

TOSA NEWS

December 2013
Volume 52 No.11

Price: \$2.00

Sunday 16 February 2014 2:00pm

Simon Ellis

and

Bernard Walz

play

“ Your Old Time Favourites ”

including **Rhapsody in Blue**

on the 3/17 Wurlitzer

&

Grand Piano

Orion Centre Theatre

155 Beamish Street, CAMPSIE

Directory

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From the President



Another year is fast drawing to a close, but what a year of great music. It was fitting to conclude our musical year with Tony Fenelon and John Atwell before a good crowd of enthusiastic Theatre Organ lovers. Due to circumstances beyond our control, with venue management refusing to make available any rehearsal time, these two Artists proved their professionalism with a truly remarkable show. I thank Peter and Dorothy Robinson for making their music room available for some rehearsal utilizing their Allen organ and piano.

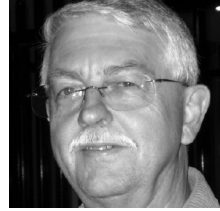
Thank you to all who have contributed to this past year – Artists, Committee persons, volunteers and members. Without you we would not have a Society, let alone a show.

2014 promises to be another feast of top class local and overseas Artists and I would encourage you to take up the Season Ticket offer and save yourself some money.

On behalf of the Executive and Committee, I wish you all the blessings of Christmas. May it be for you a time of joy, peace and happiness and may the New Year bring good health and much enjoyment.

Happy Organ-ising,
Geoff Brimley

Editorial



A booking form for Season Tickets for the 2014 Season of 7 shows is included in this issue of TOSA News. You can make a booking for next years Season Ticket up until the show at the Orion Theatre on 16 February 2014. With eight world class musicians to entertain you, each with their own style it promises to be a year of great Theatre Organ music at excellent value.

Where else can you find 2 hours of outstanding entertainment at TOSA Ticket Prices.

I hope you have enjoyed the articles in TOSA News this year and I look forward to giving you more interesting articles next year. Happy Christmas to all TOSA Members.

Deadline for TOSA News is the 12th of the previous month.

Enjoy the music,
Ernie Vale
PO Box A2322
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235
editor@tosa.net.au

From the Mailbox...



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

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

Please submit all comments via email to:

The Editor editor@tosa.net.au

or in writing to:

The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)

PO Box A2322

SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

New Members

TOSA welcomes them and wish them a long and happy stay

Don Jackson
Donald Skinner
Patricia Skinner

Calling on Help from TOSA Members.

The Executive and Committee of TOSA and the Technical Team, Front of House and Refreshments Teams thank everyone who came to the

Christmas show on Sunday 1 December at the Orion Theatre.

As those in attendance were informed by the artists - the time constraints for access for artists to practice - particularly duo artists - as well as time to set up for a show places everyone involved under unnecessary stress. Whilst this situation remains the Executive & Committee wish to encourage additional members to lend a hand to set up for shows as follows: Two members to help carry equipment into the venue and assist with clean out after a show; Two members to number the seat rows; A member who has experience with show lighting to help with set up and be a back up for operating the follow spot or who is willing to learn these procedures. Also it would be appreciated if a member who has some experience with stage lighting was prepared to act as a backup to John Weismantel and/or Ian in the event that John or Ian is not available for a show. In addition it would be appreciated if two retired members were available to help with setting up the console and piano for tuning and for practice days when possible.

Please contact Vice President, Craig Keller - Technical Team Leader - if you can Help.

To Watch Out For

Another fabulous season of Theatre Organ entertainment in 2014 with 5 Australian Artists who are also all international musicians along with 3 Overseas artists - two from the USA and one from the UK. TOSA look forward to your company in 2014 and we ask that you help spread the word to friends and acquaintances.

For Sale

Rare out of print books (all in good condition)
Picture Palaces & Flea Pits (80 years of Australians at the Pictures)

Ausytralian Silent Films (A pictorial history 1896 - 1929)

Movie Pioneers (Charles & Elsa Chauvell)

Historic Organs of NSW (Their Instruments, Their Makers & Players 1791 - 1940)

Also Various copies of TOSA News 1995 - 1974 & 1978 - 1995
\$5.50 ea + postage

Apply Mr P. Anderson
PO Box 35 Deepwater, NSW 2371

Advertising Rates in TOSA News

For Members:

Small, Organ related ads = FREE!

For all other cases:

Small bubble = \$11.00

Quarter Page = \$24.75

Half Page = \$49.50

Full Page = \$99.00

Full Page Insert = \$125.00

Members' Playing Dates The Orion Theatre Campsie

There will be some players days in 2014 - but not every month. Craig Keller will notify members by text when the dates have been confirmed .

Craig Keller on 0418484798
Players and listeners welcome.

**Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday afternoon/evening
at 2:30pm to 7:30pm**

**Not available in December
because of Opera Australia or
January because of Australia
Day holiday on 27th**

**Please contact Neil or John
Batts to confirm availability**

To be sure there is no last minute cancellation at Marrickville please ring Neil on 9798 6742 after 7:00pm the Friday before.

**Theatre Organ Society of
Australia (NSW Division)
Inc.**

A.G.M. 23rd November 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome, and thank you for taking the trouble to attend today's Annual General Meeting.

I guess anyone writing a report for the year likes to commence with "We have just completed another successful year" and I am pleased to be able to echo those sentiments. Of course that does depend largely on how one views "success".

Financially the year has been a success as John will elaborate on shortly. This success was magnified by the very generous bequest from past Vice President and longtime past compere of our shows, the late Mr Frank Ellis. We are grateful that Frank had the foresight to ensure his support of the Society continued beyond his lifetime.

Our shows have been successful in that the high standard of presentation has been maintained and improved. And of course that would mean nothing if the Artists were not of a high calibre and ready to give of their best.

The instruments themselves have been a success due to the high standard of maintenance. Your Committee has engaged John Parker to attend to tuning at both Campsie and Marriickville: he is also carrying out some needed maintenance on both WurliTzers.

The Christie project is a particular success as you will hear from Robert and we eagerly wait the day when it comes on line.

The Committee has operated successfully with much agreement mixed with a fair degree of expression of opposing views. However the aim of each person has been to ensure the best result for the Society and its members. I particularly want to thank my fellow Executive and Committee members for their outstanding support of the Society and for me personally.

One could speak of successes in advertising, the production of TOSA News and numerous other aspects of the running of the Society.

However, there is always room for improvement and there are two specific areas where all members can assist.

Firstly, membership. Each year our membership declines and

this is largely due to our inability to attract younger members. I personally challenge each member to take the challenge of introducing at least one new member this year – preferably a younger person but older people can already have an appreciation of what the Theatre Organ is all about and be more accepting of the invitation.

Secondly, show attendance. Some Artists attract a larger audience than others (think Tony Fenelon!) All artists have their own distinctive style of playing and organ registrations and I can assure you that much thought goes into planning each year's shows. The Committee will not consider any artist they do not consider to be first class as we believe you deserve the best. Please make an all-out effort to attend each show yourself and invite – no bring – someone with you. (Remember the free ticket opportunity for first attenders!) This is particularly important with ever-rising costs. Our costs at Campsie have increased to the level that we are struggling to break even financially at times. You will be aware that our players' days there have been seriously curtailed due to exorbitant costs of hire.

Finally, some expressions of thanks. First and foremost to

our loyal members for their friendship and cooperation. Your Committee is here to represent you and each of us welcomes the opportunity to listen to your suggestions or complaints.

Again to each member of Committee, thank you for your support, advice and hard work. To each volunteer – sound, video and lighting operators, ushers, afternoon tea servers, membership desk personnel, Christie project workers and all others- a huge thank you.

A particular thank you to those who make themselves available to have the organs up ready for tuning, rehearsals, shows and players' days.

To Mal York, the Rector of this church, his Parish Council and congregation– thank you for your patience and ready cooperation at all times. The long wait will be worth it because you will have an absolutely top-class Christie organ in the church in due course

And the final, "finally" -thank you to my long-suffering wife, Ruth, who tolerates and copes with late nights and lots of phone calls for TOSA.

Geoff Brimley.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Good afternoon and thank you all for attending the Annual General Meeting for 2013.

We have once again had a productive and eventful year thanks to the hard work of the committee. We owe many thanks to our Technical Team for their involvement in producing our shows, and the front of house people who give generously of their time.

To the volunteers for all their work and support, we appreciate very much their help in making our Sunday Shows run smoothly.

We are indebted to the members who keep our organs at Mar-rickville and Campsie in good order and playing condition , and particularly to the members working on the restoration of the Christie Organ for their time and dedication to this project.

It is pleasing to have new members , and we hope that their stay with us will be long and that they will enjoy the shows and other activities.

We extend our sincere condolences to the families and friends of members who have passed away during this last

year.

To all members of TOSA , we express our thanks and appreciation for your loyalty and support.

Thank you.

Ian Georgeson.
Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I would like to present to you the financial report of the Society for the financial year ending 30 June 2013.

The financial statements were audited by C M Pitt & Co, Chartered Accountants.

For an explanation of the accounts, the easiest document to look at first is the Profit and Loss Statement.

The Profit and Loss Statement allows you to quickly compare the performance this year against the last reported year. It can be seen that the biggest change in income compared to last year is in the donations category.

We had an operating profit in this last year of some \$93,424.63. This is mainly due

to a bequest of \$80,000 from the late Frank Ellis along with other donations from members towards the Christie Organ restoration totalling \$10,712.01 Without these donations we would have been forced to deeply draw down our bank deposits and other sources, to cover the cost of refurbishment and installation of the Christie at West Ryde. A course we were obliged to do in the past when installing the Marrickville and the Orion Organs.

If you look at the Schedule to the Balance Sheet, item 7. You may note that the West Ryde (Christie) organ refurbishment and installation costs are reported as an increase in the asset value of the organ. It makes more sense to treat those funds

as increase of the Property, Plant and Equipment category as ultimately, that is what it is. There has been an increase in the Christie Organ Valuation of \$62,181.77 for this year which is actually the expenditure on the organ this year. The source of funds for this came from both some of our past investments and some of our concert surpluses, plus small amounts from other sources.

Looking at the statements in detail:

Apart from the donations the next two major sources of income are Memberships and Ticket Sales. Ticket Sales, along with the Gross Profit from Trading, provided a total income of \$28,050.76. Against that is

Show & Membership Prices

The following TOSA show ticket prices now apply:

	All Artists
Non-members	\$32.50
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$27.50
TOSA Members	\$23.00

All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status

All Children FREE

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$20 per person

Annual Membership Fees are now: \$35.00 for Full membership,
and

\$25.00 for Concession, Country, Interstate & Overseas.

Membership enquiries Geoff Brimley (02) 6351 3122

membership@tosa.net.au

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

an expenditure of \$25,988.56, counting the major items associated with providing concerts. This shows the Society is making a small profit on its core business. Memberships income more than covers the expenditure on the other running costs of the organisation.

When we consider the income this year without the donations, it was up with a few minor exceptions and the expenditure in each category was slightly down on last year's expenditure again, with a few minor exceptions. Thus I can say that we had a small surplus overall of around \$2000, and are financially stable in spite of the large expenditure on the Christie organ.

Further donations and fund raising are still need as the Society has several objectives aside from owning and installing these magnificent instruments. We need players, we have a history to document and we need to broaden our supported base to ensure the theatre organ survives into the next century.

I commend the report to you.

John Wall
Treasurer

TWO ELECTRONIC ORGANS FOR SALE BEST OFFER.

Both these organs were purchased new and are in excellent condition.

HAMMOND COLONNADE ELECTRONIC ORGAN

Features include two 61 note keyboards, 25 note pedal board, harmonic tonebars, philharmonic strings, melody makerstops, percussion, auto rhythm and auto-chords, Cabinet and electronics are in excellent condition.

HAMMOND ELEGANTE ELEC- TRONIC ORGAN. MODEL 340100

Hammond Elegante electronic organ. model 340100 with two 61 note manuals and 25 note pedalboard. This is a top of the line model with rhythm unit, strings, and percussion. Cabinet and electronics are in excellent condition. One owner,. All offers considered. Original instruction booklet included.

To make an offer please contact Martin after 20th November 2013 (02) 4782 1650

Martin@2UComputers.com.au

The Late Ron Ivin

Further background information about our TOSA Member RON Ivin.

Ron started playing piano at the

age of six. First was a "hit" of the day "Wah Whoo". At 10 years of age Ron was taught by Edith Swan at Elizabeth Farm Parramatta.

Later Ron played some classics and then moved on to play with dance bands.

He has always loved organs and heard them at venues in Sydeny and was completely fascinated. He tried to get lessons but was unsuccessful. Mainly self taught and tried to improve by watching and listening.

John Batts writes: One fixture at TOSA players' events over the past couple of decades has been Ron Ivin from Wyoming, near Gosford. Despite a private battle with health problems, Ron was renowned for his cheery disposition, his devotion to the songs of American composer Harry Warren (1893-1981), and above all his skills on the organ bench. Despite declining mobility, Ron probably travelled further to TOSA players' days than most of us, such was his devotion. When not playing in his inimitable style, Ron was invariably deep in chat with other members.

Two occasions particularly have stayed with me regarding Ron. One was when I daringly brought to a TOSA players' meeting a young Japanese lady. She was a language student with slim resources in English, but she had remarked to Rhonda & me while lodging with us that she had not really met a "real" Australian speaking in the vernacular (my

phrase not hers!). I had doubted that many members would bother to speak to her but in the event the TOSA member who took up most of her time was the avuncular Ron, whose accent she had doubtless never met previously. I'm sure that was an educational evening that money could not buy! Though I doubt she had understood a great deal, later Masako spoke of the kind fellow she chattered with.

Ron loved to exercise a laconic wit. I well recall the first occasion that I played at a TOSA players' day at Marrickville Town Hall. It's a moment that has stayed with me for seventeen years and probably the first time Ron impressed himself on my consciousness. After I had finished a set of pieces there was a loud voice from back in the hall, "When ya' going back to Canada?" This, it turned out, was a Ron compliment! And we got on well over the years.

Invariably Ron played his theatre-organ music from memory, usually with a neatly hand-written list of titles on a small card placed on the music desk. Henceforth many of us will be unable to hear Harry Warren's "You'll Never Know" (1943) without thinking of Ron. Like many TOSA members I was saddened to learn of his passing; his conversations and music will be much missed. One Warren song that he seldom played was "Remember Me" – we shall. Vale, Ron.

The Next Performance
Australian and International Musicians



Simon Ellis & Bernard Walz
playing

“ Your Old Time Favourites ”

including Rhapsody in Blue
on the 3/17 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ
and Grand Piano

Orion Centre Theatre,
155 Beamish Street, Campsie
Sunday 16 February 2014 2:00 – 4:30pm

Tickets : Members \$23; Non-Members \$ 32.50;
Non Member Pensioner/Senior \$ 27.50

Group bookings for 10 or more adults \$20 per person

Students FREE on confirmation of Student Status

Bookings: Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

14 Warrah Place, Greystanes 2145 - Visa & Mastercard accepted

For the best reserved seats you can book securely on **trybooking.com**

by going to **www.tosa.net.au** then Events, click on the Artists name/

show title then scroll down to the text to buy your ticket, click on it,

select your preferred seat/s and complete the purchase.

Simon Ellis & Bernard Walz

Simon Ellis is a native of Sydney, and has a background in Philosophy, English, Law and Theology. After initial piano studies from the age of 6, he studied organ with **Robert Broughall** and then with the late **Eric Smith**. He served as Assistant Organist to Eric at Wesley Central Mission for 6 years, and was regularly heard playing the Christie theatre organ in the Lyceum Theatre, playing for both church services, and before and after movies.

Simon was Organist/ Choirmaster at Northmead Uniting Church for 9 years until the early 1980's, and concurrently Director of Music at a large reception venue, Fairfield House, at Windsor. He also served several years as Associate Music Director for the Sydney Touring Theatre Company, and was Director of the highly successful Blue Mountains Consort for 6 years until 1998.

Simon has performed in both theatre and classical organ venues in many parts of Australia, America, Britain, and Europe. He has accompanied many singers, both in Australia and overseas, and also studied singing with the late Florence Taylor. He is a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music, and is currently in his 10th year as Senior Staff Organist for a large Sydney church.

Well-known to TOSA audiences, **Bernard** has been awarded three consecutive "MO" Awards as "Variety Instrumentalist of the Year" for Excellence in Live Performance. His debut recording, "Piano Passion" was a Number One success in Australia, knocking the Three Tenor's Dodger Stadium album from the top of the classical charts upon its release! Internationally he has been awarded four "Instrumentalist of the Year" Awards and two "Entertainer of the Year" awards by the luxury cruise line, Crystal Cruises, Inc.

Bernard completed his Master of Music Studies (conducting and pedagogy), graduating with First Class Honours from University of Melbourne (Australia), in November 2011, and had previously completed his orchestration studies with Berklee School of Music (Boston, USA). His arranging and orchestrating clients include Crystal Cruises, for whom he prepared music for the 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 "Serenity Pops" concerts.

As well as the Sydney Opera House, **Bernard's** performing career has included performances at concert halls of the Melbourne Arts Centre, QPAC (Brisbane), Sydney Entertainment Centre, Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne, and Festival Theatre, Adelaide. Internationally, his performances include Festival Hall in London and the Village Vanguard in New York and private performances across Europe and the USA. He has toured in Australia and internationally with the "Phantom" himself, Michael Crawford.

Bernard's performances move between many styles of music, from the works of the Great Masters to ragtime and boogie and everything in-between! His engaging stage presence and relaxed humour complement his technical and interpretative musical skills. Be prepared for a performance of superb musical entertainment.

MARRICKVILLE WURLITZER REPORT

Good afternoon ladies & gentlemen,

The majority of work on the Marrickville Wurlitzer has centred around the reshuffling of two wind chests which I shall explain:

When the English Post Horn rank was added to the organ in the mid 70's, an additional wind chest was required for this rank and this was built by Robert Gliddon and his father patterned off a pouch chest from the Christie organ of the Melba, Strathfield. In later years the Vox Humana rank was transferred to this chest and the Post Horn placed on the Vox chest. Due to deterioration of the leather pouches, the chest requires total re-leathering. As additional wind chests are required for the West Ryde Christie project, it was decided to remove the pouch chest from Marrickville so that it can be re-leathered and used at West Ryde. The Post Horn rank was removed and placed in storage and the original Vox Humana chest was transferred from the Main (stage right) chamber to the Solo chamber where it was re-united with its pipes. This also necessitated the re-positioning of the Vox Tremulant and the re-configuration of its wind line and 31 of the chest's 61 notes had to be re-wired to reach the driver circuit board. Please refer to the October issue of TOSA News for photos of this manoeuvre.

It was suggested by a couple of members that while the Post Horn pipes were in storage, it was an opportune time for this rank to be cleaned and its voicing checked and regulated where necessary on a voicing machine as it had been playing at Marrickville for approximately 35 years with no attention other than tuning. This was approved by committee and the work is being performed by John Parker. Thanks to John Andrews for kindly transporting the pipes from Marrickville to Ermington.

Regarding a replacement chest for the Post Horn. Some years ago the Society acquired a wind chest from the late George Newell. This Wurlitzer copy was built by the organ building firm of Dodd, originally for their home organ at Blakehurst which later saw service at the Regent, Wentworthville. The chest is currently under restoration.

An Acme siren effect that had been in storage for some years was installed in time for the silent film night although it ended up not being used, however, David Gray had fun with it during his rehearsal. The effect is operated from a toe piston. During the year there has been the usual routine maintenance of checking and repairing any dead notes.

My thanks to Kevin Eadie, John Weismantel, Robert Gliddon, Ernie Vale, Craig Keller and Barry Tooker for their help.

Neil Palmer



Marrickville English Post Horn rank, cleaned and racked with new pipe stay installed

ORION WURLITZER REPORT

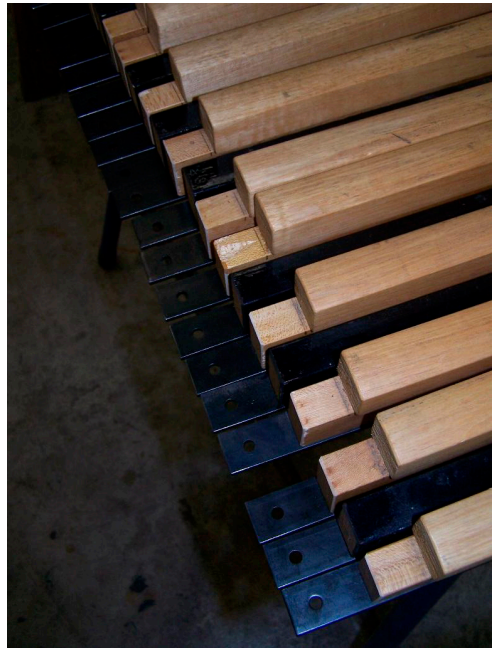
Opus 1813 has been reasonably reliable during the past 12 months, which is particularly convenient considering the ongoing difficulties we have in gaining access to the Orion Centre. Access to setup for shows has in previous years been available from about 9:30am, giving time for the technical team to ensure all equipment is functioning and that, most importantly, the organ is operating properly. If it is not we previously had time for quick repairs to occur. With another weekly hirer using the centre for church services prior to us on Sundays, we have been unable to access the centre prior to 11:30 leaving a very short time frame for technical and organ setup and most importantly artist final practice time. Artists are quite rightly feeling very pressured as they have little time to practice and set their required registrations for that performance.

Some maintenance has occurred as show schedules have allowed during the year. The pedals were completely removed for refurbishing following the Donnie Rankin show in April and returned in time for the Fitzsummons/Schumacher show in October. This removed the terrible rattle that the pedals had – particularly in the more often used lower register. Prior to the pedals being re-installed, the platform was repainted black as it was quite worn. During the past year a sagged and bent solo string pipe was repaired and some minor repairs to Uniflex boards occurred. Due to increased rental costs the normally monthly player days have been scaled back to “as and when possible/required” to use the organ for a few hours and check for maintenance issues prior to tuning for the next performance. This has been detrimental not only to the organ and the exercise of its components, but also to the members who attended to play or listen and their social interaction.

With the return of John Parker to tuning the organ, I think it is fair to say that the organ’s voice has returned to days past. Further maintenance is required on the organ platform (new wheels) and to reinstate the lift platform power and data cables but access time for serious maintenance work is nigh on impossible in the current environment and most of the members able to undertake maintenance work are heavily involved in the Christie project and also work on the Marrickville organ to be able to dedicate more time to Campsie.

Members should be encouraged to get in and give a hand if possible. Ask one of your committee members how you can help.

Craig Keller



Some photos of the updating of the Orion Wurlitzer Pedal Board

WEST RYDE ANGLICAN CHURCH CHRISTIE REPORT

Since this time last year there have been a great many hours put unto the project and much has been achieved.

Many people have been generous with their time and talent to help bring this project to fruition. Special thanks must go to John & Sharon Weismantel for allowing us to use part of their company premises Avtronics at Seven Hills. The storage and workspace there has been invaluable and is provided for a very small contribution to the utility bills. It has given the crew a base to work from and even use of some of John's tools. The regular crew is only small but has rapidly become experienced in the techniques of pipe organ restoration and it is a privilege to work with such loyal and reliable people. Graham Glendenning, Theo Langenberg & Barry Tooker turn up regularly on their appointed days and ready to do any organ work requested of them.

Some of our volunteer members are better able to work off site but their output is considerable. David Badman has totally overhauled the blower including replacement of the bearings just to make sure they continue to operate for many years to come. David has also built from scratch a new organ bench which was sorely needed as the old one had been repaired using of all things metal legs! Currently David is building the main windtrunk and rebuilding the pedalboard. Neil Patterson has made a magnificent new copy of the "CHRISTIE" fretwork music rack and it is better finished than the original. Neil also has done much restoration work on the horseshoe stoprail and is currently restoring the pedal jack system from the console. John McLennan from Melbourne has rebuilt many of the manual chests and this has advanced the completed work to a great degree. John must have rebuilt more theatre organ chests than anyone I know. Thanks go to John Andrews for transporting said chests from Sydney to Melbourne and returning them when they were restored. John Thompson fabricated lead nipples for use in the console pneumatic system. Eddie Hunt of Maitland buffed the keyboards and turned some synthetic ivory buttons for use on the console. Ed also undertook the task of marrying the original ivory piston buttons to current technology switches and they look just like the originals.

Storage of some of the building frames and bass pipes have been provided by Paul Luci since the organ was purchased. It is only now we are beginning to relieve Paul of all the stored bits! David and Deirdre McMullan have for quite a few years stored most of the manual pipework and chests at Mittagong and we hope it won't be too many more months before we start to return the pipework to West Ryde. Betty Weismantel has stored the console and the new rank of Krumet pipes in her garage, thank you Betty.

Ross Adams has again come to the rescue of the Society when it comes to moving components. Ross' experience in this department goes way back to 1972 when we removed the Wurlitzer from the Capitol Theatre. Ross and Gwen are always ready to help the Society.

Russ Evans our Honorary Member in Seattle U.S.A. gave and fully restored a magnificent Celesta from the Stanley Theatre, Baltimore, Maryland U.S.A. This is the only one of its type in this Country and will greatly enhance the percussion department of the organ. This unit has "Deagan" brand metal bars which are the most expensive organ percussions manufactured by this famous American firm. Whilst the Christie Chrysoglott will be restored and made operable in the main chamber it will be possible to use either the Celesta or the Chrysoglott. I think I know which unit will receive the vast majority of use. Thank you Russ and Jo Ann TO.S.A. (N.S.W) remains in your debt.

John Parker recently visited the Church and has provided us with some good ideas on placement of the various units. John also donated a Hill, Norman & Beard 16' Tuba Octave and chest which will enhance the bass character of the instrument.

It only remains to complete rebuilding of two manual "pouch" type chests - one from the Melba Theatre, Strathfield and the other a copy of same which for the last thirty plus years has seen service in the Marrickville Wurlitzer. The aforementioned Chrysoglott and a Christie Marimba Harp have yet to be restored. The console restoration is well underway but is some way off yet.

The new "Uniflex" relay system has been sent from the U.S., one box having already been delivered and the other currently still in Customs awaiting clearance.

The blower is installed and has been wired into the electrical mains by Anthony Weismantel our "resident" electrician. The main wind duct has been installed from the blower into the chamber above.

The crew is now beginning to spend quite a few days working at the Church and this will only increase as the installation progresses.

Everyone wants to know when the opening date will be. That is a question I'm not prepared at this stage to contemplate - some time next year is my best guess. It would be indeed foolish to put unnecessary pressure on and have the instrument opened before it is ready. We've all been down this path before and I for one am not prepared to go in that direction. We'll keep you updated as to progress and when the time comes will make suitable arrangements between the Church and the Society for a grand opening. The Rector Mal York, has at his request already been booked as compere at the opening concert/concerts.

Finally thanks to the congregation of St. Columb's for their continued interest and support. Those who remember the organ when it was in the old Church loved the sound of it. The younger members of the congregation are looking forward to hearing the organ so many of the older ones talk about with such great affection.

Robert Gliddon



The refurbished Christie Keyboard is placed into the console framework



**Christie Project Team Leader, Rob Gliddon
wheels the refurbished keyboards to the workshop**



The lower manual is in place



**The upper manual slots into
place**

TOSA 2014 Season Shows

Sunday 16 February 2:00pm
Orion Theatre, 155 Beamish St., Campsie

Simon Ellis and Bernard Walz both from Sydney

Sunday 23 March 2:00pm
Orion Theatre, 155 Beamish St., Campsie

Mathew Loeser from Sydney

Sunday 18 May 2:00pm
Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville

Patron John Atwell from Melbourne

Sunday 20 July 2:00pm
Orion Theatre, 155 Beamish St., Campsie

Donna Parker from Portland USA

Sunday 19 October 2:00pm
Orion Theatre, 155 Beamish St., Campsie

Dwight Beacham from USA

Saturday 15 November 2:00pm
Venue to be confirmed

Richard Hills from UK

Sunday 7 December 2:00pm
Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville

Tony Fenelon from Melbourne, All Wurlitzer Show

Note:

Non Member Season Tickets include 6 months TOSA News

Season Tickets can be purchased up until the February 16th show at the Orion Theatre.

Why not consider giving a couple of tickets to the February show as a Christmas present to your friends.

Members Diary

Monday 3rd February Committee 7:00pm

Sunday 16 February 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Two International Musicians

Simon Ellis & Bernard Walz

play

"Your Old Time Favourites"

**on the 3/17 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ
&
Grand Piano**

****The ORION CENTRE THEATRE**
155 Beamish Street Campsie**

Book at www.tosa.net.au

or

Contact Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

Tickets also available at the box office from 1:30pm

Radio 2MBS-FM 102.5 "Colours of the King" (program of the Organ Music Society of Sydney) 2nd Saturday of each month, 5pm till 6 pm

Web Sites of Interest:

<https://www.facebook.com/tosansw>

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

www.sydneyorgan.com (our sister society, the Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)

www.ATOS.org

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