outing to the world famous **Blackpool Tower** for a visit. Upon entering the hallowed Ballroom there and hearing the Wurlitzer, Chris remarked to his parents that he would "play in here some day!".... Although met with some wry laughter at the time, he did indeed do this and at the age of 18, he was successfully auditioned to join the team of organists there as a relief player during the winter of 1990. A happy 5 year connection ensued, playing both the Wurlitzer and also electronics within the complex.

His time at **Blackpool** saw him playing in front of some fairly prestigious figures including *former Labour Party Leader, Neil Kinnoch and also Princess Anne*. It was during this time that invitations started to come in from far and wide for him to play for both concerts and dances alike.

Tickets : \$ 40; Conc \$ 35; Members \$25
Family ie 2 Adults including 1 or more children \$75
Adult Group of 10 or more \$22/person

Students free on confirmation of student status. Bring your parents along for only \$25 each as a first time patron.

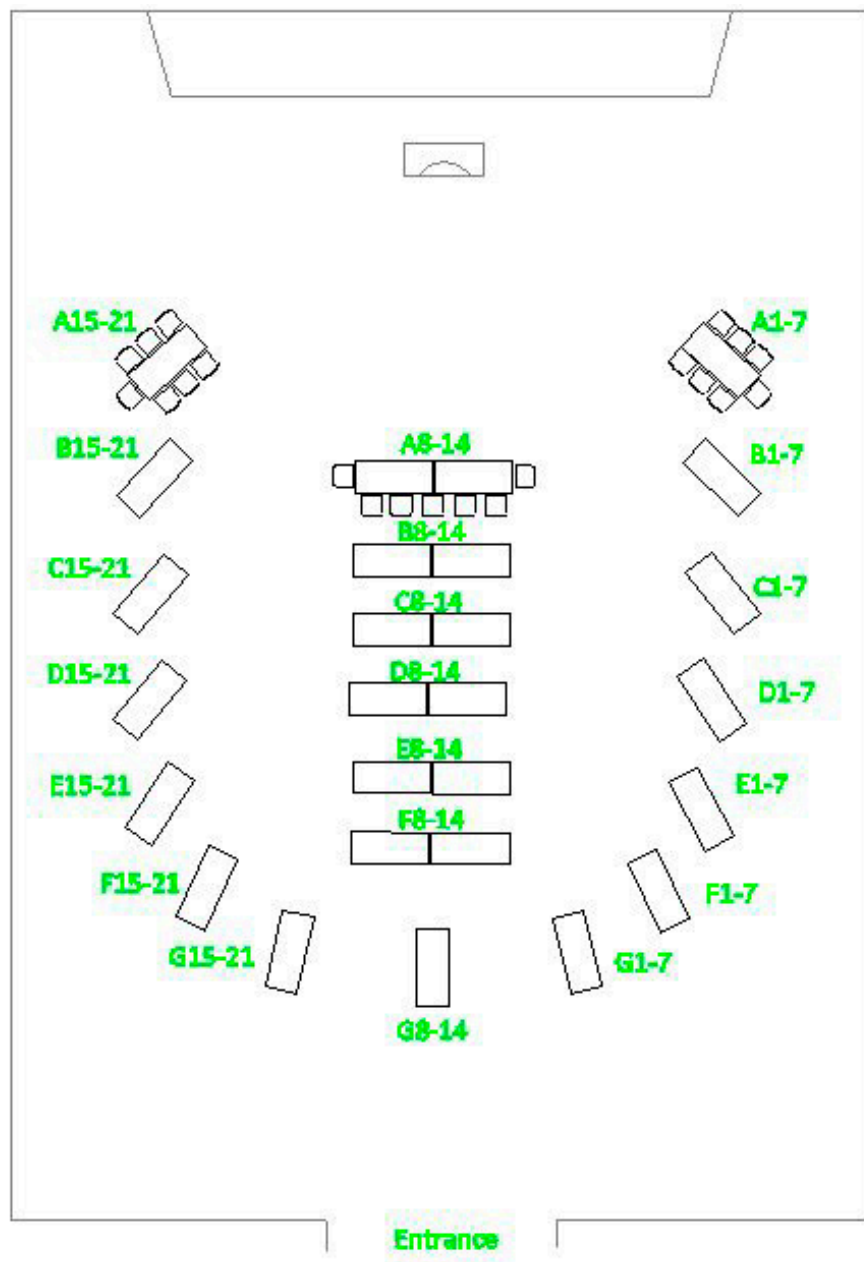
Book securely on line at Trybooking via www.tosa.net.au/events
click on the trybooking link

or

Phone Theo Langenberg on 0410 626 131 before 8:pm please

Seating arrangement for March 17th Concert

The space between the console and the seating is available for patrons to dance to the Wurlitzer if they wish



Christie report for March 2019.

Due to excessive heat/humidity during January and February work has been disrupted at the church. Chamber conditions regularly exceeded 32° C and 74% RH, despite insulation.

Work done since last report includes:

Accompaniment chamber:

- Manufactured underbox adapters for Clarinet and offset regulators (Diaphone, Flute, Violone). Sealed joints and fitted leather gaskets.
- Cut openings in trunking for Clarinet and Strings.
- Installation of small regulators (with modified bottom plate openings and outlet fittings) for Strings & Clarinet.
- Strings regulator winded to chests. Only needs springs to be fitted, and adjustment.
- Clarinet regulator installation still in progress.
- Some adjustments of Symphonic Roll, Bass Drum, Snare Drum & Tap Cymbal on wind.

Solo chamber:

- Dodd chest: Secondary gaskets and motors installed. Air leaks fixed. Buffer felts to be fitted. JP continues work on the top board and rack. Pipes have been delivered to Ermington.

General:

- Manufactured new valve plates for small regulators. Fitted hinges, springs, guide wires.
- Glued felt & leather on flap valve faces, and opening for cone valve on base plate.
- Graded more coil springs in preparation for regulators.

Vice President, John Weismantel

As you can see there was still plenty of activities performed to progress the installation of the Christie in spite of the unpleasant summer weather. Editor

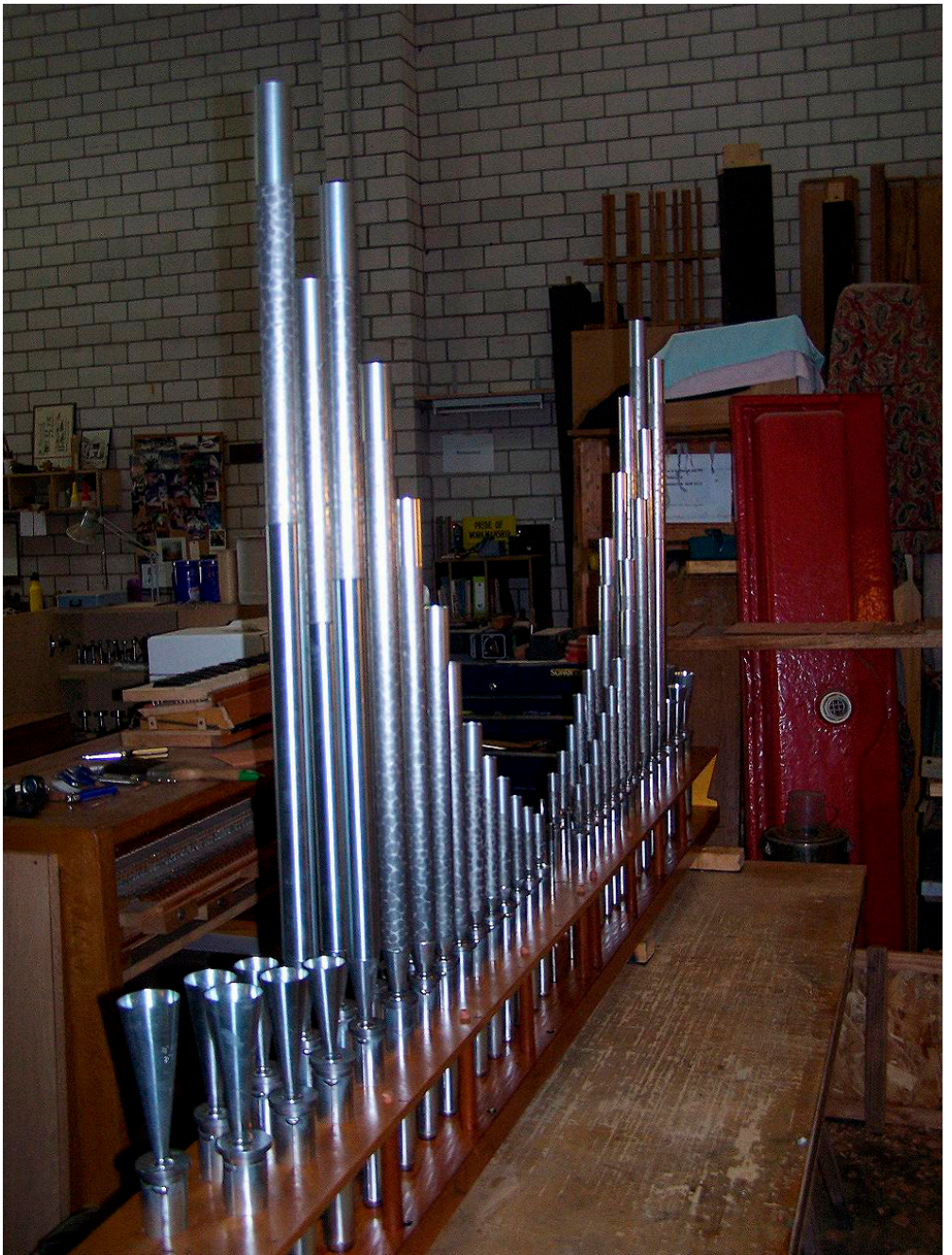


Fitting of the Regulators in the Accompaniment Chamber maximising the use of the minimum space available. Several chests attached to wind to test the ranks and identify any ciphers

photo Ernie Vale



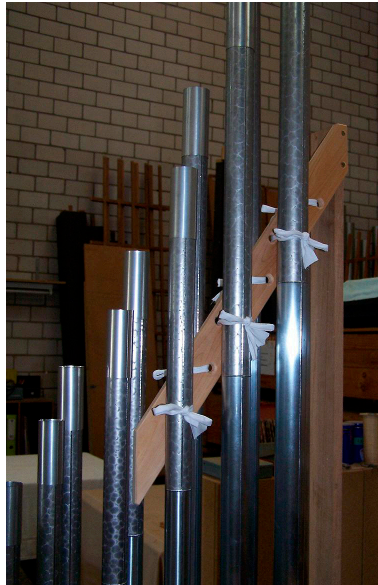
Krumet pipes cleaned and racked in new top board



The Christie Krumet pipes racked in the new top board



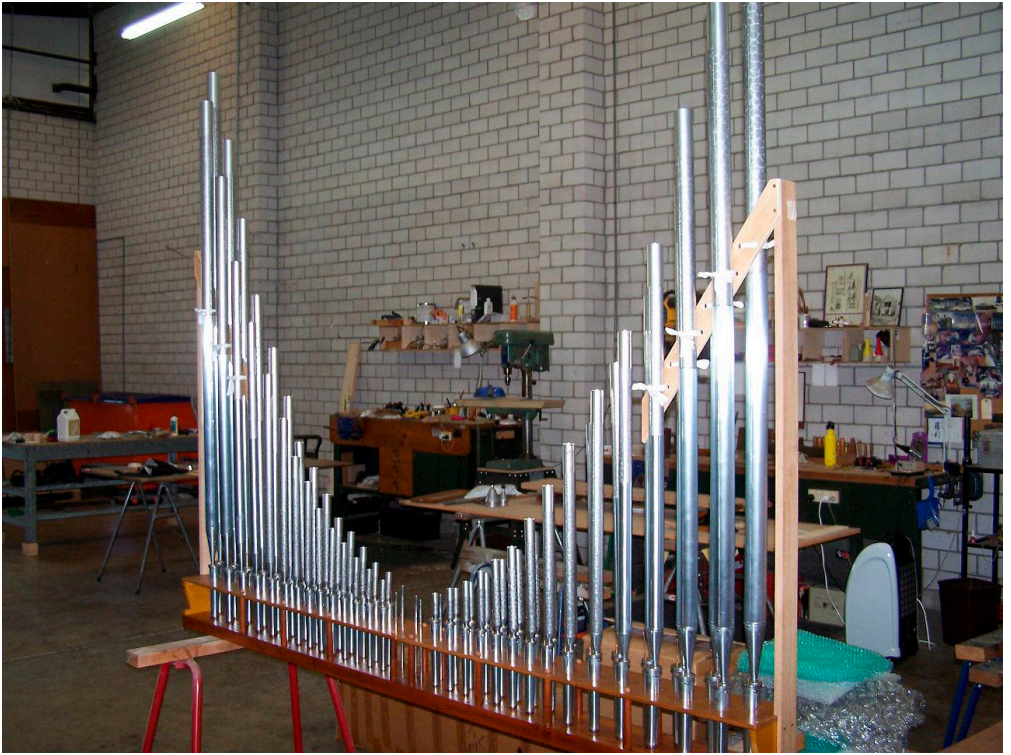
**Krummet pipes in the middle of the rank as racked.
Excellent presentation by organ builder John Parker**



New stays for the Krummet Rank are in place



Fine detail of the Krumet Rank of pipes



**Pipe stays in place at each end of the Krumet Rank
The stays now need to be stained**

All Krumet photos by John Parker

Interstate Concert Schedule for 2019

SYDNEY

Chris Powell (U.K.) - Marrickville - Sunday March 17

John Atwell (Aus) - Orion - Sunday June 2

Ken Double (U.S.A.) - Orion - Sunday August 18

Dave Wickerham (U.S.A.) - Orion - Sunday October 27

Tony Fenelon (Aus) - Marrickville - Sunday December 1

ADELAIDE

David Bailey (Aus) - Sunday February 24

Chris Powell (U.K.) - Sunday March 24

Chris McPhee (S.A.) - Sunday May 5

Tony Fenelon (Aus) - Sunday June 23
Ken Double (U.S.A.) - Sunday August 18
Mathew Loeser (Aus) - Sunday September 15
John Pound (Aus) - Sunday October 20
Dave Wickerham (U.S.A.) - Sunday November 17
(All concerts at the "Capri" Goodwood)

BRISBANE

John Giacchi (Aus) - Change of date
Christie and Friends featuring Queensland artists —
Sunday 7 April
Legends (Aus) - Sunday 30 June
Ken Double (U.S.A.) — Sunday 11 August
Dave Wickerham (U.S.A.) - Saturday 30 November
(Compton) *
Dave Wickerham (U.S.A.)— Sunday 1 December

(All concerts on the T.O.S.A.Q. Christie except * which is a
Majestic Theatre, Pomona event)

MELBOURNE

David Bailey (Aus) - Sunday 24 March
Palace Dendy - Brighton 1:30pm
David Johnston (Aus) - Sunday 26 May
Palace Dendy - Brighton 1:30pm
Tony Fenelon and John Atwell (bothAus)- Sunday 21 July
Kingston Town Hall - Moorabbin 2:00PM
Ken Double (U.S.A) - Friday 23 August
Malvern Town Hall 7:30pm
Scott Harrison (Aus) and Ruby Page (Aus)
Kingston Town Hall - Moorabbin 2:00pm
David Wickerham (U.S.A.) - Sunday 24 November
Malvern Town Hall 2:00pm
David Johnston (Aus) - Sunday 28 April
Palace Dendy - Brighton 1:30pm
with the Dandenong Ranges Jazz Band

Perth yet to be advised.



Mystery Theatre Organist for March

Please email your answers to editor@tosa.net.au naming the organist. Do you know the organ?



Members Diary

Next Committee Meeting - Monday April 1st

West Ryde Anglican Church

Sunday 17th March 2:00pm

Come along to enjoy

Chris Powell

entertain you

in the Blackpool Style

playing the Marrickville Wurlitzer

Bring your dancing shoes if you wish

Book Tickets - www.tosa.net.au/events/trybooking

or

Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 Before 8:00pm please

www.theatreorgansaust.info (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

www.omss.org.au (our sister society, Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)
www.ATOS.org American Theatre Organ Society

****Theatre Organ Magic** on RNB - FM from Sydney, NSW, Australia.**

88.7 FM and 90.3 FM 12 noon first Sunday of the month for one hour

Web Sites of Interest: <https://www.facebook.com/tosansw>

www.ATOS.org American Theatre Organ Society

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