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T.O.S.A. NEWS.

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of Australia, N.S.W. Division
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Season's Greetings

Jingle Bells!

Jingle Bells!



We thank you
for your support during
the past year and wish
you the compliments
of the season.

DIRECTORY TOSA (N.S.W. Division)

PRESIDENT Alan Misdale (525 5554) PATRON Ian Davies
 VICE PRESIDENTS Frank Ellis (649 7011) Doug Smith (750 0917)
 SECRETARY Ernest Vale (570 4953 or 798 6816)
 TREASURER Edna Smith (529 7379)
 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Ron Smith (529 7379)
 RESEARCH & ARCHIVES Ian Cameron
 PRACTICE CONVENOR Jim Crombie (750 4294)
 COMMITTEE Phyl Wilson, Ron Wilson, Bill Schumacher, Robert Gliddon,
 Neil Palmer, Ron Smith
 TOSA NEWS EDITING & PRINTING Ron Wilson (759 6050) &
 Doug Smith
 PHOTOGRAPHY Barry Tooker & Ron Wilson
 CONCERT TAPES Neil Palmer (798 6742)
 HOME PARTIES Ron Smith (529 7379)
 Address all correspondence to:-
 The Secretary, TOSA (N.S.W. Division),
 Box A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH. 2000.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people that helped me in the production of TOSA NEWS during the past twelve months. Once again, many thanks and a Merry Christmas to all.

Ron Wilson
Editor

THEATRE ORGAN BROADCASTS.

Dont forget our weekly Theatre Organ programme now being broadcast each Monday evening at 9pm on Radio Station 2CBA FM (103). Vice-President Frank Ellis is now giving up a lot of time to make this possible and is doing an excellent job as compere for each broadcast.

"SPOTLIGHT ON TALENT"

I am pleased to report that younger member Bruce Mainstone gained first place in the Senior Section of the WurliTzer 'Spotlight On Talent' contest held at the Gateway Hotel-Adelaide on Sunday 18th November. Frist Prize was a \$10.000 WurliTzer organ and congratulations to Bruce for such a great and well deserved prize!

IT'S MEMBERSHIP TIME!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



December

MONDAY 3rd. at 7.30pm.

COMMITTEE MEETING at 120 Dennis Street, Lakemba.
(Visitors welcome after 8.30pm.)

SUNDAY 16th. at 2.00pm.

TONY FENELON CONCERT

Marrickville Town Hall, Marrickville.
Admission: ADULTS \$7.00 MEMBERS \$6.00 CONCESSION \$4.00
(Booking form in this issue)

January

MONDAY 7th at 7.30pm.

COMMITTEE MEETING at 120 Dennis St. Lakemba.
(Visitors welcome after 8.30pm)

WEDNESDAY 23rd at 7.30pm

CLUB NIGHT at Marrickville Town Hall
with visit by Theatre Historical Society and a
Special Audio-Visual on Theatres will be presented
Tea & Coffee will be served.



HOME ORGAN PARTIES

Members will have noticed in the past issues of **TOSA NEWS** that we are often asking members if they would consider holding organ parties in their homes. To clarify some points that have been raised by various members, the following procedures have been formulated.

Object

- (a) To raise funds for **TOSA** maintenance, expansion and further instrument purchases and installations.
- (b) To provide an evening of our common interest, entertainment in which we can make new friends and consolidate existing relationships.

Required by the Host:

- (a) A venue, suitable for say 30 or 60 people.
- (b) An organ, large or small, it doesn't really matter.
- (c) Somebody to play - not necessarily of the calibre required to play solo all evening 'maybe to get the ball rolling' so that others might take the plunge and add their part to the entertainment.

Supplied by TOSA.

- (a) Cups and holders.
- (b) Teapots and urns.

If you would like to host an **Organ Party** in your home, please contact Ron Smith for any details on 529 7379.

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA NSW DIV.
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 1984.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Bank Balance 1/10/83	3515 25	Insurance	545 30
TOSA News	2640 30	TOSA Press	1861 90
General Fund	2059 30	Postage	1290 16
M'ville Concerts	14162 30	M'ville Concerts	7596 05
Home Parties	644 90	Stationery	21 17
Refreshments	1076 88	Refreshments	348 32
Organ Practice	346 00	M'ville organ maintenance	4521 26
Sale of Records	2600 35	Record Purchases	2892 14
Tape Library	481 40	Tape Library	433 78
Sale of Badges	37 50	Bankcard Charges	43 20
Jenolan Caves Trip	1464 00	Bank Charges	26 30
Raffles	409 50	Raffle Prizes	82 39
Bank Interest 100 41		Capitol Restoration	477 76
I.B.D. " 1871 88	1972 29	Promotions & Advertising	304 84
Advertising	220 00	Floral Tributes	110 50
Christmas Party 1983.	1776 00	Christmas Party 1983	1590 00
Hire of organ	75 00	Convention Deposits 1985	800 00
Donations	15 00	Donation	10 00
Sale of Copying Machine	350 00	Tax- Tom Hazleton	486 00
		First Aid Kit	37 10
		Overseas Phone Calls	33 00
		Telephone Directory Entry	32 15
		Private Post Box	40 00
		Registration of TOSA News	30 00
		Club Nights	63 50
		Minutes of Meeting	3 80
		Jenolan Caves Deposit	1185 00
		Organ pipes etc.	4001 44
		Typewriter	2681 00
		Bank Balance 30/9/84	2297 91
	<u>\$33845 97</u>		<u>\$33845 97</u>

TOTAL FUNDS ON HAND 30th SEPTEMBER, 1984.

Current Account, Westpac Banking Corp. Ramsgate	2297 91
Interest Bearing Deposit " " "	17000 00
NSW Permanent Building Society (After addition of Interest \$95.79)	1010 21
	<u>\$20308 12</u>

AUDITORS REPORT:

I have examined the books of account and other records of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (N.S.W. Division) and in my opinion the Statement of Receipts and Payments and details of other funds of the Society, show a true and fair view of the results of the Society's transactions for the year ended 30th September, 1984.

Signed: O.O.Moen

(Regd. under Public Accountants
Act, 1945, as amended)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A.G.M. 14th November 1984.

The year has been a very busy one for NSW Division when we will have promoted by the end of the year, 2 Free concerts with artists Neil Palmer and Clinton White whose guest artist was young Damien Scott and the other being Richard James with guest artists from the Y.O.A., Nerida Rossiter and Andrea Harrison making their concert debut at the WurliTzer.

The 7 Paid concerts will have enabled patrons to hear a vast number of artists in Neil Jensen, that great duo, Tony Fenelon and John Atwell, Ray Thornley, a fine overseas artist from the U.S.A., Walt Strony and the Capitol organ benefit concert featuring Margaret Hall, Neil Palmer, Bill Schumacher and Ian Davies. The Salvation Army Congress Hall Band together with Cliff Bingham gave us a superb afternoon of music, the proceeds of the concert being donated to the Band towards their trip to Canada in 1985. Finally we look forward to the December concert by that fine musician and great ambassador for the Theatre Organ from Melbourne - Tony Fenelon.

No less than 9 home parties will have been held by the end of November and I thank all those members who have opened their homes in this way to enable members to enjoy fellowship, music and fun as well as raising money for the cause.

Our Patron, Ian Davies organised 2 visits to the Bondi Junction Waverly RSL Club to hear the Rodgers Trio and raise funds for the Capitol Organ Placement project and we were privileged to be invited to Paddington RSL to hear both Ian Davies and Walt Strony play the new Rodgers Trio installed late last year.

A most enjoyable Easter was spent in Melbourne at the National Convention with a large representation from NSW, where Margaret Hall played a segment at Cinema North and was very well received by the crowd. We were fortunate to hear American Organist Lance Luce for the first time live at Moorabbin Town Hall.

Plans are well in hand for Sydney's Silver National Convention, with next Easter for which the Committee has held additional meetings during the year.

A great deal of time and effort was put into preparing an audio - visual presentation to promote the Silver National Convention throughout Australia and in New Zealand and the U.S.A. and I sincerely thank everybody who was involved in this presentation. Publicity has been distributed to all Australian Divisions with NSW being in the December issue of TOSA News. Publicity has also been sent to Norfolk Island, New Zealand, U.K. and U.S.A.

The Committee has planned a programme of variety for next year including of course our visiting overseas artist Len Rawle playing two concerts for us in November.

The TOSA News continues to be a very interesting publication and has been maintained at a high standard thanks to the purchase of a later model printing press and a modern word processor typewriter and particularly thanks to the dedication and long hours put into the preparation and printing of the News by Committee member Ron Wilson. Thanks go also to the band of helpers who assist with typing of articles etc. collating and stapling. I must once again thank Marg and Lance Wells for the fine job they do in posting the TOSA News.

The Committee has imported a large variety of records throughout the year for sale at the record bar and has gone through the usual procedure of having to deal with customs.

We are pleased to see that the tape library is so popular and thanks are due to Committee member Neil Palmer for running the library so efficiently.

Our concert patrons have come to expect a variety of refreshments to be available at each concert and I thank Committee member Phil Wilson and her band of helpers who assist in both the purchase and sale of the refreshments.

(cnt'd)

SECRETARY'S REPORT cont'd.

This year has seen another step forward for the Division with the commencement of its own 1/2 hour radio programme of Theatre Organ music on 2CBA FM at 9pm on Monday nights. The Compere, Vice-President Frank Ellis, is putting a lot of effort into preparing the programmes and thanks to our Committee members Ron Wilson and Bill Schumacher recordings of concerts at Marrickville Town Hall are able to be put to air.

Also this year a long standing member of this Division who resides in Seattle USA, Russ Evans, was able to purchase for us a 4 rank multiple chest, 4 ranks of pipes and a Marimba harp to add to the Marrickville Organ. These items were packed by Russ with assistance from Committee member Rob Gliddon who was over there on holidays, and then shipped to Australia. They have arrived in Australia and will be stored awaiting installation.

Quite a lot of work has been done by the maintenance team and other members on the Marrickville Organ. Regulators have been renovated, tremulants have been rebuilt, a new section of trunking was installed in the main chamber, noisy shutters have been quietened, relay motors have been repaired and all relay magnets and discs have been cleaned.

Our thanks are expressed to Jim Waters for tuning the organ for us throughout the year with the exception of the Walt Strony concert for which he was not available.

The toy counter from the ex-Capitol Theatre WurliTzer has been restored including the drums, thanks to Norm Weismantel.

A new console housing has been built for Marrickville Town Hall and is waiting the construction of a platform for the console prior to its installation. Thanks are due to John Deer for allowing us the use of his premises for construction of the housing and to President Alan Misdale and Committee member Ron Wilson who carried out the bulk of the work along with other members.

The 3/15 WurliTzer console has had a considerable amount of work done on it during the year with keyboards having been restored and new key contacts fitted, the pedal board restored, new electric stop action motors and tabs have been fitted to the re-constructed horseshoe, the bench has been re-built and the console is about to be painted. New thumb pistons recently arrived from the USA.

Negotiations have continued throughout the year with Mike Fairhurst of Microset Pty. Ltd. for the supply of the solid state relay equipment and this should soon be delivered.

Facilities for the installation of the 3/15 WurliTzer at the Orion Centre at Campsie are looking very good. Materials for restoration work on the organ are being purchased and methods of restoration are being determined. The agreement with Canterbury Council has been drafted and should soon be available for signing.

The membership stands at approximately 560 at this time and we look forward to further growth next year. The Capitol installation fund has grown during the year and we thank the membership for their financial support of this worthy cause.

The Committee and Executive have spent a lot of time working for TOSA this year and I would like to thank also those members and the Y.O.A. members who assist us in concert presentations and many other aspects of the running of TOSA NSW Division. I also thank Norm Weismantel for taking the minutes for me and Betty Weismantel for typing the minutes throughout the year.

I have enjoyed my role as Secretary of this Division for the past 6 years but owing to personal commitments including the pursuit of a personnel management certificate I found it necessary to abstain from nomination for next year. In closing, I wish Norm Weismantel an enjoyable year as Secretary in 1985 and I will be only too happy to assist whenever necessary.

Ernest W. Vale
Hon. Secretary.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

No.10 of a monthly series by:
Frank Ellis.

Looking back at July 1939, I find that there was very little that was new, exciting or even newsworthy happened that month. Ronald Roberts of Music Maker magazine said that when the then current programme at the Century Theatre if ever! (must have been one of their long running shows) then Des Tanner was to go into the Century with a novelty combination. The Century Theatre in those days, had a policy of long running shows and if my memory serves me correctly, films such as East Of Eden and The Best Days Of Our Lives ran for twelve months or more.

At that time Des was doing a special Saturday night swing-session for the ABC on a Hammond. Idwal Jenkins was also still doing week-night broadcasts for the ABC. Marcel Dupre, the celebrated French organist was due to arrive in Sydney for recitals in the Town Hall set down for August 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th with a final recital on the 28th.

Charles Tuckwell was due back in Sydney about the middle of August if a replacement organist had been found for him at the console of the Civic Theatre, Auckland.

Les Waldron walked away with "the best presentation of the month" as Ron Roberts put it and I quote "Les Waldron rings the bell once more", unquote. Ron went on to say that Waldron's William Tell Overture was the best he'd seen in six months, and it represented the best combination of showmanship and good music that it was possible to achieve. High praise indeed! Paul Cullen, then at the Roxy Theatre Parramatta was also complimented on the ingenious way he used the organ's piano - it was said to be a delight to hear.

At the Sydney Savoy which was I Think in Bligh Street, there was a ten minute film of Reginald Foort being shown.

It took the form of a musical travelogue with Reggie taking his audience on a musical trip around London on the Compton organ of the Paramount Theatre, London. It was said that the only criticism of this little film was that there was too much of London on the screen and not enough of Reg Foort at the console. Well, at least, although they may not have seen enough of Reg, they had his brilliant organ playing as a background to the scenes of London that appeared on the silver screen.

Well that wraps up "Down Memory Lane" for this year but I'll be back (hopefully) in the New Year with some more golden memories for you. Meantime have a Merry Xmas and I wish you all a healthy and well organ-ised 1985.

VERY SPECIAL CLUB NIGHT

Wednesday 23rd January at 7.30pm will see a very interesting CLUB NIGHT at Marrickville Town Hall. Professor Ross Thorne, the Professor of Architecture at Sydney University has agreed to present a slide show with commentary about Australian Theatres to our members and a party of about 20 or 30 members of the Theatre Historical Society who will be TOSA'S guests for the occasion.

Professor Thorne is the author of several books on the subject of theatres and is involved in supporting those trying to save Sydney's Regent and Capitol Theatres as well as the Rose Bay Wintergarden theatre. He is one of the most knowledgeable persons in Australia concerning theatres and is a fascinating speaker not to be missed.

TOSA is indeed fortunate to be able to present Professor Thorne as his time is usually booked up months ahead. There is no charge for this function, it is one of our Free Club Nights. After the slide show the WurliTzer will be available for those members who wish to play. Tea & Coffee will be served.

BIG BRASSY & BEAUT! by Frank Ellis.

Sunday 21st October found a large and appreciative audience at Marrickville Town Hall for the concert featuring the Salvation Army Congress Hall Band in association with Cliff Bingham at our WurliTzer organ. They came along expecting big things from this somewhat unusual combination of brass and a theatre organ and they were not disappointed. Quite the reverse in fact - they went away delighted with all they had heard.

Cliff Bingham opened the show and gave us about twenty minutes of well chosen numbers on the organ. Thunder & Lightning Polka, Where Are You?, That's You, Midnight Blue and Chariots Of Fire during which he was joined by Tom Moore, the band's brilliant percussionist.

The Congress Hall Band then appeared and under the very capable baton of Bandmaster Ron Prussing, gave a stunning performance indeed. The Salvation Army Congress Hall Band has long been considered by the experts as one of the finest brass bands in the country and on each occasion I have heard them I become more convinced that this is true. I can only repeat that this wonderful band of nearly 50 musicians, gave an overwhelming performance with their musicianship.

Their programme gave us a varied mix of the traditional as well as the modern, and included a Superman and Star Wars Medley. Assignment March, Memories Of Italy, a superb cornet solo by John Wiseman in Song Of Exultation, Lift Up Your Hearts, Songs Of Australia, Rondo and Daniel. Cliff Bingham combined with the band in two items, the hymn French (How Sweet Thy Name) and music from Jesus Christ Superstar.

Cliff's second appearance at the WurliTzer brought forth Let's Face The Music and Dance, Jeanne, Doin' The New Lowdown, American Patrol and Joy. Cliff always gives a thoroughly professional performance and this was no exception.

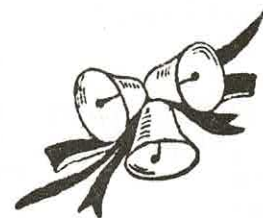
The result of this merging of brass and WurliTzer was an afternoon of sheer enchantment and the audience response at the end of the concert proved this beyond doubt.

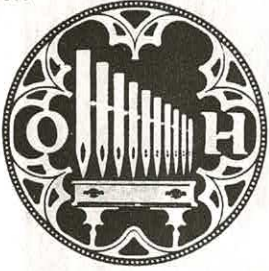
The Theatre Organ Society donated the profits from this concert to the Band to assist them in raising the finance for a forthcoming tour of Canada in March-April 1985 and a cheque for \$1535 has been presented to them. The Society wishes them every success on their tour and I have little doubt that they will bring great credit to their organisation and some lustre to the name of Australia in the process.



Above.

Tom Moore on drums - Cliff Bingham on organ.





MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ORGAN AND HARPSICHORD

P.O. BOX 92 PARKVILLE, VICTORIA, 3052 * AUSTRALIA

P R E S S R E L E A S E

CELEBRATE BACH AND HANDEL'S 300TH BIRTHDAYS AT THE 15TH MELBOURNE
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ORGAN AND HARPSICHORD, 10-17 MAY, 1985.

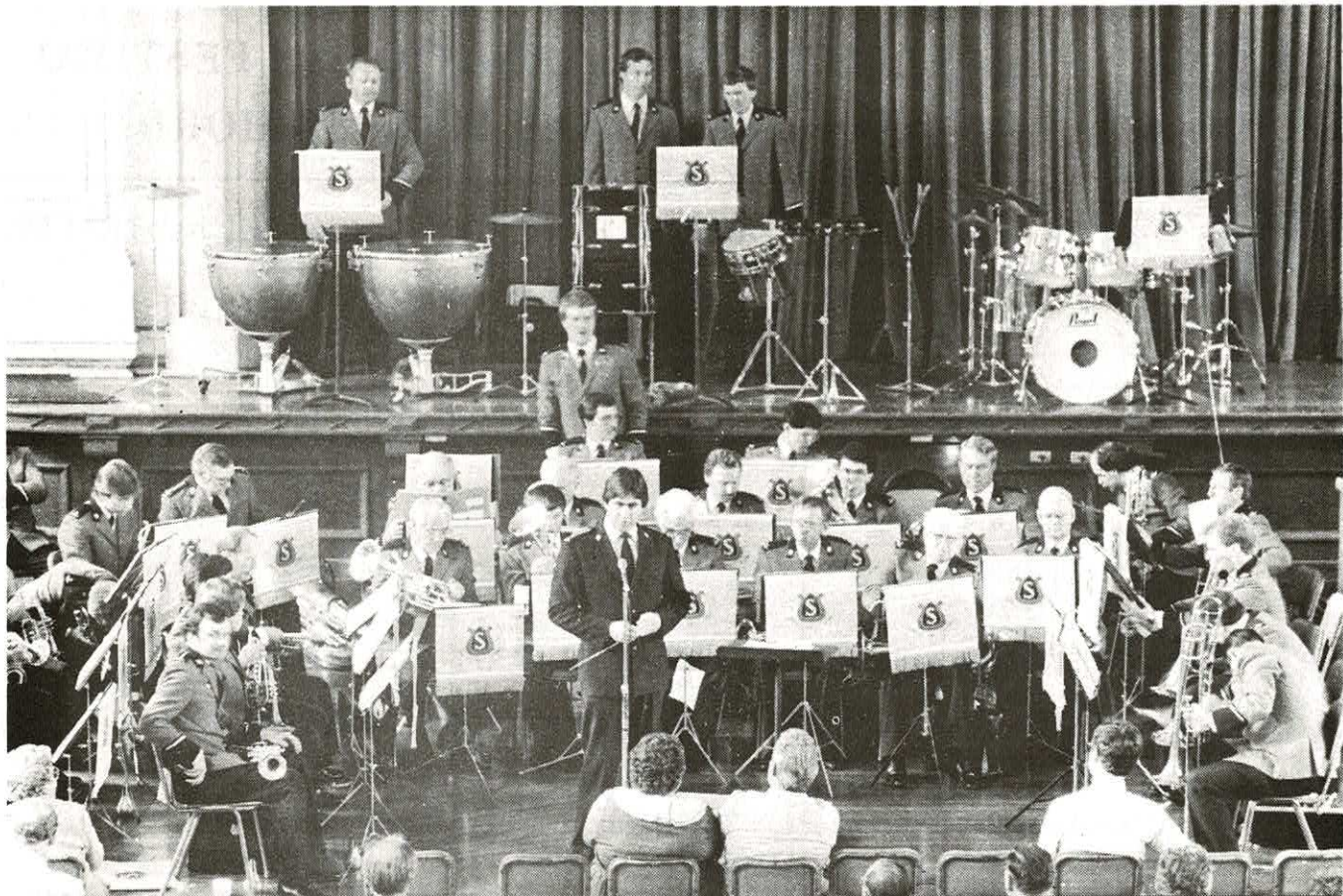
- * The complete Handel concertos for organ and orchestra, performed in their entirety for the first time in Australia. First concert at Dallas Brooks Hall.
- * Bach organ-playing competition, over four days, with total prize money of \$1500.
- * Recital at the Melbourne Concert Hall by Thomas Trotter, newly-appointed Birmingham City Organist - one of Britain's most highly-acclaimed young organists.
- * Two solo performances by renowned Swiss harpsichordist Christiane Jaccottet, making a return visit to MIFOH.
- * Lunchtime, twilight and evening concert series - music, times and venues to suit all tastes.
- * Organists, harpsichordists, trumpeters, flautists, choirs and orchestras - musicians from home and abroad.
- * Special exhibition of keyboard instruments made by local craftsmen ... and much more ...

For a brochure with complete details of the 1985 Festival write to:
P.O. Box 92, PARKVILLE. VIC. 3052. or telephone the MIFOH
management office on (03) 329 8810.

RESULT OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1985

PATRON Ian Davies

PRESIDENT A.Misdale (unopposed) VICE PRESIDENTS Doug Smith & Frank Ellis (unopposed) SECRETARY Norman Weismantel TREASURER Edna Smith (unopposed) MINUTE SECRETARY Betty Weismantel COMMITTEE Neil Palmer, Ron Wilson, Ernest Vale, Ron Smith, Robert Gliddon and Bill Schumacher.



The Sydney Congress Hall Band
 of the Salvation Army
 Led by Bandmaster Ron Prussing



John Wiseman, Cornetist

GREAT THEATRE ORGANS

CAPITOL, ABERDEEN

by Ian R. McIver

Aberdeen is now the hub of Britains booming North Sea oil industry, but until oil was first discovered in 1969 the city was famed mainly for its fishing industry, granite buildings and the proverbial (but in my experience totally unfounded) meanness of its inhabitants. Geographically, it is closer to Stavenger in Norway than to London; I was well prepared to believe this as I stepped off the train one bleak January morning a few years ago. The warmth of the Capitol Theatre and the welcome from its then resident organist, Bob Leys, provided a striking contrast to the bitter conditions outside.

The granite-fronted Capitol is the 'flagship' house of the local James F. Donald circuit, which includes most of the city's cinemas. It opened on 4th February 1933, bringing to the North of Scotland a new style of cinema auditorium, with extensive use of lighting effects, rather than elaborate decoration. It contains a Compton organ fairly typical of its day, at least in design. However, whereas some of that firm's theatre organs of that time can be described as mediocre at best, this particular organ is a very fine instrument, well installed, and more than adequate for the large auditorium. It was initially to comprise seven ranks of pipes, but at the very last minute the Trumpet rank was added.

At the time of its installation, it was Britain's most northerly theatre organ, until the similar sized Compton was opened at the Astoria, Kittybrewster, a couple of miles further north, in December 1934. One of the most renowned organists of the day, Edward O'Henry, was appointed to play it for the first six weeks. O'Henry had enjoyed 4 ½ years of phenomenal success at Madame Tussaud Cinema in London, where his 40 odd records and weekly broadcasts had made his a household name throughout the kingdom and overseas.

His successor, Harold Coombs, introduced the Compton to the airwaves in 1934, broadcasting it regularly until he left in November, 1937. For the next few months, organists came and went in quick succession Jack Scott, Edward Harold, Roderick McLean and Douglas Walker. In June, 1938, the theatre's longest resident organist, F. Rowland Tims, commenced his 12 year stint. I cannot trace any regular broadcasts by Tims, but Sandy McPherson did some guest broadcasts from both the Capitol and Astoria organs in the 1940's. Tims retired in July, 1950, and for six months the organ was silent. George Blackmore had been organist at the Astoria since March, 1950, and was asked to 'double' at both theatres from January, 1951. He continued to play both organs until 1957, but other organists including Donald Thorne and Howard Jennings (who was at the Capitol for a couple of years) appeared at the Capitol console during that period.

In the summer of 1953, the organ was given a thorough overhaul and was partly revoiced by Compton. It was back regularly on the air, with George Blackmore at the console, from November 1951, but was given the thumbs down by the BBC in 1954 on the grounds that it lacked brass. George's latter broadcasts from the Capitol had featured a "Clavioline" attachment (a small two-octave keyboard with various electrophonic solo voices) which he used for a couple of items in each broadcast.

The impact of television reached Aberdeen in the late 1950's and cost cutting by cinemas to face this new competition meant the end of regular organ presentations there. George returned south and the organs fell silent, apart from occasional appearances by Duncan Sinclair in 1958/59. Some years later, Bob Leys appeared on Aberdeen's musical scene. He was Head of Music at Powis Secondary School, where he was responsible for the Astoria's Compton being reinstalled when the theatre closed in 1967.

He was also City Carillonneur of Aberdeen, and was soon being featured at the Capitol's Compton. He gave a BBC broadcast from it, but the sound quality failed to do justice to either organ or organist. Bob played at the Capitol for a number of years on odd occasions, mainly at weekends, until he left the area in 1977. A group of local enthusiasts then took the instrument under their wing, in conjunction with Messrs Rushworth & Draper Ltd., the professional tuners and have more recently formed an organ society based around it. The organ is once again heard in public quite frequently, with Michael Thomson at the console.

In 1975 the theatre's stage was extended over the orchestra pit, with trap doors so that the console could rise. Initially, the arrangement was virtually unworkable, and Michael's first performance was given with the console completely out of sight! Modifications have now enabled the console to be raised with no bother.

Despite the auditorium's size (about 2000 seats originally) it is acoustically somewhat 'dead', giving the organ very crisp close-up sound. Its sound is projected well through large grilles, and it is a lively beast to play! The console was originally painted silver, matching the auditorium decor, but now both are gold. As a piece of furniture, it is one of Compton's less attractive designs, flanked by large hollow art-deco boxes, the only practical function of which is to hold the music desk lights! The name of COMPTON is set in studs in the back of the pedalboard, antedating by some years the fashion of the motorcycling fraternity. The padded bench looks, and is, extremely comfortable, bringing a shine to the face, rather than the trousers, after a lengthy practice session!

The Queen of Sheba is reported, on meeting King Solomon, to have commented that the half had not been told her.

Similar thoughts passed through my mind on my first visit to the Capitol, which had been prompted more by curiosity than the anticipation of a musical treat. After Bob Leys had played a few bars, I soon realised that, contrary to the impression I had gained from the broadcast of 1968, the organ did possess pipes longer than two feet, and had not commenced its career on a merry-go-round! In fact, it was a first-rate instrument with that spark of magic which distinguishes a truly great organ from the also-rans.

In no way a 'lush' organ (George Blackmore once described the Vox Humana as being "of the goat variety") it is a vivacious, almost impudent instrument, with a good range of differing, yet blending, tone colours. The Trumpet is in the main chamber, and can be used in contrasting effects against the Tuba, in the solo. The ranks are equally useful with or without tremulants, thus further extending the instrument's tonal horizons. Its percussion section is particularly clear. I have never seen inside the chambers, but I imagine they are fairly densely packed and shallow, so that all the sound is projected directly into the auditorium.

I can thoroughly recommend a visit to the Capitol, for with Michael Thomson at the console you are in for a musical delight. Aberdonians will need no reminding and if you happen to be in that area, don't miss out!

Resident organist Michael Thomson became interested in theatre organs after hearing Bob Leys there in 1967. He obtained permission to practise on the instrument but years at University and other business kept him away from Aberdeen except during holidays. He kept his hand in on other organs in Edinburgh, Kirkcaldy and Manchester, where his playing so impressed the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust that they chose him to play.

He was included with two other organists, Peter Jebson and Nigel Ogden, who have also 'made good' on a record, "Faces of the Future" (IRL 5213). Although he enjoys playing traditional theatre organ 'fare', Michael wisely realises that cinema audiences of the 1980's with their high percentage of young people, appreciate more current material, and thus his programmes include a fair sprinkling from the "hit parade" of today, a policy to which I certainly subscribe, and which should help to dispel the regrettable image many have of the theatre organ as a musical curiosity, irrelevant in today's entertainment scene.

Summary specification. Main Chamber:
 Trumpet 8, Diapason 8,4, Violin 16TC plus 8,4,2, Violin Celeste 8,4. Flute 16TC, 8,4,2 2/3, 2, 1 3/5.
 Chrysoglott/Vibraphone. Traps and Effects.

Solo Chamber. Tuba 16,8,4,
 Tibia Clausa 16,8,4,2 2/3, 2. Vox Humana 16TC 8,4.
 Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Chimes.

There are the following synthetic stops: Pedal- Accoustic Bass 32,16, Accomp - Clarinet 8, Great-Clarinet 8.

Both chambers located on right-hand side of proscenium arch.



Above and below.
 Michael Thomson seated at the console of the Compton Organ



MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

The Marrickville Wurlitzer will NOT be available for practise as from Monday 17th December till the end of January 1985. Major maintenance projects are planned for this period and it will be impracticable to use the instrument whilst these are under way.

FOR SALE

CONN 552 Theatrette Organ, Horse-shoe console...as new condition with lots of music...\$3.500 O.N.O.
Please ring: 529 8082

FARFISA Portable organ, Super Bravo, with auto rhythm, memory etc with chrome legs. Never used..will sell for \$320.00 O.N.O.
Please ring C.Davidson, on 55 3169.

THE SELWYN THEATRE CLUB
Theatre Organ Recitals

SIMON ELLIS		
January 20th	Sunday	2.15pm.
RICHARD JAMES		
February 17th	Sunday	2.15pm
DAVID PARSONS		
March 17th	Sunday	2.15pm
VALDA LANG (For handicapped children)		
April 28th	Sunday	2.15pm
DAVID JUDD		
May 19th	Sunday	2.15pm
BERNARD WALZ		
June 16th	Sunday	2.15pm

All the above functions may be booked in advance by phoning Ritchie Willis on 57 3581

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members:-
A.E.Bell, Miss A.Seale, Raymond Nelson, David Street, John Venables, John Lees, Mrs.G.C.Raines, Helen Moore, Yvonne Scandrett.



T.O.S.A. SPRING FETE
Marrickville Town Hall
Saturday 12th October 1985

As published in the last issue of TOSA NEWS, the Society is planning to hold a fete at Marrickville Town Hall. This will be a special fund raising event in aid of the Capitol Organ Fund. During the fete, various organists will be playing the Wurlitzer Organ.

People interested in taking charge of a stall or helping in anyway, will they please contact the Committee.

Jack Stronach, who is a very keen gardener, has been in touch with the Committee and has offered to run the garden stall, so if you can help Jack in the supply of potted plants, cuttings, bulbs etc, give Jack a ring NOW on 50 4171.



IT'S MEMBERSHIP TIME
RENEW NOW

JENOLAN CAVES WEEK-END

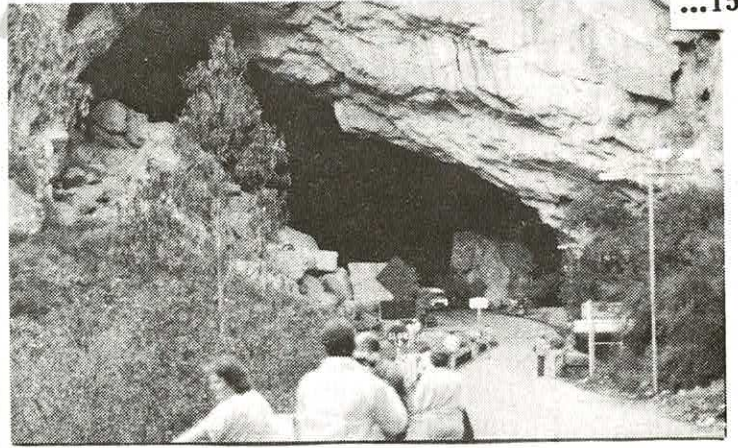
(by Doug Smith)

This was a great week-end for the 28 people who attended. During the run up on Saturday morning we had a pleasant stop-over at member David Cook's residence at Katoomba for a marvellous morning tea of scones jam and cream etc and we came away feeling very satisfied plus a pound or so heavier. Thanks indeed to the Cook family for such generous treatment.

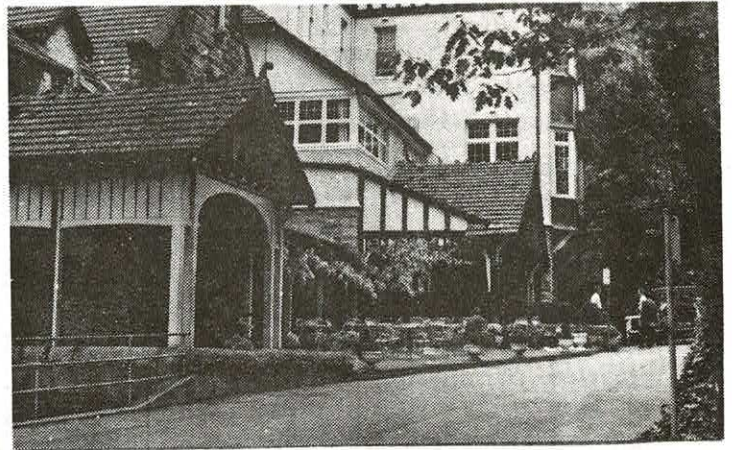
After arrival at Caves House about noon we had a light lunch then split into several groups for various Cave inspections. I was part of one group doing the Lucas Cave (a mere 910 steps!) and this was very interesting although perhaps slightly tiring for our first one however, we later managed a further one hour's walk to the Wallaby enclosure before Dinner. Some of our braver ones actually did two Caves before Dinner and this entailed some 1700 steps or more. We then partook of a huge 4 course dinner which needed a short walk afterwoods to settle us down and it wasn't long before we all retired, some what exhausted.

Sunday at breakfast revealed a few aching legs but we still lined up for our next cave inspection and my group went through the Chifley cave with only 468 steps. This cave is now illuminated with coloured lights in a few of the caverns and was a most effective sight indeed. After this tour we all enjoyed a light luncheon and then slowly departed to either line up for a further inspection or wend your way home, depending on how fit you were.

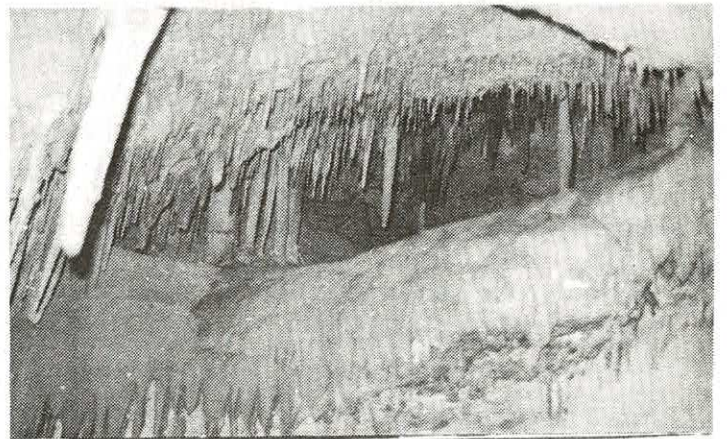
The week-end was a huge success and even if we did suffer a few groaning legs, I'm sure we all had a great time with plenty of laughs. Our sincere thanks to the organisers Phyl Wilson and Ron Smith for their efforts and I'm sure I'll be booking in for the next one.



Grand Arch



Caves House



Scenes from Lucas Cave



PENSHURST PLAZA

Sunday 25th November, by John Clark.

For a home organ party blessed with good weather, good music on piano and organ plus good food & wine, has to be a sure fire success, but at Pat and Mal Mackays PENSURST PLAZA there's just so much more to see and hear. The people who participated and you just dont attend PENSURST PLAZA, you participate!--by way of marvelling at and discussing the many unusual collections, by helping in the kitchen or in the "garden lounge", by playing piano or organ or both in duets or at the very least by singing along when the words are shown on the screen and Bill Schumacher plays his usual fantastic accompaniment.

The great number of 'new' faces was great to see and they in turn, were specially amazed at the nature & scope of the many faceted collections.

I wont name the many people who played for fear of doing someone the injustice of missing them out but suffice to say that there were many more than the 'regulars' which all added to the enjoyment.

With house lights dimmed we enjoyed the previously mentioned slide singalong, a Popeye singalong, a 1931 'Organ Festival' featuring Jesse Crawford and others, and a crazy Woody Woodpecker musical cartoon. Mal shared with us by way of demonstrating his musical instrument collection from music boxes through to his Aeolian Orchestrelle organ operated from perforated rolls and juke boxes that need a sixpence to start them.

President Alan Misdale's vote of thanks for Pat & Mal's fine effort was loudly supported by the crowd who enjoyed a late supper and departed feeling all the better for the greatly enjoyable experience of PENSURST PLAZA. Thanks again to Pat & Mal Mackay.

The sum of \$175 was raised towards TOSA funds. Thanks to everybody.



Mal Mackay doing a great job at the barbecue cooking the sausagers and steak



With the aroma of steak and onions in the air, members gather around waiting for Mal to give the green light "come and get it".



Ron Smith on organ accompanying Wendy on piano



Jack Gibbs and Olive Wing



Edna Smith with son Ron, Doug Smith (no relation) and John Shaw



Bill Schumacher accompanying Daisy Katris on the organ



Daisy Katris playing the piano



Mal Mackay demonstrating the Aeolian Orchestrelle organ

DINNER AT WAVERTON

Friday 23rd revealed a beautiful harbour view, a glorious sunset, a magnificent four course home cooked dinner and listening to the talents of Bill Schumacher, John Clark and Neil Palmer at the old model & rich sounding Gulbransen Theatre Organ. These were just a few of the things that we all enjoyed thanks to the generous efforts of a long established member of TOSA, Col Tringham.

Many thanks to Col for his fine efforts and at the close of the evening Col donated the entire night's takings (\$195) to the Capitol installation fund, a very noteworthy sign indeed of his support for TOSA. Thanks again to our good friend Col Tringham.

CAPITOL ORGAN FUND

Due to requests received from interested members for the Capitol Organ Fund Thermometer to be published again, it will be noticed that the mercury has risen slightly from \$3000 in August this year to \$4,500 as at December 1984.

Each graduation on the thermometer represents \$1,000, so if you can help in anyway to raise funds for this very urgent project by having home parties, raffles, fetes, donations etc; please contact your committee.

At the moment the mercury shows \$4,500, so how about making a mighty effort to help raise the mercury.

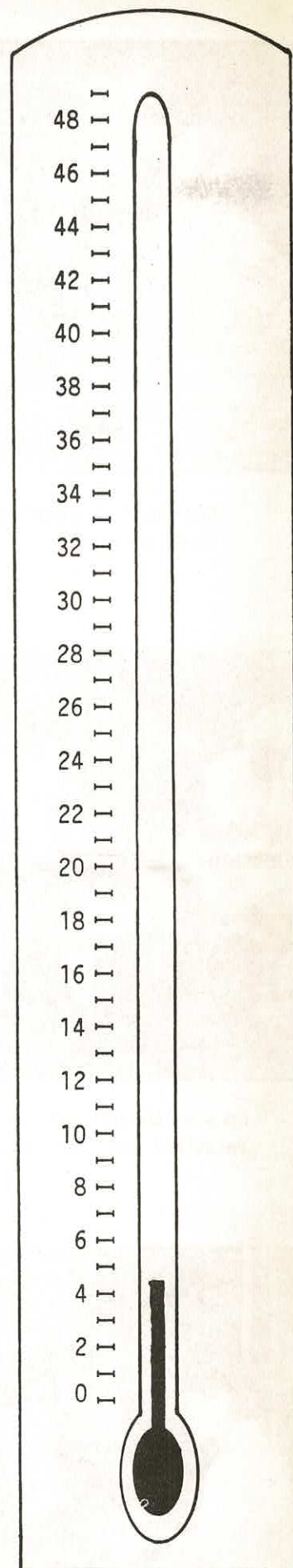
NEW MEMBERS

(December 1984 committee meeting)

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Carrol
Mr. D. Dizon
Mr. A.G. Colledge
Beryl Collins
Majorie Holley

May your membership be a happy and long one and we all look forward to seeing you at our functions.



PROFILE . . O.C.BEALE

In 1868, being then 18 years old, Mr. O.C.Beale was cashier in the firm of Brooks, Robinson and Company of Melbourne. At 21 he was appointed country traveller, visiting, with buggy and horses, the towns of the colony of Victoria in the firm's interests. One such journey extended to 1500 miles.

Two years later he visited New Zealand to open up business direct from London the firm's headquarters there being under the name of Henry Brooks and Company. He became a partner in both in 1875.

In 1879 Mr. Beale commenced business for himself under the name of Beale and Company, as an importer of sewing machines, to which Pianos were soon added. The operations developed rapidly until, in association with others, there were 50 offices in the several Colonies under his care and direction. Possessing thus an extensive turnover the question of manufacturing both pianos and sewing machines arose in his mind. In a tentative manner local production began at Annandale in 1893.

Sewing machines were relinquished in order to concentrate upon pianos, although scores of thousands of the former had been supplied to well-satisfied customers. In 1902 patents were obtained in Australia and elsewhere for the simple and effective Beale steel tuning-system, this being the most important improvement in pianos since the days of the harpischord. The factories were the largest and best equipped piano plant in the British Empire.

The late Mr. Beale, was a recognised authority on Australian timbers. Few had a better knowledge of the great variety of our woods, and there was not a better judge of their value for utilisation in various forms. This was conceded by officers of the Forestry Department.

Soon after establishing his piano manufacturing works in Sydney, Mr. Beale investigated the timbers of the South Coast, some of the lighter varieties

of which, it is well known, make up well in cabinet work. He wanted a timber for the manufacture of piano frames or boxes, but as there was not sufficient of any of the suitable kinds in the coastal country he leased from the Crown a large tract of country in the parish of Bherwerre, between Jervis Bay and St. George's Basin, for the cultivation of the Valonia oak, a timber eminently suitable for pianos. Many thousands of plants were put in, but the plantation proved a failure after two years trial, and the expenditure of large sums of money. An Australian company sought to grow hemp on a large area in this locality, but also found the conditions unfavourable.

Much of this land later became Federal Territory, ceded by the State for defence purposes, and embraced an area of 200 acres set apart for the naval college establishment.

O.C.Beale established his own timber mill for the production of timber for his pianos. The factory had a foundry, and with their expertise in wood glues the factory was very easily converted to produce Mosquito Bombers during World War II.

Beale was founding president of the Federated Chambers of Manufacturers of Australia, and President later of the New South Wales Chamber of Manufacturers and of the Chambers of Commerce of the Commonwealth of Australia. As State President of the National Protection League, he kept Deakin, an old ally, informed on political matters in Sydney and complained of Sir William Lyne (q.v.) losing himself "in the torrent of his own invective". As early as 1905 he was discussing a possible rapprochement with the free traders; and, an advocate of "Empire preference", he lunched with Joseph Chamberlain in London in 1906. He encouraged the 'fusion' of the non-labor parties, and was present at Deakin's meeting with (Sir) Joseph Cook (q.v.) on 24th May 1909.

A good linguist, Beale had revisited Europe and England in 1908 for the Fran-co-British Exhibition, of which he was a commissioner.

He had three sons on active service and was often in London with his family in World War 1. He became a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and of the Royal Society of Arts; as a liveryman of the Company of Musicians he was admitted freeman of the City of London in 1918. Back in Sydney, Beale was a trustee of the Australian Museum and of the New South Wales Savings Bank. At his home, Llanarth, Burwood, he was knowledgeable about botany and Australian timbers. Fascinated by the ritual and history of Freemasonry, he became an Anglican and joined the Christian Masonic orders. He combined the refinement of a classical education with the forcefulness of a successful man of affairs. While his letters suggest a quite confidence, his family remembered him as a stern paterfamilias in the Victorian manner.

Beale was killed in a motor accident at Stroud, New South Wales, on 16th December 1930 and was buried in St. Thomas Church of England cemetery Enfield.

On the 9th October 1875 at the Congregational Church, Woollahra Sydney, he married Elizabeth Bailey, who bore him thirteen children. She died in 1901 and Beale married her sister Katherine on 4th March 1903. He was survived by his second wife and six sons and four daughters of his first marriage.

(News source. . . TOSA member Jack Gibbs.)

DEAR MEMBER,

Since the inception of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia, New South Wales Division, the constitution and by-laws with few exceptions have remained unchanged. During its existence the Society has grown in numbers and assets and its activities have become more diverse.

The executive and committee believe the constitution and by-laws is in need of review to ensure that it provides the guidance necessary for the proper functioning of the Society. With this objective in view a draft constitution and by-laws has been prepared for the consideration of the members. The following items are an example of proposed amendments.

1. Levels of membership.
 2. Prohibiting personal financial gain from the Society by its members.
 3. Method of voting at annual business meetings and other meetings for positions of executive and committee.
- The method of voting adopted to date has been in accordance with documented procedure and practice used for senate elections etc:
- The executive and committee unaminously agree that a system of voting appropriate to the election of executive and committee should be written into the constitution for the benefit of all members.
4. Powers and duties of the executive and committee.
 5. Regularity of members meetings and committee meetings.
 6. Expenditure of Society funds.
 7. Indemnity of officers acting on behalf of the Society.

To enable members to review and ratify the amendments and additions to the constitution and by-laws a special meeting of members has been called for Wednesday 6th February 1985 to be held at the Marrickville Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Alan Misdale
President.

WANTED

The workload involved in the preparation of TOSA NEWS, to reach the high standard that has been achieved has grown substantially in the past two years. In order to spread the work amongst more members the society wish to involve a competent typist from the membership in the typing of some of the NEWS.

The Society has a Brother electronic typewriter with memory pack and disk drive to enable preparation of articles and information well in advance of printing. It would be necessary to carry out the work with the editor and printer Ron Wilson at Lakemba at mutually agreeable times on a regular basis. If you have the expertise to assist TOSA in this way, please phone Ron on 759 6050.