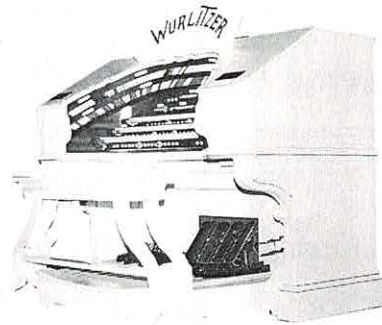


Marrickville Town Hall



Orion Centre Campsie

## NEWS



# WURLITZER

**WE'RE  
HERE  
AGAIN**

**THIS TIME  
ORION CENTRE  
CAMPSIE**



**WE ARE REALLY LOOKING  
FORWARD TO A GREAT  
AFTERNOON OF FUN, MUSIC & FRIENDSHIP  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE**

**TONY FENELON & JOHN ATWELL CONCERT  
ORION CENTRE, CAMPSIE  
2PM SUNDAY 28th JULY**

**BOOKING FORM WITH THIS ISSUE**

# TOSA NEWS

JUNE/JULY 1991

## THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (N.S.W. DIVISION) Inc.

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 &  
 Mayor of Canterbury, Ald. John Gorrie

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 John Shaw (759 5825)  
 or (047 57 3077)

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 Ed. Wharton (546 7231)

ARTIST LIAISON OFFICER:  
 Bill Schumacher  
 8 Wharf Rd., Brooklyn 2253  
 Phone 985 7318

PHOTOGRAPHY:  
 Kevin Rowland, noon - 8pm  
 Mobile phone (018) 44 2308  
 (STD rates apply)

Barry Tooker

CONCERT RECORDINGS:  
 Bill Schumacher

PROMOTIONS OFFICER:  
 Kevin Rowland

LIBRARIAN:  
 Ms. Mary Stewart (51 5045)

## COMING EVENTS

### JUNE

Mon. 3 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING  
 Sun. 23 at 2.00pm CLINTON WHITE CONCERT  
 at Marrickville Town Hall.

### JULY

Mon. 1 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING  
 Sun. 28 at 2.00pm TONY FENELON &  
 &  
 JOHN ATWELL  
 Duo Concert at  
 Orion Centre, Campsie.

### AUGUST

Mon. 5 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING  
 Sun. 25 at 2.00pm Sunday Social Afternoon  
 We're "Having a Party"  
 at Marrickville Town Hall.  
 See special Notice on P3.

NOTE: Due to circumstances beyond our control it has not yet been possible to confirm artists and finalise function dates from September onwards. However we expect to publish details in August TOSA NEWS.

Please address all correspondence to:

The Secretary  
 T O S A (N S W Division) Inc.  
 P O Box 151  
 ALLAWAH N S W 2218

REMEMBER TO TUNE-IN TO 2CBA-FM

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT 9.00pm -

For "Theatre Organ Highlights"



Articles in this journal need not represent the views of the committee or editor.

JUNE/JULY 1991



# A PARTY!

## WE'RE HAVING A PARTY

DO COME AND JOIN OUR SUNDAY SOCIAL AFTERNOON  
25 AUGUST - MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL - 2PM

Instead of our usual special guest artist, we would like to hear from our TOSA members - near and far, (able to play our wonderful WurliTzer) to star in a cameo performance - each one professionally introduced by our compere - Frank Ellis - to play one selected piece.

There is a great deal of talent in our Society and young members throughout Australia are showing amazing skills.

We would love to include them on the 25th.

**DON'T DELAY - IF YOU WISH TO PLAY**

Bring your friends  bring your relatives to hear you

Please mark the date on your calendar - Keep it free  
Lots of party surprises - a really fun afternoon  
the only charge will be a nominal one for a special  
afternoon tea.

RSVP - Below

Please return completed form to:

The Secretary, T.O.S.A.,

P O Box 151,

ALLAWAH NSW 2218

I/We would love to come to the 'party' on 25th August.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to play the WurliTzer on 25th August. YES/NO  
Item Name ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

TO BE PROVIDED 1st WEEK IN AUGUST

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# TOSA NEWS

JUNE/JULY 1991

## TOSA NEWS

As the publication of the June issue has been delayed somewhat (we have not been able to catch up following the convention), it has been decided to combine both the June and July issues. These will be a larger single publication.

Ed.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE AT END OF JUNE !!!

We wish to advise that current memberships will expire on 30th June.

Please help our Membership Secretary by forwarding your cheque/money order before 30th June. This will save unnecessary follow-up work as well as ensuring you receive continuity of your TOSA NEWS.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Single Membership	\$16
Concession Membership	\$ 8
Country, Interstate & Overseas Membership	\$10

NOTE: For spouse voting rights add 50% to appropriate fee.

Please post your cheque/money order to:

T O S A Membership Secretary  
P O Box 56  
ASQUITH N S W 2077

If you have any queries please phone: (02) 476 4991

### FAST WORK !!

Talk about fast work! Our President required a vacuum pump.

We advertised in our May TOSA NEWS - Thanks to Mr Harper, one of our members, we had the pump within 24 hours - not bad!

Our sincere thanks to you, Mr Harper.

## U.S. REGIONAL CONVENTION

The Dairyland Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society will host the 1991 ATOS Regional Convention over three days from Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd November at "a great place on a Great Lake" - Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which is about 120 km north of Chicago on the western shore of Lake Michigan.

Convention headquarters will be at the Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee. Two Wurlitzers, at the Riverside and Avalon Theatres, will be among the organs featured. Participating artists will include Simon Gledhill, Tom Hazleton, Walt Strony, Jonas Nordwall and Clark Wilson.

Contact Eric Wicks, 19 Beatty Street, Ivanhoe Victoria 3079 - phone 03 497 2183 for detailed information.

### INVITATION TO SEE HOME ORGANS IN USA

The American Theatre Organ Society has compiled a register of scores of home organ installations in the United States. A copy has been supplied to ATOS Australian Felix Chapter. Register entries give the name and address of the owner, origin of the organ, its specification and how to arrange an inspection visit.

The compiler of the Register, ATOS director Laurel Haggart said the sheets do not go to the general membership in America as the owners would be deluged with visitors. "Your case is different", wrote Laurel. "When your members travel so far and it's so expensive, they might want to visit installations and I know they would be welcome. It's such a good way to make new friends and share a mutual love of the organ."

Any TOSA member planning a trip to America who would like to take advantage of this offer should write to Eric Wicks, 19 Beatty Street, Ivanhoe Vic 3079, giving names of towns and states in their itinerary, and how they will be getting around. Some of the organs are located away from major cities.

# TOSA NEWS

JUNE/JULY 1991

## CINEMA NORTH ORGAN CLOSING CONCERT

The Cinema North property in Reservoir (North of Melbourne) has been sold and the Blackett and Howden theatre organ with its Christie console (from Sydney's old Lyceum theatre) has to be removed.

They will be holding their final concert in the cinema on Sunday July 28th. There will be OPEN CONSOLE from 9-30am to 11-30am. If visitors wish to stay until the afternoon concert, they should bring their own lunch and will be able to wait in the foyer.

Doors will open for the final concert at 1-30pm and the concert will start at 2-00pm.

This concert will be a cavalcade of Australia's best organists, both young and older, and will be a top class final concert in this venue. Interval will be at 3-20pm and the concert will finish at 5-00pm.

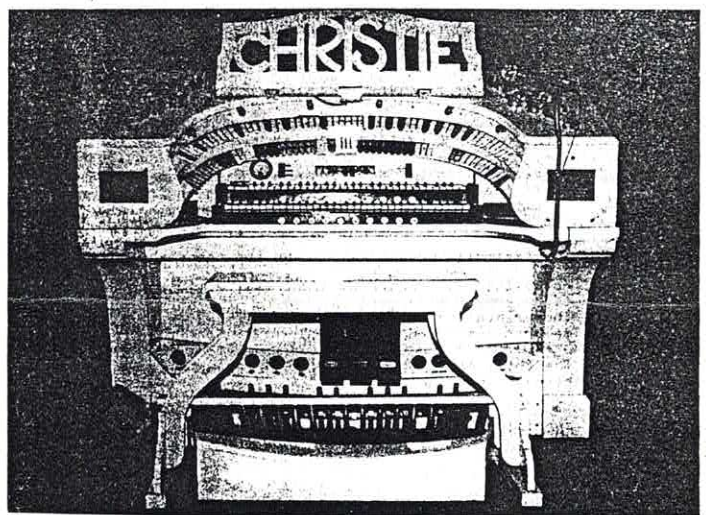
Following the concert, a light meal will be served in the foyer for everyone. You are invited to stay on and share in this with those involved with this instrument and installation, and the members and friends of TOSA.

The total cost of the concert and light meal will be \$12 per head to everyone.

ENQUIRIES TO: Ray Gregory (03) 354 1742.

## A BRAVE NEW VENTURE

At a grand opening featuring Ray Thornley, Bill Powell announced that Versi organs were to be made in Tasmania for the Australian Market. This German company has had a long experience in producing complete organs and do it yourself organ kits for those handy with a soldering iron and a screw driver. (From Tasmanian TOSA, May '91)



THE CONSOLE AT CINEMA NORTH WAS ORIGINALLY INSTALLED IN SYDNEY'S OLD LYCEUM THEATRE.

----- CUT HERE ----- CUT HERE ----- CUT HERE -----

### Ticket Order Form

Mr. Ray Gregory  
62 Sussex Street  
Coburg 3058  
Ph.(03)354 1742

CONCERT AT  
CINEMA NORTH  
28TH JULY 1991  
FINAL CONCERT & LIGHT MEAL

Direct Ticket Booking Line  
(03) 506 1600

Please reserve for me . . . . . tickets at \$12

I enclose my cheque for \$ . . . . . or debit my Bankcard/MasterCard/Visa as under.

(Please make cheques payable to T.O.S.A.)

I enclose stamped addressed envelope for return of tickets YES  NO

I will collect tickets at the concert YES  NO

NAME . . . . .

ADDRESS . . . . .

. . . . . P/code . . . . .

If paying by credit card, Number:

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Expires . . . . . Phone Contact Number . . . . .

SIGNATURE . . . . .

# TOSA NEWS

JUNE/JULY 1991

## "THEATRE ORGAN HIGHLIGHTS" - 2CBA-FM Monday Nights at 9-00pm

We were saddened to receive Cliff Bingham's resignation as the presenter of 2CBA-FM's Theatre Organ Highlights on Monday nights, due to other pressing commitments.

Chris Styles, well known to our members, has been approached by the T.O.S.A. Committee to become the new presenter of this popular programme. Cliff's last programme will go to air on the 1st July and Chris will commence broadcasting on 8th July.

Our sincere thanks Cliff for your most interesting programmes, we will miss you - and welcome Chris, we wish you every success with your new venture.

## EX LYCEUM CHRISTIE THEATRE ORGAN RE-OPENING CONCERT IN NEW THEATRE

Members will be pleased to know that following restoration, this organ has been installed in the new Wesley Theatre, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney.

A re-opening concert featuring David Parsons, Brett Freer and "Catalyst" will be held on Saturday July 6th at 2-30pm with John Tingle of 2GB as compere.

Admission will be by invitation ticket only (\$15) and all enquiries must be made direct to Wesley Centre 267 8741 no later than 17th June.

## POSSIBILITY OF GROUP TOUR TO GOLD COAST 1992 CONVENTION

We are presently assessing the feasibility of organising a seven day coach trip, with some sightseeing, to include the 1992 Convention on the Gold Coast. Currently indications are that cost will be in the order of \$600-\$700 for fares and DBB accommodation PLUS Convention costs.

In order to know whether we should proceed further with negotiations and planning, we would like to know how many members are interested in participating.

Those interested should contact the Secretary, but not between 30 June & 13 July.

## ITEM OF INTEREST SYDNEY TOWN HALL RESTORATION

The Sydney Town Hall is closed to the public for the rest of the year while the building is restored to its former nineteenth Century splendour.

Consequently there will not be a Young Organists' Function this year.

A plastic sheet which is sealed at the walls, floor and ceiling has been erected in front of the organ and clean air is being used to pressurise the organ area to prevent the ingress of dirt.

From: Sydney Organ Journal - May '91.

## FOR SALE

### URGENT SALE

BALDWIN ENCORE (Electronic) Theatre Organ and stool. Horseshoe console with lights, Phantom fingers - all AS NEW - \$3500 Negotiable  
Phone (02) 823 1938

YAMAHA HX1 Electone:- Current model, top of the line organ in perfect condition. Full size keyboards, Two KA-20 speakers (100 watts) with 2 octave pedalboard, extra expression pedal and new sounds on disk. Sell for \$14,500.

Phone (07) 378 3214 - Peter Smith.

or

Write Peter Smith, 84 Pullenvale Rd, Kenmore,  
Brisbane Qld 4069.

## CATALOGUE 417 OF MUSIC & MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS By BERKELOUW

Antiquarian Booksellers

We have just received a catalogue, from this firm, which covers a wide range of musical topics, composers, conductors, singers etc., as well as books on various instruments, including organs.

This American firm has an Australian office which should be contacted direct if you wish to make any enquiries. Their address, phone and fax number are as follows:

Messrs Berkelouw  
'Bendooley'  
Hume Highway  
Berrima NSW 2577

Phone (048) 77 1370 & Fax (048) 77 1102  
Business Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9am - 3pm

## AUTOMATION IN MUSIC THE INFLUENCE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Digital organs have notes pre-recorded from some of the best pipe organs in Europe, and are able to give reliable hi-fi reproduction far better than electronic organs and better than many of the organs found in parishes today. They do not require tuning, and maintenance costs are minimal.

One of the real advantages of Devtronix is its ability to store music to be played back later - the theme of the above article.

If the organ is out of tune during a recording session, the music can be recorded to disk, stored and played back for recording purposes when the organ has been tuned and the theatre is empty. It is quite a thrill to sit in the empty theatre late at night and listen to an artist's work being replayed. It is also quite eerie to listen while you sit looking at an empty organ bench.

There are many potential uses and, I guess, misuses of the incredible new technologies in the music world, but we are able to enjoy the benefits of most of them in our lives, whether it be the CD, computer applications or the Devtronix.

Published from S.A. T.O.S.A. NEWS

## A HOME-MADE CINEMA ORGAN (Cutting from a 1930 Newspaper)

It is not unusual to find a cinema organ in a house, but Mr L.A.Allbutt of Saltley, Birmingham, a 22-year-old Post Office engineer has one - and it's home-made! Mr Allbutt decided to build his own organ.

For several months he drew up plans and then commenced work. At first his operations were frowned on by his mother, but now, after two years' work she has accepted the practicality of his idea. And she does not mind the fact that while the console is finished and set up in the parlour, the drums, piano and other effects are in another room, and the remainder of the house is also strewn with parts of the embryonic organ.

In fact she is waiting for the day when she will hear it played. There are 700 pipes in the organ, and it seems possible that he may experience a little difficulty in fitting some of them in, since the largest pipe measures 16ft!



Mr Allbutt, however, thinks that these may be placed under the floor of the bedroom! He intends to get married in 12 months, and he hopes by that time to have completed the organ. In order that it may be installed in the new home, it has been made collapsible and sectional. It weighs a matter of two tons, and he appreciates that even when it is completed he will not be able to play it at full volume, since to do so would probably shake the house down, as well as cause a riot among the neighbours! Let's hope his new wife was to be as understanding as his Mum.

(Source: The Theatre Organ Club - News South .  
U.K. Publication)

## DO YOU AGREE?

A first-class will and a second-class brain, will defeat first-class brain and a second-class will.

# TOSA NEWS

JUNE/JULY 1991

## PRESIDENT ON LEAVE AND VISITS BALLARAT FOR RE-OPENING OF COMPTON PIPE ORGAN

Mr Jack Lawson, accompanied by his wife Pearl visited Ballarat for the Grand Re-opening of the Compton Theatre Pipe Organ in Her Majesty's Theatre, on 2 June, featuring David Parsons.

Built in 1875, Her Majesty's is the oldest building used continuously as a theatre in Australia. After restoration it is certainly the most beautiful and magnificent home for the Compton theatre pipe organ.

Her Majesty's was called The Academy of Music when it opened on June 7th, 1875 with a performance by Australia's first opera company, The William Lyster Opera Company.

In 1899, after 24 years as a major performance venue, the building underwent its first major refurbishment. The Academy of Music was given two balconies in place of one original; its floor was overlaid and the facade enhanced.

In the same year the theatre reopened, and in honour of Queen Victoria, was named Her Majesty's.

For the next thirty-five years, Her Majesty's played a great role in Ballarat's cultural life. Indeed, it was on the performance circuit of the greatest artists performing in Australia, among them, Sir Harry Lauder, Gladys Moncreiff, Roy Rene, and Dame Nellie Melba.

With the advent of the talkies, Her Majesty's suffered the indignity of being 'wired for sound' in 1930 to accommodate the cinema craze that was sweeping the world. Many of Ballarat's residents, during their youth, enjoyed Saturday afternoon matinees at Her Majesty's.

In 1965, the famous Royal South Street Society, with the assistance of the State Government, the Soldier's Memorial Fund and the benefactor Mr J.F.Kittson, purchased the theatre and reopened it as the Memorial Theatre. Again it became the hub of live theatre, hosting the South Street Competitions and being used extensively by many of Ballarat's prolific performing arts groups.

But Her Maj (as she began to be known) started to show her age. New building and fire regulations were not sympathetic to her distinguished history and a lot of work was necessary on the structure and fabric of the building.

The Royal South Street Society made a gift of the theatre to the City of Ballarat, and the City, with the Royal South Street Society, the State Government of Victoria and the Hugh Williamson Foundation\*, undertook to renovate the theatre.

The restoration of the Memorial Theatre can only be described as a triumph. Dedicated architects, engineers, builders and artisans combined to restore the theatre to all its former glory. It has a place in the National Estate and its role as one of Australia's leading performing arts venues is assured.

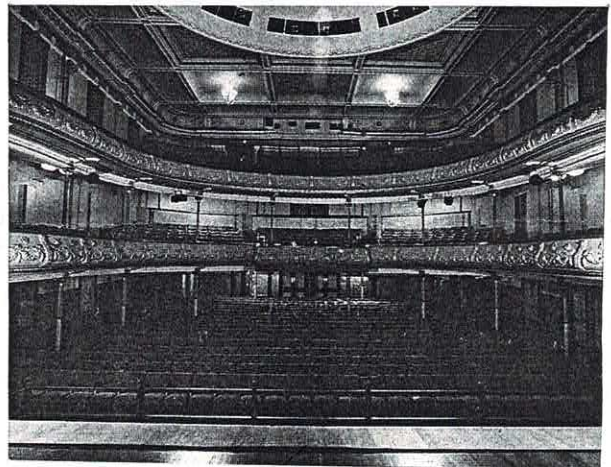
The theatre is an outstanding example of the continued vision, as regards the theatre, of the people of Ballarat - a vision that has remained constant for more than a hundred and fifteen years.

The theatre is there for all to enjoy and savour, as well as to share in its reflected glory and pride.

And how fitting that it should be renamed Her Majesty's.

The theatre is resplendent in gold and turquoise and sprinkled with the remnants of a golden age. The tales of the ghost of the lady in the white dinner suit and the spirit of Dame Nellie Melba will undoubtedly live on. The footwarmers and the magnificent dome are still there. On stage sits Dame Nellie Melba's Bechstein grand piano, with her signature clearly written beneath the shining lid.

The chandeliers have been dusted off, and most of the three tier seating has been covered with fine velvet.



This is surely a part of Ballarat's being and culture.

We look forward to Jack and Pearl's return with all the news of this great event. Our President's report will be featured in the next issue of TOSA NEWS.

Sources: Newsletter, Ballarat Theatre Organ Society and the Herald/Sun Newspaper

\* The Hugh Williamson Foundation is a charitable Trust set up by the late Hugh Williamson, a native of Ballarat.



# TOSA NEWS

JUNE/JULY 1991

## THE SPRECKELS OUTDOOR PIPE ORGAN BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.

The vision of John D. Spreckels and his brother Adolph was to create for the people of San Diego and the world a totally unique musical instrument, a great outdoor pipe organ that would be culturally and artistically uplifting, an inspiration to the human soul, and capable of producing the full range of musical masterworks. The completed pavillion and organ were dedicated before an audience of over 50,000 persons on the evening of 31 December, 1914, preceding the formal opening of the Panama-California Exposition at midnight.



Concert at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park, (San Diego, California) c. 1916 during the Panama-California Exposition.  
*San Diego Historical Society-Ticor Collection.*

Built by the Austin Organ Company of Hartford, Connecticut, the Spreckels Organ contains over 4,400 pipes ranging in size from over 32' to a speaking length of less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. The organ is maintained by Lyle Blackinton and Associates.

Now three quarters of a century old, it is one of the great concert organs of the world, one of the few municipally owned and operated organs in continuous use for the good of the general public, and one of San Diego's most unique cultural treasures. With the recent dedication of the \$50,000 32' Bombarde, massive pipes that will greatly reinforce the bass frequencies of the organ, friends of the Spreckels Organ honour the spirit of generosity of the Spreckels brothers by giving to the people of that city a major addition to this great instrument.

As San Diegans for 75 years have cherished this unique world treasure, we of the present are committed to ensuring that its future is more glorious than its past.

The Spreckels Organ Society, a non-profit corporation under California law, was founded in February, 1988 for the purpose of expanding the use and securing the financial future of the Spreckels Organ. Now consisting of over 500 members, and governed by an all-volunteer Board of Trustees, the Society increased the number and scope of concerts, vigorously publicised the organ, established an endowment fund and raised the \$US50,000 to add the full-length 32' Bombarde, issued two recordings of the organ, and worked closely with the City of San Diego and the Balboa Park staff in numerous community-wide events. Membership is open to the public.

If any of our readers would like a detailed specification of this organ, please write to the Secretary.

RECORDINGS: "Live from Balboa Park" - Organist, Robert Plimpton and "75th Anniversary Concert" are available for \$US10-00 each.

For information on membership, programmes, or recordings contact: SPRECKELS ORGAN SOCIETY  
P O BOX 6726  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92106  
Phone 0011 1 619 226 0819.

## NEW ORGAN REACHES CATHEDRAL

A new era in music has arrived at Christ Church Anglican Cathedral in Grafton with an internationally renowned pipe organ coming all the way from England.

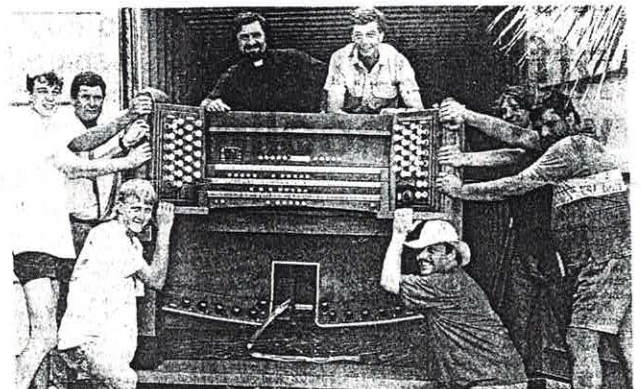
The organ has been placed in storage in the Cathedral in a temporary security enclosure to allow at least six months for the timber and metal components, including almost three thousand organ pipes, to acclimatise to local conditions.

It will then be installed in the Cathedral and the official opening was due in May.

Archdeacon Richard Hurford said the previous organ was designed for the partially completed Cathedral when it first opened in 1884, but since the Cathedral's completion in 1937, it was not suitable for such a large building.

He said it would have cost \$80,000 to rebuild and restore the instrument and in 1981 it was decided to fund raise for the new organ, which was housed in the Royal College of Organists in England.

It was dismantled and packed into steel containers for the long sea voyage to Australia. Even the most delicate mechanisms in the instrument made the long journey without any damage.



Interest has been expressed in musical and educational circles around Australia and overseas for its official opening. Grafton will be able to enjoy the resources of a pipe organ of international reputation which it is hoped will encourage many musicians and especially young people in the Clarence Valley to explore this exciting instrument, according to the Archdeacon.

The Sydney Organ building firm of Peter Jewkes was responsible for installation of the organ.

From DAILY EXAMINER - Grafton  
Thursday, 7-2-91.

# TOSA NEWS

JUNE/JULY 1991

## WORLD'S FIRST FEATURE LENGTH FILM

"The Kelly Gang" - a 10,000 foot film, produced in Melbourne in 1905, was the world's first feature length movie. The multiple-reel pictures from France, which startled America, came years later.

Filmed mostly in the suburb of Heidelberg, and only during week ends, the production cost less than one thousand pounds (\$2000). The stars and extras found their way out to the location in "drags" as large vehicles were known.

The producers themselves took part in the film, the wife of one of them, an accomplished horse-woman, playing the role of Kate Kelly.

The salary of the main star - Ned Kelly - was one pound (\$2) per working day. Most important prop of all, the original Ned Kelly armour, was actually borrowed from its owner (then) Sir Rupert Clarke.

The Victorian Railways Commissioner co-operated in the filming of the final stand of the Kellys at Glenrowan, when the railway track was lifted by bushrangers. A train and 'gangsters' at Eltham rail terminus were placed at the film company's disposal for this scene.

The first showing of the "Kelly Gang" at the Melbourne Athenæum at Christmas, 1905, was a sensational success, and the film made box office history wherever it was shown throughout Australia.

Extract from: Australian Wonders, believe by Bill Beatty.

The voice of Bill Beatty was a familiar one to radio listeners. His session 'Australoddities' during 4 years broadcast by the A.B.C., also overseas on short wave for B.B.C.

Printed for Amazing Australia 1945.

## THE GREAT WAVE

The English organist Gerald Shaw played the opening season of the Rivoli Odeon Cinema, Cairo, Egypt.

The instrument was a 4/10 Compton Pipe Organ with a "jelly mould" surround (without the "hot seat").

Gerald told people later that he was worried when he first played because he could hear continual hissing. He did not think the music was being well received. As he had his back to the audience all he could do was play on and hope for the best.

What actually happened was the first row of the audience was so enthralled by what they heard and saw that they stood up to see more. The second row hissed at them and so a domino principle ultimately caused continuous hissing as row upon row of the audience stood for the organ music.

The Cinema is still in use, but the instrument has gone.

## OFF BEAT BLUES,

OR

## THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT.

By Colin Tringham

My Electronic Organ was built in the heyday of such things, and is now over thirty years old. I'd love to replace it with something more modern, but most instruments these days are, either twangy synthesisers or extremely expensive, in my opinion. However I am used to the sound of my Gulbransen Rialto and find it more than capable of reproducing my regrettably mediocre playing.

Lately, I have been rather disappointed at the instrument's sound, but could not pin-point the problem. Eventually it dawned on me that my rhythm playing was being masked by a decidedly up-beat noise. In fact, whenever a pedal note was released, there was a loud "boink" as the pedal hit its up-stop. I removed the pedal board and examined the felt and found that the top-stop pieces were hard and compressed - hence the noise. I have tracked down a source of felt and completed the job to my great satisfaction, but along the way I discovered a few tricks which I would like to pass on to other T.O.S.A. members.

Finding felt is quite a problem. Eventually I contacted Felt Distributors (Aust) Pty Ltd at 19 Underwood Avenue, Botany. The cost of a complete piece of felt would have been prohibitive, but the helpful receptionist said that they had a large box of off-cuts. I found a lovely piece of soft felt which would have been enough for ten pedal-boards, and the cost was just three dollars!

Once home, the material looked a bit too thick, I also thought I would have to completely strip the pedal board down to replace the felt. A little study showed me that I could just rip out the old felt with a pair of pliers, and then apply contact glue to the cleaned surface of the pedal board and with some more contact glue to the piece of felt I had cut with scissors. The pressure of the pedal would hold it in place until it had set. I only tried one note and it worked beautifully, although the pedal actuator was almost 50mm lower than previously. The note sounded with the least pressure on the pedal, so I bent the metal actuator slightly and finished the job. Replacing the pedal board resulted in a great cacophony of sound. Many notes were sounding simultaneously (the pedal board on my organ is polyphonic). I had to bend many of the actuators before the Organ played properly.

Therefore I would like to offer the following hints to anyone contemplating a similar repair. Before replacing the felt, press each pedal down by hand, and try and measure how far it must be pressed before it operates. This will give you a guide as to the thickness of felt you should use. Secondly, replace no more than four or five felts at a time, so that you can see if any notes are sounding improperly.

May your pedals be as quiet as mine!

# TOSA NEWS

JUNE/JULY 1991

## 1991 CONVENTION

We have included, for your interest, the following extracts compiled from reports received from members of the interstate divisions of T.O.S.A., who attended the 1991 Convention in Sydney.

Our Friends from Ballarat reported:

The National Convention in Sydney, most enjoyable, with all concerts being of a very high standard.

Many of us renewed friendships with conventioners from all around Australia and New Zealand. Of the 330 registrations, Ballarat's 51 was the second highest.

The convention was very friendly, with everyone mixing in well. I must congratulate Dean Thomas for his fine performance in the Cameo spot - and the way he thanked the 'Convention' organizers on behalf of the Western Victorian Division.

In all, it was a great Convention and many thanks to the NSW organisers. Congratulations should go to John Parker, Neil Jensen and the restorers of the two Baptist Church organs for the way these grand old instruments from the twenties have been restored to match the requirements of their audiences of the nineties. And with the youthful talent evident throughout the Convention, their future is assured.

Tony Ward did an outstanding job as compere throughout the Convention.

Victorian members in their 'Vox' said:

Congratulations to TOSA NSW on a most successful 1991 (Double the Fun in '91) Convention. From all reports the music, friendship and fun was superb. Everyone returned to their respective homes well pleased and satisfied after feasting from the huge amounts of talent, entertainment and renewing of old friendships, as well as making new ones.

Our Colleagues from ACT commented:

It was a rip-snorter! What a beaut convention.

One thing worth noting out of all the music played during the weekend. Even though there was clearly a predominance of young performers, some as young as mid-teens, there was barely half a dozen modern pieces of music. Is it that performers were programming their music for an ageing audience? Or is it that they just like the music of the first half of this century? Or is it that the Theatre Organ is best suited to the music of that era? I don't know. But it was an interesting observation.

Well done, TOSA NSW! Yet another great effort under your belt. Thanks, from us all.

From the Gold Coasters:

What a great time we all had in Sydney and the concerts were superb. Our presentation was well received and Phil Kelsall didn't mind one bit that we "pinched" his theme song, 'We Do Like to Be Beside the Seaside'. Our gold uniforms were a hit, and we met lots of interesting people, many of whom indicated they would be coming to our GO FOR GOLD Convention next year. Added to all that, we heard our own Bev Black play so well in her cameo spot on the Marrickville WurliTzer.

Our friends in Queensland reported in their TIBIA: The TOSA National Convention '91 began on Easter Friday in Sydney's Marrickville Town Hall.

JACK LAWSON, President of NSW TOSA, gave the welcoming address. He introduced TONY WARD, who was to be Compere for the weekend. Tony then introduced each State as well as the New Zealand contingent.

Over 360 members from all States and New Zealand gathered. Also there were several from the USA and England....so this surely is becoming an International event.

Greetings flew back and forth between folk who had not seen each other since the last convention.

Congratulations to T.O.S.A. (NSW Division) for their organisation of the whole Convention's entertainment. It was first class.

Our S.A. Friends commented:

WHAT A CONVENTION! Those who couldn't attend really missed a first class event - excellent entertainment, friendly atmosphere, all in all a great time.

It was an exceptional convention thanks to organisers at TOSA NSW, terrific entertainment, fantastic travel arrangements thanks to the coach captains. No one but those aboard would believe the places and situations they manœuvred the coach around..... thanks Henry and John! Great company throughout, all in all a convention never to be forgotten.

South Australia's representative, Ashley Rocks, did a remarkable job on a strange organ. Well done Ashley, thank you for representing South Australia.

From our Tasmanian TOSA Friends:

The convention was over, N.S.W. - how do I sum it up? Maybe by repeating part of a conversation at the end of it all. I was asked, as a lone Tasmanian, what I thought of the convention. I replied "In a word - Magic".

"What do you think you'll say about the Convention to those back home?"

"They should have (pardon my French) \*\*\*\* well should have been here." Thanks TOSA (NSW).

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Finally from our W.A. guests in their "Tremulant" : Eleven members from W.A. attended the National Convention in Sydney over the Easter period.

Congratulations to the N.S.W. Division for the wonderful array of concert artists engaged, and it would be most difficult to discriminate as each was endowed with contrasting styles and personalities, and therefore produced a variety of selections to suit individual tastes.

We all enjoyed ourselves immensely, and the feast of music over the weekend was a pure joy. Two of our members, who attended their first convention, when asked if it had all been worthwhile responded by saying they would go again tomorrow given the opportunity.

T.O.S.A. N.S.W. deserve full credit for all their efforts to produce a wonderful convention.

# TOSA NEWS

JUNE/JULY 1991

## JOHN GIACCHI NEW CASSETTE "NIGHT MOODS"

Young TOSA member, John Giacchi, who, at the recent convention played brilliantly on the 2/10 Epping Baptist Church Christie Organ also released his first recording titled 'Night Moods'. The following is a review written by John Leeming, Editor of the Cinema Organ Society of Gt. Britain, for the COS journal.

"Both organ and organist on this recording are beginning to make a name for themselves in the international theatre organ world, and it is good to have them both together on this issue. They complement each other very well.

The organ most definitely says "WurliTzer" to you straight away, with rich tremulation and, perhaps, a slightly 'larger than life' approach to voicing, which maybe reduces the 'blend' a little in full organ. It nevertheless represents some of the nicest theatre organ sounds to come from Australia, with clean trebles which don't squeak and smooth basses which don't honk.

The artist is, broadly speaking, influenced by the 'modern' (i.e. post George Wright) American approach. He is accurate, imaginative, with particular sensitivity in the interpretation of 1930's standards and show tunes. Registration is varied and interesting, and he is generally very good at appropriate mood creation. John was, of course, the senior winner in last year's ATOS international contest, and these recordings show why.

The tape starts with a tribute to Busby Berkeley - a medley which includes 'Lullaby of Broadway' and 'I Only Have Eyes for You'. This is excellently, at times outstandingly, played, with varied, appropriate registration, and always plenty of interesting harmonic and rhythmic variety. The fact that John identifies very much with this sort of music comes over very clearly - you can tell that he feels what he is creating. Other items he handles with a similar approach are a well-constructed **Show Boat** selection, with clever subliminal references to melodies to be heard later in the medley, 'A Foggy Day' linked to 'London By Night', and a moving closing duo, 'All Through the Night' and 'All Through the Day', the latter being quite spine-tingling at times.

The other tracks are an over-smoochy version of Reginald King's 'Song of Paradise', a somewhat unilting account of 'Nights of Gladness', a pseudo-Torch styled 'Buffoon' which lacks the required degree of 'bounce', and a 'Bal Masqué' with some almighty Comptonesque 'barks' to wake you up! Even though John's versions of these items don't gel as well as his other material, the album as a whole is well worth having, and with a total playing time of 80 minutes, you're getting two LP's worth of music for your money. It's also one of those few recordings which becomes more enjoyable the more you play it."

Half of side 2 is taken up with a 'Phantom of the Opera Fantasia'. I know that ALW's music is not everyone's cup of tea, but in this 20-minute opus, there's enough variety and mood change to surprise Lloyd-Webber himself (and maybe even David Shepherd!). The other major item on this side is the **Orpheus in the Underworld** overture, which has a romantic approach, albeit with individuality of melody once or twice.

This cassette is available at the TOSA record bar for \$16-00 or send a cheque made out to 'John Giacchi' to P O Box 612 Cronulla NSW 2230. No postage or handling extra.

John will be playing a concert for TOSA (Gold Coast) on their Conn organ on June 30. On July 14 he'll be on the other side of the continent, playing for TOSA (WA) on their own 3/10 Compton Theatre Pipe Organ, he will then whizz 400 miles (640 kms) south to play for an organ club in Esperance on an Allen Electronic before flying home.

## WALTER'S MUSIC WORTH A MINT

A shabbily dressed old man who spent hours sitting alone on a Chicago park bench has been revealed as the owner of a giant collection of musical scores and books worth a fortune.

He was Walter Harding who migrated to the United States when he was four years old. He died at the age of ninety.

His collection of music is estimated to be worth about two million dollars (Australian) and it will probably go to Oxford University.

Mr Harding worked in Chicago as a ragtime piano player in the early days, and played the organ in cinemas in the era of silent films.

The collection contained French opera scores, early American sheet music collections, English sheet music and song books dating back to 1650.

Never judge a book by its cover! Ed.

Ex S.A. T.O.S.A. NEWS - May '91