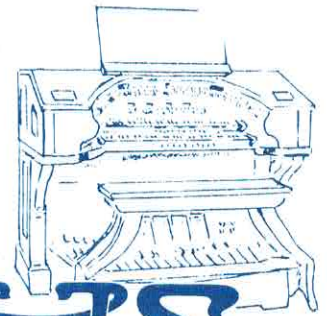


PRICE 40 cents
 Volume 18 No. 6. June 1979.



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926-534

T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

ADDRESS BOX A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

RON RHODE.

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

RON RHODE.



PRINTED BY T.O.S.A. PRESS

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SYDNEY SOUTH. 2000.

COVER PHOTO Ron Rhode our featured American Organist at TWO Concerts
at Marrickville Town Hall on Sunday 2nd September at 2.30pm and also
Wednesday 19th September at 8.00pm.

Prices to this Concert are;

\$4.00 Adults.

\$3.00 Members.

\$2.00 Concession.

These prices apply to each of the Concerts and a special rate
applies for both Concerts as under:-

\$7.00 Adults.

\$5.50 Members.

\$3.50 Concession.

Please note that these special rates only apply to prebooked
tickets as booked on the attached Booking Form.

DIARY DATES FOR BALANCE OF 1979.

20th June: Wednesday: 8.00pm.

Quarterly meeting at 'The Organ Stop', 52 Burwood Road, Burwood.

24th June: Sunday: 2.30pm.

Free Concert at Marrickville Town Hall featuring Richard James,
Janice Wilson, Margaret Hall and Noel Smith.

17th July: Tuesday: 7.00pm.

Members Club Night at Marrickville Town Hall.

29th July: Sunday: 2.30pm.

Free Concert at Marrickville Town Hall.

2nd September: Sunday: 2.30pm.

Ron Rhode in Concert at Marrickville Town Hall.

19th September: Wednesday: 8.00pm.

Ron Rhode in Concert at Marrickville Town Hall.

9th October: Tuesday: CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 1980.

16th October: Tuesday: 7.00pm.

Members Club Night at Marrickville Town Hall.

18th November: Sunday: 2.30pm.

Paid Concert at Marrickville Town Hall. (one artist yet to be confirmed).

21st November: Wednesday: 8.00pm.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Marrickville Town Hall.

?? December: Annual Cabaret. Details yet to be finalised.

A few details have yet to be sorted out in relation to the above but the
dates are positive with the exception of the Annual Cabaret.

There really is a lot this time and I hope I don't leave anything out. (Editor).

CONGRATULATIONS VICTORIA.

Full marks must go to our host State Victoria and all those connected with the Convention Committee in presenting a most enjoyable Easter weekend of first class entertainment.

Registration night at the Diplomat Motel was a memorable occasion where old friendships were re-newed along with making many more new friends from interstate divisions.

So once again Victoria from all of us from N.S.W., thanks again.

Thanks must also go to the Membership Secretary Ron Smith who organised Air, Rail and Motel bookings, for most of the N.S.W. Conventioneers who travelled to Melbourne, so, from all of us Ron - many thanks.

Ron Wilson.

CONVENTION EIGHT IN THE GARDEN STATE.

Easter weekend 1979 was a great time for organ music enthusiasts in Melbourne. The Victorian Division of T.O.S.A had obviously worked hard to make us welcome, and we were kept on the move throughout the whole weekend.

Our first event Friday evening was at the Diplomat Motor Inn for registration etc., Conventioneers were welcomed and issued with plastic badges featuring different colours for the respective States. Then we all relaxed and mixed about and said hullo to friends from all Divisions. Our host this night was David Johnston, who soon had the crowd enjoying an interlude on the Baldwin.

We were then treated to a locally made 'slapstick' coloured movie featuring local artists and appropriate recorded pipe organ music, which was excellent to say the least. The comedy lasted approximately 25 minutes and was rewarded with a roar of applause from the audience. I must commend the producers of this film, it was a positive scream.

After a further session of music and dancing we were all presented with a lovely supper, and the night came to an end.

Saturday morning saw us attending our first Concert at Cinema North, Reservoir, where a lovely 2/9 Blakett & Howden, (with Christie Console), is installed. Four fine artists were featured, Kay Foley, Anita Caine, Barry Layton and Malcom Ross. This Concert was well received and between the four, they showed us what the organ could really do.

A basket lunch was then provided while we sat in our seats and various artists from different States played dinner music, our Bill Schumacher represented us, and a finer artist we could not have asked for.... thanks Bill.

Off again to the Dendy Theatre at Brighton where we heard the 3/15 Wurlitzer plus piano in the hands of two of Australia's finest artists, Tony Fenelon & John Atwell. This Concert was exciting and thrilled every organ lover to the last ounce, but the afternoon unfortunately finished on a sad note.

Towards the end of the Concert, a Victorian official reluctantly informed the audience that the Dendy Theatre might not be there much longer as business interests were after the premises for other purposes.

Being the traditional 'home' of the Victorian Division since the installation of the 3/15 Wurlitzer organ began in 1965, everyone present was dismayed and disappointed at the news, but they say that progress, (even if it is backward!), cannot be halted. However, after a whispered request by a member of the audience, a man appeared on the stage and we all suddenly recognised Lyn Larsen from America. Lyn sat at the organ and gave us a heartfelt rendition of 'Thanks for the Memory'. It was a fine gesture on his behalf, for Lyn Larsen was first introduced to Melbourne audiences playing this very organ. We all appreciated his thoughts, and showed it with loud acclamation.

...over.

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Convention Eight in the Garden State. continued.

Saturday night saw us all changed and off to the Palais de Dance at St. Kilda for the Convention Dinner Dance.

All visitors were allocated at different tables with others state visitors and a host from the Victorian Division, who introduced himself to us and this arrangement proved very rewarding social wise. To chat about our common interests with people from other States was appreciated by all. We then were treated to a supreme dinner, a glass of wine and then the dancing started in earnest. I'm glad the barn dance lasted so long, I met nearly every lady on the floor, (and my wife met nearly every man!), the evening was a huge success, and I think I remember getting to bed about 1.00am.

Sunday morning was 'open console' at both the Dendy and Cinema North. Several of our members attended and played the organs, whilst I attended the Annual Convention Meeting with representatives from nearly all divisions.

During th afternoon we went to the Dallas Brooks Hall to hear David Johnston and John Atwell play the pipe organ. This organ is unique in itself, as it is a Compton console with WurliTzer pipework, Aaelian Skinner, Compton, Christie and possibly Morton. 11 ranks are operational at present and the sound was excellent.

Dallas Brookes Hall has to be seen to be believed. It has seating for 2060 persons plus 240 seats for choir and orchestra. It boasts the finest sound system in Australia, superb acoustics and foyer areas unequalled for access seating. This superb auditorium is boasted as the finest Concert hall in Australia, and I'm inclined to believe it.

We then hurried across the road to the gracious Gothic design St. Patricks Cathedral. The 4 manual Cathedral organ was built by George Fincham & Sons and was first heard in 1964. The Cathedral Organist Mr. John Mallinson rendered a 30 minute recital on this tremendous instrument, and all the listeners were greatly impressed with the glorious sound, and showed their appreciation accordingly.

Sunday evening, down to Moorabbin Town Hall for the 'big' one. WE were slightly overawed, for facing us was the beautiful 4/21, (plus Post Horn), WurliTzer with Grand Piano, all in antique white with gold trim, a sight to behold indeed.

The Special Guest Artist was Lyn Larsen from America, and he was at his best including stage patter and a delightful white suit.

The presentation and Concert were excellent in every detail, receiving a big ovation from a very satisfied audience, and two encores were rendered with Lyn Larsen at the organ and Tony Fenelon playing the garnd piano, a very 'grand' ending to the night indeed.

The Victorian Division President, Mr. Bill Glasson, then thanked all people for their fine efforts towards the convention and to all visitors for their attendance... There was still more to come though, for to-morrow, (Monday), we were to be guests of the Ballarat Chapter.

Monday morning saw everyone strangely quiet at breakfast, perhaps the matchsticks holding their eyes open were hurting, or they had suddenly realised that the show was nearly over and were wondering where the weekend had gone.

Off to Ballarat either by bus or by car and we were greeted by the Ballarat Chapter on arrival at the beautiful gardens and inspected Begonia House.

An excellent lunch was provided at the Restaurant at the Gardens, and then off to the Theatre.

.....over.

Convention Eight in the Garden State.....Continued.

The Royal South Street Memorial Theatre was built in 1875, with a facade of Victorian Style, the interior has been modified and a second tier added. Originally the Academy of Music and later, Her Majesty's Theatre, the building still remains unique and close to it's original concept.

On stage were two magnificent grand pianos, a Bechstein used at Dame Nellie Melba's last Concert and a Steinway plus a Yamaha Model E 70 organ.

David Johnstone, plus trombone, introduced the 'Two J's from Queensland who gave us a good afternoon of music. David of course slipped in a blurb on the trombone here and there and we all enjoyed the afternoon immensely which finished up with the two grand pianos and the organ all going together.

A small inspection of the 3/16 Compton pipe organ under construction was made by several members of the audience and from what I saw I would say it won't be long before Ballarat has it's very own Pipe Organ playing. We must congratulate them on the fine effort that has been put in so far, and wish them all the luck possible towards the completion of their instrument.

We sincerely congratulate the Victorian Division for a fine and entertaining Convention and I am sure they will agree now, that all the organisation and hard work put in by them for theatre organ lovers has been completely worthwhile.

Yes... it's in Sydney next year, and I hope to see you all here, and, don't forget to bring your binoculars, our harbour cruise is quite interesting.

Doug Smith.

SELWYN THEATRE GROUP. Balance of functions for 1979.

July 14th Saturday 8.00pm. Film 'India and South East Asia' Ray Hill.
 July 28th Saturday 8.00pm. Organ Night with Ray Thornely on Gulbransen Model 600.
 August 11th Saturday 8.00pm. Film 'Travelling with Ted' Ted Davies.
 August 25th Saturday 8.00pm. Organ Night with Cliff Bingham.
 September 15th Saturday 8.00pm. Film 'Australian Walkabout' Norm Read.
 September 23rd Sunday 2.30pm. Organ afternoon with David Parsons.
 October 20th Saturday 8.00pm. Film 'Rich's Roundabout' Ritchie Willis.
 October 28th Sunday 2.30pm Organ with Bill Schumacher and Richard James.
 November 11th Sunday 2.30pm. Organ with Valda Lang and John Shaw.
 November 17th Saturday 8.00pm Film 'Old Sydney' Noel Thorpe.
 December 8th. Saturday 8.00pm Film 'Tasmanian Wilderness' Harry Whaite.
 December 22nd Saturday 8.00pm Organ with David Parsons.
 SELWYN THEATRE GROUP, 13 ROSEMONT AVENUE MORTDALE 2223. Phone 573-581.

TOSA Member David Parsons is giving at least one Concert at the Sydney Opera House in June. There will also be other concerts given on the newly opened organ but at the time of typing David was not at home to give details of just what is happening. ****THURSDAY 28th June. 1.00pm till 2.00pm.****

YAMAHA ELECTONE FESTIVALS.

At the recently held Yamaha Electone Festival held at Orange, TOSA Member Ron Mills won the Senior Open All Comers. We congratulate Ron and look forward to hearing about the success of others in this field. It is one thing to play the organ and another to get up on the stage and compete in public playing the instrument. What may be quite O.K., at home or entertaining for friends, is quite a different picture when one has to compete and outplay the competition. It is quite a mental effort indeed, I know, however, that is something else altogether.

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BITS AND PIECES.

Sunday 17th June at 2.00pm. Phillip Crawshaw will be guest organist at the Selwyn Theatre Group's monthly organ recital. Phillip includes in his programme trumpet and organ together, something very unique in organ playing. Book Now, by ringing 573581 after hours or weekends as seating is limited.

FOR SALE.

Ornate Aelian reed organ, 14 stops, double keyboard, \$700.00 or nearest offer. Please contact Mrs Phyllis Mitchell, Leura 047 84 2022.

NEW MEMBERS.

John Napier, Bradbury. Norman and Wendy Davies, Cronulla. Welcome and we all hope you have a very happy membership.

PRESENTATION DINNER.

Members of the Theatre Organ Society and their wives are invited to attend a dinner and social evening at which the presentation of Life Membership will be made to Tom and Anne Halloran. The Executive and Committee would like as many members as possible to attend this function affording the opportunity to meet and talk about our common interest in Theatre Organ and to make it a memorable night for Tom and Anne.

Please watch the July issue of T.O.S.A. News for booking form and details.

CHARITY CONCERT.

April 29th.

Review.

This Concert would have to have been one of the most entertaining and rewarding that I have ever attended at Marrickville Town Hall.

All the artists, Valda Lang, Marie Tysoe, Gaye Macfarlane, Erica Witt, Gino Zancanaro and Colin Gill donated their services for the afternoon, and the audience was presented with a superb rendition of many glorious numbers from the different musicals and operas that are so well known to all of us.

They were accompanied on the Wurlitzer organ by the very gracious Valda Lang, who also gave us several solo spots at different times just to keep the show well and truly moving. Valda Lang had done all the ground work in arranging the artists. The effort required on her part in practising and programming all the numbers was huge, to say the least, and Valda came through with flying colours.

I sincerely thank all the artists who participated in this fine Concert, and all the T.O.S.A People who helped in every way.

Our often forgotten but hard working Ladies Auxialiary donated their afternoon's takings, (thank you ladies!!), and what with several very generous donations towards the cause, I did hear that the final amount raised was just over \$2.000.00, a wonderful result indeed.

A special thanks to Marrickville Council also, who let us use the Hall for the cost of cleaning fees only.

I really feel that our Society has now accomplished something towards the "Year of the Child", and in what better way than towards our very own Handicapped Children.

by Doug Smith.

HOME ORGAN PARTY.

Review

by Editor.

Saturday 5th May saw quite a gathering at the home of Dorothy and Arthur Cammell at Peakhurst on what was a wet and miserable weatherwise evening.

The great hospitality was the thing that impressed one and the evening got under way with member Ron Smith playing some terrific music and quite a few others hopped up as well including Doug Smith who played some tremendous music during dinner.

A quite different aspect of the programme was the dance exhibition put on by Lorraine Ney's young daughter and, depending on just how the individual likes it or not a segment of music on the Scotch Bagpipes was rendered by member Don MacDonald. The bagpipe segment was accompanied by Lorraine Ney on organ but I'm afraid that the bagpipe contrivance seemed to beat the organ, (personally, I must admit that I am not a bagpipe fan at all), Don was dressed for the occasion and the presentation was good.

Some \$92.00 was raised and special thanks go to Ron Smith who brought along his Tone Cabinets to assist the Thomas Celebrity for the occasion.

MEMBERS CLUB NIGHT.

Tuesday 15th May saw our first clubnight that I can recall at Marrickville Town Hall.

Last year it was planned but there were certain obstructions placed in our path and it was not possible to have them then. However, 15th May went like a rocket with Doug Smith opening the programme and quite a lot of members having a play to the applause of all.

As some of the members were playing the instrument for the first time it was a credit to them. Among the players were noticed were the very attractive Barbara Dixon, Paul Bell who had travelled from Armidale for the evening, Bill Schumcaher, Peter Held and others too many to mention.

The standard of playing was excellent in every respect.

Ernie Vale had brought along a small WurliTzer chest which was powered and demonstrations were given of the operating side of the instrument. Tours were conducted of the Chambers, tea and coffee was served, (thank you Norma Smith and Phyl Wilson), and everyone got to talking about this and that and a great time was had.

Rob Gliddon brought down the record collection that is for sale at most of the Concerts and these were perused by those who wished.

It is both this type of evening and the home organ party evenings that weld together the members of the Society and if anyone would like to offer their home for an organ party then please don't hesitate to get in touch with the President, Alan Misdale on 525 5554 without delay.

I mentioned a couple of paragraphs ago that Paul Bell was down from Armidale, this may not seem so unusual but in Paul's case there is something else, Paul is without sight and his performance on the organ was incredible as Paul has only played the WurliTzer twice before. Paul has also played the Grand Organ at the Sydney Town Hall. And we think we have problems!!!

A tremendous evening indeed!

Would all members please note that the next club night is on Tuesday 17th July at Marrickville Town Hall at 7.00pm.

Please practice if you are a player because it is a fun night for everyone and anyone only has to play for five minutes or so and it doesn't matter if a few new notes are added here and there. This type of playing is called an 'arrangement' by the professionals and one often wonders what this can imply as they seem to have license to alter chords and melody and put in and leave out to suit themselves so, join in the fun too!!!

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PRACTICE SESSIONS. Marrickville Town Hall.

These have now been finalised and, subject to a Committee meeting in June will be published in the next copy of the news.

As the matter has now been going on for some time with very few letters from members being received, the practice roster was completed at the Members Playing night or Club Night.

RON RHODE.

A native of Moline, Illinois, Ron began playing the piano at the age of four. By the time he was eleven he held the position of Organist at the Methodist Church in Port Byron, Illinois. His formal training includes six years of popular piano, three years of French Horn, and seven years of classical organ at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois and at St. Ambrose College in Davenport Iowa, where he has completed three years towards a Bachelor of Music Degree.

Ron has held numerous playing positions in Churches, Colleges and community musicals, music stores, and skating rinks in the Quad Cities area of Illinois and Iowa.

In June, 1973, Ron moved to Phoenix, Arizona where he was Associate Organist at Organ Stop Pizza's 4/29 WurliTzer. He has been the featured organist at Organ Stop in Mesa, Arizona, since it's opening in June 1975.

Ron is active in the Concert field, and has played many theatre organ programmes and Concerts across the United States and Canada. He has presented three Classical Concerts at Central United Methodist Church in Pheonix, and has released two theatre organ record albums. In addition to his professional activities, he enjoys hobbies of writing, swimming and travelling.

About Ron Rhode.

"Ron Rhode came to Thomaston Friday night and quickly won the admiration of organ buffs with his performance of the Opera House Theatre organ. Rhode's performance came as calm, cool delivery and the audience was quickly aware of his keyboard talents." Waterbury Sunday Republic.

"What may well be the finest theatre organ record, in every respect, has just been released, Artistry, keyboard performance, exquisite WurliTzer sound, flawless miking and recording, pressing, and impressive jacket are all combined in this recording that has just been released by Ron Rhode. It's bound to become a collectors item."

Console Magazine.

"In a relatively brief period, we have watched Ron Rhode develop into one of the most expressive of the younger crop of organists. Ron has a pleasant way of mixing the old with the new, sometimes even embellishing a recent tune with a classic styling."

Theatre Organ Magazine.

I have more than that but we have run out of magazine, just be at the Concerts and check this out for yourself.

STOP PRESS!!!!

DAVID PARSONS WILL BE PLAYING AT SYDNEY
OPERA HOUSE ON THURSDAY 28th JUNE AT
1.00pm to 2.00pm. No other details at
this stage available.

bye for now.