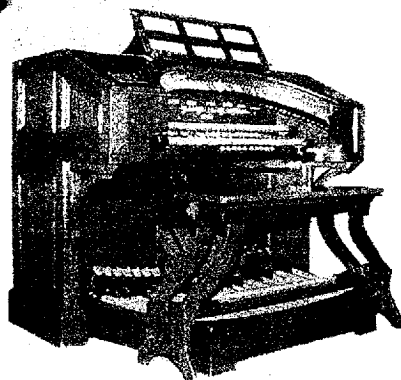
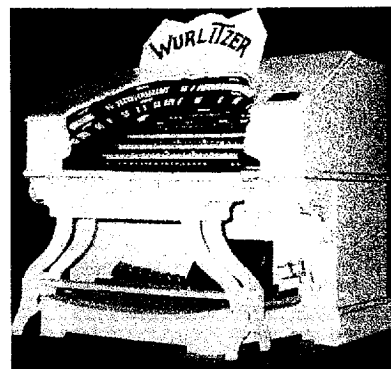


NOVEMBER, 2001



2/11 WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ
Marrickville Town Hall

TOSA
NEWS



3/17 WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ
Orion Centre Campsie

Come to the *TOSA (NSW) Inc.*
Annual General Meeting on
Sunday 25th November at 2pm in the
Mastertouch Roll Company's Premises,
308 Stanmore Road, Petersham
Afternoon Tea and Tour to follow

Christmas is coming !!!

So too are **Tony Fenelon**
and **John Atwell**
to the *Orion Centre Campsie*
Duo concert

on Sunday, 9th December at 2pm

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Issue 10
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TOSA NEWS

NOVEMBER, 2001

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (NSW DIVISION) Inc.

For the smooth running of TOSA, please contact the right person :

General Business - SECRETARY

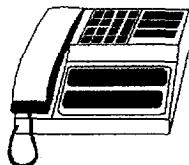
Ticket Bookings - TICKET SECRETARY

Membership, Renewals, Change of Address - MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

TOSA NEWS Items, Advertisements - EDITOR

All numbers use the prefix 02

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COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Monday 5 at 7.30pm Committee Meeting

Thursday 8 at 2.00pm Members' Playing Day
Orion Centre Campsie

Important: Phone on the day to confirm 9716 0151

Thursday 22 at 7.30pm Members' Playing Night
Marrickville Town Hall

Important: Phone 9798 6742 to confirm

Sunday 25 at 2.00pm TOSA (NSW) Annual
General Meeting

"Mastertouch", Petersham
(See page 12)

DECEMBER

Monday 3 at 7.30pm Committee Meeting

Sunday 9 at 2.00pm Tony Fenelon
and John Atwell's
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Orion Centre Campsie

Thursday 13 at 2.00pm Members' Playing Day
Orion Centre Campsie

Important: Phone on the day to confirm 9716 0151

From The President

Hello again!

Some important stuff this month so please read on.

Firstly, my apology to members who missed the Campsie Players' Afternoon in October. Someone was running a bazaar in the Orion - forgot to tell us in advance!

At the last committee meeting we received two beautiful pieces of jewellery as an anonymous donation to TOSA. They are well beyond the value of the normal concert raffle prizes - so we are now giving consideration to their future. I don't reckon we will have too much trouble deciding. Meanwhile, thank you for your generosity - whoever you are!

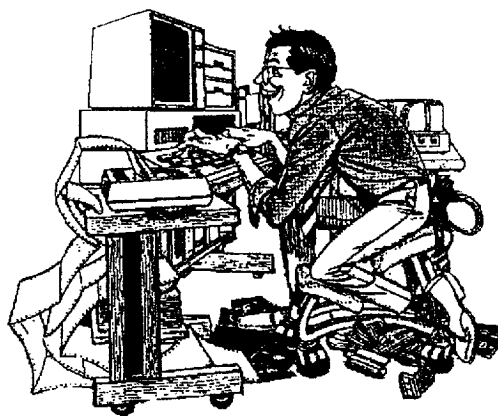
Well, the Annual General Meeting is coming up. Please come along and help TOSA look to the future. Your comments are valuable to us. If you have a particular matter to raise, by all means drop a line to Bill Schumacher at :

TOSA Secretary
PO Box 36
Brooklyn NSW 2083

Or you can raise any subject for discussion during the meeting

As you see elsewhere in this edition (page 13), there is a ballot for positions on the TOSA Committee. Please take an interest, and post your-completed form - or bring it early to the AGM.

I have been asked by your Committee to mention that if



you have any matter you would like discussed or dealt with by the Committee, we would appreciate it if you would put it in writing and post it to the Secretary, or give it to a Committee Member to do this for you. This way we will be sure to get your message clearly and concisely, and it will be understood. Of course Committee members are always willing to discuss TOSA affairs, and they need to know the views of the membership, so feel free to talk. But when it comes to a proposition or request we will do better all round if you will write it down. Thank you.

How many times have I said it? Don't miss Tony Fenelon and John Atwell in the *Christmas Concert* at the Orion. It's on Sunday 9th December. They have never disappointed us even though we have come to expect the absolute best. See you there!

Finally, we have had notice from Canterbury Council that we have been given a grant toward the work of TOSA. We plan to have John Shaw go along and shake the Mayor's hand and receive the cheque at some kind of ceremony! We still don't know how much they are giving us! Cross your fingers for us!

Watch this space,

Walter Pearce

Editorial

Just a word about items sent for publication in *TOSA News* - please make sure that the copy you send in is as clear as possible, especially photocopies which are never going to print as well as (let alone better than) the version provided.

It is so disappointing when I receive interesting material which is barely legible or full of lines and creases. I then have the dilemma of either using it and being told that it was too poorly reproduced to be bothered looking at, or not using it and risk offending people who have taken the trouble to contribute something worthwhile.

Also, if possible, it is a good idea to send 2 copies (perhaps photocopied with different settings) just in case I somehow accidentally spoil one of them - I'm very nervous when working with a single, precious copy of valuable material

With typed material, please don't use bold or italic fonts as I usually have to scan this material and the OCR does a very poor job of unusual fonts. If you particularly want something in bold or italics, etc., just indicate your instructions in the margin or in the text, and I will convert it in after the scanning process.

Thanks to all the recent contributors, including Secretary Bill Schumacher for the AGM announcement and nomination sheets, and Returning Officer Rod Blackmore for dealing so efficiently and promptly with the voting forms.

Don't forget to read Walter's column, as he has some important comments to pass on to the membership.

Best Wishes,
Colin Groves

Welcome To New Members

Only one new member to welcome warmly this month, but we nevertheless wish her a long and happy association with our Society :

Tamara Rozek - Bathurst

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

The deadline for each edition of *TOSA News* is the 12th of the preceding month



Organ Events

WHAT'S ON

IN THE ORGAN WORLD AROUND AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

-
- BALLARAT** Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat, 3/9 Compton Theatre Organ.
Sunday 11 November "From Figaro to Phantom" Theatre Organ Concert 3.00 pm featuring the Sensational Australian Singing Group *Pot-Pourri*
-
- WARRAGUL** West Gippsland Masonic Centre, Conn Martinique electronic organ.
Saturday 1 December Christmas Dinner, featuring *Scott Harrison* and *David Johnston*, 6.30 for 7 p.m.
-
- MELBOURNE** Dendy Cinema, Brighton, 3/15 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ
Sunday 14 October *Brad Treloar* 1.30 pm
Moorabbin Town Hall, 4/21 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ
Sunday 11 November *Cotton Club Orchestra* with *Brian Simpson*
Regent Cinema, Melbourne, 4/36 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ
Saturday 9 February 2002 *Jonas Nordwall* (USA) and *Tony Fenelon* Concert 2 pm
-
- SYDNEY** Marrickville Town Hall, 2/11 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ
Sunday 21 October *David Smith* Concert 2.00 pm
Orpheum Picture Palace, Cremorne, 3/14 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ
Most Friday & Saturday nights *Neil Jensen* plays "in" evening film shows.
-
- GOLD COAST** Rodgers Olympic Electronic Theatre Organ
Wednesday 12 December *Tony Fenelon* and *Hector Olivera* (USA) in concert at the Q.U.T. Kelvin Grove Lecture Theatre 7.30 pm
Thursday 13 December *Tony Fenelon* and *Hector Olivera* (USA) in concert at the Princeton Room, Bond University, 3.00 pm
-
- BRISBANE** Kelvin Grove High School, 3/11 Christie Theatre Organ
Wednesday 12 December *Tony Fenelon* and *Hector Olivera* (USA) in concert at the Q.U.T. Kelvin Grove Lecture Theatre, 7.30 pm
Thursday 13 December *Tony Fenelon* and *Hector Olivera* (USA) in concert at the Princeton Room, Bond University, 3.00 pm
-
- ADELAIDE** Capri Theatre, Goodwood, 4/29 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ
Monday 8 October *60th Anniversary of the Capri Theatre* - Nostalgia Film Night 7.30 pm
Sunday 28 October *Cavaicade of Stars*
Sunday 2 December *Tony Fenelon* and *John Atwell* 1.45 pm
-
- PERTH** John Leckie Music Centre, 3/10 Compton Theatre Organ. All concerts at 2.00 pm.
Sunday 28 October *Heath Wooster* (Brisbane)
-
- AUCKLAND** Hollywood Cinema, 3/12 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ
Sunday 4 November *John Atwell* (Melbourne) 2.00 pm
-

What sits at the bottom of
the sea and shakes ???

A Nervous Wreck !!!!



TOSA member John Atkins of Campsie has provided the following interesting article which he found in the May 2001 issue of the Best of British magazine

Brian Howes experiences the magic of the

MIGHTY MATLOCK

WURLITZER



The Old Methodist Church and school high up on Bank Road, Matlock, houses one of Britain's best-kept secrets.

What a beautiful country Britain really is, I mused as I stood at the summit of Bank Road, looking over towards Ribblesdale and snowcapped peaks, down the Derwent Valley with Cromford and Belper in the distance.

My journey to the Peak District spa town of Matlock, however, was not simply to admire the breathtaking scenery, but to unearth one of Britain's best-kept secrets and, in so doing, discover the remarkable talents of Graham Fields.

Over the past 25 years Graham has dedicated his life to the painstaking restoration of an important piece of Britain's cinema heritage. Now, thanks to his skill and vision, the Old Methodist Church on Bank Road regularly echoes to the wonderful sounds of a mighty three-manual eight-rank *Wurlitzer* - meaning that it has three manual keyboards and eight different pipe voices.

Graham's passion for *Wurlitzer*

organs began at an early age. "Like many organists I got hooked through visits to Blackpool Tower Ballroom and listening to the great Reg Dixon playing the *Wurlitzer* there," he told me.

Graham's fascinating mission, to rescue the former Mansfield Granada *Wurlitzer* began in the 1970s when the cinema in which it stood - originally called the Plaza - was demolished to make way for city centre developments. It contained one of the 96 wonderful *Wurlitzers* imported into Britain from the United States during the late 1920s and early 30s. The organ had been installed in 1936 - to the specification of resident organist Harold Ramsey - at a cost of around £10,000.

Graham explained, however, that not everyone welcomed the *Wurlitzers*. "What you have to remember is that they were designed to replace the ten or twelve-piece

orchestras which accompanied silent films from the pits, particularly in the larger cinemas," he said. "These organs saved the cinema owners quite a lot of money, but in so doing put many musicians out of work."

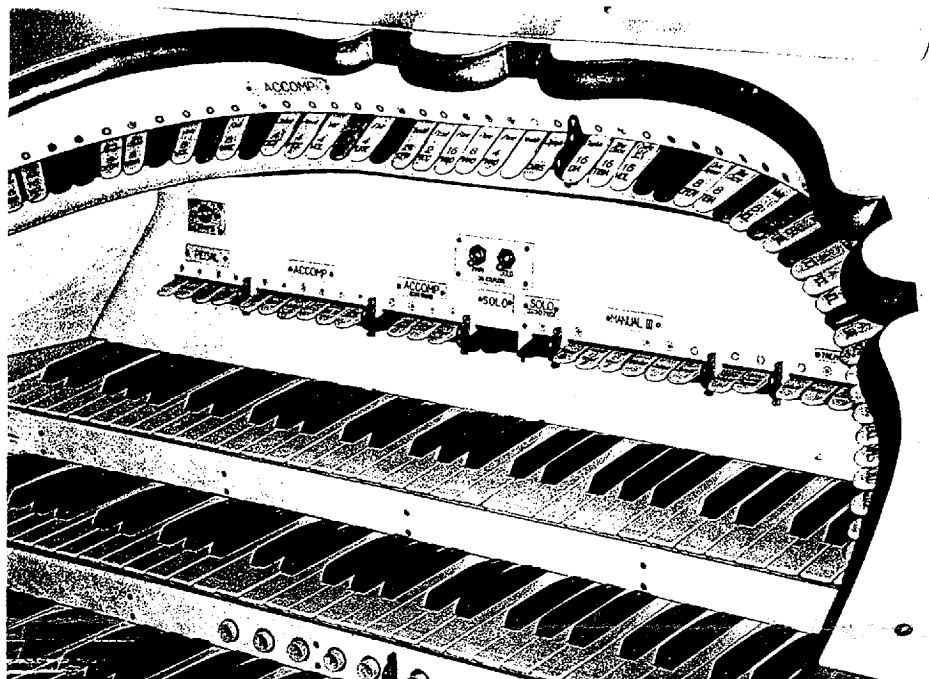
Wurlitzers were often installed on lease-hire arrangements so that they paid for themselves over a period.

The man behind the *Wurlitzer* company, which was based in North Tonawanda, Buffalo, New York State, was Rudolph Wurlitzer, an American immigrant who had no musical background or knowledge of organs, but made his money manufacturing vending and amusement machines. "He saw a niche in the market and exploited it," said Graham. "He was a clever entrepreneur who simply had the right factory and tools for the job."

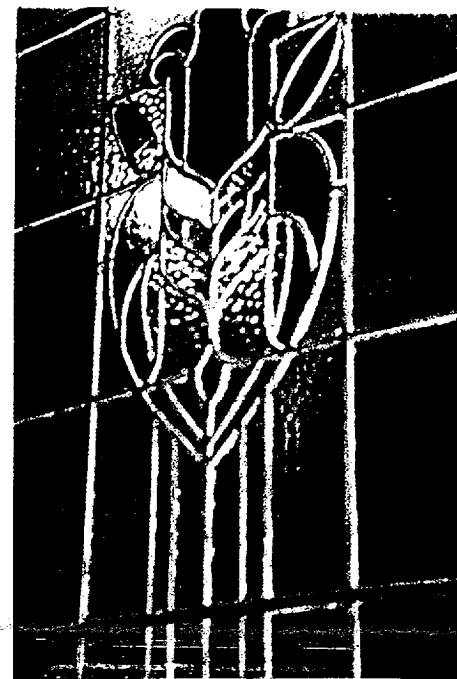
By the late 1920s 'talkies' had already made their debut in American



Graham Fields beside the magnificent Wurlitzer which he has lovingly restored over the past 25 years



The ivory keys were covered in cigarette burns and had to be painstakingly replaced.



The Methodist Church in which the Wurlitzer is housed has all of its original features, including some lovely stained glass windows.

to all but the larger establishments, and *Wurlitzers* continued to be used. Even with the advent of talkies here in Britain, *Wurlitzers* still had their place in the cinema, providing interval entertainment and, of course, playing the National Anthem at the end of each film.

The Wurlitzer Pipe Co. ceased trading during the Second World War, but the name was later purchased and revived by another company which became synonymous with the manufacture of compact electric organs and juke boxes.

Having performed its final anthem in 1973, played by the last resident organist Watson Holmes, the Mansfield Granada *Wurlitzer*, still complete with its original inspection certificates, was gifted to John Madin, who had sat at its console as resident organist for many years. John put the instrument into storage, and a few years later sold it to Graham Fields.

"I had to re-mortgage my house in Rotherham to buy it, and with the help of eight friends we made six journeys to collect it," he said. "The organ parts completely filled the house, so I just lived around it for a long time." Two more house moves were made, and thousands of working hours were spent restoring damaged parts before Graham began to think about suitable premises in which to reconstruct the instrument that had become part of his life.

Keyboards were stripped and the

cigarette-burnt keys re-covered with ivory; worn pedals were replaced and damaged pipes were sent away to be redrawn. Graham thinks the organ was cannibalised from other instruments in the *Wurlitzer* factory at the time of its manufacture as the pipes date from 1926, ten years before the organ was ordered. Nothing was compromised in its restoration, however. "I took my time and got it right and used all the correct parts," said Graham. "That's why it sounds and performs the way it does today."

Despite his dedication to the task in hand, Graham did find time to marry Julie in 1979 and a year later they were joined by baby son Alister, who is now studying at university but still lends a hand on concert evenings.

After scouring Britain for a suitable building in which to complete their dream, Graham and Julie discovered what looked to be the ideal resting-place for their cherished *Wurlitzer* in 1988.

The Old Methodist Church and adjoining school on Bank Road, Matlock, closed in the 1960s and had last been used by a local college. It had survived remarkably well, however, and still contained most of its original features, including a magnificent balcony with bench seating.

Between 1990 and 1995, as well as working on the completion of the organ, Graham turned his attention to the restoration of the church, which included the laying of a new maple

floor.

The organ was installed to fit around the family's living accommodation, the blowing gear down below, pipe chamber above the living room and percussion chamber, with its opening shutters, tucked away in the roof section.

The organ is powered by a three-phase electric motor with more than 2,000 colour-coded conductors running to the keys.

The first concert was performed by Nicholas Martin in 1995, around which time Graham and Julie also conducted viewings of the vast mechanics of the instrument, much of which you hardly know is there when sitting in the auditorium.

The true value of Graham and Julie's remarkable achievement, however, can only be gauged by hearing this wonderful *Wurlitzer* in action, and I was privileged to witness eminent organist Arnold Loxam put the Mighty Matlock *Wurlitzer* through its paces. Arnold, still sprightly at 85 years young, braved the bitterly cold weather to make the journey to Matlock from his hometown of Halifax, in Yorkshire. "There's something for everyone tonight, I can guarantee you that," said Arnold as he addressed the audience before bursting into a marvellous medley of popular evergreens from showtime and screen. *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* was followed

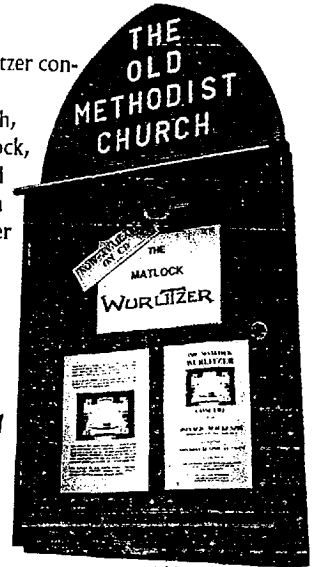


by *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* and *Singing in the Rain*. Tea and biscuits were served at the interval before seats were filled for a second helping of music, followed by several stirring encores.

It was a magical evening's entertainment, made possible through the dedication and hard work of Graham and Julie Fields. Thanks to their vision, this wonderful *Wurlitzer* will continue to bring joy and pleasure to many people for many years to come.

Brilliant organist Arnold Loxam, from Halifax, addresses the audience at a recent concert

■ The next *Wurlitzer* concert at the Old Methodist Church, Bank Road, Matlock, will be performed by John Mann on June 9. For further details telephone 01629 584295.



The notice board outside announces forthcoming concerts.



The following items are available at time of writing 9/10/01. To confirm availability refer below:

Available at TOSA Concerts or by Mail Order from:

TOSA (NSW Division) Inc.
304 Parramatta Rd,
Ashfield NSW 2131

Phone enquiries:
02 97986742 after 7pm

Fax: 02 97986742

E-mail:
npalmer@compassnet.com.au

Postage:

Single Compact Disc \$1.95,
Two Compact Discs \$3.70
Single Cassette \$3.40
Two Cassettes \$3.50

Cheques / Money Orders to :
TOSA(NSW Div) Inc.

TOSA Record Bar - the complete list

- ANOTHER OP'NING, Stockport Town Hall Wurlitzer UK. Nigel Ogden, Tony Fenelon & others. CD \$28.00
- ATWELL John, *Here's Malvern!* Compton Theatre Pipe Organ, Malvern Town Hall. CD \$28.00
- ATWELL John, *Sounds of Wonder*. Capri Theatre Pipe Organ, Adelaide. CD \$25.00
- BAKER Barry, *A Barry Baker Concert*. Wehmeier Wurlitzer, Ohio. CD \$33.00
- BAKER Barry, *For the Very First Time*. Wehmeier Wurlitzer, Ohio. Cassette \$18.00
- BALOGH Charlie, *Pipes Plus*. Good Time Charley's Wurlitzer, Grand Rapids. Cassette \$18.00
- DOUBLE Ken, *20 Long Years*. Long Centre Wurlitzer Pipe Organ, Lafayette, Indiana. CD \$25.00
- DOUBLE Ken, *Prelude to the Page*. Page Theatre Pipe Organ, Paramount Theatre, Anderson, Indiana. CD \$25.00
- DOUBLE Ken, *You Will Be My Music*. Long Centre Wurlitzer Pipe Organ, Lafayette, Indiana. CD \$25.00
- EDDINGTON Jelani, *Discovering the Unit Orchestra*. 3/66 Dickinson Kimball, USA. CD \$29.00
- EDDINGTON Jelani, *Paramount*. The Paramount 4/38 Wurlitzer, Wichita. CD \$28.00
- ELLIOTT Chris, *Shuffle Off To Buffalo! Vol II*. Shea's Buffalo Theatre Wurlitzer. CD \$27.00
- ELLIOTT Chris, *That's Entertainment*. The Wilcox Residence Wurlitzer. CD \$27.00
- FENELON Tony, *Collections On Atelier*. Roland Atelier Orchestral Keyboards. CD \$25.00

- FOORT Reginald, *Plays the (famous travelling) Moller Theatre Pipe Organ 1938-1940*. CD \$28.00
- GIACCHI John, *Beyond the Blue Horizon*. Orion Centre WurliTzer, Sydney. CD \$25.00
- GLEDHILL Simon, *Kavalkade*. Dickinson High School 3/57 Kimball Organ, Willmington, USA. CD \$29.00
- GLEDHILL Simon, *Shall We Dance?* Tower Ballroom WurliTzer, Blackpool. CD \$25.00
- HALL Margaret, *Kitten on the Keys*. Orion Centre WurliTzer, Sydney. CD \$15.00
- HAZLETON Tom, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. Dickinson High School Kimball. CD \$29
- HENDERSEN Sean, *Plummer's Pipes*. Plummer Auditorium WurliTzer, USA. CD \$25.00
- LARSEN Lyn, *The Jerry Herman Songbook*. The Paramount 4/38 WurliTzer, Wichita. CD \$28.00
- LARSEN Lyn, *Tribute to George Wright*. The Hollywood Philharmonic Organ. CD \$29.00
- LOWE David, *Take the "A" Train*. 3/8 WurliTzer, Pendre Hall, Tywyn, Gwynedd, Wales. CD \$25.00
- LOXAM Arnold, *At the Consoles*. Compton Theatre/Concert organ, Southampton Guildhall, UK. CD \$25.00
- MARTIN Nicholas, *Strict Tempo WurliTzer*. Turners Musical Merry-Go-Round, Northampton. CD \$25.00
- McPHEE Chris, *In the Spotlight*. Capri Theatre Pipe Organ, Adelaide. CD \$25.00
- MILLER Ashley, *The Famous Radio City Music Hall Organ*. CD \$20.00
- NORDWALL Jonas + Donna Parker + Tom Hazleton. Kimball Pipe Organ + Midi. CD \$25.00
- NORDWALL Jonas, *In a Persian Market*. Berkeley Community Theatre WurliTzer. CD \$36.00
- OGDEN Nigel, *Through the Decades - The 1960s*. Tower Ballroom WurliTzer, Blackpool. CD \$25.00
- OGDEN Nigel, *WurliTzer Christmas*. Free Trade Hall WurliTzer, Manchester. CD \$16.00
- PRESIDENTS ON PARADE, Free Trade Hall WurliTzer, Manchester. William Davies & others. CD \$28.00
- RIGGS Jim, *Singin' in the Bathtub*. Alabama Theatre WurliTzer. Cassette \$15.00
- SENG John, *The Mundelein Organ Revisited*. 4/19 Theatre Pipe Organ, USA. CD \$23.00
- SHARP Brian, *Sharp's The Word*. Christie Theatre Pipe Organ, Sandford Park, UK. CD \$25.00
- STRONGY Walt, *Encores Vol. 1* Walt Strongy plays three different WurliTzers in the USA. CD \$28.00
- THAT'S ALL, Compton Cinema Organ, Davenport Theatre, Stockport UK. Simon Gledhill & others. CD \$25.00
- TOMLIN Keith + John Barnett, *WurliTzer Wonderland*. WurliTzer Pipe with rhythm accompaniment CD \$27.00
- TORCH Sidney, *Hot Pipes*. Gaumont State Theatre WurliTzer, Kilburn, London 1938-40 CD \$28.00
- TUDOR Stanley, *Powder Your Face with Sunshine*. Gaumont WurliTzer, Manchester. CD \$28.00
- TUDOR Stanley, *Singin' In the Rain*. Gaumont WurliTzer, Manchester. Cassette \$20.00
- VALLIANT Brett, *Lyric WurliTzer*. Little River Studio Miller Theatre WurliTzer, Wichita. CD \$28.00
- WICKERHAM Dave, *Steppin' Out*. Rialto Theatre. Barton Pipe Organ, Joliet, Illinois. CD \$28.00
- WILSON Clark, *Upstairs Downstairs*. The Paramount WurliTzers, Wichita. CD \$28.00
- WRIGHT George, *At the Fox Vol. 1*. Fox Theatre, San Francisco 4/36 WurliTzer. CD \$33.00
- WRIGHT George, *At the Fox Vol. 2*. Fox Theatre, San Francisco 4/36 WurliTzer. CD \$33.00
- WRIGHT George, *Chicago Two*. The Chicago Theatre 4/29 WurliTzer. CD \$33.00
- WRIGHT George, *Flight to Tokyo/Encores II*. Vaughn Studio 5/21 WurliTzer. CD \$26.00
- WRIGHT George, *Let George Do It*. The Legendary Pasadena Studio Organ. CD \$26.00
- WRIGHT George, *Live at the Rialto*. 2/10 WurliTzer, South Pasadena. 2 CD set \$44.00
- WRIGHT George, *More GW/The Genius of GW*. Vaughn Studio 5/21 WurliTzer. CD \$27.00
- WRIGHT George, *My Fair Lady/South Pacific*. Vaughn Studio 5/21 WurliTzer. CD \$33.00
- WRIGHT George, *Paramount Organ Premier*. Paramount Theatre WurliTzer, Oakland, USA. CD \$33.00
- WRIGHT George, *Plays the Chicago Theatre Organ 4/29* WurliTzer. CD \$33.00
- WRIGHT George, *Plays the Mighty WurliTzer/GW Encores*. Vaughn Studio 5/21 WurliTzer. CD \$33
- WRIGHT George, *Radio Days*. Vollum Studio WurliTzer, Portland, Oregon. CD \$27.00
- WRIGHT George, *Tribute to Jesse Crawford*. WurliTzer Pipe Organ. CD \$28.00



.....
Organ Concert at Clemton Park

Clemton Park Baptist Church, 9-11 Shakel Ave, Kingsgrove, is presenting an organ concert by TOSA members Wendy Hambly and Simon Ellis on Sunday 4th November at 2.00pm.

Admission is \$10 and afternoon tea will be served.

Come and hear the *Allen* organ. Varying styles of music will be presented, including classic and theatre organ.

.....
The State Theatre Sydney

As so often happens, Sydney news is to be found in all sorts of international journals, and not in our Sydney-based TOSA News. Some of our members must have heard the following news about the *Wurlitzer* in the State Theatre, but evidently none wanted to share it with other theatre organ lovers in our Society. Too bad - truth will out (eventually!). Here is a letter, written by John Giacchi of Melbourne, to the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust in the UK and which appeared in the Autumn 2001 issue of their journal *Vox Lancastria*:

I learned from Ray Holland (the consultant appointed by the Heritage Council) several days ago, and confirmed by John Parker, that Greater Union have pulled out funding indefinitely for Stage 3 (which I think was the complete restoration of the Solo Chamber).

The money allocated is now going into the restoration of the State Theatre Ballroom. I have heard that it is intended to use this facility as part of a convention centre. Once this starts making money, if it ever does, money will then be put into completing the restoration of the *Wurlitzer*.

Unsurprisingly, as I expected, the organ will not re-open at the 75th anniversary celebrations in 2003/4.

I hope that I am proven wrong when I say that I fear that the organ may never be finished.

John Giacchi, Melbourne, Australia

Margaret's Music Room Christmas Show



featuring

Margaret Hall - Theatre Organist
 Tamara Rozek - Pianist
 The Choir of St Marks Anglican Church Sth Hurstville
 Young vocalists Matthew and William Gammel
 and you as we sing well-loved carols.

Join us for a 90 minute musical celebration and afternoon tea to begin the Festive Season.

Saturday 1st December 2.00pm
 Doors open 1.30pm

Punchbowl Industrial Complex
 Unit 18 at 59 Moxon Rd
 Punchbowl

Tickets \$15.00 (all inclusive)
 Bookings are essential as
 seating is limited to 60.
 Phone 9584 2353



.....
Church Buys 3 ALLEN Organs

Some things in the USA seem to be done in a big way! This item is from the June, 2001, issue of ATOS International News:

The USA's third largest Methodist Church, with over 12,000 members, has recently installed three new *Allen Renaissance* organs.

Houston's First Methodist Church worships in two locations. The landmark downtown worship center now has a new *Allen R-270* organ in the chapel alongside the church's 118 rank Aeolian Skinner pipe organ.

At their new 40 acre Westchase Campus, erected at a cost of \$40 million, an *Allen R-480* organ has been installed in the 2300 seat worship area. This four-manual instrument, speaking from six main and one antiphonal chamber, uses more than 160 speaker cabinets. The dedicatory recital was performed by Dr Joyce Jones of Baylor University on September 23, 2001. An *Allen R-370* organ has been installed in the adjoining Hinson Chapel.

.....
FOR SALE

Yamaha Electone FS70 Spinnet Organ
 3 keyboards, 1 octave pedals
 With bench and owner's manual
 Price : \$2,300
 Phone : (02) 0712 0253

AUSTRALIA FELIX

(The Australian Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society)

In recent issues of Theatre Organ, Journal of the ATOS, Brian Pearson, of Adelaide, has been giving a summary of the most important theatre organ events in Australia for the benefit of the (mostly American) readers of the Journal. The following reports come from this year's July/August and September/October, issues.

The TOSA Easter Convention in Brisbane, the capital of the State of Queensland, was a great success. After a most inspiring opening address by the Queensland Division's Patron, Dr Robert Boughen OBE, who holds the two offices of Brisbane City Organist and Director of Music at St John's Anglican Cathedral, in which he convincingly demonstrated that classical organists have much to learn from their theatre organist confreres and vice versa, it was time to hear the *Christie* organ.

Over the last few years the organ has been undergoing extensive restoration, a great deal of it in the Maroochydore home of Don Clark, some 60 miles to the north of the city. He constructed a completely new console and new chests and transported them to inner suburban Kelvin Grove for re-installation in the assembly hall of the special music high school there.

The organ occupies chambers, purposely built when the hall was constructed, on each side of a wide and deep fly-tower stage. As usual when a rebuild of such magnitude has a deadline to meet, the organ was almost unplayable a day or so before the convention, but to say that it performed without a hitch and sounded wonderful is something of an understatement.

The French Trumpet rank in particular is to die for, but the whole ensemble of the instrument and its tremulation was most pleasing to me, and I didn't hear anything but praise from anyone who attended any of the concerts.

This 3/11 *Christie*, originally installed as a 3/8 in a theatre in Maidstone, Kent, and soon to have a Clarinet rank added, is a most welcome addition to the ranks of fine Australian theatre organs. It is to be hoped that the Style 260 3/15 *WurliTzer* originally installed in the Brisbane Regent Theatre will one day find its way back from private ownership in New South Wales to a new home somewhere in

that city, giving the Queensland Division two excellent organs to enjoy.

Richard Hills paid us a flying visit from his duties at Oxford University. Those of us who are privileged to know him as a personal friend were very pleased to meet him once again on our own home soil and, of course, his concert received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Nevertheless it was only one concert in an embarrassment of riches, particularly from John Giacchi and Neil Jensen. Two young Queensland organists, David Bailey and Robert Wetherall also gave very good accounts of themselves.

Other highlights included visits to the very fine organs in St John's Cathedral and the Concert Hall in the Performing Arts Centre, where Dr Boughen combined pleasing entertainment with a good deal of invaluable instruction.

The large *Willis* in the City Hall was also visited. It was also great to spend time with Dr Edward J. Mullins of the Jesse Crawford and Nor-Cal Chapters, who is a frequent and popular visitor to Australian organ events.

TOSA members from all over the continent attended the convention and a good representation of those who are also members of ATOS was able to attend a meeting of our chapter at which Graham Ward was elected President in time for him to bear that office while visiting the United States recently.

We are all pleased that Mathew Loeser won the Junior Division of the Young Organist Competition. He has been most capably entertaining us at the console of the Capri 4/29 since he was ten, regularly travelling the 70 miles to Adelaide from his seaside resort hometown of Victor Harbour to practice and perform.

Though we benefit greatly from the frequent visits of well known organists from the USA and Great Britain, it

is pleasing that these benefits have become a two-way exchange of talent in recent years as more and more Australian organists travel overseas to give concerts.

Eric Wicks, our founding President, died recently. I have known him for many years - ever since the first days of the Victorian Division of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia. Eric and I shared a profound admiration for the outstanding musicianship of the doyen of Australian theatre organists, Horace Weber, who opened the Style 260 *WurliTzer* organ in the Capitol Theatre in Melbourne in 1924, after playing smaller instruments in that city and previously in Adelaide.

The Capitol - the only one of its kind in the world, and in the opinion of some architectural critics, the finest - and its organ became bywords throughout Australia.

Horace, who had been appointed assistant organist at Adelaide's St Peter's Cathedral when he was just 12 years of age, was still able to make magnificent music in his mid-eighties. His pedal skills were legendary and he frequently carried the melody line with his feet while he supplied the ornamentation with both hands.

More than anyone else, Eric befriended and supported a lonely old man in his final years - fostering a revival in interest in theatre organ music and in Horace's talents as well.

Eric couldn't stand second rate playing. He rightly believed that one poor performance could do enormous damage to the perception of the theatre organ as a serious musical instrument, and he became a trenchant but always respected critic.

It gave him great pleasure in his last involvement in a theatre organ event to be part of the Easter convention of TOSA in Brisbane, even though he was quite ill. The fine sound of the

relatively small *Christie* was part of this, but Nola, his partner of very many years, told me that his chief joy had been that he was able to express his unreserved admiration of the musicianship of Richard Hills directly to Richard himself. Praise from such a man was praise indeed, for many found him acerbic and his participation in meetings could be painful for the other members. These traits, however, sprang from his lifelong love affair with the theatre organ and his determination that it deserved only the best. During my Presidency of the Australia Felix Chapter, he was

unfailingly supportive. I am very far from the only person who will miss him.

Members, particularly those of Norcal, will be sorry to learn that Edward (Ted) Lloyd of Adelaide is very ill with mesothelioma, contracted when he inhaled asbestos fibres in the course of his employment. Ted has also had a lifelong love of the theatre organ, and he played an active part in the years of self-sacrifice and hard work which gave his home city its two fine TOSA organs - the 2/12 *Wurlitzer* in Wyatt Hall and the 4/29 in the Capri Theatre.

When I visited him at home recently, he was openly weeping at the beauty of the string ranks of the Capri instrument to which he was listening. (*Sadly, Ted Lloyd has since passed away - Ed.*)

Anyone interested in ATOS could contact Australia Felix's President Graham Ward (08 8387 1554) or Secretary Brian Pearson (08 8298 6201) via :

c/- The Capri Theatre,
PO Box 307,
Goodwood,
South Australia, 5034.

AGM Reports

for the Annual General Meeting, Sunday, 25th November, 2001

MARRICKVILLE ORGAN REPORT

During the first week of January I received a call from one of the members who has a practice slot on the Marrickville *Wurlitzer*, that the blower cut out after about 20 minutes and successive coins in the timer would not restart it. A piece of wiring braid in the thermal overload of the blower motor's control gear had disintegrated. As this control gear probably came with the organ from the Prince Edward Theatre, it was decided to replace it with new equipment.

Fortunately we were able to call upon the services of member John Weismantel's brother who is an electrician. The new equipment was installed and after some initial running in problems over several weeks, the blower was back in full operation during March.

Other major work that was undertaken was the re-winding of all tonal and non-tonal percussions so that they are fed with a regulated wind supply.

The organ is in good condition and has seen regular use for members' practice and concerts throughout the year.

Neil Palmer

ORION ORGAN REPORT

We were impressed by a final report on the Orion *Wurlitzer* which we received earlier this year, The sub-committee - headed by John Andrews - has recommended a number of changes in wind-pressures and air lines. Then the disposition of ranks can be finalised. It was a very full and detailed report and we plan to follow it through.

Unfortunately, due to a number of problems, and with access to the Orion severely limited we have not made much progress. However the organ has been kept in quite good operational condition, largely due to the good work done at tuning times by Ken Martin. It sounds excellent at concert times.

The fence around the organ hoist is in terrible condition, largely due to the rough way the Orion staff treat it. Last concert we had to gaffa-tape the mechanism to make it work. We hope the Council will help us with repairs,

We have had notice from Canterbury Council that they have granted us a sum of money toward the work of TOSA. Considering the high concert rentals they have left us to pay each concert, we can only hope this grant will be substantial.

Walter Pearce

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES FOR THE INFORMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS (See page 13)

Candidate PETER HELD has provided the following information:

"I was a 'committee person' for 3 consecutive years up to Nov. 2000. I am re-presenting myself, for the purpose of injecting new ideas into the Society's operations."



P.O. Box 36, BROOKLYN NSW 2083
Phone/Fax: 02 9985 7318

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mastertouch Roll Company
308 Stanmore Road
PETERSHAM

Sunday 25th November 2001 at 2.00PM

AGENDA

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting
2. Apologies
3. Reading of previous AGM minutes and confirmation of said minutes
4. President's Report
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Marrickville Organ Report confirmation
8. Orion Organ Report confirmation
9. Nominations of Patrons for 2002
10. Appointment of Accountants & Auditors for 2002
11. General Business
12. Declaration of Office Bearers by Returning Officer
13. Closing remarks by chairman & closing of meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting afternoon tea will be served and Barclay Wright will give us a short tour of the *Mastertouch* premises.

William Schumacher
Secretary

BALLOT PAPER

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA [NSW Division] Incorporated for the year 2001-2002

This ballot will be conducted at the Annual Business Meeting to
be held at *The Mastertouch Company, 308 Stanmore Road, Petersham*
on SUNDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER 2001 at 2pm

HOW TO VOTE

PLACE A "X" AGAINST THE
NAME OF EACH CANDIDATE
FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE

Nominations for VICE-PRESIDENTS Vote for TWO candidates only

-] John SHAW *
-] Neil PALMER *
-] Peter HELD

Nominations for COMMITTEE Vote for SIX candidates ONLY

-] Amy CALDWELL*
-] Peter HARDING*
-] Ronald S. MOSMAN *
-] Richard MARSCHALL *
-] Robert GLIDDON *
-] Peter HELD
-] Cliff BINGHAM

- denotes serving member seeking re-election. Personal details provided by candidates for information of members are printed on the back of this form.

WHERE TO VOTE

Hand to the Returning Officer between 1.15 and 2pm on 25th November
2001 at *The Mastertouch Company, 308 Stanmore Road, Petersham*

OR

Post to the RETURNING OFFICER, 85 DUFFY AVENUE, THORNLEIGH
NSW 2120

*(Postal votes must reach the Returning Officer by 5pm on 23rd November
2001 and must be identified by your name and address on the back of the
posted envelope.)*

Special note to members with partners entitled to separate vote:

*If you have a dual membership with payment of the additional subscription
enabling both partners to vote, please either photocopy this form or contact
the Returning Officer [Rod Blackmore, phone 9484.2663] and you will be sent
an additional form. Voting eligibility will be checked against membership
records on return of votes.*

BOOKING FORM

Post to: **The Ticket Secretary**
18 Acres Rd,
KELLYVILLE
NSW 2155

Seats cannot be reserved unless payment is received in advance. If your booking and payment are received too late for tickets to be posted, they will be held at the Box Office - but we ask your help in booking early

TONY & JOHN CHRISTMAS CONCERT
ORION CENTRE CAMPSIE
Sunday, 9th December, 2001, at 2.00pm

Phone Enquiries & Bookings:
Mrs Kath Harding : (02) 9629 2257

Please send me:

___ Members' tickets @ \$15.00 Total \$ _____
___ Non-member Pensioner tickets @ \$16.50 Total \$ _____
___ Non-member tickets @ \$18-00 Total \$ _____
___ Child (unaccompanied) @ \$5.50 Total \$ _____
Full Total \$ _____
___ Children accompanied by a paying adult - **FREE**
(but you should request a reserved seat for them)
I enclose a Cheque [] or Money Order []
payable to "TOSA (NSW Div.)" for \$ _____

OR

Charge my Bankcard [] Mastercard [] Visa Card []

No.: _____ Expiry date: ____/____/____

Signed: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH PAYMENT

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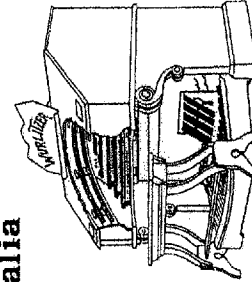
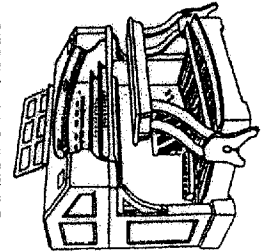
TOSA NEWS

NOVEMBER, 2001

Theatre Organ Society of Australia
(NSW Division) Inc.

TOSA NEWS

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