

TOSA NEWS

June July 2022
Volume 61 No.4

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**Time to Renew Your Membership
before June 30th**

Members Day Photos

Visit to Majestic Theatre Pomona Compton

**Scott Bingham wins Noosa Hill Climb
Outright**



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TOSA News David & Margaret Badman

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President



Dear Member,

It was good to see that 34 people took the opportunity to hear (with approximately 7 players) the progress made on the Christie Unit Organ at West Ryde Anglican Church. As work continues on this instrument, it continues to be "played in" for the Sunday morning services.

Orion Wurlitzer update:

Since my last column I can report that Council has accepted the quote for cost of repairs from the organ builder. The organ is covered under Council's insurance policy but as far as we are aware they are not proceeding to make a claim under their policy and will bear the cost of repairs themselves. Council is being cooperative and we anticipate work will be able to soon commence.

Meanwhile over at Marrickville, the Wurlitzer continues to be used for member's practise and the fourth Monday of the month member's playing events.

Thank you to the Members who have renewed their membership. For those who haven't, please consider doing so, there WILL be concerts again.

Until next time,

Neil

Editorial



Hello Members,

In this issue you will read about the TOSA Members Day at St. Columb's West Ryde, a visit to the Majestic Theatre, Pomona, Compton organ by Cliff Bingham, A successful result at the Noosa Hillclimb by Cliff Bingham's son, Scott, the continuing story of Robert Hope-Jones and Wurlitzer.

There is also a Rodgers organ for sale.

Please note the time is now for renewing your TOSA Membership please. If you don't have your Membership renewal form sent to you with the April/May TOSA News, you can contact Margaret Badman to renew your membership.

We know it has been a difficult year for TOSA to provide members with concerts and Committee is working towards programming a series of concerts for next year.

Best Regards,

Ernie Vale, Editor

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

Please Note

The Society's only bank account now is with **St George**. Details are **BSB 112-879, account number 442 088 530**.

Please direct all payments to this account with St George Bank.

Members Day 14 May

Donations Received

Donations received at the Members Day on May 14th amounted to \$135
TOSA Committee thank you members for your generous donations.

Long time member and supporter of TOSA

Geoff Moore

**passed away this month,
June 2022
at 90 years of age**

Geoff lived in Newcastle NSW and was a broadcaster with ABC radio. He was a good friend of many TOSA Members over the years including the late Frank Ellis, former Vice President of TOSA and MC of concerts and Conventions in NSW.

Geoff and his good friend, Don Tyler, would travel down from Newcastle by train to attend concerts over many years.

Geoff also offered to help in the restoration of the Orion Wurlitzer by recovering motors.

A history of Geoff Moore's life will be featured in the next TOSA News. *Editor*

Long time Member, Betty Weismantel, passed away recently

The Weismantel family thank all the TOSA friends who expressed condolences on the passing of Betty, a few weeks short of her 98th birthday.

John & Sharon Weismantel

To Watch Out for

Time to Renew your

Membership

Before June 30th

You can renew your

membership

for 2022-23

at

50% discount

same as last year

\$25 Full Membership,
\$20 Concession,
\$25 Interstate
\$5 discount
if
TOSA News
emailed to you in colour.

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' Dates
The Orion Theatre Campsie
2nd Thursday of the Month

No Members Day
Until Further Notice
due to water damage

Convener is
Craig Keller on 0418484798
or John Batts on 0420424103

Marrickville Town Hall

Monday 27th June

Monday 25th July

Convener is
John Batts on 0420424103
He will email you
to confirm availability

ATOS Convention 2022
San Diego, California
July 3-7, 2022

Hosted by the Theatre Organ Society of San Diego

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JULY 3

OPTIONAL OVERTURE:

- A fun-filled day of music discovery in this interactive exhibition: Museum of Making Music, Carlsbad, CA
- Enjoy a casual lunch at Windmill Food Hall—amazing food & craft beer (comfortable bus transportation to/from Carlsbad included)
- Harold Lloyd silent film screening with Clark Wilson at the Balboa Theatre (4/23 Morton)

MAIN CONVENTION

EVENING: Meet & Greet Welcome Reception at the Westin Gaslamp Quarter Hotel

MONDAY, JULY 4

MORNING: Free Time to Discover San Diego

AFTERNOON: Young Artists Competition – Trinity Church (4/24 Wurlitzer)

Special guest performance - Rosemary Bailey

EVENING: Box Dinner & Jelani Eddington Concert – Spreckels Organ Pavilion (4/80 Austin); San Diego
“Big Boom” Fireworks Display

TUESDAY, JULY 5

MORNING: Jonas Nordwall – St. Paul’s Cathedral (5000-pipe Æolian-Skinner/Quimby);
(or) Ryoki Yamaguchi – Trinity Church (4/24 Wurlitzer)

AFTERNOON: Jonas Nordwall – St. Paul’s Cathedral (5000-pipe Æolian-Skinner/Quimby);
(or) Ryoki Yamaguchi – Trinity Church (4/24 Wurlitzer)

EVENING: ATOS Annual Meeting and ATOS Members Forum – US Grant Hotel
B-3 Organ Jam – Westin Gaslamp Hotel

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

MORNING: Dave Wickerham – Balboa Theatre (4/23 Morton)

AFTERNOON: Free Time – Discover San Diego

EVENING: Mel Brooks' "Silent Movie" with Juan Cardona & Company – Balboa Theatre (4/23 Morton)

THURSDAY, JULY 7

MORNING: Jerry Nagano – Balboa Theatre (4/23 Morton)

AFTERNOON: ATOS Grande Awards Luncheon – The US Grant Hotel

EVENING: ATOS Finale Spectacular with Walt Strony – Balboa Theatre (4/23 Morton)



**Refurbished 4-manual 23-rank Robert Morton
in the Balboa Theatre**

For further information and to Register for the Convention please go to ATOS.Org

Note: You must be a member of ATOS in order to attend the Convention.

TOSA Members Day 14th May 2022

Photos by Barry Tooker

Thank you to all the members who came along to the Members Day and to those members who played the Christie Cinema Organ.

President, Neil Palmer, opened proceedings with a welcome to everyone and called on Members to commence playing the Christie

There were 34 people in attendance including David Clegg as an invited guest. David is a keyboard musician who has a jazz band that plays at a Springwood hotel several times a year. Several TOSA Members have heard the jazz band at Springwood and they are a very experienced group who play very enjoyable music.

It was great to catch up with members who we hadn't had the opportunity to chat with for a while including former member Ron Smith who has rejoined TOSA. Welcome back Ron.



Members are quite relaxed in the comfortable chairs listening to member, Cliff Bingham, play the Christie

Play on the Christie started with member Roger Dunk playing some modern music with registrations that suited the organ. It was great to have Roger, his son and his brother come along to West Ryde to enjoy the Christie.



Roger Dunk starts proceedings

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 by completed Voucher at Box Office

**New Membership Fees for 2022-23 - 50% OFF Below
Prices until July 2022**

Membership enquiries David & Margaret Badman

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

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



Peter Robinson at the Christie



Ron Smith, who recently rejoined TOSA, enjoying a play



Cliff Bingham gave the Christie a good workout



Members enjoyed hearing founding TOSA Member, Rod Blackmore, explore the Christie



Regular Members players days participant, Graeme Costin, enjoying exploring the sounds of the Christie.



David Clegg played the Christie and enjoyed it immensely

Message received from David Clegg following his visit to the Members Day at West Ryde Anglican Church at the invitation of Margaret & David Badman.

Hello Margaret and David,
Thank you for a most pleasant afternoon yesterday. I am so impressed with the wonderful work you at TOSA do regarding the restoration of elderly organs that once graced the movie and other theatres years ago. It's a labour of love for you all and an activity carried out to ensure that these majestic instruments remain available for ever.

So once again thank you and best wishes to all of you and your TOSA members for what you are doing.

Kind regards,

David

A visit to the Majestic Theatre at Pomona

by Cliff Bingham

Over the weekend of 4th to 6th June, I was in Noosa crewing for my race driver son, Scott who was running his sports car in the Noosa Hill Climb meeting. It was also a great opportunity to catch up with my old mate Don Clark at the Majestic Theatre at Pomona, a small village to the west of Noosa.

The Majestic amazingly boasts a wonderful 3/10 Compton restored and installed by a small team headed up by Don Clark.

Without going into too much detail, the organ was originally imported by QLD TOSA member Blair Linnett and installed in his Brisbane residence as a 3/6. Upon his passing, the organ was made available for the Pomona Majestic with additional selected ranks. The current rank list is:

Tuba

Echo Trumpet (virtually a small post horn)

Diapason (with 16 foot metal Wurlitzer Diaphone bottom octave)

Geigen

Tibia Clausa (metal)

Violin

Violin Celeste
Clarinet
Concert Flute
Vox Humana

The old relay was replaced with a John Andrews system.

The organ is certainly worthy of a more in-depth future article, but sufficient to say it is an exciting one to play with a big, rich sound that fills the theatre without overwhelming it. The metal Tibia has a lovely hollow sound, the reeds are brighter and have more character than American theatre organs. The strings sizzle nicely and the Diapason has more harmonic development than the rather opaque tone of Wurlitzer examples.

The organ is a real tribute to Don and his team.



The Pomona Compton Console



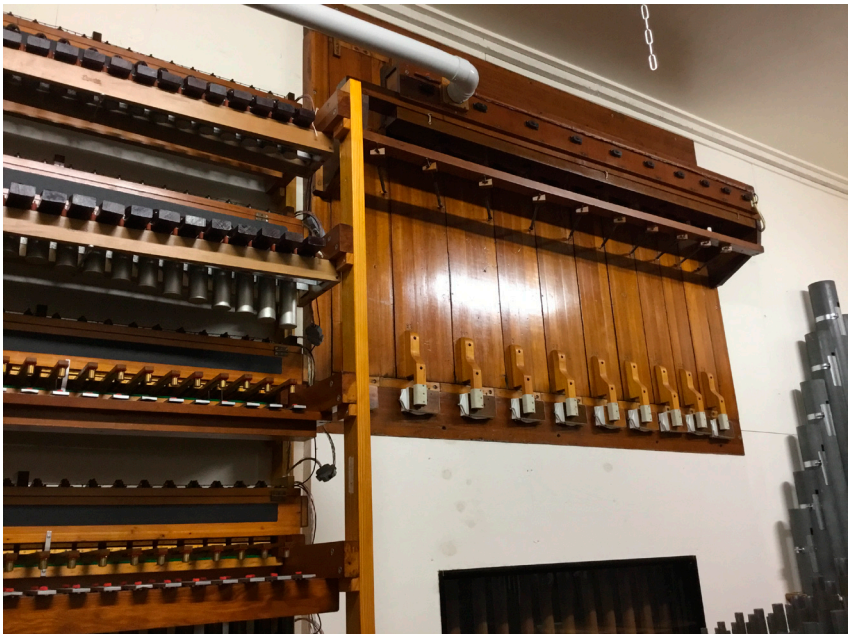
Wurlitzer Metal Diaphones



Compton Tuba



Compton vox humana & metal Tibia



**Swell shades & Tonal Percussion Stack
Xylophone, Glockenspiel and Vibraphone**

For those of you who may be interested, my son Scott was the outright winner of the Noosa Winter Hill Climb in his self-built Minetti Supersports car against some heavy- hitting competition including second placed V8 Supercar driver Fabian Coulthard driving a \$300,000, 600 horsepower Porsche 911 GT3.

(Please excuse my proud father routine.)



Cliff Bingham on the left, with son Scott and daughter in law, Sheryl, on the right, grandsons Benjamin, Alexander and Oliver (holding the winners perpetual trophy)



**The winning
Minetti SSV - 1
built by Scott**

BEGINNINGS:

*Continued from April May 2022 TOSA News
An excerpt from The Encyclopedia of American Theatre Organ
Volume 3 by Preston J. Kaufmann*

FLUCTUATIONS: October 1911 To August 1912

"Pray do not allow yourselves to feel depressed. You ordered the experiment. It has gained us valuable knowledge and the cost will not prove ruinous. I have already made progress in inventing means for imparting the requisite carrying *body* to the orchestra stops--failing which I will restore the Tibias. There shall not be another disappointing instrument built." For all the accusations against Hope-Jones of constantly changing instruments following acceptance of the designs, it's quite interesting to see this example of Wurlitzer having made the request, and an unsuccessful one at that.

RHJ at home to HW, April 29, 1912: "The Century instrument is partly up. It should be ready for use on or about May 21st. The case is not yet complete, but Mr. deKleist says it will be in New York in time.

"Tomorrow I will tell Mr. Farny we are ready to start on another batch of Style 3 instruments. Martinique additions ought to be finished and ready for use about May 15th."

RHJ in Manhattan to FW, May 22, 1912: " Century is progressing fairly well, but will not be finished until next week. I hope to see John Cort with . . . theatre plans tomorrow afternoon and to look over the Ocean Grove organ Friday afternoon, returning to Buffalo that night. Martinique work is not started because we have no man available."

Wurlitzer management considered only instruments (though not band organs or orchestrions) with style designations using numerals as part of the Unit Orchestra lineup. Yet it appears some of the earliest hand-played orchestras or photoplayers were at least partially constructed in the Unit Orchestra department; at minimum these would be those utilizing an electropneumatic

action (Styles J, L, and M) rather than tubular pneumatic as found on others in the series. Due to Hope-Jones' involvement in their design and construction, he felt due commissions from their sale. Eventually he was granted 3% on such transactions, the lower amount because not all parts were built in his department--*RHJ at Niagara Falls to RWC, May 30, 1912*: "Yours of the 28th, in which you intimate you do not intend to pay my 3.5% commission upon the moving picture instruments you have ordered from my department.

"It is obvious you are under some misapprehension in the matter. These instruments (Style J and Style M) are simply Hope-Jones organs with a piano introduced as one of the stops--a very old arrangement that I played upon as a boy. If I had introduced a piano at the Denver organ the instrument would be an exact parallel as to the proportion of the work done in my department. To refuse the 3.5% in either case would be as dishonorable as in the other and would entirely destroy confidence in future relations.

"I (and in a week, full half my department) will be engaged in an effort to give you a competition-defying instrument for the moving picture field.

"Kindly reassure me upon this matter."

Remaining letters in this chapter illustrate a variety of topics--many of which had already been broached before--from sales leads, to employee problems, design changes and production status, which are all evidence of Hope-Jones having too many responsibilities-- *RHJ at Factory to Andrew D. White, Cornell University, July 3, 1912*: ". . . P. S.. Bye the Bye! When next going to New York will you let me know so that I may arrange for an instrument just set up in the Century Theatre, Central Park West, to be played for you? You will be altogether scandalized, yet I am sure interested. It is an organ without Diapasons and full of *trap* effects--yet I believe not without artistic merit in its own field. We call this instrument the Wurlitzer Hope-Jones Unit Orchestra."

RHJ at factory to FW, July 10, 1912: "Under date of July 9th Licome writes: 'Please do not fail to send the analysis of Styles 5 and 3 at the earliest moment. We have to send them to [exhibitor] Proctor and Loew by Thursday. Proctor has also asked

us to measure up his 125th Street house. Can you add chimes and Vox Humana to Style 3 and call it Style 4? Is this advisable?"

RHJ at factory to FW, July 17, 1912: ". . . As the orchestral tones in the first instruments have proved disappointing in carrying power, I have planned sundry modifications of scales, differences in treatment, location and area of swell shutters, etc., etc. and I have tried to distribute the extra cost involved by such improvement over all the various items. This is perhaps hardly fair as some of these improvements would be carried out whether the specifications remain the same or are to be changed." This statement was an apt example illustrating that Hope-Jones made changes in order to resolve problems. Of course, this runs counter with the belief that modifications were more often than not done merely for the sake of inventing or to make changes.

RHJ in nChicago to FW, August 13, 1912: "The business here [at Chicago Moving Picture Convention site] has not been well managed. We have electric power for Style M, but none for Style J.

". . . The men are and have been working willingly night and day. Can you remove cause for complaint over cash matters. George says he sent in his time and expenses each Wednesday evening before 7:00. He received wages last Wednesday and none today--but has had no expenses. He says some of the others have been treated the same way or worse.'

"Style M sounds magnificent. The Orchestra Hall people say its four stops [probably meant to say six] sound finer than the 60 stop Lyon and Healy organ now in the Hall! Style J is very badly placed."

FW to RHJ in Chicago, August 14, 1912: "In answer to your letter of the 11th, asking whether it is satisfactory that the theatre syndicate pay your expenses to Denver, this is absolutely correct and is the understanding we had with [them] . . .; they are to pay your expenses whenever it was necessary to take a trip of this kind."

RHJ in Chicago to FW, August 14, 1912: "Style M is now finished and Style J will be by 7:00am tomorrow. Both instruments could have been completed by Tuesday am but for freight shipment

delay and absence of electric power. The instruments sound well or rather will when the demonstrator learns to play them. The roll [player] is hardly used in theatre work. Style 3 is not done yet."

RHJ at factory to FW, August 22, 1912: "Regarding Statler Hotel [at Buffalo]. I am sorry we did not have an opportunity of going fully into this matter. Minchin is getting on so slowly and meets so many snags, that I have sent Nuttal down to get things finally straightened out. We are sending in the bill for moving the console but there are many other matters requiring attention about which you should give us your instructions."

During the preceding 28 months, since Wurlitzer took on production and marketing of Unit Orchestras, only 12 instruments were shipped. Numerous problems encountered during this time saw little resolution or progress being made. In the coming months, some matters would be dealt with, while other difficulties would soon arise.

THE UNIT ORCHESTRA FLOUNDERS: September To December 1912

The joining of forces between Robert Hope Jones and Wurlitzer was not a smooth road to success, as had been hoped. The story continues here about two years after that merger and nearly a year following revision of the contract between the two parties. *RHJ (Robert Hope-Jones) at factory to FW (Farney Wurlitzer), September 13, 1912:* ". . . Mr. Grimes writes that Martinique [Hotel] instrument is likely to be finished tomorrow. . . . We hear that our drawings sent to [Paris Theatre in] Denver went astray. . . . They have now written us saying the drawings turned up and that they have returned them to us-- but said drawings have not reached us.

"I have written them a letter that will help to let us out in the event of not completing the work by the contract date. I understand that they want to alter our proposed plans considerably.

To be continued (Editor)

For sale from deceased estate:

Rodgers 'Trio' 321 theatre organ with Leslie 147 tone cabinet.

Genuine English 'Herrburger-Brookes' wooden core keyboards
Metal bar glockenspiel
13-speaker internal sound system

Service and owner's manuals for both organ and Leslie
cabinet

All original sales documents available.
One meticulous owner from new
In excellent playing order and condition

Can separate items if necessary
Currently located in Balmain studio
\$4500.00 ono

Phone Cliff Bingham 0412 967 902 to arrange inspection



**You can renew your TOSA Membership for 2022-23
for a 50% discount as applied last year.**

\$25 Full Membership, \$20 Concession, \$25 Interstate
\$5 discount if TOSA News emailed to you in colour.

**Your Membership Renewal Notice was included with
the April May TOSA News**

**Currently only 50% of TOSA Members have renewed
their membership for the financial year 2022-23.**

**Your Committee understand that part of the reason for
reluctance to renew by some members may be partly
because TOSA NSW haven't been able to promote a
concert for two years thanks to the Covid virus.**

**Then, thanks to the unusually high rainfall in autumn
this year, the solo chamber at the Orion Theatre
was flooded. Canterbury City Council have been quickly
on the scene to identify and resolve the causes of the
flooding which has now been completed.**

**Council have also been very keen to have the damage
to the lower parts of the organ restored at Council's
expense.**

**Your Committee are expecting to hear from Council
soon that the restoration of damaged parts of the
organ that were identified can proceed following
Council's approval.**

**Committee cannot indicate at the moment when action
on the restoration can start. It is hoped that the
Wurlitzer will be back to playing condition this year.**

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