

# TOSA NEWS

Jan/Feb 2019  
Volume 58 No.1

Price: \$2.00

**Happy New Year to  
all TOSA Members and supporters**

**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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**#tosansw**

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**TOSA News** David & Margaret Badman

**Printer** Printers of Richmond

# President



Hello TOSA members and welcome to 2019 – who can believe it? Was last year shortened by a few months??

Many of us would be aware of the recent passing of Life Member and long time TOSA NSW stalwart, Mrs Eunice Palmer who passed on her 97th birthday on 21 December. Due to her vision problems she had attended very few events in the past few years but I know she stayed up-to-date with happenings as son and TOSA Vice President, Neil, kept her well informed. It is a credit to Neil and his wider family that Eunice was able to stay in the family home until a fall hospitalised her in late November. Thank you, Eunice, for all your contributions to TOSA over the decades.

Now onto our concert series. Season Tickets are on sale up until our first concert for 2019 with Chris Powell from the UK playing "Best of British" at Marrickville on Sunday 17 March at 2pm. Chris is familiar to TOSA audiences and delivers a lively and entertaining concert. Hopefully for this performance we will not have the dire weather that was inflicted upon NSW when Chris last visited a few years ago!

Later in the year we have John Atwell, Ken Double, Dave Wickerham and Tony Fenelon lined up to deliver their unique styles at either Campsie or

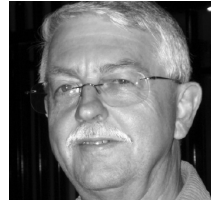
Marrickville. Remember a season ticket is transferable to a friend if you cannot make a concert. More information inside this TOSA NEWS.

Work continues on the Christie whilst maintenance and upgrades continue at Marrickville and Campsie – more info inside. Member Days at Marrickville and Campsie also continue this year – see page 5 for details.

See you around and especially at Marrickville on 17 March.

*Craig Keller*

# Editorial



Hello Members, Several reports are included in this issue and the minutes of the AGM are included. You can see from the Orion, Marrickville and Christie Reports that your Committee and Technical Teams have been busy over the January February break maintaining, upgrading and restoring your instruments so they are in good order for your entertainment and for the future.

I hope you enjoy the articles about the State Theatre Wurlitzer thanks to the VOX Newsletter and to Jeff Weiler and his team from Chicago.

Do come along to the first concert for this year to be entertained with plenty of music from Chris Powell.

A nice afternoon tea is assured for your enjoyment.  
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](mailto: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](http://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/>

### 2019 TOSA Calendar now available \$20 ea

The calendar shows on the page above each month the console of a different Theatre Organ. Each month shows a tosa nsw activity hilited on that day of the month eg concert or members day.

Consoles depicted are:- Capri (cover), Hobart, Kelvin Grove, Marrickville, Albert Hall, Coburg, Orion, Malvern, Perth, WRAC, Karrinyup, Dendy then Orion & MTH together for December.

Place your order ASAP with the Membership Secretary on (02) 4776 2192 or email [membership@tosa.net.au](mailto:membership@tosa.net.au) You can pick up your calendar at the March concert or send address details for posting.

## ***To Watch Out for***

**Chris Powell plays the  
Marrickville Wurlitzer  
Sunday 17th March 2:pm**

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 in this TOSA News near the advert for  
**Chris Powell**

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**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

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**

**February 14th**

**March 14th**

**Convener is**

**Craig Keller** on 0418484798

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

**February 25th**

**March 25th**

**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**

**THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA  
(NSW Div) Inc  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
Saturday 24th November 2018, 2pm  
St. Columb's Anglican Church,  
Cnr Dickson & Bellevue Aves., West Ryde  
Commenced at 2.10pm**

1. Present (please sign attendance book)
2. President's opening remarks Craig Keller - Thanked attendees and voted thanks to WRAC
3. Apologies – Jack and Betty Rose, Theo Langenberg, Margaret Hall, Eunice Palmer, Ann Zietarski, Sharon and Betty Weismantel, Graham Glendenning
4. Confirm 2017 Business: reports in TOSA News Dec.2017/ printed Minutes available for perusal. Moved: B. Tooker  
2nd: E. Vale CARRIED
5. President's Report (Craig Keller) – Read his report.  
Moved: C. Keller 2nd: J.Weismantel CARRIED
6. Scrutineers appointed : D. Keller and I. Georgeson
7. Secretary's Report (Simon Ellis) – Read his report.  
Moved: S. Ellis 2nd: P.Lawson CARRIED
8. Treasurer's Report ( Geoff Brimley) Presented his report and audited financial statements with additional explanations.  
Moved : G. Brimley 2nd: B. Tooker CARRIED
  - a. John Batts asked whether, in light of the fact that the last instrument valuations occurred in 2010, there is a need for re-valuation. Treasurer informed the meeting that both at Marrickville Town Hall, and at the Orion Centre, the respective Councils insure the instruments as part of Council insurance policies, with TOSA (NSW) Interest noted.
  - b.Rod Blackmore asked whether the Christie at WRAC is similarly insured as part of the Church's policy. Treasurer informed the meeting that TOSA (NSW) is the insurer.
  - c.In discussion about electronic ticketing, Ernie Vale noted that younger people are more likely to wish to use Card facilities as well as Tribooking for ticket purchase.
9. Marrickville Organ Report (Neil Palmer) - Read his report and noted that Marrickville organ usually only experiences ciphers with few other problems evident. Moved: N. Palmer  
2nd: E. Vale CARRIED

10. Orion Organ Report (Craig Keller) - Read his report and amplified the refurbishment undertaken. John Batts asked about the stored Wurlitzer Saxophone Rank – informed of intention to replace current Denison Rank at Orion in due course. Moved : C. Keller 2nd: P. Lawson CARRIED
11. Christie Organ Report (John Weismantel) – Read his report with additional explanations about the work thus far undertaken. Moved: J. Weismantel 2nd: G. Brimley CARRIED
12. Nominations for Patrons 2019  
Dr. John Atwell Moved : N. Palmer 2nd: E. Vale CARRIED
13. Appointment of Auditors for 2019: Nominate current auditors Mr. Charles Pitt of CM. Pitt and Co. Moved: G. Brimley 2nd: J. Shaw CARRIED
14. Declaration of Office Bearers 2018/19 – Returning Officer  
The following members, as sole nominees for the positions, are therefore declared office bearers  
President: Craig Keller  
Vice Presidents: Neil Palmer / John Weismantel  
Secretary : Simon Ellis  
Treasurer : Geoffrey Brimley
15. Election of Committee 2018/19 – Returning Officer Costin  
Declared the result of the ballot held. Elected Nominees are: E. Vale, B. Tooker, R. Gliddon, D. Badman, T. Langenberg, P. Lawson. President thanked Returning Officer and Scrutineers for their diligent efforts. Carried with applause.
16. General Business
  - a. Ratification of New Constitution  
Secretary moved that the Meeting ratify the New Constitution as presented be the official Constitution of TOSA (NSW) Inc., with the reminder that the 2017 AGM authorised the Committee to prepare and approve changes to the Constitution. 2nd: P. Lawson CARRIED with one objection (G. Lloyd) – remarked that document should have been previously presented to a Special General Meeting.
  - b. John Batts asked about on- going plans for the Christie organ. Noted that it will be used for church, TOSA, and perhaps other community music/singing functions.
  - c. Ian Georgeson commented that Orion Wurlitzer has no printed default piston settings – needed for practice and other visitors, and in case of computer malfunction. Also needed for the Christie. Informed that arrangements for both are

underway.

- d. Pam Lawson noted the number of new attendees at the Gledhill concert, and suggested the need for a new survey of attendees, including how people are informed about the concert schedule.
- e. Peter Held offered compliments on the quality of the Gledhill performance and concert, along with the advice to artists to attend to dynamic control, especially loudness. Also suggested that TOSA tailor more advertising on the back of the publicity about the Sydney State Theatre Wurlitzer refurbishment, as well as the need to use the Internet more widely to advertise TOSA NSW.
- f. Suggestion was made that the PROBUS organisations would make a rich vein of prospective concert attendees.
- g. Richie Willis offered a vote of thanks to David Badman for his excellent work building the Christie Console. Carried with applause.

Next Committee Meeting : Monday 3rd December, 2018

Meeting Closed at 3.55pm

Declared as a true and correct record of Annual General Meeting held 24 November, 2018.

President:

Secretary:

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## **Orion Wurlitzer Report**

Hello all,

Herewith a remarkably early Orion report following a productive work day on Wednesday 2 January.

In attendance were John Weismantel, Rob Gliddon, Neil Palmer and I. Work kicked off around 9:30ish and we successfully undertook the following:

- Removed faulty original power supply from console and ensured that the temporary p/s is functioning sufficiently to enable member access days to continue;



- Repaired a broken wire that prevented solo piston 6 functioning;
- Removed the original single network socket from the rear of the console and replaced with a dual socket to enable future connection of the Wurlitzer piano when its conversion to a network connection is complete;
- Investigated the current connection method for the piano to determine which output boards it connects to;
- Replaced the broken IEC socket (incoming electrical connection) that had been damaged at some point – probably by someone incorrectly trying to force the “jug cord” into the socket when attaching power;
- Removed the old Uniflex 2000 interface board from inside the computer cabinet – also removed the old power supply and 220>110v AC convertor and other extraneous cables;
- Swapped some of the small processor chips from the old UF2000 board onto the faulty UF4000 board. There were some chips damaged when the original installation occurred when it appears the board was receiving 12v from a power input in the cabinet AND 12v from the chamber based power supply;
- Tested the repaired board successfully;
- Removed the temporary third interface board from the cabinet; This will be installed inside the piano in the future connection upgrade allowing simpler connection of the piano to the system rather than the bulky, cumbersome and fragile twin Centronics

## Show & Membership Prices

|  | <b>All Artists</b> |
|--|--------------------|
| 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](mailto:membership@tosa.net.au)

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

- connection in place now;
- Connected the wind line and pump to the piano to test the reported weak playing and volume of the piano. Determined the hammer action inside the piano is slow and “draggy” and will probably need skilled attention to rectify. The Wurlitzer mechanical action was working fine;
  - JW removed the sole remaining lamp from the console rail lamp holders with a view to identifying and sourcing suitable LED style replacements to improve console lighting;
  - Tidied the side storeroom to improve access and safety;
  - Attempted to get the blown fluorescent light fitting in the storeroom functioning – more work needed – tubes and starters;
  - Investigated the tibia wind line in the solo that was damaged by water ingress a couple of years ago and is now leaking quite noticeably. Future work planned to improve this installation with PVC wind lines and remove the timber wind line as much as possible to improve reliability;
  - Identified that there are tubes of spare Uniflex chips stored in the green cupboard – these are sometimes needed to replace chips that fail on existing input, output and interface boards;
  - Talked a lot about various topics – old and new.

We were all out by 3:30pm. A quite successful day.

*Craig Keller*

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## **Marrickville Wurlitzer Report**

On 17th December John Batts and I removed the Diaphone chest action board so I could take it home and re-leather the remaining 11 out of 12 secondary motors. To remove each motor required the removal of 12 screws. Each secondary motor is held in by 4 screws: 2 accessed from within the primary action box and 2 which are partly obscured by the valve guide block (requiring removal). With Ernie’s help, we re-leathered (with kangaroo skin) then reinstalled the motors over two days in January. I then reinstalled the primary action box covers and valve blocks. The action board was reinstalled & tested at Marrickville on 21st January with John Batts assistance.

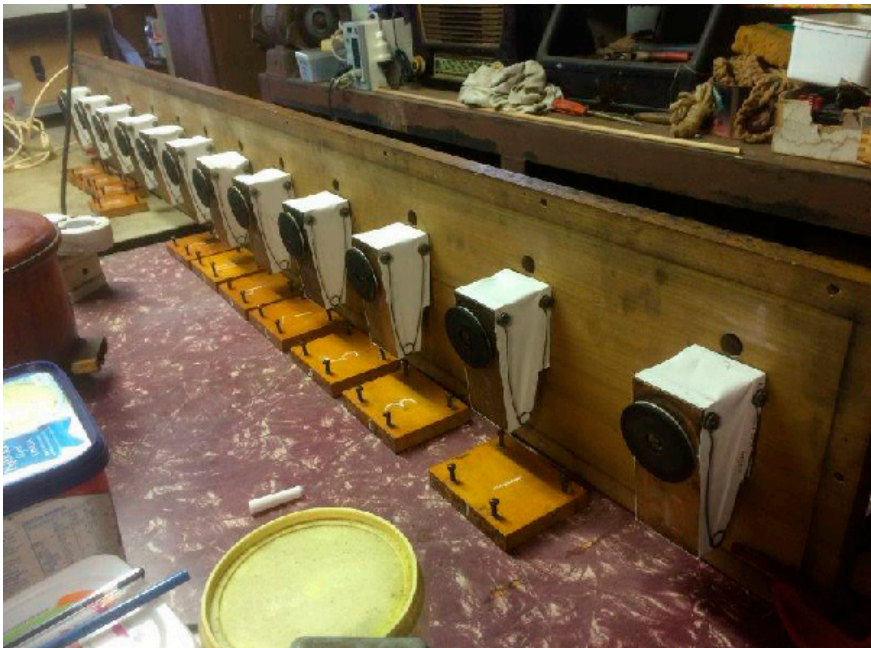
*Neil Palmer*



**Old leather easily torn**



**Motors all recovered with Kangaroo skin**



**Motors remounted on the Diaphone action board**  
**Note each motor has a spring attached to assist action speed**

## **The first Concert at Marrickville Town Hall**

**Come along and enjoy  
musically talented entertainer  
Chris Powell from the UK**



**Sunday 17th March 2:00 – 4:30pm**

2 hours of wonderful music at bargain prices

**Marrickville Town Hall**

**Cnr Petersham & Marrickville Roads, Marrickville**

Free parking behind the theatre & good public transport access  
see [www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au)

**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.

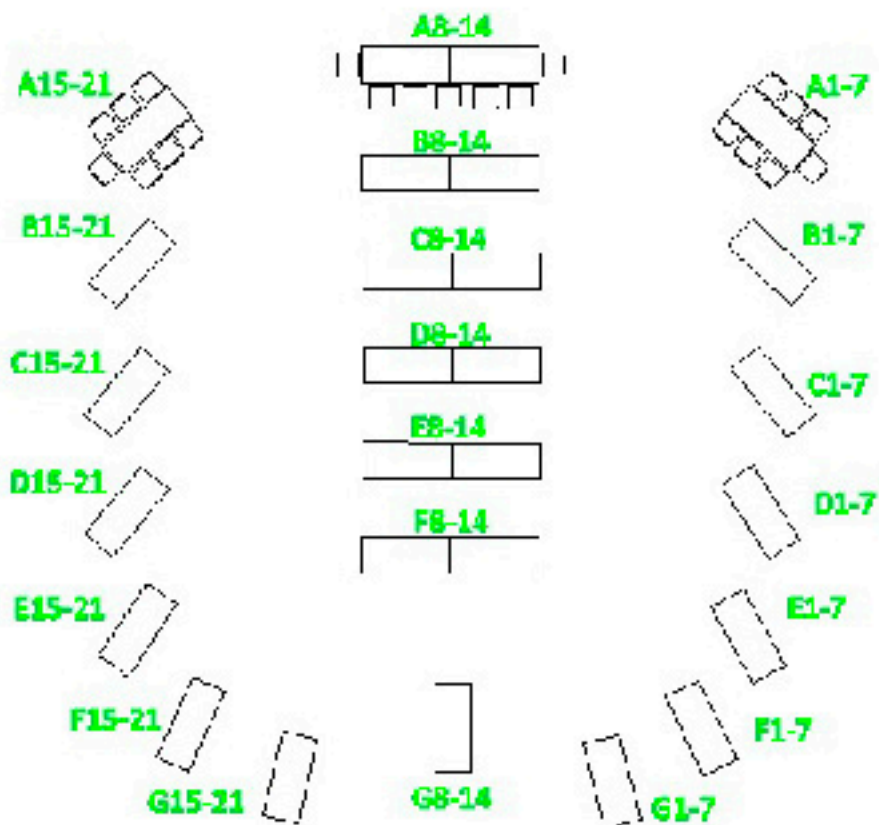
Book securely on line at Trybooking via [www.tosa.net.au/events](http://www.tosa.net.au/events)  
click on the trybooking link

or

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



# Seating arrangement for March 17th Concert



Entrance

## **Christie report for February 2019.**

Work done since last report to 2018 AGM includes:

### ***Accompaniment chamber:***

- Mounted a winker on front wall of Accomp chamber and winded to shutters, drums, cymbals, and assorted traps; set to 15" wg pressure.
- Assembled a small Wurlitzer-copy regulator to main trunk extension box and winded to Flute & Diapason manual chests; adjusted to 6" wg pressure and tested.
- Made and fitted adapter box for one half of 16' Violone wind supply.
- Made adapter box for Strings regulator wind line outlet due to space restrictions.
- Tested and graded springs in groups for later use on regulators.
- Preparation of a medium size regulator for 16' Tibia offset.
- Now that air supply is available, found some shutters not opening: adjusted swell shoe contact rail in console and corrected a couple of minor Uniflex definition file items. All shutters now work.
- Preparation of small regulator (modification of bottom plate opening) for Strings.

### ***General:***

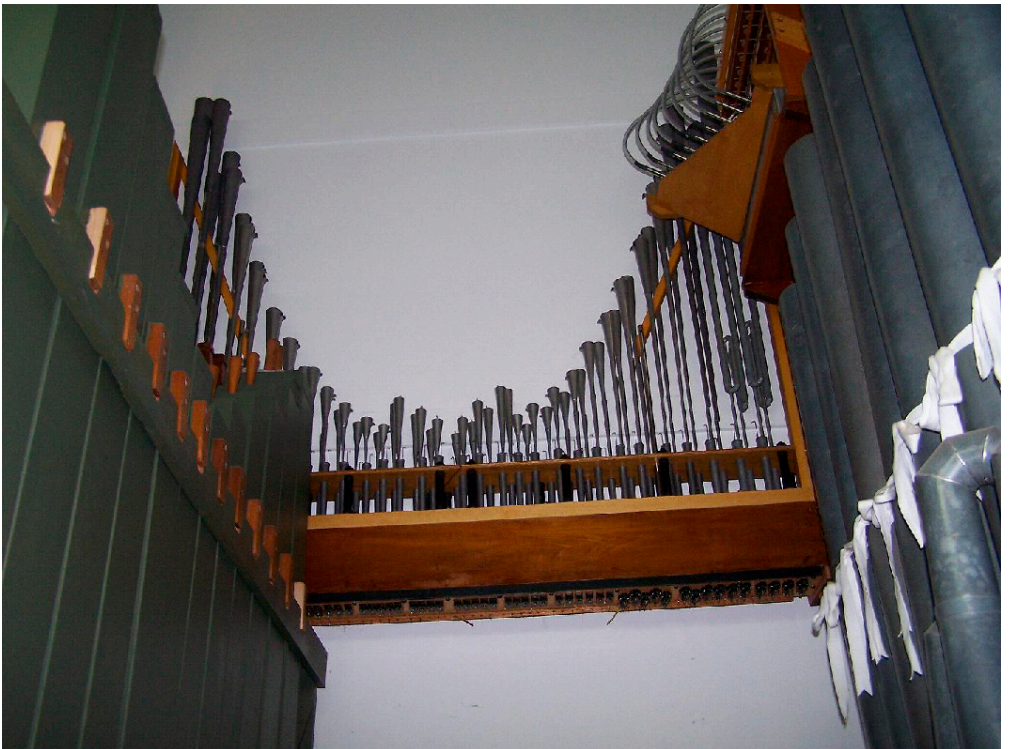
- Modified a copy of the definition file to aid tuning of the strings by separating the unison and celeste ranks onto two tabs (normally both string & celeste are called by one tab). Solo Piano 8' tab will temporarily be used for Celeste only during tuning.
- Completed manufacture of cone-valve push-rods with threaded sections and roll-pins, for Wurlitzer-copy regulators.
- Made threaded limiter/guide wires for regulator flap-valves.
- Design of new valve plate for small regulators as the medium sized ones are too big.

### ***Solo chamber:***

- Dodd chest: cleaned, sanded, replaced magnets, and gasketed panels. Adjusted and fitted valves. Top board removed to Ermington for John Parker to prepare for Krumet pipes.
- Secondary gaskets and motors in process of installation.
- Fitted new Wi-Fi router prepared by Craig. Delay circuit to be

- fitted to allow adequate time for IP address stabilisation before Uniflex starts. (Corrects recurring "demo mode" at startup).
- Orchestral Oboe chest: Reassembled with new top board, air tested and adjusted at floor level. With the assistance of Robert Weismantel, (on short holiday from Brisbane) the chest was lifted onto prepared brackets on Solo chamber centre wall.
  - Pipe racks and supports were fitted. With voluntary assistance from John Parker all Oboe pipes were transported from Ermington and installed in the waiting chest. Wired back to Uniflex output board.

*John Weismantel*



**The 8' Tibia on the left, with the Orchestral Oboe in pride of place and the Bird Whistles and 16' Tuba on the right, in the Solo chamber at WRAC.**



## **Good News from The Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland**

Our Dear Friends,

Apologies for the silence at our end, while there has not been anything of substance to share with you, we have had to keep our outgoings super-tight as we watched with fear as each monthly storage charge for the organ was deducted. With the November 1st payment our last dollar in the account was consumed and if there was not action at the Playhouse Theatre end within the month, the Trust was facing the hard facts that we would be forced into selling the organ and winding up.

However, somebody upstairs is looking after us as November became a joy-month;

- The Tauranga City Council heard a whisper that we were unable to use our old scissor lift from the Hollywood Cinema, that brought the organ console up, and they made us a very reasonable offer to purchase the lift for the Tauranga Wurlitzer organ.
- Next came the heart-warming news that the Heritage section of NZ Lotto had awarded the Playhouse Theatre Trust the funding needed to build the annex on the rear of the theatre that is to house the organ chambers and blower plant. Best news of all, the builder contracted to complete the project wants to start NOW!!!! Completion date set for late March next year.
- ...and finally, MOTAT has come to our aid by offering space at their new storage facility at Penrose! So with our funds almost gone, a truck was hired and with help from Bill Ridge, Neil Warrington, John Kleingeld and yours truly, we transferred the organ over two days and four trips from Three Kings to Penrose. If all goes to plan the organ will only clutter up MOTAT's facility for 4-5 months!

The Trust fervently hopes you all understand that with no income from our Wurlitzer shows, and the massive outgoings for storage costs and insurance on the organ, even something as small as a one-page newsletter was going to hurt the remaining funds too much. While we have tried to keep the "the Wurlitzer Family"

together by presenting a small handful of shows with the undying help of Roger Smith from MusicPlanet, these have lost us more funds than they made, proving that most of you are REALLY hanging out for the return of the Wurlitzer and 100% support for our ventures. So we end 2018 in high spirits!

*James Duncan*

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## **Some history about the Sydney State Theatre Wurlitzer in 1929**

*from articles in the Vox Melbourne Newsletter Feb 2019*

### **Big Publicity for State Theatre**

The State Theatre has been brought before the public eye by the extraordinary rate at which it has been erected, while the publicity campaign has accentuated interest. Parade of various portions of the Wurlitzer organ from the wharf through the city streets caused such congestion that the police took a hand, broke up the procession, and promised all concerned at large, liberal and unsolicited distribution of "blueys" for obstruction. Interviews with departmental heads regarding the theatres' policy have been appearing, while the huge composite advertisement covering two pages and incorporating the names of the builder, contractor and others, caused a further increase of interest.

Photographs are getting space in dailies and weeklies. Judging by public attention to date, the opening weeks of the State should prove record-breaking, as practically everybody in city and suburbs is commencing to speak of the house and its marvels.

### **Resources of New State Wurlitzer**

It is claimed that there is no musical instrument which cannot be reproduced by the Wurlitzer orchestral organ at the State, Sydney, while the novelty of two organists working simultaneously give some idea of the tremendous resources of the instrument.

There are more than 200 stops embodying a wide range of mechanical effects, among which are included surf effects, fire gong, auto horn, steamboat whistle, horse hoofs, two bird effects. The following are stops which are well known to those who have heard the Wurlitzer: Saxophone, flute, tibia clausa, clarinet,

'cello, vox humana, viole d'orchestra, piccolo, kinura, xylophone, tom tom and numerous others.

The Wurlitzer at the State Theatre is the largest of its kind in Australia, and is an added attraction to patrons.

### **Doyle Decides on Stage Band Policy for New State**

After thoroughly surveying the situation, Stuart F. Doyle, managing director of Union Theatres, has decided on a stage band policy for the new Sydney State Theatre. Will Prior has been keen on the idea since he landed in Australia several weeks ago.

The State orchestra will consist of 30 instrumentalists, and there will be 20 musicians in the stage band. Prior has selected many of the personnel, and is at present busily engaged sifting the material which is offering.

Will Prior will handle the production end of the stage shows in co-operation with Clyde Hood who arrived in Sydney aboard the Ventura last Thursday.

Before coming to Australia Hood was manager of production at the Capitol Theatre, Chicago, and was also with Balaban and Katz. He has a big reputation in America, and Prior claims he is one of the smartest men at his job he has ever come in contact with.

Pryce Dunlavy, who also arrived on the Ventura, will be the solo organist at the new theatre. He was associated with Prior at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, Hollywood, and at the United Artists' Theatre Los Angeles.

In selecting his orchestra Will Prior is taking his time, in order to procure the best solo talent available. This he revealed is an interview with "Everyones".

There will be no chicken stealing from the Sydney Capitol and Prince Edward orchestras. The aim of the conductor is to get men who can double up, and prove experts at jazz as well as standard stuff and classics. He says he has his eye on a pianist, who will be a revelation.

Prior chuckled at "Everyones" remark that he might find difficulty in getting together an orchestra here that would satisfy his requirements. "You don't know half, there is plenty of good talent here,"he said.

The maestro will take over the job of a personality conductor, but his will be a dignified job, in keeping with the status of the house. He will go on to the stage with the band, and take the boys through their score.

It is anticipated that presentation at the Sydney State will be the closest approach to the Roxy style yet seen in Australia.

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### **News from Member John Batts**

On the good news front, I can report that V-P Neil has performed very good work in re-leathering the twelve "motors" of the Diaphone's bottom-board in the Main Chamber. In less than three hours, the board was snugly back in place and the wiring pins were reconnected correctly – yes, all the notes were tested from the console and spoke without impediment. So the Wurlitzer is once again playable. And a silent round of applause for Neil's skilled work.

To the right, in order to amuse you, is a photo of a wood-carving depicting a primitive, mediaeval 1-manual pipe organ (flue pipes), organist, and organ-blower. The RHS photo was taken at the AGNSW Exhibition of "The Lady and the Unicorn" – one of six enormous mediaeval tapestries; this one depicting a 2-octave portatif organ, lady organist and female blower. Instruments have improved since the 13th-or 14th-century! *Deo gracias.*



## **STOP THE PRESSES! The State Theatre Sydney Wurlitzer**

I am extremely pleased to advise TOSA NSW members that the seemingly impossible has finally happened. For over 60 years the 4/21 Wurlitzer at the State Theatre has been suffering a long and slow demise and has been silent for many years.

Some seven or so years ago the task to restore the organ was put out to international tender and the successful tenderer was Jeff Weiler's company from Chicago, Illinois. During that time various work has occurred to remove all the components of the organ - except for the 32' pedal diaphones resonators that are located underneath the stalls floor.

All removed components were packed in containers and shipped to Chicago for professional restoration in Weiler's workshop then returned and reinstalled. Considering that at the Sydney end of the exercise this meant manhandling them out of and then back into the chambers that are 30 metres (90 feet) above the stage it was no mean feat!

On the afternoon of Sunday 3 February, Debra and I were extremely fortunate to be invited by Jeff Weiler to attend the State to see, hear and yes - I was able to play this magnificent instrument. What a privilege! It is superbly restored to factory specification. The sounds that emanate from the chambers high above the stage and through the honeycomb plasterwork just wash across the theatre, Every nuance from the softest strings to the magnificent reeds and of course tibias can be heard. We had long heard about the legendary pedal diaphones and their "fanny tickler" nicknames and we experienced the amazing effect that they have on the stalls floor. Wow!

Further information on "openings" and other uses of the Wurlitzer are not known at this time, but this is the preserve of the theatre owners but I do know they are keen to see it used properly and professionally. Information will be made available to TOSA members when it becomes available.

Congratulations to the State Theatre and Jeff Weiler for achieving this outcome!

*Craig Keller*

President

Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc

## **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) -Sunday 3 March  
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)

**Perth** yet to be advised.

## **Members Diary**

Next Committee Meeting - Monday March 4th

West Ryde Anglican Church

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**Sunday 17th March 2:00pm**

**Come to enjoy**

**Chris Powell**

**entertaining you**

**in the Blackpool Style**

**playing the Marrickville Wurlitzer**

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**Book Tickets - [www.tosa.net.au/events/trybooking](http://www.tosa.net.au/events/trybooking)  
or**

**Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 Before 8:00pm please**

[www.theatreorgansaust.info](http://www.theatreorgansaust.info) (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

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

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