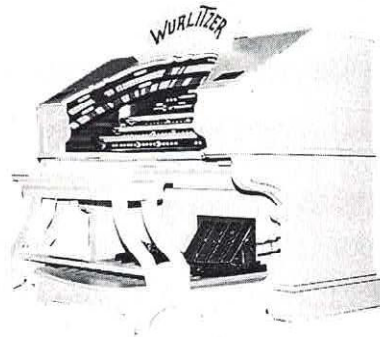
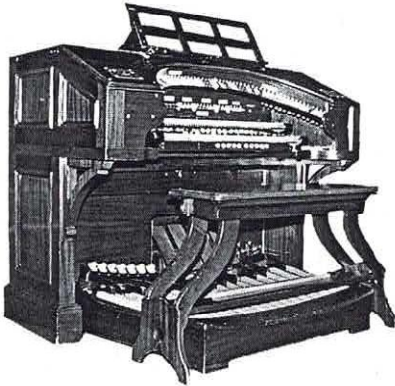


# TOSA

OCTOBER 1991

Marrickville Town Hall



Orion Centre Campsie

## NEWS

Don't Miss

**DAVID PARSONS**

O.A.M.

1991

**T.O.S.A. CONCERT**

We look forward  
to seeing YOU at  
Marrickville Town Hall

2.00pm Sunday  
20th October, 1991



Volume 30  
Issue 9

PRINTED BY TOSA

The Official Publication of Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc.  
P O Box 151, Allawah NSW 2218

Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. N.B.H. 1038

Price  
\$1.00

OCTOBER 1991

*Editorial***PHOTOGRAPHS - PHOTOGRAPHS AND MORE PHOTOGRAPHS!**

Our very special thanks to our photographers Barry Tooker and Kevin Rowland, for supplying the photographs taken at our afternoon party at Marrickville Town Hall, 25th August.

These two enthusiastic members of T.O.S.A. constantly give their talents and time free of charge. They attend all our functions and supply photographs for TOSA NEWS and T.O.S.A. archives — and photography is quite an expensive item these days!

When screening of photographs for reproduction in TOSA NEWS is required, Network Graphics of Marrickville provide T.O.S.A. with a free service of top quality.

Our Committee is very appreciative of this generosity. Thank you very much Barry, Kevin and Network Graphics.

This month we are commencing a "YOUR SAY" column (blank at present) but hopefully with your co-operation, many comments and suggestions for the future of T.O.S.A. — this column will always be an interesting feature.

Miriam Morris



Next month we hope  
to print your comments  
here.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We warmly welcome two new ladies to T.O.S.A

Ms Patricia Aileen Bulley - Canterbury  
Ms Jean Mae Bowman - Revesby

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By the time you read this an era of theatre organ playing will have drawn to a close. The concert on Sunday 29th September by our Patron Mr Ian Davies was his final full concert. He was advised by his doctor to ease up as he is not getting any younger.

Ian is the last of a long line of theatre organists who entertained on the 'King of Instruments' during the Golden era of movie going. Those glorious days when a night at the movies was an event — live bands on stage — show girls — news reels — shorts — sing-a-long slides and the organ playing you in and out of the theatre, with a recital at interval. Not like today's efforts from the cinema owners — sit in a concrete box with no stage, sometimes not even curtains to cover the screen, you see some ads., then one movie and leave!

Ian has been our patron since Reginald Dixon wrote and indicated he wished to opt out as patron because of the distance and his age, he could do nothing for us.

For eighteen years Ian was the resident organist at the Melbourne Capitol — Regent and Plaza theatres, interrupted by the war, when he served in the Navy. He did have an opportunity to play some other organs while on active service.

Since 1963, Ian has performed at least fifty times for T.O.S.A. (N.S.W.) at the State and Capitol theatres also Marrickville Town Hall and the Orion Centre. He was the final organist of a multi-artist final concert at the Capitol prior to T.O.S.A. purchasing and removing the organ from the theatre in 1972. Then in October 1988, he was the first organist to play part of the opening concert at the Orion on the rebuilt organ.

The good news is that even though Ian will not be doing any more full concerts, he advised me that next year, when his commitments to the R.S.L. Club finish, he will be able to come to more of our functions. He will on occasions, be able to play a couple of numbers on club nights, as this does not require the preparation that is needed for a full two hour concert, less stress and tension required.

Thanks Ian for all you have done for N.S.W. T.O.S.A.

Once again membership time has come and gone but unfortunately not all of our members have renewed. If you know a member who did not renew, would you please ask them to contact me. I would like to know why they did not renew, if it was something that I or any other member of the committee may have done, we would like to know, as we are here to try and please the members. It may be possible to rectify the problem. This society, like many others, only functions through members' support and attendance at concerts.

The quality of concerts that the committee presents involve a fairly heavy cost factor and to continue to present high class entertainment, we need your support by attending as many concerts as possible and bring a friend or two with you. If they have never been to one of our concerts before, they may be surprised at what we have to offer.

Jack Lawson

# TOSA NEWS

OCTOBER 1991

## PROPOSED ORGAN PLAYING WORKSHOP

One of our members has suggested that we hold a workshop night at Marrickville to enable members to improve their playing.

One of our professional organists would be in attendance and give advice on registration and organ playing techniques and answer your questions.

A nominal fee would be charged. Should sufficient interest be shown, one night per month could be set aside during summer.

Please phone our Practise Convener - Bob Staunton on 607 8925 and register if you are interested.

John Shaw.

## WALT STRONY - ATOS ORGANIST OF THE YEAR AUSTRALIAN VISIT

Walt Strony, passing through Sydney en-route to Adelaide, gave a very interesting and entertaining concert, at the home of John and Sue Atkinson at Hurstville, Saturday 21st September.

This multi-talented performer is certainly a Master of Registrations & Key Changes. At the end of the concert, John made the comment that he was amazed at the marvellous effects coming from the reconditioned Regent Theatre WurliTzer — sounds until then, unheard by him.

John has promised to provide me with interesting information concerning his unique and wonderful music room and the enormous and beautiful organ now gracing this specially designed room.

During supper-time in the garden, standing under the trees filtering coloured lights, Walt mentioned that he is going to the Capri Theatre, Adelaide, accompanied by Ed Zollman, owner of COLORADO PIPE ORGAN SERVICE, U.S.A. and his wife Patti Simon-Zollman, an accomplished organist. They will be providing direction in achieving the final tonal quality of the Capri organ.

Walt has produced a book "The Secrets of Theatre Organ Registration" originally only available direct from the U.S.A. - now an Australian publication may be purchased from the Capri Theatre, P O Box 307, Goodwood, S.A. 5034 for \$AUS36.00 - a book for organists, organ builders and all enthusiasts of the organ.

Ed.

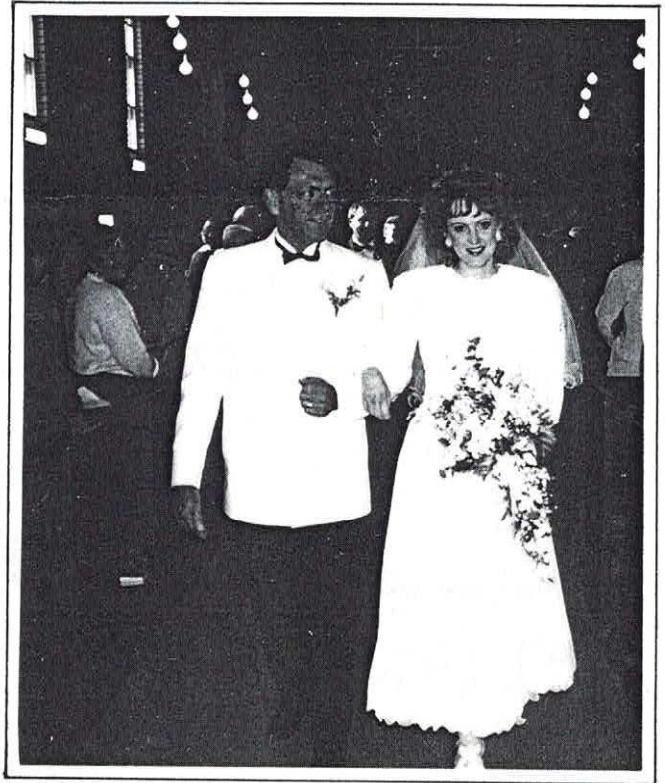
## CARPENTER FOUND

I would like to convey my special thanks and the thanks of the committee to Eric Kither, who answered Frank Ellis' plea for a Carpenter to do some building for T.O.S.A. Eric spent eight days at the Orion and did all that was required. Thanks also to Norm Pratten who also made an offer to help.

J.L.

## MR & MRS ROBERT NELSON

We are very pleased to feature the lovely photograph of Margaret Hall's wedding to Robert Nelson and apologise for incorrectly naming St Marks Anglican Church Hurstville, as St Marks Uniting Church, in the last issue of TOSA NEWS.



Margaret and Robert proceeded out of the Church to STANLEY'S TRUMPET TUNE. The St Marks Choir which sang during the wedding service formed a guard of honour at the front door as the couple exited.

Margaret has been organist at St Marks since 1989 and Robert has been church warden for 5 years.

## CAPRI THEATRE 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS October 8th

Massive restoration is at present taking place at the Capri Theatre in Adelaide. Anyone visiting Adelaide at this time could telephone (05) 272 1177 for more information and for bookings. Great excitement coming from that direction at present.

We wish them a wonderfully successful evening — and our congratulations.

Ed.

# TOSA NEWS

OCTOBER 1991

## HOME ORGAN PARTY

In the past, Home Organ parties were an important social event and a significant money-raiser for T.O.S.A. funds. Colin Tringham would like to resurrect this form of entertainment with an Organ party at his new home on Saturday 12th October. There will be a \$5.00 admission charge with funds going towards the Marrickville Organ maintenance fund.

The evening's Organ entertainment will commence at 8.00pm and will feature Colin's Gulbransen Rialto Organ and his newly acquired Gulbransen registering Piano. As one or two T.O.S.A. members have expressed some interest in his comprehensive collection of antique music boxes, a brief talk and demonstration on some of these will commence at 7.30pm

Please bring a plate towards supper and telephone Colin on 419 3739 beforehand to let him know how many will be coming and get directions on how to get there. The house is ten minutes walk from Chatswood Station and there is plenty of parking available.

Colin, in his "spare" time, is also restoring a MARSHALL & WENDALL 1928 upright Piano with an AMPICO reproducing player action.

During the extensive installations of the WurliTzer organs at Marrickville Town Hall and the Orion Centre, Campsie, Colin's skilful, enthusiastic assistance added greatly to the successful completion of these mammoth events.

Ed.

## THEATRE ORGANS HOW MANY BRANDS WERE THERE?

Many Organ Builders produced theatre organs, and some we know of are listed below, together with their Country of origin. However we believe there were a number of other brands which have not been included on the list.

Can any member/s help us with additional brands or possibly with corrections to our list if there are any errors.

Barbieri	-	Italy
Barton	-	U.S.A.
Blackett & Howden	-	England
Christie	-	England
Compton	-	England
Conacher	-	England
Hilsdon	-	Scotland
Kilgen	-	U.S.A.
Kimball	-	U.S.A.
Link	-	U.S.A.
Marcussen	-	Denmark
Marshall-Sykes	-	England
Moller	-	U.S.A.
Page	-	U.S.A.
Robert Morton	-	U.S.A.
Rutt	-	England
Standaart	-	Holland
Strunk	-	Germany
Welte	-	Germany
WurliTzer	-	U.S.A. & U.K.

## DIDN'T NEED TRANQUILLISERS!

Grandmother —

On a winter's day , milked the cows,  
Slopped the hogs, saddled the mule,  
And got the children off to school,

Did a washing, mopped the floors,  
Washed the windows and did some chores,

Cooked a dish of home-grown fruit,  
Pressed her husband's Sunday suit,

Swept the parlour, made the bed,  
Baked a dozen loaves of bread,

Split some firewood and lugged it in,  
Enough to fill the kitchen bin,

Cleaned the lamps and put in oil,  
Stewed some apples she thought might spoil,

Churned the butter, baked a cake,  
Then exclaimed, "For goodness sake,  
The calves have got out of the pen!"  
And went and chased them in again;

Gathered the eggs and closed the stable,  
Went back to the house and set the table,

Cooked a supper that was delicious,  
And afterwards washed up the dishes,

Fed the cat and sprinkled the clothes,  
Mended a basket of hose —

Then opened the organ and began to play,  
"When you come to the end of a perfect day."

From Cantos News Letter (N.Z.)

## ORGAN DANCE BAND RETURNS AFTER SELLOUT CONCERT.

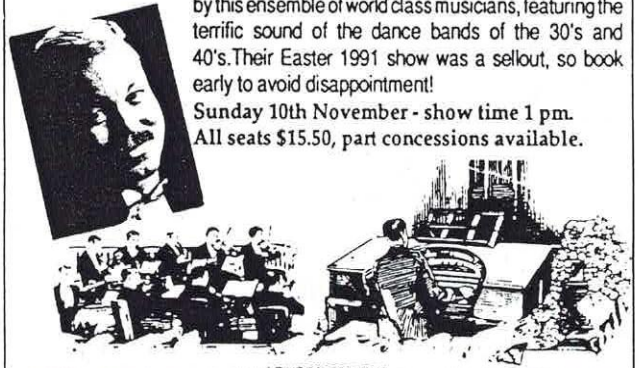
### ALL NEW PROGRAM!

We are proud to announce the return of Keymedia Productions who will present for one show only, resident organist Neil Jensen at the Orpheum's WurliTzer Pipe Organ PLUS! The sensational fifteen piece dance orchestra "The Yellow Rolls Royce" for the second edition of "The Organ, The Dance Band And Me" - an all new program!!

This magic combination will present a cavalcade of good old nostalgic razzmatazz in the art deco splendour of the opulent Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace. Evergreen all time favorites including the hits of popular song writers Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin plus many others will be performed

by this ensemble of world class musicians, featuring the terrific sound of the dance bands of the 30's and 40's. Their Easter 1991 show was a sellout, so book early to avoid disappointment!

Sunday 10th November - show time 1 pm.  
All seats \$15.50, part concessions available.



ADVERTISEMENT

This was a "RAVE" at the Convention!

Ed.

# TOSA NEWS

OCTOBER 1991

## "THE PARTY"

CLINTON WHITE  
A DELIGHTFUL ENTERTAINER



THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN AFTER CLINTON'S CONCERT AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL - 23rd JUNE.

Jean Taylor, our Secretary, said she was delighted with the response to the party. She received many letters and telephone calls from appreciative members, who enjoyed a chance to socialise with other T.O.S.A. Members. Just under 200 people attended.

A delicious afternoon tea was supplied and enjoyed by all. Frank Ellis introduced each artist, as they approached the Wurlitzer, and gave a short resume of their musical background.

At the completion of the first half of the programme Frank entertained the audience with a trip down memory lane - back to the days of Boomerang Song Books, Cahill's Restaurant prices, The Old Monterey Cafe in the original Queen Victoria Building, with its beautiful Spanish Galleon designed terrazzo flooring and the days of Interstate Shipping and P & O, and Orient Lines.

Bill Schumacher delighted everyone with his superb style at the Wurlitzer and played for a Sing-a-long segment.

Our apologies for omitting a very special photograph of one of our guest artists at the party. Louisa Luci received a very warm applause after playing her cameo piece, and a very proud father beamed his approval. We'll no doubt hear further news of this young girl's talents as she continues to excel in her musical studies. Unfortunately the sun beamed through the window at the wrong time, preventing a good photograph of Louisa at the console. However, our photographer, Barry Tooker advises that he photographed Louisa following the concert, but this film is yet to be processed. Watch for the next issue of TOSA NEWS.

### THE ART DECO SOCIETY

The first New South Wales "ART DECO WEEK-END" will be staged in Sydney, 11th - 13th October, '91.

This will be a prelude to the second WORLD ART DECO CONGRESS to be held in Perth in 1993.

Telephone enquiries 419 4259.

"Any City that does not revere its past — does not deserve a future!"

### WANTED

PIANOLA ROLLS - Any quantity, type, or condition.

Colin Tringham - Phone 419 3739.

A special thanks also to the Palmer family - what would we do without them? Their support and untiring efforts on behalf of T.O.S.A. is well known amongst T.O.S.A. members. Eunice, Mervyn, and Neil were magnificent in the balloon inflation department. We cannot count the number of balloons they processed prior to the party, also the efforts of Mary and Arthur Hall and others were also appreciated -- this added greatly to the festive atmosphere.

We have much going for our Society, especially the two magnificent Wurlitzers -- if we all contribute towards its success, by supporting artists and encouraging new talents (our future) we will continue to grow.

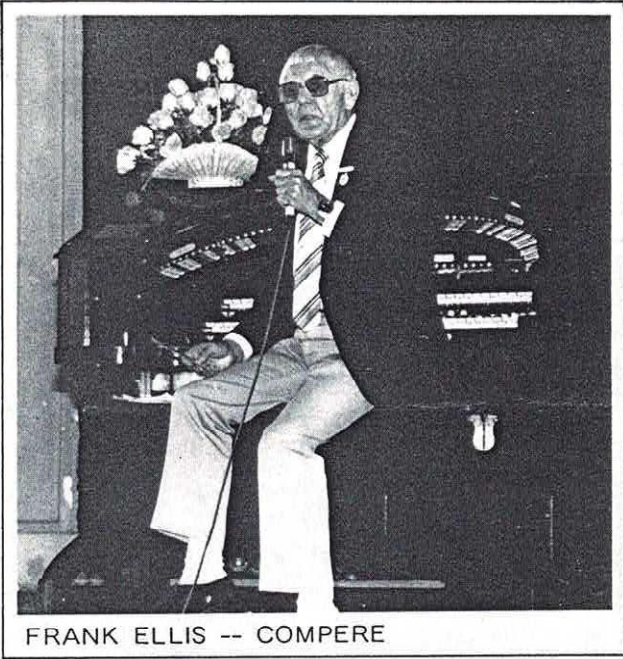
Editor

Photographs taken at "The Party" are featured on pages 7 - 10.

# TOSA NEWS

OCTOBER 1991

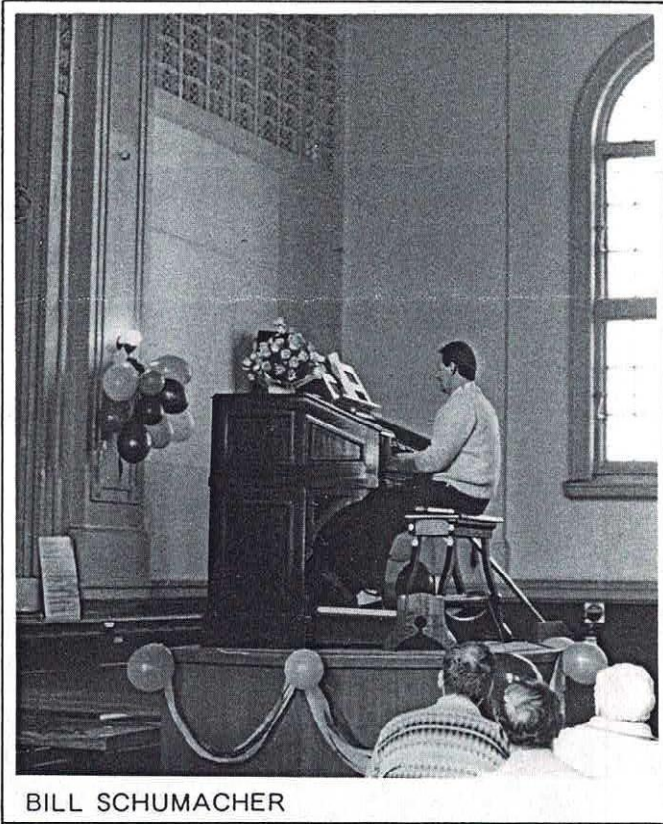
## THOSE WHO PLAYED AT "THE PARTY"



FRANK ELLIS -- COMPERE



CHRIS STYLES



BILL SCHUMACHER

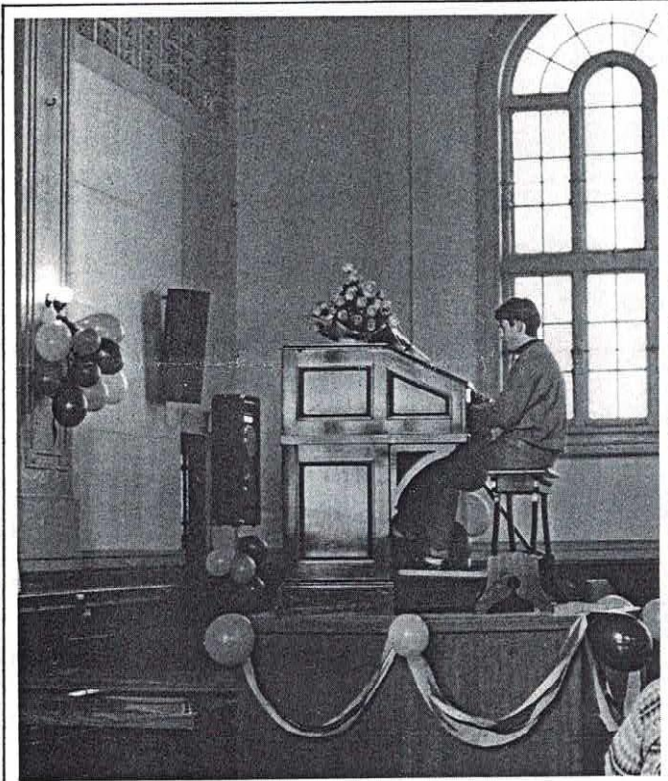


JACK McDONALD

# TOSA NEWS

OCTOBER 1991

Those who played at "The Party" -- Continued.



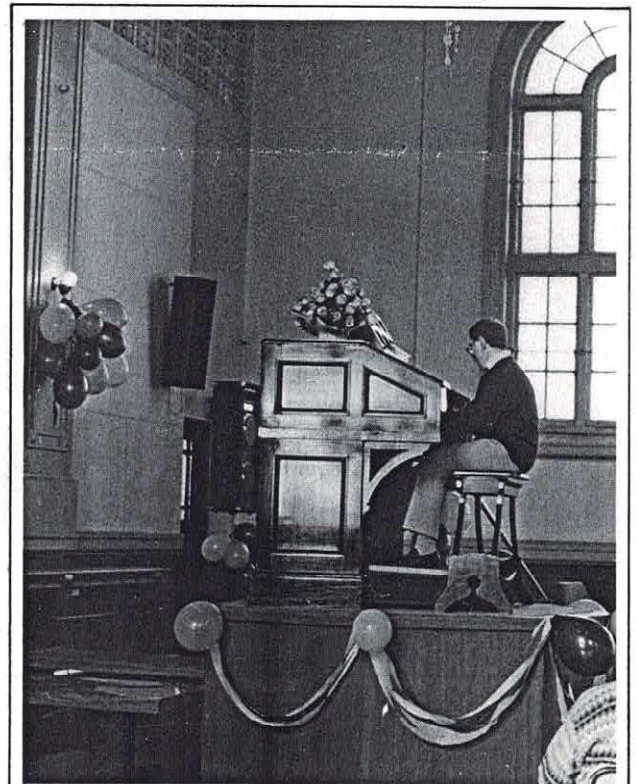
JOHN GIACCHI



PETER HELD



COLIN TRINGHAM



NEIL PALMER

# TOSA NEWS

OCTOBER 1991

Those who played at "The Party" -- Continued.



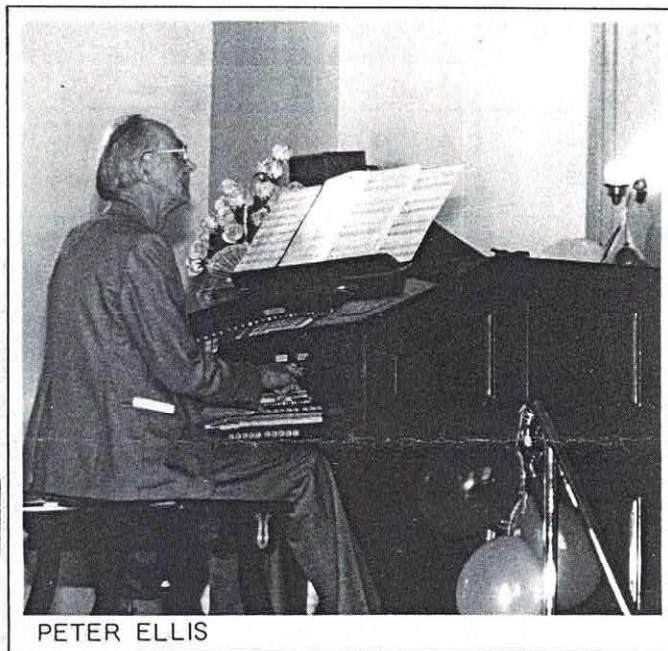
WENDY HAMBLY



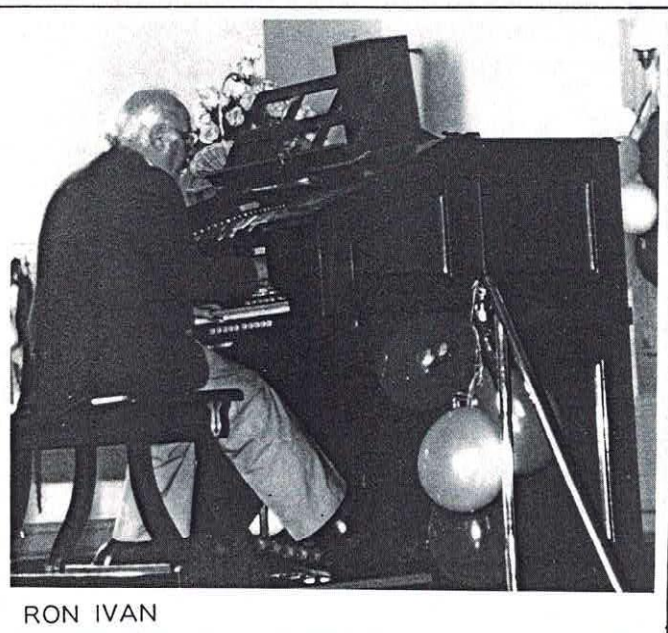
BRUCE BISLEY



PAUL LUCI



PETER ELLIS



RON IVAN



# TOSA NEWS

OCTOBER 1991

"The Party" -- Continued.



AUDIENCE ON THE 'SUNNY SIDE' OF MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

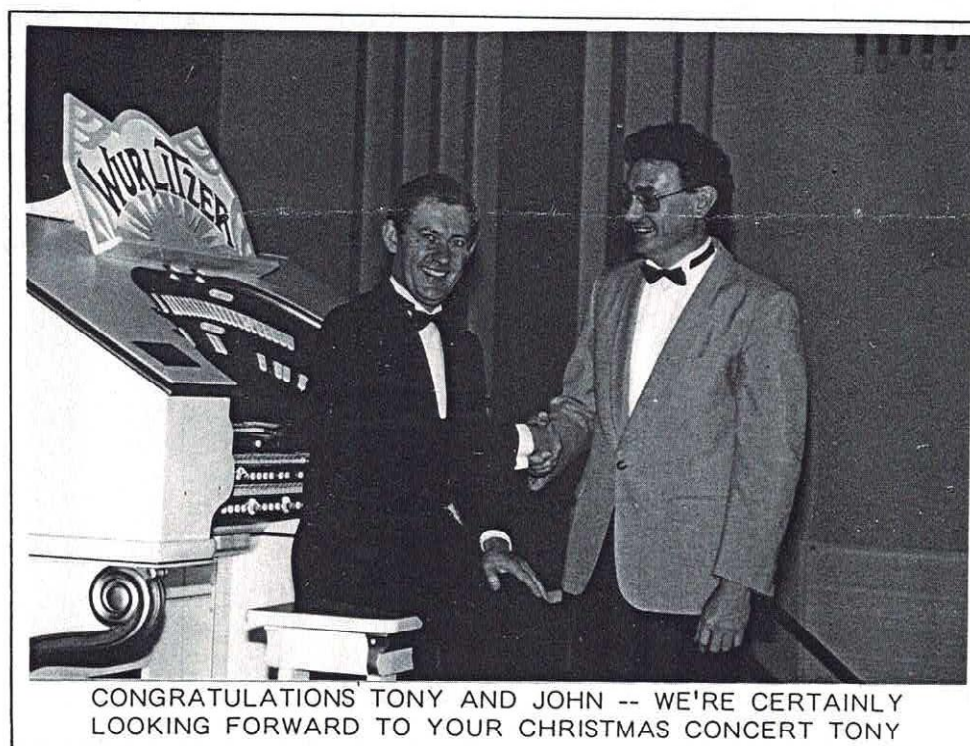
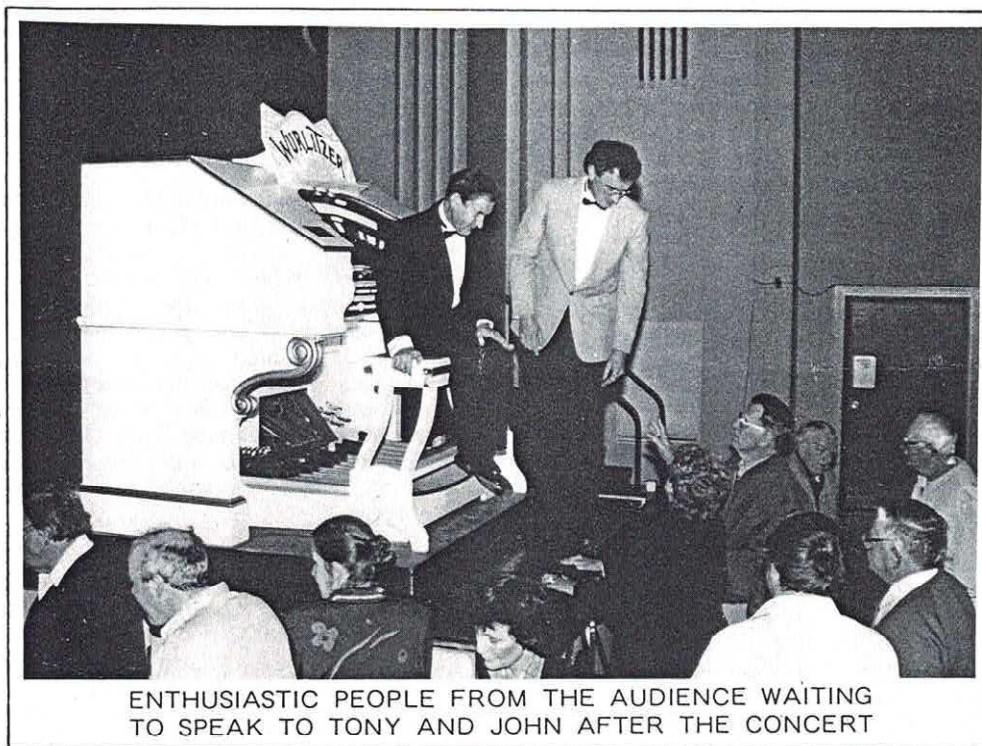


PARTY TABLES AT AN EARLY STAGE OF PREPARATION

# TOSA NEWS

OCTOBER 1991

TONY FENELON & JOHN ATWELL CONCERT  
ORION CENTRE CAMPSIE - 28th JULY



# TOSA NEWS

OCTOBER 1991

## PROFILE

### DAVID PARSONS O.A.M.

David Parsons began piano lessons at the age of eight and started pipe organ tuition when he was twelve years old from his father who has a Licentiate Degree from the London College of Music. With his father also a minister of the Church of England, David had virtually unlimited access to a large pipe organ where he became Church Organist at the age of fourteen. He was Chapel Organist at Callan Park Psychiatric Hospital for seventeen years, organist and choirmaster at St. Phillip's Church, Eastwood from 1965 to 1977 and is now organist and choirmaster at St. Matthew's Church, West Pennant Hills.

As a member of the Theatre Organ Society since 1967, David has given many concerts on the few remaining famous theatre organs. He played the Capitol Theatre 3/15 WurliTzer for the 1967 Convention and part of the final concert before it was removed from the theatre; the State Theatre 4/21 WurliTzer for two society concerts, including the National Convention in 1977; The Lyceum Theatre Christie for many Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Services; and of course the Prince Edward Theatre 2/10 WurliTzer now installed in Marrickville Town Hall, where some four public concerts, including the Fifth Birthday Concert in its new home were played by him. His first recording called "Long Live the WurliTzer" was made on this magnificent and historic 2/10 instrument in 1974. (A new Post Horn rank makes it now a 2/11 WurliTzer). He has also recorded the organ in the Great Hall of Newcastle University which has a very large Conn 3 manual custom built electronic pipe organ.

Undoubtedly a highlight of his musical career was the year 1969 when he became the Australian Champion Yamaha Organist and represented Australia in the world finals in Tokyo, Japan, which included a two weeks tour of the country as guest of Yamaha.

He was placed seventh in a field of nineteen world finalists, from a total of over three thousand contestants.

At two separate All-Gershwin concerts at the Conservatorium of Music, David was invited to play organ for the Concerto in F for two pianos and organ, as well as two solo organ spots during the performances.

A more recent highlight in his career was the invitation by the Sydney Opera House Trust to give an inaugural concert on the New Grand Organ on 28th June, 1979. So successful was this concert that the Sydney Morning Herald wrote on its front page the next morning, "An audience, claimed to be the largest ever for an Opera House concert assembled in the Concert Hall to hear the Grand Organ. Yesterday, 3000 people crammed into the hall which seats 2,700 to hear a concert by David Parsons, whilst another 1,000 watched it on video screens in the foyer."

As a direct result of this success, he was invited, by public demand, to give another on the 7th August as part of the inaugural series at which an estimated 2,000 people attended.

Finally, David holds regular organ concerts in his own home to raise funds for community and charitable organisations. He plays a large Conn 651 Theatre Organ with three sets of pipe speakers to an average of some seventy people each week and these nights are so popular that he is booked up approximately 15 months in advance.

EXTRACT FROM BALLARAT THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER - JULY 1991.

"The Re-opening of the Ballarat Compton (Opus 379) Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat - Guest Organist - David Parsons O.A.M.

Those who were unable to attend the David Parsons Concert on 2nd June missed one of our best presentations for many years. The audience gave David's well-chosen programme an enthusiastic reception."

Winston Loveland

We look forward  
to seeing YOU at  
Marrickville Town Hall  
2pm Sunday  
20th October 1991