

Volume 20 No.1

JANUARY 1981.

TOSA NEWS

SEE INSIDE

ALTERED DATE
OF
FIRST FREE CONCERT
FOR
1981 SERIES

Price 40¢ Printed by TOSA Press

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION

ADDRESS BOX A 584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

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POOL PARTY SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY 1981 4.00p.m.

Members Ron and Phyl Wilson advise that a pool party will be held at their home at 120 Dennis Street, Lakemba.

Those who have attended one of these parties previously are aware of the enjoyable time that awaits one. As well as the pool the Wilson's home houses both a Lowery organ and a piano and you are assured of a great time.

Particulars are as follows:-

Commences at 4.00 p.m., Cost \$2.00 per head. Bring your own meat and liquid refreshments and your swimming costume. As with all home parties there of necessity must be a limit to numbers, so phone early and book in. Phone: 759 6050.

As you read in the last issue the organ was to undergo an overhaul you can appreciate that nothing has been planned for early in the new year. Watch next issue for details of coming events, also watch STOP PRESS Section of this issue to check if any alteration is decided upon to replace the Free Concert listed on February 22nd.

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POSTPONED CONCERT

The concert set down for Sunday 22nd February '81 has because of committments in Canberra by the Guest artists been postponed until Sunday 22nd March at 2.30 p.m. This is regretted but could not be avoided. This is a Free concert by two artists whose musical background was outlined in last issue of the "News".

Don't delay if you require the accommodation being held in Brisbane Ring Edna Smith 529 7379 immediately.

To all T.O.S.A. Members in Sydney and Melbourne.

From experience gained over the last four years arranging for luxury coach travel to and from the various state conventions we have looked into the possibility of doing the same for you too. This is the only way to fly when it comes to a relaxing holiday and to save money on attending the convention.

We can arrange a luxury Kirklands coach to depart both Sydney and Melbourne at a time to allow an easy stages motel accomodated tour from home to home with convention in the middle.

It is suggested that the cost per head for this travel will be as follows

Melbourne to Brisbane and return,

Three (3) DAYS WITH TWO NIGHTS ACCOMODATION TRAVEL BOTH WAYS
Approximate cost \$195.00 each passenger of a minimum loading of 35 persons. If the coach was full ie. 45 passengers then a saving may be possible.

SYDNEY to BRISBANE and return.

Two (2) days with one night accomodation both ways.
Approximately cost \$115.00 each passenger on the same minimum loading of 35 persons. A saving can also be hoped for with a full compliment of 45 passengers on this trip. T.O.S.A. members from the A.C.T. may also be interested in combining with Sydney to fill such a vehicle.

While in Brisbane these coaches will be used as part of the convention fleet at the expense of the Qld Division.

Take advantage of this offer and save all the trouble in driving your own car and have a holiday on the way.

Please advise as soon as possible should this offer be of interest to your members to allow time for all the arrangements to be made on your behalf.

LETS HAVE YOU TRAVELING IN STYLE NEXT EASTER.

K. I. Wherrett
Convention Chairman.

Any person interested in the above, Please contact the Secretary Box A 584 P.O. Sydney South, 2000 by 16th January, 1981.

THE next meeting will be held in St. Anne's Church Hall, Strathfield on Monday 5th January, at 7.30 p.m.

DIRECTORY

Patron: Ian Davies, President: Alan Misdale (525 5554)
 Vice-Presidents: Frank Ellis (649 7011) Doug Smith (750 0917)
 Secretary: Ernie Vale (798 6816) Treasurer: Edna Smith (529 7379)
 Membership Secretary: Edna Smith, Practise Convenor: Chris Palmer,
 (92 6534) Research & Archives: Ian Cameron, Recording Engineer,
 Ray Garrett (869 7247)

WELCOME to the following New Members.

Frank Wells, Newtown: Lorraine & Arthur Heaydon, East Ryde:
 Mona Turrell, Arncliffe: John & Tikva Morrissey, Marrickville:
 Gloria & Edgar Elliston, Ashfield: Dorothy Press, Randwick: Frank &
 Edith Rohanek, Croydon Park: Jim Anderson, Norfolk Island: Phil &
 Elsie Dean, Ermington: Em Bunyan, Blacktown: Ron Russell, Paddington:
 (I regret that some of these names were not printed in
 the October issue as the list was mislaid, however it gives me great
 pleasure to rectify this omission and Welcome the above New Members
 to our Society)

PRACTISE TIMES.

Please note....to remind you that our WurliTzer Organ
 will be out of commission till the end of January 1981.

Re-commencement of Practice Sessions will be duly notified in the 1981
 February issue.

LIST OF MEETING DATES FOR 1981.

All Committee Meetings will be held on the FIRST Monday
 evening of each respective Month at St. Annes Church Hall, Strathfield
 commencing at 7.30p.m.

During the winter months, meetings are occasionally held in
 private homes to avoid the cold, and these venues will be notified
 in TOSA News. ALL MEMBERS are cordially invited to attend these meetings
 and any ideas and suggestions can be submitted for discussion, after
 requesting permission to speak from the Chairman.
 January 5th; February 2nd; March 2nd; April 6th; May 4th;
 June 1st; July 6th; August 3rd; September 7th; October 5th;
 November 2nd; December 7th.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for 1981 will be held on
 Wednesday 18th, at Marrickville Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.

CLUB NIGHTS & Quarterly Meetings (for the first half of the year)
 will be held on;....

Wednesday February 11th at 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday May 6th at 7.30 p.m.

Club Nights are of tremendous interest to members and should be
 attended if possible. Proposals and decisions are discussed at the short
 Meeting, and all members can get their chance to have a play on our
 WurliTzer Organ. Ladies provide tea and bikkies etc.



FROM YOUR PATRON

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS,

THIS YEAR AT OUR CHRISTMAS CABARET HELD ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28TH AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL, I WAS PRIVILEGED TO BE A GUEST INSTEAD OF BEING AS USUAL THE HARD WORKED ORGANIST,

THAT HONOUR FELL TO BILL SCHUMACHER FOR A CHANGE AND HE CARRIED THE JOB THROUGH TO PERFECTION,

A HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENING WAS THE ARRIVAL OF THOSE TWO TOP VICTORIAN MUSICIANS, TONY FENELON AND JOHN ATWELL WHO WERE OVER TO PRESENT THE SUNDAY CONCERT ON NOVEMBER 30TH.

LATER IN THE EVENING BILL WAS JOINED BY TONY WHO PLAYED THE MAGNIFICENT GRAND PIANO ALONG WITH BOB POWELL ON DRUMS. THIS TRIO TURNED IN EXCELLENT DANCE MUSIC AND MAY I SAY THE WHOLE EVENING PLUS REFRESHMENTS WAS ONE OF COMPLETE ENJOYMENT TO ALL T.O.S.A. MEMBERS PRESENT,

MY WIFE AND I CONGRATULATE ALL THOSE WHO ORGANISED A GRAND NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT.

IAN DAVIES J.P.
PATRON.

The accompanying photographs were all taken on our Cabaret Night, and will, along with many others, be available for inspection at our first Club Night for 1981 on Wednesday 11th February at Marrickville Town Hall. Orders for copies of prints can be placed, for your own personal Album.

This organisation acknowledges financial assistance from the N.S.W. Government through the Premier's Department - Division of Cultural Activities.

Copy of a letter received from the Premier:

Dear Mr E. Vale,

Through this letter I wish to convey to you my appreciation for your support of Carnivale 80. The Government is delighted with the response from the community and believes the aim of giving all Australians of whatever background an opportunity to experience the language, culture and customs of fellow citizens was achieved.

Reports are now to hand of many hundreds of very successful Carnivale 80 activities held throughout the State. This is very pleasing and only made possible by your generous contribution of time, skills and resources.

Added to the thanks of the New South Wales Government are those of the Community Programmes Unit of my Department whose task of Statewide co-ordination of Carnivale 80 was made easier by your ready co-operation.

I must say I am personally looking forward to Carnivale 81 and ask you to note the dates in the hope that you too will again be involved - they are the 12th to 20th September, 1981.

Yours sincerely,

signed

Neville Wran,
Premier.

Copy of letter from Mayor of Ashfield:

Dear Mr Vale,

Thank you very much for your letter of 10th November 1980, and I will make further inquiries into the placement of the ex-Capitol Theatre organ in Council's new Auditorium when new plans are presented to Council shortly. At the present time the Developer of the proposed new shopping complex is having new plans drawn, but it is not known at this stage when Council will receive these plans. Please be assured that your request will receive consideration at the time the plans are again viewed by Council.

I also thank you for your invitation to my wife and I to attend the Organ Recital at Marrickville Town Hall at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, 30th November, 1980, but I very much regret that as we have already accepted another engagement for that day we will not be able to attend the Recital.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

signed

Lewis Herman,
Mayor of Ashfield.

Organ music lovers will be sorry to hear of the passing a couple of months ago of well known organist Virgil Fox. His passing will be a great loss to the organ world.

Copy of a letter from a New Zealand Member:

Membership Secretary;

Dear Ron,

Having not long returned from my UK trip, realised the annual sub was overdue for renewal!

My apologies to the society, enclosed bank draft to keep me financial.

By the way, a friend took care of my post box mail, whilst I was away. Upon return the T.O.S.A. Magazines were there to read, and, catch up on some of your activities, they appear to have been pretty good.

Please pass to the people editorial and staff that are connected with the publication, my appreciation for a well collated and, printed magazine, especially the clear type face, its a joy to read!

My regards to all.

signed B. Strocchi.

Copy of a letter from Betty Weismantel:

TO: The Editor, TOSA News,

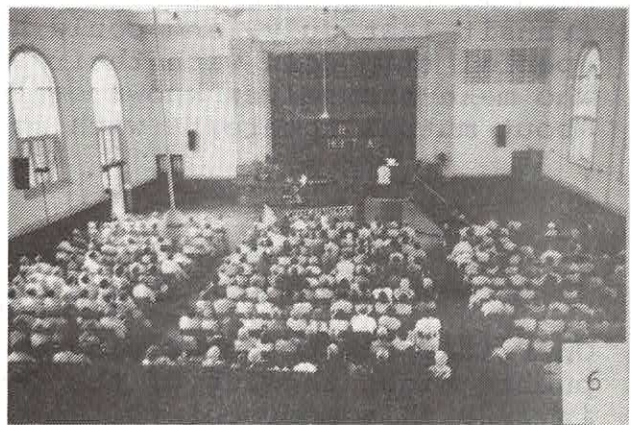
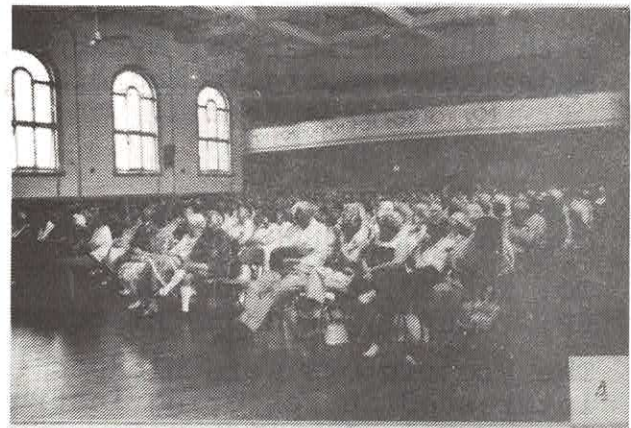
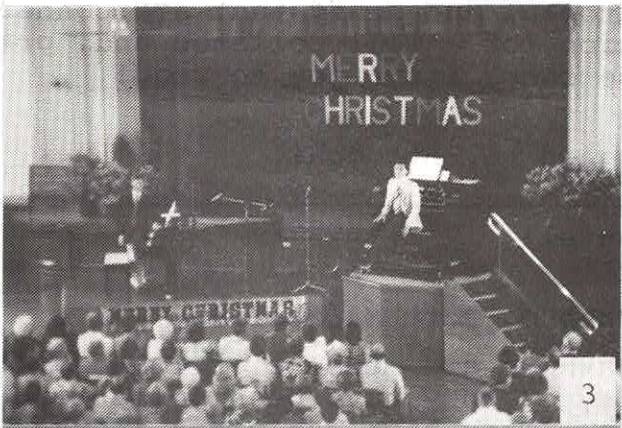
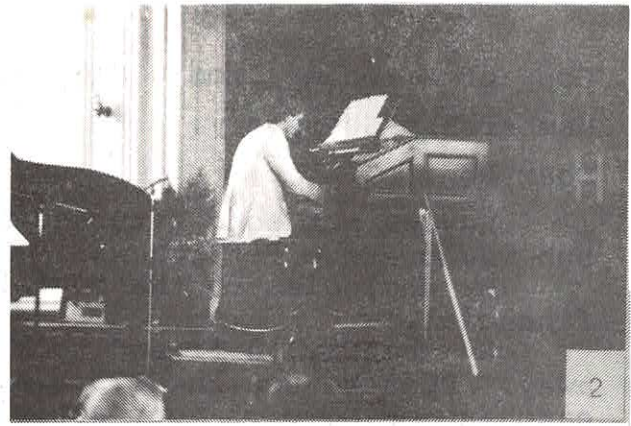
RE: Century of Sound Historical Museum, Port Macquarie.

The Proprietors were pleased to learn we are members of TOSA, and interested in restoring instruments, as they have been collecting these musical antiques for 35 years. They have one organ in the museum, and showed us a photo of another which their Society had in transit last July, and could have received by now. They made a special trip down with their Society, to Mastertouch, so any members who make themselves known can be assured of an interesting discussion about mutual interests with most interesting and friendly people.

signed Betty Weismantel.

THE MAGNIFICENT STATE THEATRE

On Friday 5th December with my wife and family I attended the first public night showing of the recently restored State Theatre. Built in 1929 this monument to the golden era had been allowed to deteriorate in condition over the years until the Management of Greater Union decided to restore it to its former glory. Much has been written in the papers and shown on TV about this project but believe me these details do not adequately describe the finished article. Every minute detail has been attended to a full repaint, chandeliers cleaned, even the Dome recess light replaced, also the coloured proscenium border. That terrible blue main curtain has been replaced with a burgundy one, orchestra pit uncovered and foot lights replaced, the seating has all been recovered and new carpeting throughout. Whilst the seating has been reduced from nearly 2,700 to just over 1,800 this does not effect the beauty of the Theatre as a matter of fact it improves it as only the front stalls seats are missing and this is now a fully carpeted entertainment area. But my advice to you is go and see it yourself.



CONCERT OF THE YEAR...

Hot and humid weather on Sunday 30th November did not deter a full-house audience turning up at Marrickville Town Hall and they weren't disappointed.

The caption of 'Concert of the year' lived up to its name, thanks to the brilliance of Tony Fenelon and John Atwell who had obviously done their homework.

Our photographs show both of our artists performing on our WurliTzer organ and also on the magnificent Yamaha Grand piano, loaned once again by Noel Smith for the occasion, (thanks again Noel).

The finale by popular request, was again excerpts from all movements of the Concerto in b flat minor by Tchaikowsky, and suffice to say that this wonderful presentation resulted in a spontaneous standing ovation.

A moving rendition on organ and piano of Peter Allen's 'I still call Australia home' provided a great encore to end a superb concert.

Our sincere thanks go to Tony and John for again giving us a tremendous concert to end our activities for the year of 1980.

The photographs adjacent are as follows:-

1. Tony Fenelon addressing the audience.
2. John Atwell during one of his organ solos.
3. Tony and John on both instruments.
4. A cross section of the large audience.
5. Our artists deciding what was coming next!
6. A shot of the full-house audience.
7. Our recording engineer, Ray Garrett at work behind the scenes.
8. Ladies committee, Ms. Weismantel, Smith and Wilson ready for action.

There are several more proofs which can be inspected at our first Club Night for 1981 on Wednesday 11th February, all of which can be ordered for any of our members.

It is very heartening to have such generous members like Noel Smith, who had no hesitation in lending us the large and costly Yamaha grand piano. When our best artists are available, it is nice to be able to give them the best instruments possible to use, and we once again render our thanks to Noel for providing such a glorious instrument for Tony and John's concert.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday
19th November 1980.

The year has seen our Division present three high quality free concerts, with Ian Davies, Richard James and Simon Ellis, and finally Valda Lang and Marie Tysoe. All were well received by the audience and it was Simon's first public performance on the Wurlitzer.

We organised a most successful Convention at Easter which ran smoothly for the enjoyment of all participants.

Other paid concerts were presented by our local artists in David Parsons, and later this month, Tony Fenelon and John Atwell.

Our Division brought Jonas Nordwall out from America for a successful Australian Tour, and he presented a most interesting seminar on the art of Theatre Organ playing which was of great interest to all those who attended.

Through the Sydney Town Hall Organ Committee we were able to present Jonas at a Sydney Town Hall free Thursday Concert where he gave a well received exhibition of playing the Grand Organ. He played the Sydney Opera House Organ briefly and impressed the management sufficiently to be asked to play a concert on his next visit to Australia.

Five Home Organ Parties were held in members' homes at which members had the opportunity of hearing Ray Turner and Pat Guthrie for the first time.

A most interesting tour of the Grand Organ in the Sydney Town Hall was arranged with the co-operation of the organ builder, Roger Pogson and our member David Parsons, the Assistant City Organist, Theatre. Approximately 100 members attended. Through our President, Alan Misdale, we are represented on the Sydney Town Hall Organ Committee, and have developed a good relationship with them.

The mid-year and Christmas Cabarets are again being held at Marrickville Town Hall.

The Touring Theatre Company will have presented two shows using the Wurlitzer by the end of the year - the first of which was most enjoyable with Eric Smith at the console, and called "Musical Memories of the 20th Century".

During last December- January the Committee and several members put in a lot of time to re-leather, re-felt, re-wire, and update the 6-rank chest from the main chamber by improving the springing and spooning the pallets for smoother operation. The result was most satisfying. Prior to the Jonas Nordwall tour the Marimba Harp from the Capitol Organ was overhauled and installed in the Solo Chamber with great effect. A small offset chest was added to the top end of the Tibia also. It is proposed to overhaul the 4-rank chest from the Solo Chamber during this Christmas break and to re-arrange the Chamber layout slightly.

An application has been made to the Division of Cultural Activities of the Premiers Department for a grant towards further

maintenance on the organ.

The search for a home for the Capitol Organ continues and plans are in hand for work on the console. A new console cover for Marrickville Town Hall is also in the planning stages which it is hoped will improve player access.

A tool kit is being established for Marrickville Organ, and a tuning aid has been purchased by the Society.

Thanks to a good deal of time spent by our recording engineer, Ray Garrett, in consultation with the Council and A.W.A., the new P.A. system in the Town Hall is working as well as possible. Ray has spent a lot of time behind the scenes to ensure that the Society recordings are of high quality. The sale of tapes this year has been quite encouraging and we hope this trend continues. The Society has taken over the purchase of records this year for sale at concerts and continues to provide one of the widest selection of organ records available in Australia.

Work on Chatswood Organ is progressing steadily. the main chest in the Solo Chamber has been raised some 6 feet and the Tibia side chest as well. George Stephens suggested chamber relocation is well under way. The tremulants are to be mounted under the main chests in both chambers where possible. The Post-Horn is to be an offset arrangement in the Solo Chamber - the rank has not yet been finished. The new blower is complete so that each chamber will be seperately fed. Most larger componemts are completed and progressive assembly remains the main task in completion of the outstanding structural and mechanical restoration.

The Ladies Auxiliary have again been most efficient throughout the year in providing refreshments at all our concerts and have always made a profit. This is a most important Society group who are always looking at ways to improve the facilities.

We have held several club nights this year and combined the latter ones with quarterly meetings. The attendance at these nights has been increasing and they have been enjoyable evenings of discussion and music.

I would like to thank Norm Weismantel for taking the minutes for me throughout the year, and to thank Betty Weismantel for typing the minutes and other reports.

It has been another year of progress for our Division and the Committee and Executive have planned an exciting programme for next year and look forward to your support.

Ernest W. Vale

.....
E.W. VALE
Hon. Secretary.

IMPORTANT

IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1981 PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY ON THE FORM ATTACHED TO THE BACK OF THIS ISSUE

Photos appearing in this issue were taken at the Nov, 28th Cabaret and from the Fenelon and Atwell concert on 30th Nov, '80.

STOP PRESS

Wednesday 11th February Club Night & Quarterly Meeting 7.30.p.m.

A club night has been arranged on this date. It will commence at 7.30. at Marrickville Town Hall and will embody the first quarterly meeting for 1981. Members are invited to attend and bring a friend who may acquire an interest in theatre organ music.

Players will have an opportunity throughout the evening to try out the Wurlitzer and tea and biscuits will be served by the ladies.

Roll up and make the night a success. Admission is free.

Players don't forget your music.

THEATRE ORGAN ON F.M. RADIO

The A.B.C. advises that they are presenting two sessions on A.B.C.F.M. 92.9 MHZ of theatre organ music, the first is on Friday 26th December at 4.15.p.m. titled "THEATRE ORGANS":- exploring the sounds of the mighty Wurlitzer around the World, featuring famous organists George Wright, Reginald Dixon, Sidney Torch, Tony Fenelon and others.

The second in the series will go to air on Monday 29th December at 4.15.p.m. it is titled "THROBBING TREMULANTS" :- Theatre Organs and their revival in many cinemas and other unusual places.

Ed note: It is encouraging to see that at last one radio station recognises that theatre organ music does exist, it is hoped that this will not be the last time we hear it on air.

A NIGHT WITH THE "RODGERS"

Tuesday 3rd March 7.30.P.M. Patron Ian Davies has arranged another evening at Bondi Junction-Waverley R.S.L. Club, Grey St, Bondi Jct, by courtesy of the management where we may go and hear the Rodgers organ in the club auditorium. On this occasion the organist will be Ian Davies himself. This will be a rare chance to hear Ian do a full show on this lovely Rodgers Trio as it is usually played by a variety of organists on these type of evenings.

Ian tells me that he may have a soloist with him but this is not finalised yet, more about this later. These nights are very popular and give members a chance to hear theatre organ music in a relaxed atmosphere. Admission is free, and bar service will be available to those who require it.

SEE YOU THERE



BOB POWELL



BILL SCHUMACHER



TONY FENELON

