

TOSA NEWS

Jan-Feb 2018
Volume 57 No.1

Price: \$2.00

El Capitan Theatre Hollywood Disney Organist

Rob Richards (USA)

plays

**“Hello Hollywood”
on Australia’s most modern**

Wurlitzer

Sunday 25th February 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Orion Centre Theatre

155 Beamish Street

CAMPSIE

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TOSA News Ernie Vale & Graeme Costin

President



Happy New Year members!

Concerts commence on Sunday 25 February with Rob Richards playing at Campsie. Previously Rob has played Marrickville by choice but this time around he asked to play Campsie – which is excellent for us as the air-con will keep us cool in the summer heat!

This will also be the first concert using further upgrades to the Campsie Wurlitzer. The console now connects to the rest of the organ via Wi-Fi making it Australia's first wi-fi theatre organ. The response is still the same rapid action we're used to and of course all the sounds are still genuine theatre pipe organ. Thanks to members whose donations have helped defray the costs.

Bringing international and Australian artists to our organs to play concerts is an excellent way for members and visitors to enjoy some of the finest music possible; however the numbers of members and visitors attending our concerts is declining and this is not viable for our future. This is where YOU come in.

TOSA needs YOU to bring friends along to our excellent concerts. You can help by advising Editor, Ernie Vale, of contact details for any social, service club or touring group that you may belong to or know of. TOSA will happily contact these clubs or groups to advise them of our excellent concerts. One

member recently provided details for several groups. Thanks!

Groups of 20 or more receive a bulk rate ticket price making it attractive to them to attend. With prior notice we can even arrange backstage tours (for those physically capable) to show interested people the pipe chambers.

I look forward to seeing you and your friends at the February concert!

Cheers, Craig Keller

Editorial



Hello Members,

There are 5 concerts confirmed for this year so you can apply for a Season Ticket if you wish before or at the first concert in February 2018.

Note the invitation to a TOSA home party at Tom Barbers Music Room.

I hope you enjoy Doug Grant's excellent review of the Christmas Concert.

Remember this year is the 30th Anniversary of the opening of the Orion Wurlitzer which after the recent technical upgrade has the latest digital operating relay enabling it to be played by Wi-Fi.

I look forward to seeing many of you on February 25th to hear Rob Richards at the Orion Wurlitzer.

Enjoy the music,

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

From the Mailbox...



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

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

Please submit all comments via email to:

The Editor editor@tosa.net.au
or in writing to:

The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)
PO Box A2322
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

Vale Kevin Rowland

Hi Ernie

I don't know if Kevin Rowland is currently a member of TOSA, but he was, some years ago. He used to share photography duties with me.

I received a phone call from his sister Nerida that he passed away last Wednesday 6th December at Chesalon.. He was 70 years old and had been in ill health for some time.

A number of TOSA members would well remember Kevin. He was also a member of 3801 and other rail groups.

I told Nerida that I would pass the sad news on to the magazine so that his friends in TOSA would know that he is no longer with us.

Regards.

Barry Tooker

"Tasmania" Strand Theatre, Hobart. This instrument has just been rebuilt in St Giles Hurstville Presbyterian Church by Peter Jewkes & Co. and its shipping date ex factory was 1st. December 1917. An invitation to hear and play it will be extended to the Society early in the New Year.

Rob Gliddon

Vale Dennis Clarke

TOSA Member, Dennis Clarke, passed away just after Christmas. He was a very good friend of Graeme Costin who had met Dennis in 1970 when they were both employed by the Electricity Commission of NSW at Liddell Power Station. They both joined the Muswellbrook Musical Society and later were members of TOSA. *see Graeme Costin's Eulogy in this issue.*

Did you know?

The month of February 2018 has four dates for every day in the week this year

To Watch Out for

**Concert artists and venues
for 2018**

**25 February - Rob Richards
Orion Wurlitzer**

**3 June - John Giachhi
Marrickville Wurlitzer**

**9 September - Scott Harrison
Marrickville Wurlitzer**

**18 November -
Simon Gledhill
Orion Wurlitzer**

**9 December - Tony & John
Orion Wurlitzer**

**You can order your Season
Ticket Now.**

See the Season Ticket Order
Form on www.tosa.net.au or
at the February 25th Concert at
the Orion Centre Theatre,
Campsie.

TOSA Home Party at member
Tom Barber's music room for
Members and their invited
guests. See details in this issue
and the directions how to get
there on the insert in this issue.

Advertising Rates in TOSA News

For Members:

Small, Organ related ads = FREE!

For all other cases:

Quarter Page = \$25

Half Page = \$50

Full Page = \$100

Full Page Insert = \$125.00

Members' Playing Dates

**The Orion Theatre Campsie
2nd Thursday Morning
10:30am to 1:30pm**

**February 8th
March 8th**

Players & Listeners welcome

Convener is

Craig Keller on 0418484798
will text you to confirm the day
is available

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

**February 26th
March 26th**

Players and listeners welcome.

Convener is

John Batts on 0420424103
will email you to confirm the day is
available or
Neil Palmer on 9798 6742 after
7:00pm
to confirm availability

Urgent Update on the Orion Wurlitzer

The new UNiflex 4000 system has now been installed at the Orion - see the Technical Report in this issue.

The purchase cost was just under A\$6,800.00 and thanks to more generous donations from members the donations for this important upgrade have now reached \$2,550. Thank you members for your contributions. Members, further donations towards this cost would be very much appreciated. Any amount, large or small, will be gratefully received. Donations can be made in any of the following ways:

1. Cheque or Money Order payable to TOSA and forwarded to:-

Treasurer, TOSA,
26 Maple Crescent
Lithgow NSW 2790

2. Direct Deposit to the Society's account through any branch of the ANZ Bank (there is no cost using this system)

Details required are:

BSB 012430, Account No. 2321 40985, Account name Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division). Reference 6800

3. Cash or cheque payment at the February 2018 concert - please see Geoff Brimley: a receipt will be issued.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Geoff Brimley

Calling on a TOSA Member for a Project for the Orion Wurlitzer

There is an important small project to be undertaken at the Orion Theatre requiring a TOSA Member who has expertise in engineering design and working with metal. The Committee would love to hear from any member who is willing to discuss this project and visit the Tech Team on site at the Orion Theatre.

If you are interested to help out TOSA in this way please call President Craig Keller in the first instance on 0418 484 798 to obtain an outline of what is required.

Dennis Clarke

I first met Dennis when I started work at Liddell Power Station in 1970. Even though construction sites can be a little rough, Dennis was always a gentleman whom you could respect. He was one of five single engineers who lived in what used to be a construction office next to a coal mine. Because the army survey maps designated that hill as "Millipede Hill", we said we were living in Millipede Mansion.

Dennis and I both joined Muswellbrook Musical Society. Dennis took on lead roles, while I sang in the chorus or played piano accompaniment. But one of Dennis' great party tricks was playing the piano piece "Malaguena" — he played it brilliantly, from one end of the keyboard to the other.

On the musical society's weekend in Newcastle to see "Show Boat", I drove my car but needed Dennis' help to get it started each time; he willingly pressed on the the starter solenoid (it had a broken contact inside) so that the engine would start.

At Millipede Mansion I was surrounded by positive thinkers. When I made a comment that you can't get good cedar timber these days, Dennis was one of those who found a saw mill that could supply fresh cut cedar, so for at least six months we had a timber seasoning area at one end of Millipede Mansion. I still have a bookshelf I made with my share of the cedar.

When Dennis started a friendship with a Muswellbrook girl, that was the inspiration for me to consider moving out of my bachelorhood. But our paths moved off in different directions, Dennis to Wallerawang and me to Sydney. In 1974 I attended his wedding, and he came to see me sing in the chorus of Chatswood Musical Society's "The Desert Song".

I didn't see Dennis until 30 years later at a lunch celebrating the centenary of the first public electric street lighting in Sydney. Since then, we both turned up to many lunches of the ECNSW Retired Employees Association at Burwood and to theatre organ concerts at Marrickville and Campsie.

Dennis was my best friend during a significant growing period in my life. A more recent cherished memory is the time when my wife and I were invited to lunch with Dennis and Christine at their home in Kings Langley.

He is greatly missed.

Campsie Work Day 3rd January 2018

Hello All,

I happily report that the work day at Campsie on Wednesday 3 Jan was successful.

Work undertaken was:

John Weismantel

Complete internal electrical and data cabling of console, installing a network connection port on the rear of the console so that, if required, a network cable can be connected simply to enable connection to the network router in the computer cabinet.

General tidying of electrical connections.

Mounting a small network switch inside the console so that the Uniflex interface card and Wi-Fi connection device and external network port can be connected.

Craig Keller

Configure, install and test the Wi-Fi repeater unit so that the console and Uniflex computer can wirelessly communicate with each other. It took a while but this is now working successfully.

Configure the UPS software and computer so that the computer will now turn on and shutdown "cleanly" when the blower is turned on or off. Tested successfully

David Badman

Restring upper level of Marimba Harp and assess the lower level.

This was completed and tested and the both levels are now sounding properly and not as before where some notes were clunking rather badly. David advises that at a future members' day he would like to take a short amount of time to check and possibly re-tension the new cord that is installed. At some time in the next year it would also be worthwhile restringing the lower level.

Investigations into the current status of ladders in solo and main chambers were undertaken. We need to permanently affix the timber ladders in the solo to the two walk boards and install short aluminium

ladders into the entry doorways of the two chambers with them being securely hooked or permanently attached to the entry ways so as to prevent falls/slips. This may require expenditure up to \$150.

David and John also looked at the leaking wind line for the tibia chest on the rear of the solo chamber wall. John has suggested rather than a major remove and rebuild that simpler repairs via the installation of leather gaskets may be an easier method.

Rob Gliddon

Access and check the status of the stored Morton pouch chests for future use to replace worn chests in solo chamber. Rob was quite pleased with the state of the chest with only a small area at one end of the chest requiring re-leathering. He will consult with John Parker re the costs of this small repair and work required to modify the chest to suit the ranks that are to be installed.

Craig Keller

President

TOSA NSW Inc

Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Incorporated

Ph 0418 484 798

Show & Membership Prices

	All Artists
Non-members	\$35
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$30
Family 2 Adults incl 1 child up to 19 yrs age	\$65
TOSA Members	\$25

All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status

All Children FREE accompanied by an Adult

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$22 per person

First time Adult \$20 cash by completed Voucher at Box Office

Annual Membership Fees 2017-18:

\$45.00 Full membership, \$35.00 Pensioner Concession, Inter-state or Overseas \$45. \$5 discount per membership if TOSA

News emailed to you

Membership enquiries David & Margaret Badman

(02) 4776 2192 membership@tosa.net.au

Tom Barber invites you to a TOSA Home Party

at 10 Nowranie Place Windsor Downs

on Sunday 25th March at 1-30pm

Plenty of parking on site

So bring your party pieces & enjoy a great afternoon of music, with one of the largest collections of electronic organs anywhere. They include models of...

Conn, Technics, Yamaha, Wersi, Hammond, Esty

Please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

Ring TOSA Ticket Secretary Theo on

0410 626 131 to reserve a place - Limit 40 people

Comfortable Theatre Seating



INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED

Hector Olivera



**Internationally renowned organist, Hector Olivera,
performs in Sydney at Gordon Uniting Church -
The only Sydney performance.**

**Don't miss this outstanding opportunity!
TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY, 2018, 10.30 am**

Tickets:

**\$25 Adult; \$20 Concession (Seniors & Pension card
holders); \$5 Students (under 18)**

**Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of
the concert**

**Location: Gordon Uniting Church
18 Cecil Street, GORDON NSW 2072**

CONTACT DETAILS:

**Sue Conde, Gordon Uniting Church - 9498 6729, 0412
117 076**

**TOSA's World of Entertainment Presents
House Organist at Disney's historic
El Capitan theatre in Hollywood USA**



Rob Richards

**Award winning, outstanding musical talent
playing**

"Hooray for Hollywood"

**on Australia's most up to date
fabulous Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra**

Program includes

**Music from the movies; Disney, novelty tunes and
more**

***The Orion Centre Theatre,
155 Beamish Street, Campsie***

Sunday 25th February 2:00 – 4:30pm

***Come and Join us - bring the grandchildren
Bring your friends***

In addition to his international concert schedule, he has performed an astonishing FOUR THOUSAND performances at the El Capitan since 1999, playing the legendary Wurlitzer pipe organ originally installed in San Francisco's Fox Theatre. His combination of technical facility, showmanship and personality has won him fans across America and around the world. Richards was named 2005 "Organist of the Year" by the American Theatre Organ Society, coinciding with his thirtieth year of concerts and the Society's 50th anniversary.

VARIETY (the show business magazine) wrote that Richards' performance at the El Capitan Wurlitzer is "a special added treat." Disney legends (Academy award-winning songwriters) the Sherman Brothers proclaimed Richards a "supercalifragilistic talent!" Film critic Leonard Maltin enthused that Rob plays with "musical flair... skill and showmanship." Rob has performed for many of Hollywood's most famous celebrities, and shared the stage at events with Julie Andrews and Elton John! Rob has appeared on numerous national TV programs. The documentary "The Souls of Los Angeles" celebrated Rob's as an Angelino with a very unusual occupation! And in 2005, he appeared on ABC-TV's "The View" playing the El Capitan pipe organ.

Come along and bring your friends, family, children and grand children for a magical afternoon of music in a true theatre atmosphere with theatre lighting to set the mood.

This is Rob's first concert at the Orion Theatre – it should be a blast.

Tickets : \$ 35; Conc \$ 30; Members \$25
Family ie 2 Adults including 1 or more children \$65
Adult Group of 10 or more \$22/person

First time attendance for Adults \$20 each by voucher at the box office

Download a voucher from www.tosa.net.au
Students Free

For the best reserved seats you can book securely on trybooking.com by going to www.tosa.net.au then Events.

or

**Phone Theo Langenberg on 0410 626 131
before 8:00pm please**

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
TONY FENELON O.A.M. AND DR. JOHN ATWELL
ORION CENTRE – SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2017

We really know that Christmas is upon us once again when the team of Tony Fenelon OAM and our Society's Patron Dr. John Atwell arrive to present, what has long been a traditional part of the TOSA(NSW) program, the Christmas Concert. The duo from Melbourne has delighted us for so many years, and this occasion was to be no different.

Newly elected TOSA(NSW) President Craig Keller opened the proceedings introducing Tony and John. Tony moved to the piano and John to the organ, and they commenced with the old carol favourite *'Ding Dong Merrily on High'* (aka *'Gloria in Excelsis Deo'* and/or *'Angels we Have Heard on High'*) but presented as a skilfully crafted arrangement for piano and organ, with even a little bit of and *'Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly'* (or Tom Lehrer's *'Deck the Halls with Advertising'*) woven into the arrangement.



To commence his first solo segment, John chose an arrangement of Beethoven's *'Ode to Joy'* aka *'Song of Joy'* and/or *'Joyful, Joyful, we Adore Thee'*. John mentioned that this piece has become a staple of the *'Carols by Candlelight'* program from Melbourne's Myer Music Bowl.

Beethoven would have approved of John's choice of item and his arrangement for the organ.



As a preamble to his next contribution, John commented that few people remember that *'Silver Bells'* composed by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans, was first performed by Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell in the 1951 movie *'The Lemon Drop Kid'*, but Bing Crosby and Carol Richards produced the first recorded version in 1950. John made good use of the organ's Glockenspiel to simulate the silver bells.

He proceeded straight into an Australian Christmas Carol *'The Silver Stars are in the Sky'* written by William G. James (the ABC's first Director of Music). This charming little restrained piece was followed by another from the other side of the World - the Caribbean - with *"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"* a piece with a semi-calypso beat. It is said to have been taken down from the singing of a 92 year-old negro James Bryce in 1942.

It was time for the solo organ bracket from Tony who firstly adjusted the position of the organ's seat with the comment "I haven't grown yet!". He commented that during his time as resident organist of the Melbourne's Regent theatre, he enjoyed many musicals with memorable tunes. He introduced the bracket with a note-perfect rendition of the opener for Twentieth Century Fox films, then straight into Doris Day's *'Once I Had a Secret Love'* from *'Calamity Jane'* in 1953, *'Deadwood Stage'* also from *'Calamity Jane'*, *'True Love'* from *'High Society'* in 1956, and the sparkling *'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'*

from the film of the same name in 1968. The John Williamson themes from James Bond movies included 'You Only Live Twice', 'Dr. No', and 'Goldfinger', He concluded this bracket of movie themes with a later favourite, 'Everything Today is Thoroughly Modern' from 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' from 2002, and wound up with a repeat of the Twentieth Century Fox theme.

To finish off his first bracket, Tony chose a piece he described as being reminiscent of his times playing cocktail piano in restaurants: 'Stella by Starlight' by Victor Young, originating from the 1944 film 'The Uninvited'. Before commencing the piece, Tony experienced a problem when the entire console shut down. The cause of the shut-down was found to be due to Tony placing the PA microphone on top of the switch for the computer-control of the organ. Problem solved, then away with 'Stella by Starlight' with a lovely syncopated accompaniment to the dreamy quality of the melody.

Tony reintroduced - as he put it - "my partner in musical crime" John Atwell for the last bracket before interval. As a duo they launched forth with 'Temptation Rag' by Henry Lodge - an extended version providing ample opportunity for both organ and piano solos and marvellous collaborations.



A pleasing choice for the next duo item was the theme from the TV series 'Medic', (known better as 'The Medic Theme') by Victor Young, dating from 1954, and later becoming a vocal piece known as 'Blue Star'. The melancholy of Victor Young's original orchestral version was beautifully captured by Tony and John, with a few pleasing

embellishments in the version presented here.

One thing that can be relied upon in the Christmas Concert programs compiled by Tony and John, is that a balance is provided between the old 'pot-boilers' of Christmas songs, and music of a more reverential nature. On this occasion they chose to perform *'The Holy City'* by Stephen Adams. Their arrangement for piano and organ could be relied upon to elicit a tear from this 'poor old emotional reviewer', and this version was no exception. Most of the audience would remember the 78RPM recording of Richard Crooks performing *'The Holy City'*. Many, like myself, were almost brought up on this version – and Tony and John's re-creation was sympathetic to the core qualities of this version. The balance between piano and organ was superb and Tony and John complemented each other's contributions admirably.



Post-interval saw the return of John for his second solo-performing bracket. John chose to play the music of Arthur Schwartz. His medley comprised *'New Sun in the Sky'*, *'You and the Night and the Music'*, *'I Guess I'll have to Change My Plans'*, *'Dancing in the Dark'*, and *'That's Entertainment'*, covering a period from 1929 to 1952 during the period of his collaboration with Lyricist Howard Dietz. A great selection of the great music of Arthur Schwartz, - well executed by John. As a further contribution to the Christmas theme, John chose an arrangement of *'Silent Night'* – a lovely restrained version, with some interesting modulations and key changes, appropriate to this most cherished carol.

Returning to the stage for his final solo segment, Tony commented that he would provide a selection of Christmas music from around the World. This item was to prove to be a dual display of mastery of organ performance, and of improvisation. The segment commenced with a very 'Bach-ian' '*Christmas Day in the Morning*', moving with a stellar time-distance-translation to '*I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas*', on to multiple virtuosic variations on '*The First Noel*', on through '*Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly*', a snippet of Percy Grainger's '*Greensleeves*', then an Australian Christmas carol '*Christmas Day*' from William G. James. Proceeding to a moving conclusion came '*Joy to the World*', and '*O Come all Ye Faithful*', with the marvellous Orion 3/17 sounding out at full bombarde. The organ's overall capabilities were superbly demonstrated in Tony's arrangement.

Sidney Torch's '*Shooting Star*' was the lead item in the final segment featuring duets by Tony and John. The Queens Hall Light Orchestra popularised this sparkling little item dating from 1947. The piece calls for dazzling piano finger dexterity which Tony provided with style, ably supported by John at the Wurlitzer console.

The next item was the beautiful theme from '*The Deerhunter*', otherwise known as '*Cavatina*' by the British composer Stanley Myers, transcribed for organ and piano. As Tony commented, it is surprising that such a beautiful piece should come from an otherwise 'dark' movie.

The penultimate item on the program was one of those treasured opportunities to hear Tony in full classical-piano mode. On this occasion he chose to play the beautiful '*Fantaisie Impromptu*' by Frederic Chopin " - as it was written!" John provided additional backing through an entirely sympathetic transcription for organ. The original Chopin composition has also become known as '*I'm Always Chasing Rainbows*' but on this occasion, Tony chose to play the original score as written by Chopin for piano!

The last item on the program was preceded by comments from both Tony and John regarding their long association – over 45 years – as Tony put it "We've never had a cross word over anything – particularly over arrangements etc." The chosen item was the '*Cornish Rhapsody*' by Hubert Bath from the British war-time movie '*Love Story*' which called for wonderfully virtuosic piano playing from Tony, and marvellous support from John with the full orchestral component on the organ.

With a final thank-you to President Craig Keller and the TOSA(NSW) organ/concert crew, Tony and John launched forth with an impressive encore – an arrangement of "*We wish you a Merry Christmas*".

We, as TOSA(NSW) members, have been extremely fortunate to have been exposed to the best of overseas theatre organists, but it can also be said that overseas theatre organ enthusiasts have been equally fortunate to have been exposed to the best of Australian artists. High upon that list of 'exports' are Tony Fenelon and John Atwell, and those of us who were able to attend the recent 'Christmas Concert' were amongst the 'privileged few.' Long may that privilege prevail.

Reviewed by Doug Grant
December 2017

Photos by Barry Tooker

With thanks to Barry Tooker for his assistance.

This excellent and comprehensive review by member Doug Grant demonstrates how much time and effort that both Tony and John put into preparing and then presenting such a wonderful concert variety of music for us all to enjoy. Editor

From Rod Blackmore's

AUSTRALASIAN THEATRE ORGANS

Strand Theatre Hobart

Wurlitzer theatre organ Opus 157 Style SP 2 manuals 6 ranks

Rebuilt and installed in St. Giles' Presbyterian Church, Hurstville, New South Wales – with alterations and additions



The console can be seen in the middle in front of the stage

The *Strand* theatre at 145 Liverpool Street in Tasmania's capital, Hobart (on the corner of Watchorn Street) was opened on 21st May 1916. It was described as a palatial building, and with exaggeration as "an exact replica of the famous Strand Theatre in New York". It was reported as having had no expense spared in its interior arrangements. *Stanley Crisp* was the architect for the project, the building being erected by *Cooper Bros*. The theatre underwent remodelling in 1929 under the management of *Union Theatres*, and again modernised and reopened as the Odeon – "*The Theatre of Tomorrow*" in 1956 under the management of *Greater Union Theatres*. Its closure as a cinema was announced in November 1970, then having a seating capacity of 1272. It was purchased in 1972 for use as a concert hall for the Australian Broadcasting Commission's Tasmania Symphony Orchestra and by 1976 as a recording studio for ABC Radio. These uses ceased in 1998 and the growing Christian City Church occupied the building until 2011. Development approval has been granted for a high-rise of 12 storeys retail and office space; retention of the original façade onto Liverpool Street is proposed. The *Strand* was the only Tasmanian theatre to have a *Wurlitzer* theatre pipe organ of note, although a 4 rank *photoplayer* type instrument is recorded as having been in Hobart's *Palace* theatre in 1923 and later in a skating rink (1925). Opus 157 is listed as SP under "style" in the *Wurlitzer* Installation Lists, ie an organ made to special specifications, and consisting of 2 manuals and 6 ranks. It left the *Wurlitzer* factory on 1st December 1917, (destined according to the factory list for a residence in Melbourne, Victoria.) Other lists show it as being located in the *Strand* from 16th November 1918. It was the third *Wurlitzer* of substance to be imported into Australia and was installed by South Australia organbuilder *J.E. Dodd*. It originally had an upright piano-style console with 2 manuals, 6 ranks of pipes and a range of tonal and non-tonal effects. The basic pipe ranks were: Flute-Bourdon, Flute (Tibia), Salicional, Vox Humana, Trumpet and Viol Celeste. The organ underwent remodelling at the hands of *Fincham & Son* organbuilders of Melbourne in 1929; a close inspection of the black & white photo shows the organ centred in front of the stage, and alterations to the console provided curved cabinetry to emulate the popular "horseshoe" style but retaining a "straight" configuration of stop rails. Although the console throughout the 1920s contained roll-players, organists were employed, notably local identity *Ben Corrick* who was resident organist from 1920 to 1928. Reopening of the organ in 1929 was performed by noted theatre organist *Manny Aarons* to much local acclaim. Falling into disuse in the late 1930s the organ was removed, being in the hands of *R. Shield* (1940) and *F. McCann* (1945). In 1948 it was installed in the existing *St. Giles*

Presbyterian Church (cnr. McMahon and Park Streets, Hurstville – a southern suburb of Sydney, New South Wales.), the Vox Humana being dispensed with.

In 1955 a new *St. Giles* was built opposite the older and the organ was installed there by *Hill, Norman & Beard* (order no. N344) with a new console and a 3-rank mixture, an Oboe and Gedackt. Electronic pedal bass stops and a Voix Celeste have since been added by organbuilder *Ian Brown*.



The console in St Giles Church Hurstville NSW

Electronic relay fault on Marrickville Wurlitzer

As previously reported, John Andrews removed the relay on 4th December for off-site testing. No fault was found during the off-site testing but as a precautionary measure some components that could potentially be affected by temperature were replaced and the original built-in power supply was reinstated. As mentioned in a brief email on 15th January, the relay was re-installed and John Batts played until 6pm that day with no incidents from the relay. Also David Badman was there to measure the piano in regards to new wheels.

The members event went ahead on 22nd January without any incidents and David Badman replaced the removable timber panel in the crawl space of the console dais. Thanks, David.

Neil Palmer

Your Travelling Editor Cont.
Next Cruise Port was the Rock of Gibraltar



This lump of Limestone appeared out of the mist early morning



Air strip between Spain & Gib



Barbery Ape cradeling young



View from near the top



**Ernie & Aye stopped half way
down on the tour to admire the
view**

Members Diary

Next Committee Meeting - Monday March 5th at 7:00pm

West Ryde Anglican Church

Purchase your 2018 Season Ticket now
forms will be available at the
Orion Concert in February
this will be your last chance to save
on concert admission in 2018

Sunday 25th February 2:00pm - 4:30pm
Orion Centre Theatre Campsie
Rob Richards USA
Plays

The Orion Wurlitzer

see centre pages for details

Book your reserved seats through the TOSA web site
www.tosa.net.au/Events - trybooking

or by contacting

Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 Before 8:00pm please

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

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

****Theatre Organ Magic** on RNB - FM from Sydney, NSW, Australia.**

88.7 FM and 90.3 FM 12 noon first Sunday of the month for one hour

Web Sites of Interest: <https://www.facebook.com/tosansw>

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