

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

PATRON: IAN DAVIES

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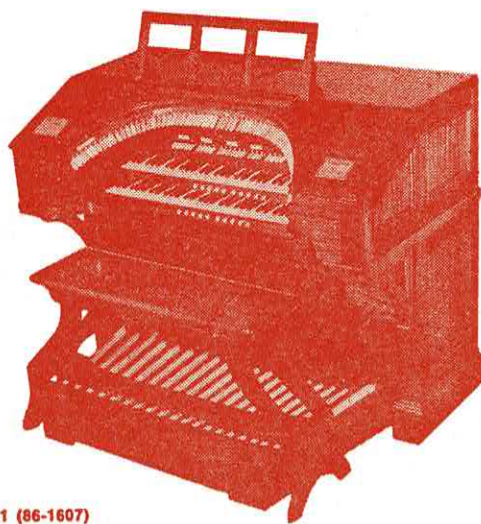
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WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Saturday 10th February at 7.45 p.m. is the date of our first Organ Party for 1973. It will be held at the home of members John and Dianne Roberts at 5 Wyleena Place, Punchbowl (behind Punchbowl Park) and the maximum number of guests will be thirty, so you are advised to ring RIGHT NOW and make your reservation. Ring 70-3650 (home number) or 76-0591 (business number). The Roberts have a Lawrence Welk Thomas organ (Horse-show theatre model) and David Parsons will be the featured guest artist. Admission will be the usual charge of One dollar (or more if you like) for each person with the proceeds going to our Pipe Organ Purchase Fund. Speaking of organ parties -- the Society would be delighted to hear from any member who would be able to hold an organ party during this year. These wonderful nights of music, fun and friendship are one of our most popular attractions and they DO raise a considerable amount of money for the Pipe Organ Fund. If you would like to hold one at your place, please let the Secretary know soon -- like NOW!!! We would appreciate offers from you very much. If we could hold one organ party each month the sum of \$400 or more could be raised in a year and this would be a tremendous boost to the Pipe Organ Fund.

SUBSCRIPTIONS?

Financial or unfinancial?? To be or not to be! That is the question! (With apologies to Will.) Just a reminder for those who may have overlooked their dues. If you have not yet paid your membership dues for 1973, would you please send it to the Treasurer? Under Postal Regulations, we can post TOSA News to bona fide subscribers only so please send in your dues now so that we may continue to send your monthly TOSA News. And now back to 'What's On This Month'.

MORE ABOUT THIS MONTH'S DOINGS!

Wednesday 21st February at 8 p.m. Our first public concert this year takes place at Marrickville Town Hall on this date. Our member Bill Schumacher will be at the console of our Wurlitzer for this concert which promises to be a grand night's entertainment. Bill has chosen Moira Barber as his guest artist and a top class performance can be expected from this well known soprano. The theme of the concert will be "Hooray for Hollywood" and a bright and tuneful evening is assured. Come along and bring a friend (in fact bring all your friends - your enemies too if you like - it may turn enemies into friends, just make sure you come along with as many as possible to our first concert for 1973 with Bill Schumacher at the console of our Wurlitzer. Admission to the public is \$1.50 - TOSA members \$1 each on production of membership card. Children and pensioners 50 cents.

Sunday 25th February at 2.30 p.m. At Marrickville Town Hall we will present the first of our increasingly popular FREE Sunday afternoon Wurlitzer concerts. A great way to spend Sunday afternoon listening to the sounds of the king of musical instruments without straining your wallet. The organist will be JOH CONGERT. JOH, until recently was organist at the Burning Log at Dural. His last concert on a Wurlitzer Pipe Organ for the Society was at the Capitol in 1966.

GRAPEVINE HOT LINE

A little bird told your Editor that an unusual and exciting overseas organist will be appearing in Sydney in March. It's all very hush-hush at the moment so I can't tell you his name. I did learn however, that Chatswood Town Hall has been booked for March 15th which is a Thursday night. Watch out for an announcement in next month's TOSA NEWS. In the meantime, my lips are sealed!

GOOD NEWS DEPARTMENT!!

Good news indeed - couldn't be better! For those who didn't see the Sydney Morning Herald of Saturday 13th January we hasten to tell you that Sydney's State Theatre has been given a top "A" rating by the National Trust of Australia. This classification is reserved for buildings of great historical significance or high architectural quality. The State Theatre fits into both categories. It is a monument to that foolish but fabulous decade, the 1920's. The article, complete with pictures makes mention of the theatre's magnificent 20,000 piece, 3½ ton chandelier, its marble stairways and columns and its art gallery. It failed to mention the 4/21 Wurlitzer though! With such a classification the State Theatre looks like being around for a long time and TOSA members can now uncross their fingers again. "Viva La State!!" or whatever one shouts out on such important occasions. All joking aside, Sydney has already lost too many great cinemas - the preservation of this, one of the world's great movie palaces, is good news indeed.

WELCOME VISITORS

Vice-President Frank Ellis (who has been acting as TOSA News Editor for the past 2 or 3 months) "WOT AGAIN?" was visited by two Queensland members towards the end of January. The visitors, young Neil Jensen and his mother, were spending a few days in our fair city. Neil, who looks to be around the age of sixteen and plays a very nice drop of electronic organ (I heard him on an electronic in Brisbane some time ago) was dying to see his first real Wurlitzer organ! Thanks to Des Russell, he was able to see and play the Chatswood job for a short while. Your Editor was not present to hear him play. Your Editor however WAS present to hear young Neil play the Marrickville Town Hall Wurli on Saturday morning 27th January and I lose no time in predicting a brilliant future for this young man from Queensland. Although he had less than one hour's experience on a theatre pipe organ, he handled it like a veteran and the 2 or 3 members who were present in the hall were just as impressed as I. He has a good technique at the keyboards but his greatest asset is his feeling for the music being played. I found this unique in one so young, and immediately asked him to feature in one of the Selected Cameo Spots at our Easter Convention, so you will get a chance to hear him yourselves.

FOR SALE

2 Manual 3 rank organ. Pipework is understood to be Wurlitzer. The ranks are Flute, Bourden, Diapason. Full pedalboard, Maple console. Buyer will have to remove the instrument from the church where it is installed at Concord. Contact Mr. Stewart Reid for inspection. Phone number is 84-6409 (home) or 798-5733 (business number).

NEW MODEL ORGAN

McFarlands of Marrickville have sent TOSA News details of a new model organ from "Ace Tone". This big Jazz Combo organ has "perfect Drawbar system with Sine Wave composition delivers excellent tonal variety on 16', 8', 4', 2.2/3', 2', 1.3/5' footages, together with Brass Mute, Delay, Vibrator, Pre-sets, Pitch Control, Reiteration and five lines of percussion. Separate speaker for reverberation and monitoring is self contained. Designed in three easily assembled sections, it plays thourhg a Leslie speaker (Model 147) which just plugs in without special or expensive connections." For information contact Charles Tuckwell at McFarlands. Phone 560-6900

MEMBER JOH CONGERT SAYS "THANKS"

John Congert who had arthritis in the left hand, had to, at least temporarily, give up playing the organ professionally. Accordingly he removed his ivory consoled Wurlitzer

electronic theatre organ from the Burning Log Restaurant at Dural. During his last weeks at the restaurant he was helped out by a number of TOSA members on the nights it was impossible for him to use his hand. He has written to TOSA News asking us to publish his grateful thanks to those who came to his aid during that difficult period. He expresses thanks to the following, most of whom are TOSA members:- Ann Wilson, Janet Zerbini, Bill Schumacher, Peter Held, Tom Hold, Allan Crouch and David Parsons. To those who helped in the removal of the large installation he also says thank you. Those involved were, Jim Birkett, Eric Mirovitch, Ad Mabellis, Allan Crouch, Ced Freeman, Len Zerbini and many others. Joh estimates that during the time his organ was installed in the Burning Log, it was heard by approximately 60,000 people and played for a total of 2500 hours. After several weeks of rest from playing Joh is now recovered and ready for his Marrickville concert.

CHANGE OF LOCATION

The location for the Convention dinner has been changed from Petersham Town Hall to St. Brendan's War Memorial Hall located at 49 Johnston Street, Annandale. This is a large and modern hall and an ideal setting for the dinner. Will all members both here in N.S.W. and interstate please note the change of location. Would interstate Editors please publish this in their Division's own Newsletter?

CONVENTION INFORMATION

Oscar Moen, who has just retired as Treasurer of the N.S.W. Division, has very kindly offered to act as Convention Treasurer, so all remittances for Convention tickets should be sent to him and not to our new Treasurer.

Tickets for the Convention are now available at \$9.50 each with \$2 for children of members. (Pensioner members \$5.00 each.) Why not send your money and order now? Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope with your order for the return of your tickets. Don't forget it will be 3 or 4 years before another Convention will be held in Sydney so DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS ONE! It promises to be a wonderful TWO DAY FIESTA of the best in theatre organ music. A four course fully catered hot dinner is included in the admission charge. Six functions, plus dinner and a farewell supper after the final concert, all for the amazingly low price of \$9.50. Seven different organists in five concerts plus an afternoon of Cameo Spots which will feature a number of interstate and local organists in Cameo style presentations lasting 10 or 15 minutes each.

A coupon is on the last page of this TOSA News for you to order your Convention tickets. Why not fill it in and POST IT NOW?

FINALLY

We bring you the results of the Election held at the AGM on January 31st. Before giving you the names of those who were elected to serve the Society for the next twelve months, might I, as Acting Editor say a few words of welcome to the new Editor, Mr. CLIFF BINGHAM. Congratulations on being elected to this important and fascinating post -- my best wishes to you for a happy Editorship and may your letter box be ever full of news, information and just plain gossip for you to publish, for this is the stuff which makes TOSA News news.

FRANK ELLIS

RESULTS OF ELECTION

PATRON - IAN DAVIES

PRESIDENT - TOM HALLORAN

VICE-PRESIDENTS - DES RUSSEL - FRANK ELLIS.

SECRETARY - JOHN ROBERTS

TREASURER - ALAN MISDALE

MINUTE SEC. - VACANT (ANY VOLUNTEERS?)

TOSA NEWS EDITOR - CLIFF BINGHAM

COMMITTEE - 1. BILL RICHARDS 2. BILL SCHUMACHER 3. CLIFF BINGHAM
4. BARRY TOOKER 5. IAN GRIGGS 6. JOHN WEISMANTEL

HONORARY MEMBER - DAVID PARSONS HONORARY AUDITOR - OSCAR MOEN