

# TOSA NEWS

VALDA LANG

MARIE TYSOE

A FIRST

FOR NEW SOUTH WALES

\* \* \* \* \* OR, PERHAPS AUSTRALIA ? \* \* \* \* \*

SUNDAY AUGUST 3RD, AT 2.30 P.M.

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

ADDRESS BOX A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B



ON SUNDAY AUGUST 3RD, AT 2.30 P.M. WE WILL BE PRESENTING A CONCERT AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL FEATURING TWO LOVELY LADIES OF THE MUSIC WORLD, NAMELY VALDA LANG AT OUR WURLITZER ORGAN AND FAMOUS MEZZO SOPRANO MARIE TYSOE AS ASSOCIATE ARTIST.

WE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF HEARING BOTH OF THESE FINE ARTISTS DURING OUR MEMORABLE CHARITY CONCERT IN APRIL LAST YEAR, WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO A FULL HOUSE AUDIENCE.

CANCEL ALL OTHER APPOINTMENTS IMMEDIATELY !

VALDA LANG & MARIE TYSOE CANNOT BE MISSED.

ADMISSION.....FREE.....FREE.....FREE.....

VALDA LANG began her musical career as a classical pianist. She was awarded the diplomas D.S.C.M. and L.Mus. whilst a student at the N.S.W. Conservatorium of Music.

After graduation Valda broadcast regularly for the A.B.C. giving solo and duo piano recitals and was a member of the Aeolian Trio.

Her interest in the organ began in 1970. In the following year she won the N.S.W. Final of the Yamaha Electone Festival and was runner up in the National Festival for State winners held in Melbourne.

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MARIE TYSOE studied at the N.S.W. Conservatorium of Music and later joined the National Opera Co. as mezzo-soprano. She sang many leading roles with the company including the title role in Bizet's Carmen. Marie has appeared regularly with great success in countless stage television, radio and club shows throughout Australia.

The name of Marie Tysoe is well known to Opera House audiences in Christmas at the Opera House, The Old Fashioned Show and the Shell Folkloric Festival.

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THE PRESENTATION OF THESE TWO VERY FINE ARTISTS CAN ONLY PROMISE AN AFTERNOON OF WONDERFUL ENTERTAINMENT, SO DONT FORGET.....

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD. COMMENCING AT 2.30 P.M.

FREE.....FREE.....FREE

BEGINNERS LUCK.....

It must be holiday time for several of our members including almost half of our Executive & Committee have departed on extended tours for several weeks. I know that one group has headed West to search not for old organs but Ayer's Rock.

Two others have gone North into Qld. country, and one of these was our Editor, so this edition of TOSA NEWS has been compiled by the Juniors. Please forgive all the errors....I know I've found some and probably you will find some more.

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T.O.S.A. DIRECTORY

PRESIDENT: Alan Misdale (525 5554)  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Doug Smith (750 0917) Frank Ellis (649 7011)  
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RESEARCH & ARCHIVES: Ian Cameron...RECORDINGS: Ray Garret (869 7247)  
EDITOR: Jack Lawson (569 3775)  
SOCIETY PATRON: Ian Davies.

\*\*\*\*\* HOME SOCIAL AFTERNOON \*\*\*\*\*

SUNDAY 20th JULY, 2.30 p.m.

Our next Home Social will be held at the home of John and Pat Guthrie of 11 Millet Street, Hurstville.

The Guthries are newcomers to the Society and have generously offered the use of their home for a social afternoon and get-together. They have a fine Baldwin organ plus a piano so this promises a rewarding time for all.

New and old members are cordially invited to come along and meet their fellow enthusiasts and enjoy some music and fun. Anyone can have a play during the afternoon, so try and practice up at least one number. Two promising young artists, Miss Patricia Guthrie and Mr. Bernard Walz will be playing for us on both instruments for a couple of 'spots' as the afternoon proceeds.

A charge of \$2 for Gents & \$1.50 for the Ladies, who are asked to bring a plate towards afternoon tea. All proceeds are donated to TOSA funds towards our organ maintainance.

Ring John and Pat Guthrie on 57 7764 any time after 5.30 p.m. and secure your place as seating is limited to 30 people.

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SYDNEY TOWN HALL GRAND ORGAN

Mr. DAVID PARSONS will be presenting two twilight concerts during July as follows....

THURSDAY 24th JULY AT 6.15 p.m.

THURSDAY 31st " " 6.15 p.m.

Come along and hear this glorius instrument as only DAVID PARSONS can play it !

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WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Dennis & Margaret Smith, Sylvania Heights; Tony & Dorothy Valenti; Alfred Connell, Bankstown; Tony James, Dulwich Hill; Willy Stader, Church Point; Norman & Rhonda Day, Asquith.

A sincere welcome is extended to these new members and I'm sure that they will be partaking in all of our various activities and enjoying the glorius sound of our WurlitZer organ in concert at Marrickville.

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The NATIONAL CONVENTION will be held in the following locations for the next three years....QUEENSLAND 1981...CANBERRA 1982...TASMANIA 1983.

It is most encouraging and exiting that TOSA is planning so far ahead and the following excerpts from relevant divisional magazines are included to show you the enthusiasm of these divisions.

'TIBIA' Queensland...."For those who have not heard yet, Queensland will be hosting the 1981 Theatre Organ Convention so you can be looking forward to a wonderfully hectic, musical Eastertime next year"

'TOSA ACTION' A.C.T. "The big news is that TOSA (ACT)has presented a proposal to the National Meeting of all divisions, for the 1982 National TOSA Convention to be held in Canberra.The proposal has been accepted and CANBERRA is it for 1982."

'VOX ORGANUM' Tasmania. "During the week-end the National Meeting was held and I came away satisfied that we in Tassy are doing our part quite successfully, in promoting the Theatre Organ. However let me forewarn you --1983 (Easter)..HOBART will host the National Convention. Committee approved of this action and will start to prepare for what we stated...A TERRIFIC TWELFTH!

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CLUB NIGHT,,Tuesday May 20th 1980.

Our second Club Night was attended by a pleasing roll-up of approx. 50 people. Again we had a short meeting and then Mr.David Parsons proceeded with an informative talk on the organ. David then gave us a brief recital. His. talk and demonstration of presets etc was of great value to many of us.

I then started my search for members wishing to play,and as usual a lot of coaxing was needed. However eight members played the organ, and with David's help and assistance with registration most of them came away very pleased with their efforts. David mixed among the members and discussed their questions and helped in every way. Thanks indeed to David for all this help. Our ladies as usual gave us a cuppa and our Committee member Bill Schumacher finished off the night with some fine numbers, including a beautiful rendition of 'Laura'.

OUR NEXT CLUB NIGHT will be held on TUESDAY 15th JULY at 7.30 p.m. and on that occasion our celebrated artist Miss Margaret Hall will give us a short recital on the WurlitZer.

Thanks for coming, see you at the next Club Night, and don't forget, DO your practice!

Doug Smith (Hon. Vice-President)

On to the EIGHTIES

The Twenties passed away SIXTY years ago!

Yes, that fabulous artist JONAS NORDWALL will be arriving in Sydney, Australia during September for a National Tour. You will undoubtedly recall that JONAS NORDWALL was here as our feature artist during the Theatre Organ Convention of 1976 and proved to be a true exponent of the above motto....

All other mainland divisions around Australia immediately accepted the invitation to have JONAS NORDWALL as soon as they knew he was coming. It is by rare chance that we can manage to secure such a famous artist for an Australian Tour, as he is always booked, years ahead!

JONAS NORDWALL will be presenting two concerts at Marrickville the first being on SUNDAY 21st. SEPTEMBER, and the second on SUNDAY 19th. OCTOBER, both concerts will commence at 2.30 p.m.

Note these dates in your diary for I'm sure that you will never regret attending BOTH of these concerts.

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RADIO CITY OFFERS LENGTHY DAILY TOUR OF STAGE

Stage-struck people, those with curious natures, and those who want to go where the action is around theatres are now given the opportunity to see it all in New York City at the Radio City Music Hall. Beginning Friday April 11th the Music Hall inaugurated regularly scheduled tours of the Entertainment Centre.

Tours are two and a half hours long and cover the stage. They are operated seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the admission is \$5.95 per person (kids are admitted free). Special rates and tours of varying specialities and lengths are available at special rates for groups of 15 or more.

Winding over, under and across the great stage, the tours will allow the public to explore every corner of the legendary theatre, from rehearsal halls, costume and set shops, recording studios, projection booths, dressing rooms, production areas and giant multi-levered stage elevators. For the organ minded, the main theatre Wurlitzer is included and the 3/14 studio Wurlitzer also may be seen. During tours visitors will be entertained with never before heard tidbits of Music Hall history.

(Courtesy of CONSOLE )

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DONT FORGET our coach tour of the Hunter Valley in OCTOBER, from Friday 24th to Sunday 26th.

These coach trips are a terrific week-end of fun, good food and of course a small 'taste' at Hunter Valley. Several of our Newcastle friends will be joining us at the Valley and I now hear we are being invited to a special Newcastle house party on the Saturday evening!

Mrs. Phyllis Wilson is organising this tour, and I do know that there are a few seats left, so ring IMMEDIATELY and get your spot booked. The number is 759 6050.

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IMPORTANT...PLEASE NOTE.

The Tour of the Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ is DEFINITELY on SUNDAY, 17th AUGUST at 2.00 p.m...The date in the last TOSA NEWS was incorrect. (I apologise for any inconvenience)

The organ builder Mr. Roger Pogson and the Assistant City Organist (Theatre) Mr. David Parsons will conduct the tour. Because of the large number of members who have booked it will be necessary to arrange 3 groups to avoid you having to wait for a long time at the Town Hall before entering the organ chambers.

Each tour group will consist of approx. 10 to 12 persons at a time entering the organ, in the interest of safety. Please gather in your group at the main front entrance and when everyone has arrived, press the bell near the door on the right hand side and the attendant will let you in.

GROUP 1. (Please arrive by 1.45 p.m.)

H.Smith, M.Dickens, F.Hickson (2), D.McDonald (8), O.Wing, (2), E.Hillier (2), K.Collins, S.Bosanquet, N.Forrester, D.Dunnet (4), E.Vale.

GROUP 2. (Please arrive by 2.30 p.m.)

Margaret Hall, Harold Duffel, F.T.Walker (2), Jim Waters (2), Adrian Holmes (2), Paul Smith, Mark Quarmby, Rene Crookes, Bob Bones, N.Weismantel (2) R.Wilson (2) D.Smith (2) Ken Barwick, Allen Davies (2). R. Smith (2)

GROUP 3. (Please arrive by 3.15 p.m.)

Mr.Crombie (2), Mrs.Bowden (5), Mrs.Waterford (3) Mr.C.H.Wells (2), Mr.N.Pearce (2) J.Wall (2), R.F.Salmon (5).B.Daly, B.Smith, J.Middlebrook (4)

Bookings for the Tour will close on 15th July. Post your booking to :- The Secretary, TOSA, c/- P.O. Box A584 Sydney South. 2000.

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HAMMOND ORGAN SOCIETY (No. 1, Sydney Chapter)

The Hammond No.1 Chapter are holding a musical evening on Saturday 26th July at 8 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.Batman of 8 Fletcher Avenue, Blakehurst. TOSA members are welcome to attend if they wish and bookings can be made by contacting the Hon.Sec/Treas. Mrs.Vera Dusing, 25 Walter Street' Mortdale 2223 or phone 570 1296.

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NEW CIVIC ORGAN ACCLAIMED IN PASADENA AUDITORIUM

Pasadena Civic Auditorium's theatre/concert pipe organ exceeded all expectations and concert goers attending the Dedication Programme on Wednesday night, April 26th, were given an outstanding introduction to the instrument by noted Theatre Concert Organist, TOM HAZLETON.

His selection of music provided first-nighters with a complete demonstration of the superb tonal range of the organ. He vividly brought out that the old Foort/BBC Moller is indeed a new organ as installed by Dave Junchen.

(Courtesy CONSOLE)

AN INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS....

This article has been designed to inform members what happens in the background before you walk through the doors at Marrickville Town Hall and sit down to hear a concert.

The Executive and Committee organise at least six concerts each year, and we endeavour to the utmost to keep standards as high as possible. Local and Interstate artists are approached and a suitable professional fee is agreed upon providing it doesn't break our limited budget. The cost of hiring the hall plus a suitable public address system also publicity in the form of posters, (designed, typewritten and printed by the committee) plus postage or hand distribution all have to be considered. We also engage at least one overseas artist each year and this has to include return air-fare plus accomodation etc. The organ has to be tuned for every function.

We are now introducing at certain concerts an additional vocal artist for a 'spot' during the concert, and as you know, we've had some very pleasing results. Sometimes the extra artist is provided by the visiting organist, just to help us on the day, and very often for a very reasonable cost. Perhaps they just like singing with the pipes!

Your Ladies Committee play a big part at our concerts by creating a social atmosphere in providing tea, coffee & bikkies also cans of soft drink during interval. This service requires a lot more effort than appears on the surface, carting all the gear to the hall, buying drinks and carrying them around (quite often more than 12 dozen per concert), setting up at the hall, and they get there early just to provide coach travellers with a cuppa before the concert! Full marks to our Ladies, who never fail in this important job. All their work is done voluntarily just for the benefit of the members, and the Society as a whole.

A very important essential at some concerts and cabaret nights is lighting effects. One of our members, (very dedicated, but seldom thought of) provides virtually thousands of dollars worth of lighting, colored spots, mirror balls etc for a cost of next to nothing. If hiring costs on todays rates for assembly and provision of all this equipment was ever fully paid for, the bill would give us all, a very large fright! I cannot say how much we are in debt to this member.

The Editor tries to keep in touch with other organ functions around the town and advises us in TOSA NEWS just what is on that would be of interest to our members. Naturally, an occasional event is missed out, but this is generally through communication breakdown..we just cant keep track of everybody.

WE INVITE YOU to write to the Secretary and tell us your views.. what you think can be improved, what you would like to see at concerts, what BUGS you most at concerts, what BUGS you most at cabarets, or any other function. Constructive criticism in any way, that you think will help us to produce a better function. All information will be kept strictly confidential although an assessment of all data received will be published in TOSA NEWS at a later date.

We are in urgent need of someone in the printing or art business who can help us with a small amount of art work for the design of posters, magazines and general sheets required for publication. If you can help in this way, please contact our Secretary, Ernie Vale, Phone..798 6816 as soon as you can please.....

Dont write in a fortnight..WRITE NOW...

Send your ideas to the Secretary, TOSA, c/- P.O.Box A 584  
Sydney South 2000.

GREAT THEATRE ORGANS

GAUMONT-STATE THEATRE, KILBURN.

by Ian R. McIver.

Throughout 1937, above the usual hum of daily life in London's cosmopolitan suburb of Kilburn, could be heard the sounds of heavy construction work. The sights and sounds of super-cinemas under construction had become commonplace in immediate pre-war years.

At Kilburn, the Hyams Brothers were building Britain's largest super-cinema, and as the site became dominated by a monolithic spire thrusting skywards it was soon apparent that something really special was taking place.

On opening night, Tuesday, December 28th, 1937, the "S" beacon shone out from the apex of the spire, a silent muezzin visible for miles around - the escapist religion of the silver screen had a new cathedral...For many, the climax of the evening came when a cover slid open at the right hand side of the orchestra pit and the Mighty Wurlitzer console spiralled upwards - its white paint and gold-leaf trim glistening in the spotlight. As it slowly turned around, many saw for the first time, Sidney Torch, who's snappy rythm style of playing had brought a new dimension to the theatre organ.

Few in the audience would not have possessed at least one of Torch's many outstanding best selling records..maybe Hot Dog, at the Regal, Marble Arch, perhaps Orient Express, at the Regal, Edmonton..or had not listened with pleasure to his scintillating broadcasts. He was to remain resident organist at Kilburn for three years, repeating his Piping Hot series of records, before joining the RAF in 1940.

Some of his theatre organ recordings are still available on LP today, 40 years later..a remarkable tribute to a talent which made the organ swing in a way unequalled by anybody, before or since. Torch's period at Kilburn was marred by an accident in which he caught his foot in the revolving mechanism fitted to the organ console lift. After playing his interlude in great pain, he collapsed when the console sank back into the pit..his big toe was broken. This "killer" lift has since claimed further victims, inflicting less serious injuries on Sandy McPherson. Earlier this year it viciously mangled former Radio City organist, Ashley Miller's briefcase!

Rudy Lewis followed Torch at the console for six years, leaving to exchange consoles with Terence Casey, organist of Europe's largest Wurlitzer, in the Trocadero, Elephant and Castle. A couple of years later the ever ebullient Bobby Pagan, another Trocadero organist, took over. The final resident organist was Louis Mordish, who was based here until 1953, when the use of the organ during normal film shows ceased.

The Wurlitzer was not completely neglected, however, as it was maintained in full working order. It was used occasionally for enthusiasts' concerts and was recorded by Jackie Brown, Sandy McPherson, George Blackmore and Frederic Bayco. It also accompanied many of the special stage presentations which always have been a feature of the theatre. The seating capacity of the auditorium was reduced to about 1800 when the rear stalls area became a dance hall and later a casino. The magnificent main chandelier was removed from the foyer. Lean times had come to the cinema industry.

It is often darkest before the dawn, and this proved true, for there then came to the Gaumont-State a man with an extraordinary talent for showmanship, its current manager, Billy Weir. Under his encouragement the organ was dusted off and brought back as a featured item for special film presentations..played by John Stewart, who also recorded it and in more recent times by George Huber. Hubert Selby also made a fine record on it a few years ago. It has always been a popular broadcasting organ, and is still featured regularly on "The Organ Entertains".



The Gaumont-State has a special place in the hearts of theatre organ lovers throughout the country as it has become London's leading venue for concerts presented by the Cinema Organ Society, The Theatre Organ Club and the London Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS).

Top national and international organists have displayed their skills and the instrument's capabilities. No one who was present will ever forget the concert given by master organist George Wright, when every seat in the house was taken.

The organ contains 16 ranks of pipes, plus the usual tonal and non-tonal percussions and comedy effects. A grand piano used to be playable electrically from the console, but this was renowned during the early 60's. Its designer was another great British theatre organist, Quentin Maclean, who some years later wrote: "It was not' as has been stated, designed for Sidney Torch or for anyone else, but embodied my conception of a 16 rank WurliTzer giving, bluntly, the best value for money, from a tonal point of view...My object at Kilburn was to strike a true balance between the extremes of 'lushness' (Tibias & Flutes) and 'brashness' (English Horns etc)..."

A brief summary of the ranks is given below. Of particular note is the full extension of a generous six ranks to 16ft. pitch, including the only 16ft. English Horn on a British WurliTzer. These give the organ a very powerful bass. The flexibility of the pedal division is increased by the inclusion of an octave coupler, another unique feature. Many organists have expressed surprise that the tonal colours available exclude a Saxophone or Clarinet rank. George Wright was greatly impressed with the organ's tonal qualities, especially the large Tibia Clausa. The Harmonic Flute is a particular gem. The instrument does, however have its failings. The remoteness of the console from the pipework, which is in two chambers in the opposite wall of the auditorium, 110 ft. away, means that there is a noticeable delay of one-seventh of a second while the sound waves travel from the chambers to the organist, who thus has to play that much ahead of what he hears. In the early days, loudspeakers were used to overcome this time lag..one even being fitted to the music stand..but then the organist heard everything twice, which was worse.

The pipes are poorly disposed in badly proportioned chambers, with swell shutters behind heavy drapes. These factors combine effectively to contain the sound, and consequently the full power and grandeur one expects from 16 ranks of pipes are never heard in their true glory. Indeed, the percussion instruments can scarcely be heard at all. Nevertheless, the organ can, and frequently does sound thrilling and exiting as the floor and building vibrate with its sonorous bass notes. In short, it is a good organ, which sounds magnificent on records or on radio, but which is fractionally disappointing in the theatre.

The ranks of pipes and pitches at which they are available are:

MAIN CHAMBER (LOWER) Tuba Horn 16,8,4, Diaphonic Diapason 16,8,4,  
Tibia Clausa 11, 8,4,2-2/3, 2, Viol d'Orchestra 16,8,4,2  
Viol Celeste 8,4, Dulciana 16,8,4, Concert Flute 16,8,4,  
2-2/3, 2, 1-3/5, Vox Humana 16,8,4.

SOLO CHAMBER (UPPER) Tuba Mirabilis 16,8, English Horn 16,8, French Trumpet..  
16,8,4, Open Diapason 8, Tibia Clausal, 16,8,4,2-2/3,2,  
Krumet 8, Gamba 16,8,4, Harmonic Flute 8,4.

The resultant Bass 32 ft. draws the Concert Flute rank at 16 ft and 10-2/3 ft pitches. The rank is not available separately at this latter pitch.

(Re-printed by courtesy CONSOLE)

THANK YOU..

Many thanks to Arthur and Ruth Sims for an enjoyable evening on Saturday 19th April, at their home at Wentworthville. The organist for the evening was member Ron Smith who entertained us with some very pleasant and smooth music on the Eminent 2000 organ. Many thanks Ron.

Ron Wilson.

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MUSICAL MEMORIES OF THE 20th CENTURY.

Leonard Lee Productions will be presenting a musical afternoon on Sunday 27th July, featuring vocal artists at Marrickville Town Hall. Although not a TOSA function, our WurliTzer Pipe Organ will be used for the musical accompaniment.

Please see attached poster for all details.

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TOSA PROGRAMME for the rest of 1980.

- TUESDAY JULY 15th, 7.30, CLUB NIGHT (Marrickville Town Hall)
- SUNDAY JULY 20th, 2.30 p.m., HOME SOCIAL, John & Pat Guthrie residence, 11 Millet St., Hurstville. Ring 57 7764 after 5 p.m. for bookings.
- SUNDAY AUGUST 3rd, 2.30 p.m., FREE CONCERT featuring Valda Lang at the organ and Marie Tysoe mezzo-soprano.
- SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21st, U.S.A. artist Jonas Nordwall (1st)
- SUNDAY OCTOBER 19th, " " " " (2nd)  
Both concerts are at Marrickville Town Hall and commence at 2.30 p.m.
- FRIDAY to SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24th to 26th, COACH TOUR of Hunter Valley ring Mrs. Phyllis Wilson for bookings..759 6050.
- WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 8.00 p.m.  
(Marrickville Town Hall)
- FRIDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 28th, Christmas Cabaret Night,  
(full details to be advised)
- SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30th, CONCERT OF THE YEAR..  
Tony Fenelon and John Atwell  
on organ and piano.

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