

TOSA NEWS

January/February 2024

Volume 63 No.1

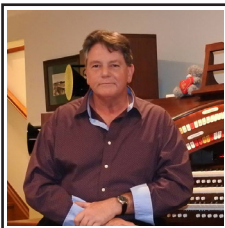
PRICE \$2.50

AN AFTERNOON MUSICAL DELIGHT

**TOSA's Christie Theatre Organ &
The David Clegg Quartet**

Saturday March 9th 2024

West Ryde Anglican Church



Simon Ellis

The David Clegg Quartet



John Batts

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TOSA News David & Margaret Badman

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President



Dear Members,

I trust you had an enjoyable Christmas and I hope 2024 got off to a good start for you.

I would like to welcome Oliver Dunk as the new Editor of TOSA News with this being his first issue. Thanks for taking on this important role, Oliver. He is also our youngest member.

A detailed report on the Orion Wurlitzer progress appears elsewhere in this issue, written by me, as I have been assisting the organ builder two days a week.

Our first formal event for 2024 will be held on Saturday 9th March at West Ryde Anglican Church with Simon Ellis and John Batts at the Christie theatre organ plus the David Clegg Quartet. There will be one or two surprises as well. Details in this issue of the newsletter.

Until next time.

Regards,
Neil

Editor



Hello Members,

Over the past 16 years, committee member Ernie Vale was the editor of TOSA News. Ernie developed and refined the format of TOSA News you receive today, and without his tireless commitment to the society's newsletter you would not be informed about all the latest news within your society.

Saying that, my name is Oliver Dunk and I am TOSA's new editor. I am currently the society's youngest member at 15, and I have been attending TOSA events since I was quite literally still in the womb.

We've got lots of great events lined up for this year. The 2024 calendar starts off with an opportunity to hear TOSA's newly restored Christie Theatre Organ at the David Clegg Quartet event on the 9th of March. A programme of music will be provided by both Simon Ellis and John Batts on the Christie as well as a selection of swing-era music presented by the quartet. This is an event that can't be missed!

I hope you enjoy my first edition of TOSA News, and I look forward to seeing many of you at future TOSA events!

Oliver Dunk, Editor

From the Mailbox...



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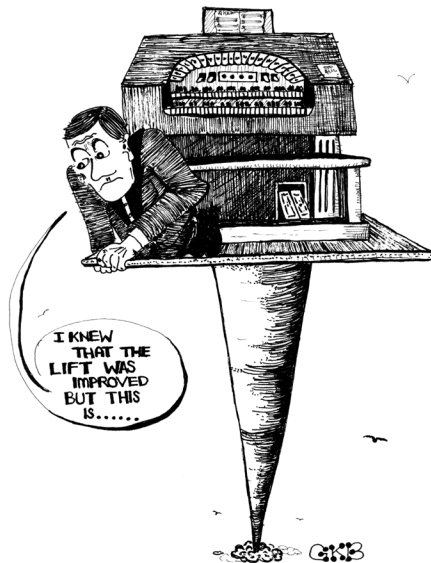
Please submit all comments via email
to:
editor@tosa.net.au

Please Note
The Society's only bank account is
with **St George**.

Details are **BSB 112-879**, account
number **442 088 530**.

New Member

TOSA is pleased to welcome new
member **Annette Wulff** of **Kurrajong** to
the society.



Membership Fees

Membership and Renewal of Membership

\$25.00 Full membership, \$20.00 Concession, Interstate or
Overseas \$25. (Only one TOSA News per household)

Membership enquiries David & Margaret Badman

0417 971 212 membership@tosa.net.au
Associate Membership for spouse/partner
an additional 50%

UPCOMING TOSA EVENTS

Saturday March 9th 2024

West Ryde Anglican Church

**Christie Cinema Organ &
David Clegg Jazz Band**

Theatre organists **Simon Ellis** and **John Batts** will be playing TOSA's 2/10 Christie Theatre Organ originally installed in the King's Theatre, Gordon.

The afternoon will be shared with the well acclaimed **David Clegg Quartet** who will present a programme of swing era jazz.

Find out more on the next page!

**Further concerts to be
announced in the next issue
of TOSA News.**

Stay tuned!

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

West Ryde Anglican Church

Wednesday 21st February

Wednesday 20th March

Wednesday 17th April

**Convener is
John Weismantel**

0435 258 287 or
whitecoats@bigpond.com
Please email him to confirm availability

Marrickville Town Hall

Monday 26th February

Monday 25th March

**Convener is
John Batts**

0420424103
He will email you to confirm availability

**CHRISTIE THEATRE ORGAN &
THE DAVID CLEGG QUARTET**
Saturday March 9th 2024
West Ryde Anglican Church

**TOSA NSW presents a second concert
featuring the David Clegg Quartet**

On Saturday, the 9th of March 2024, theatre organists Simon Ellis and John Batts will perform half a concert of light music on the 2/10 Christie Theatre Organ installed at West Ryde Anglican Church.

The afternoon will be shared with the David Clegg Quartet featuring David Clegg, Glenn Henrich, Laurie Bennett and Alex Compton.

The David Clegg Quartet will provide a programme of swing era music that will transport you back to the 'Jazz Age'.

Location

West Ryde Anglican Church

14 Bellevue Ave, West Ryde NSW 2114

Limited parking onsite.

Church parking entry via Dickson Ave. Lots of on-street parking in surrounding neighbourhood streets if carpark is full.

Church is 900m from West Ryde Station.

Bus route 501 provides stops along Victoria Road from Parramatta to the City via Ryde.

Bus routes 513, 523 and 524 also stop on Victoria Rd at Bellevue Ave.

Time & Date

2:00pm

Saturday 9/Mar/2024

Ticket Prices

\$35pp (Afternoon Tea Included)



SUBMISSIONS WANTED

TOSA News needs YOUR help!

TOSA News relies on the submissions of its members to provide a portion of the content provided bi-monthly.

We would like more members to provide us with all sorts of theatre organ related articles, stories and questions to be added to future editions of TOSA News.



If you have any articles, questions or advertisements you'd like to submit, please send them to editor@tosa.net.au (and feel free to attach photos as well).

ORION WURLITZER UPDATE

JANUARY 2024

By Neil Palmer

The Main Chamber (old photos provided by Neil Palmer)

The console was brought up to auditorium floor level and connected to the Uniflex computer. Each pipe was then played from the manual (keyboard). This was to check for dumb notes and it also unearthed some ciphers (where the pipe continues to sound when the key is released). Some dumb notes eventually played after repeating the note and this also cleared some of the ciphers. Pipes that remained dumb were recorded on paper for further investigation and ciphers that couldn't be cleared had their pipes lifted pending further investigation. A couple of pre-recorded tracks from previous concerts were played back. Items chosen were ones that would give the chest actions a good workout. A few more ciphers occurred during playback, mainly in the 2 foot octave of the Viol d' Orchestra in the main chamber. It should be noted that there was no ingress of water in the main chamber but it has obviously been affected by long periods of idleness during the pandemic then with the organ being out of operation after the flooding of the solo chamber. To ascertain whether dumb notes were caused by the pipe itself or chest action, the organ builder decided that tuning should commence starting with the main chamber.



Most of the main chamber was tuned as follows:

- Viol d' Orchestra 4 & 2' (73 pipes)
- Viol Celeste 4' (61 pipes)
- Flute 8, 4, 2' (85 pipes)
- Diapason 8 & 4' (73 pipes)
- Clarinet 8' (61 pipes)
- Vox Humana 8' (61 pipes)
- Tuba 16 & 8' (73 pipes)

While the organ was out of action, Vice President David Badman had taken the console top off-site to rout a channel around the horseshoe and install LED strip lighting to improve illumination of the stop rails. The top has returned and the illumination is a marked improvement from the 3 incandescent bulbs.



The New LED strip lights

The next work session commenced with attempting to roll the console out of the garage onto the lift but there was a problem: the tyres on the two rear castors started to disintegrate and break away. This caused the castors to develop flat spots making the console difficult to move. At that point, Nick Lang, a member of TOSA Vic who happened to be in Sydney, called in and said he would try to prise the remaining parts of the tyre from the castors. He was successful and Nick, John Parker (the organ builder) and myself were able to get the console onto the lift although it was difficult as the castors, now minus their tyres had a reduced diameter plus there is a gap between the basement floor and lift platform that has to be negotiated. We played one pre-recorded track for Nick before he left and again a few more ciphers were encountered although these were able to be rectified by repeating the note.

The tuning of the 18 notes of the wood Diaphone then commenced.

A bit of trivia: with the 8' Diapason, the metal pipes stop at tenor F# then from tenor F become wood Diaphones down to 16' bottom C.

The 8' Viol & Celeste offset pipes will be checked for tuning. While struggling to roll the console from the lift back into the garage it was discovered that cracks were developing in the tyres of the front castors. I was down at the Orion again on Friday 19th to measure the castor shaft so that replacements can be ordered. The situation with the castors is indeed an unfortunate setback. Once the new castors are fitted, tuning of the solo chamber can commence.

The Broken Castors



MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL WURLITZER CENTENARY YEAR

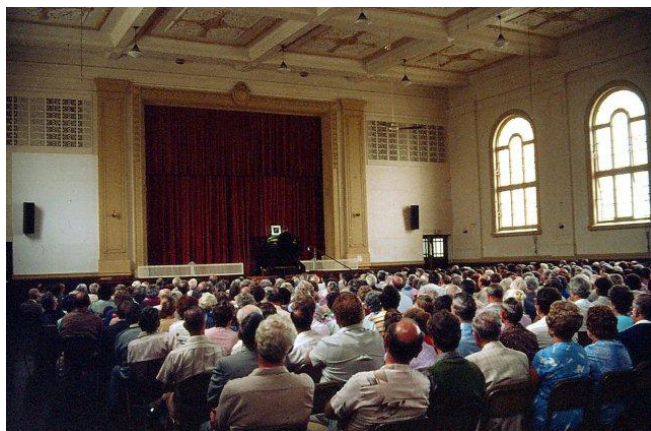
"Wurlitzer opus 875 was the first of the 'mighty Wurlitzer' organs to be installed in a theatre in New South Wales. It was opened on 22nd November 1924 with U.S. organist Eddie Horton at the console."

(Sourced from Rod Blackmore's *AUSTRALASIAN THEATRE ORGANS*)

This year marks the **100th** anniversary of the Marrickville Town Hall Wurlitzer proudly owned and maintained by TOSA NSW.

Originally installed at the Prince Edward Theatre, Sydney, the organ was played by many organists including Eddie Horton, Knight Barnett and the famous Noreen Hennessy.

Leading up to the organ's 100th birthday in November, expect many articles and stories to be shared about the world famous instrument in future editions of TOSA News.



LEN RAWLE - IN MEMORIAM

Many of you would already know about the passing of beloved theatre organist, Len Rawle on the 15th of November, 2023.

As a tribute to Len, I am providing the review of his TOSA NSW concert in 1985 (which some of you attended).

Hopefully this will bring back some fond memories of this great British theatre organist.

TOSA News Editor

SECOND LEN RAWLE CONCERT

24th November, '85 (by JOHN CLARK)

Though we didn't have a full hall to hear the English wiz of the organ, Len Rawle in his second Sydney concert certainly had a happy audience that obviously warmed to Len's personality and enjoyed his very individual and entertaining style.

This concert was similar to his first of 18 days previous, in that he talked only when needed and played long brackets at a stretch, though the content was (largely) as promised, completely different. His opening bracket of six numbers served notice on those who had not heard him before, of the presence of an organist who would produce sounds they probably hadn't heard before in a style that could vary from Schmaltzy in the nicest way, to solidly rhythmic..

brisk and breezy..full and rousing, and always entertaining.

By way of contrast, as the first bracket was all popular tunes, (Another Opening, Another Show, Begin The Beguine, Sentimental Journey, Starmaker, Pasadena, and Tzena Tzena) the second started out with the tremors off for Neapolitan Serenade followed by the operatic "On The Motley" (Auntie Freda always called it 'Pally Archie!') I guess I'm reporting what Len played...how he played it is best judged by the audience response and for his efforts he was loudly acclaimed..even cheered! His selections had very wide appeal for our audience as he started in on a Big Band medley..I mentioned before that Len had produced some nice sounds we hadn't heard before...well I noticed during this medley that Alan Misdale was shaking his head, and when asked why, he said "I've never heard anyone make the range of sounds on this organ that this bloke makes", and I guess Alan has heard his fair share in his time with the Society.

Nice and Easy was the name of the song as was the switching treatment Len gave it as he did also to Moonlight Cocktail, but for those who like to snap their fingers and tap their feet, S'Wonderful really hummed along. With Moonlight Serenade, if you closed your eyes, you could imagine the Trombonists in Glen Miller's Bandwaving the mutes across the mouths of their instruments to give the "Do-Wah, Do- Wah sounds so typical of that era.. open your eyes

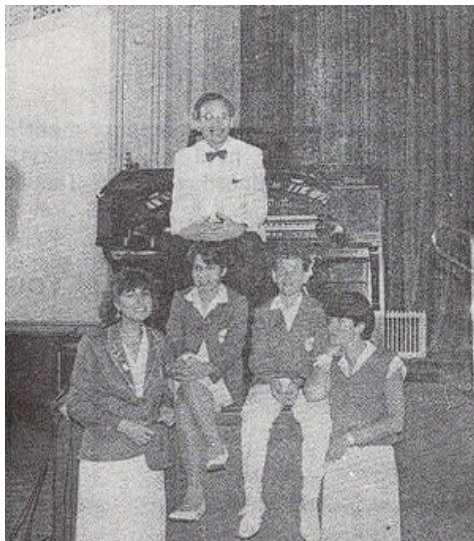
and you would instead see Len playing with right hand and feet but using his left hand on just the right tabs at just the right times to produce the same effect. Rapid reiterations are sometimes lost in the natural reverberation of Marrickville Town Hall but not so with Mr. Rawle.. he used them in a crisp snappy fashion in a splendid rendition of that relatively simple oldie.."Dont Sit Under The Apple Tree" that really made it come alive. You Were Meant For Me was next and then to close the first half came Chatanooga Choo Choo with all the train effects and rushing rhythm that shows the entertainer in Len Rawle.

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits, Tapes, Records and much chatter constitute a typical intermission and that it all went smoothly is evidence of a well oiled behind the scenes organisation that is TOSA's Committee and Volunteer members.

Len returned to the console resplendant in his white jacket and bow tie and proceeded to hold the attention of the audience with some long time favourites (like Colonel Bogey, I Can't Give You Anything But Love, You'll Never Know, Something's Gotta Give, Amore, No Business Like Show Business) but of special delight to me was the Gold and Silver Waltz by Lehar. Len lilted through this with great expression as it and the previously mentioned tunes were part of a medley he had played for his Parents Golden Wedding Celebration just before he departed for his Australian tour.

To close the show we were again treated to an absolute kaleidoscope of sounds and tempos, from the lush presentation of You Forgot To Remember to the bouncy syncopation of the Sinatra hit, That's Life. Shivers up the spine with the 23rd Psalm which built to a tremendous Grand Organ climax and then Len slipped into Auld Lang Syne....result?? and loud applause demanding re-appearance and after telling us that we do have encores in England, he burst into a vibrant Hoedown that would have delighted even the Candi Carley fans.

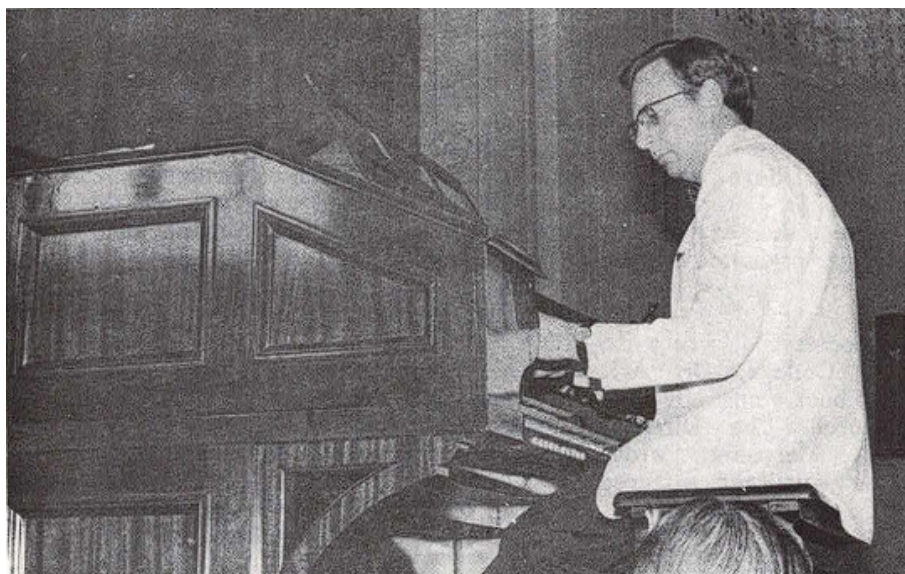
Below: Len Rawle with members of the Sutherland branch of the Y.O.A.





Above: Newcastle member, Bill Waite, has Len Rawle autograph his cassette.

Below: Len Rawle seated at the Wurlitzer console.



Introducing Film Heritage Academy

By Graeme Costin

Around 2009, I saw an advertisement for a silent movie showing by Oz Silent Films Festival and decided to go to it. What a fascinating experience - great entertainment despite not hearing what the actors were saying.

At one of the many performances I later went to, I made a comment that it would be nice to have a silent movie accompanied by a theatre organ and was told that it was in the plans. Sure enough, on 23 August 2012, David Bailey (from Brisbane) accompanied "Phantom of the Opera" on the Christie theatre organ at the Wesley Centre in Sydney.

Various TOSA (NSW) members have accompanied silent movies for Oz Silent Film Festival, including John Batts, Cliff Bingham, Bill Schumacher, and probably others I don't know about.

In 2019, I was asked to accompany "Phantom of the Opera" at St Matthews Manly on an electronic keyboard, but then Covid lockdowns intervened and it was well over a year before that happened. Since then I have accompanied over half a dozen silents on various keyboards and church organs and, under its new name "Heritage Film Academy", silents are planned with the Christie theatre organ in Epping Baptist church and the traditional pipe organ in Roseville Uniting Church.

In addition, silent films will be shown in Richmond accompanied by TOSA member Tom Barber on a Genos electronic organ.

The next Film Heritage Academy events are:

February 3

Richmond School of Arts

Three comedies

"The Adventurer" (Charlie Chaplin)
"Mighty Like a Moose" (Charley Chase)
"Cops" (Buster Keaton)

Tom Barber on Genos electronic keyboard.

February 10

Roseville Uniting

Horror

"Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" (John Barrymore)

Graeme Costin on 2/17 electro-pneumatic church organ (British Pianoforte Co 1917, Peter Jewkes 2000).

February 24

Epping Baptist

Three comedies

"The Pawnshop" (Charlie Chaplin)
"Number Please" (Harold Lloyd)
"Dog Shy" (Charley Chase)

Graeme Costin on 2/10 electro-pneumatic Christie theatre organ.



Come and enjoy the entertainment!

FILM HERITAGE ACADEMY

CLASSIC RESTORED SILENT FILMS WITH LIVE MUSIC • ORGAN



| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| ROSEVILLE 10 FEB 2024 | | Adolph Zukor presents JOHN BARRYMORE in "DR. JEKYLL and MR. HYDE" By Robert Louis Stevenson Scenario by Clara S. Beranger Copyrighted 1920 Famous Players-Lasky Corporation <i>A Paramount Aircraft Picture</i> |
| | | |
| 80 MINS | | |

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1920)

John Barrymore's haunting performance in the classic gothic drama from Robert Louis Stevenson. NSW born May Robson, Australia's first Oscar nominee, has an uncredited role outside the music hall. This famous story has been filmed many times, but this silent version captures the Victorian atmosphere and struggle between good and evil realistically, while legendary actor, John Barrymore is unforgettable in the lead role. A true horror movie, this film is considered to be most faithful to the original book.

"In this 1920 silent version of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, John Barrymore is dignified and virtuous as Dr. Henry Jekyll, and transforms into evil incarnate as the lascivious Mr. Hyde with almost no make-up beyond his gnarled, knobby fingers and greasy hair, relying almost solely on a bug-eyed grimace, a spidery body language and pure theatrical flourish. He tends to be hammy as the leering beast of a thug but brings a tortured struggle to the repressed doctor, horrified at the demon he's unleashed, guilty that he enjoys Hyde's unrestrained life and terrified that he can no longer control the transformations. Martha Mansfield co-stars as his pure and innocent sweetheart, and Nita Naldi (the vamp of *Blood and Sand*) has a small but memorable role as the world-weary dance-hall darling who first "wakens" Jekyll's "baser nature"."

DATE & TIME

10 Feb 2024
2:00 PM

ACCOMPANIST

Graeme Costin
on the organ

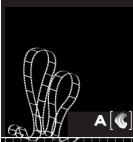
TICKETS

Full \$25 / Con. \$20 • ticket sales online and at the door
QR code to the right OR visit www.trybooking.com/1164929

LOCATION

Roseville Uniting Church, 7 Lord Street, Roseville NSW 2069
Short walk from Roseville Station - on the eastern side

SCAN QR CODE



Creative Australia & the Australian Cultural Fund

Oz Fare Pty Ltd.

W: www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au

M: 0419 267 318



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