

# TOSA NEWS

September 2022  
Volume 61 No.6

Price: \$2.00

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**The Annual General Meeting  
of  
The Theatre Organ Society of Australia  
(NSW Division) Inc.  
will be held on**

**Saturday 12th November 2022 at 2:00pm, at  
St Columb's Anglican Church,  
Cnr Dickson Ave & Bellevue Ave., West Ryde.**



**/tosansw**



**#tosansw**

# Directory

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## **Marrickville Players Convener**

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Neil Palmer 9798 6742

## **Orion Players Convener**

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John Batts 0420 424 103

## **Ticket Secretary (Concert Bookings)**

Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 before 8:00pm please

## **Artist Liaison Officer**

Craig Keller 0418 484 798

**Photography** Barry Tooker 9744 1535

**Publicity Officer** Ernie Vale 0415 626 064

**TOSA News** David & Margaret Badman

**Printer** Printers of Richmond

## President



Dear members,

I'm sure everyone who attended the Balmoral Bijou had a great time; I know I did. On behalf of TOSA I wish to thank Simon, Anna and Harriet for opening their music room (The Bijou) for us all to enjoy and to those who provided the music and to the ladies and gents who provided the afternoon tea. More on this event will be found in this edition of the newsletter.

In late August we had a working bee in the organ chamber at the Orion Centre, Campsie, dismantling components and moving some pipes to storage in readiness for removal of the water damaged items. We also spent time cleaning mould off the surfaces using white vinegar (it kills mould spores).

In early September Ernie Vale and myself loaded up our cars with water damaged components from the Orion Wurlitzer to take to organ builder John Parker's workshop at Ermington. The vinegar smell could still be detected in the chamber!

Regards  
Neil

## Editorial



Hello Members,

What a great afternoon we had at the New Bijou Music Studio at Balmoral Village thanks to Simon Ellis, Anna and Harriet's hospitality. You can read all about it in this issue of TOSA News.

You can also see that your Committee has been busy helping to disassemble parts of the Orion Wurlitzer for the repairs to commence as well as upgrading the wheels on the Marrickville Wurlitzer Piano so it is easier to move.

Please see the Notice of the Annual General Meeting and the Nomination Form for Office Bearers and Committee to reach the Returning Officer by Friday 30th September 2022.

Best Regards,  
*Ernie Vale*, Editor

## From the Mailbox...



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Thanks for your responses and please continue to email or write in, telling us what you think.

Where space permits we will do our best to publish your comments, but as space is limited, the editor reserves the right to edit any submitted comments and, as always, the views expressed by any individual may not necessarily coincide with the views of TOSA NSW Div.

Please submit all comments via email to:

The Editor [editor@tosa.net.au](mailto:editor@tosa.net.au)

### Please Note

The Society's only bank account now is with **St George**. Details are **BSB 112-879, account number 442 088 530**.

Please direct all payments to this account with St George Bank.

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### Rodgers Trio 321 Theatre Organ.

**Purchased brand new 1972, one careful owner, now deceased estate.**

- \* **English Herrburger-Brooks wooden-core keyboards**

- \* **Metal-bar glockenspiel under lid plays from Solo manual**

- \* **13-speaker internal sound system**

- \* **Cabinetry in excellent condition**

- \* **In full working order OR**

- \* **Ideal candidate for virtual theatre pipe organ (VTPO) digital conversion**

- \* **\$1,200.00 or reasonable offer considered.**

**Currently on display in Balmain studio.**

**Call Cliff Bingham on 0412 967 902**

**to arrange inspection**



## ***To Watch Out for***

### **Nominations for Office Bearers & Committee for the year 2022-23**

Nominations close by the last Australia Post Mail on Friday September 30th 2022 for TOSA (NSW) Office-Bearers & Committee positions for the year 2022-23 - See nomination form in this edition or attached if emailed.

**Completed nomination forms** must reach the Returning Officer at Post Office Box 1053, ARTARMON, NSW 2064 by the last Australia Post mail on **Friday 30th September 2022**  
**or**

**scanned & emailed to** gcostin@mac.com by the 30th September 2022, please include your **Member Number** in the email

**Any Motions or Special Resolutions for the AGM** *must reach the Secretary at: PO Box 63 Buxton NSW 2571 by the last mail on Friday 7th October 2022 or by email to secretary@tosa.net.au by 7th October 2022 so Members can be advised in the November TOSA News*

## **Advertising Rates in TOSA News**

For Members:

Small, Organ related ads = FREE!

For all other cases:

Quarter Page = \$25

Half Page = \$50

Full Page = \$100

Full Page Insert = \$125.00

**Members' Dates  
The Orion Theatre Campsie  
2nd Thursday of the Month**

**No Members Day  
Until Further Notice  
due to water damage**

**Convener is**  
**Craig Keller** on 0418484798  
**or John Batts** on 0420424103

**Marrickville Town Hall**  
**Monday 26th September**  
**Monday 24th October**

**Convener is**  
**John Batts** on 0420424103  
He will email you  
**to confirm availability**

**SATURDAY Afternoon, August 27th**

**at the New Balmoral Bijou Studio**

**where some 35 people enjoyed a wonderful  
musical afternoon listening to**

**The Allen Quantum STR-4 theatre organ...the  
Walt Strony Signature model - "Wilhelmina"**



There are four manuals, with 32 Theatre ranks and 49 Classical (EM Skinner primarily) ranks. My instrument also comes with additional ranks in the form of Allen's Genisys Voices, meaning that the current specification is set at 58 ranks!!

We also heard the magnificent three Manual 54 Stop Classical instrument, made by the Content Organ Company in the Netherlands. It is the largest Content instrument thus far in Australia.

The Music Studio is now complete with a very nice Kawai Grand Piano located in the centre between the two organs.



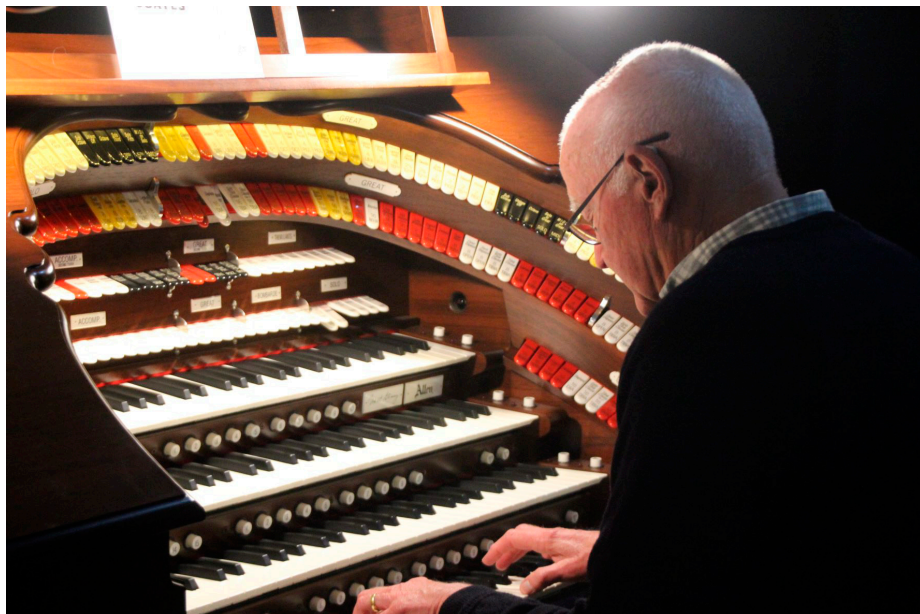
**TOSA President, Neil Palmer welcomes everyone**

The chambers for the Allen Theatre Organ are the black shapes behind the instruments, the one on the left is the Main Chamber and the one on the right is the Solo Chamber. The chambers for the classical Content Organ are the narrow speakers against the wall on the left and right behind the instruments.



**Simon Ellis then explained the specifications of each organ and invited TOSA Members to have a play.**

Cliff Bingham was up first and moved to the Allen organ to play a selection including "The Radetski March", "Perhaps Love" by John Denver and a selection from "Follow the Fleet".



**Cliff Bingham at the Allen STR4**

Then it was over to the Classical organ to play:

"A Festive Trumpet Tune" by *David German*,

*Mozart's "Alleluia"*

"Trumpet Voluntary" by *Stanley*

Then Cliff moved back to the Allen to play:

"New York New York"

*Eric Coates* "Television March" heard on "BBC" radio





## Cliff was assisted by Simon as page turner for the "Trumpet Voluntary"

The classical organ has a wonderful trumpet stop and a lovely French Trumpet stop as well.

## Show & Membership Prices

	<b>All Artists</b>
Non-members	\$40
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$35
TOSA Members	\$25

**All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status**

**All Children FREE accompanied by an Adult**

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults      \$22 per person

First time Adult \$25 by completed Voucher at Box Office

### **New Membership Fees for 2022-23**

\$25.00 Full membership, \$20.00 Concession, Interstate or Overseas \$25. \$5 discount if TOSA News emailed to you in color

Membership enquiries David & Margaret Badman

(02) 4776 2192 [membership@tosa.net.au](mailto:membership@tosa.net.au)

Associate Membership for a spouse/partner is an additional 50%

## Next up to the Allen was Craig Keller



### **Craig played**

"Everything Goes", "My Heart Belongs to Daddy",

"Smoke Gets in Your Eyes",

Then followed a medley of :

"Try to Remember", "Sunrise Sunset",

"Maybe Tomorrow" and "Aint Misbehaven",

Then Craig played a medley from "Oliver":

"Where is Love" by *Lionel Barton*

and "I'd do anythin for you"

## Then came Chris Styles



### Chris played

On the Classical Organ

"Trumpet Voluntary" by *Purcell*

and

the grand old Welsh Hymn tune, "Hyfrydol"  
where Chris invited the audience to  
sing along as he handed out the music and words for people to  
follow. The audience members gave it their all.

Moving to the Allen

Chris played "Mountain Greenery" and

"Stars fell on Alabama"

## **It was time for Afternoon Tea**

**Pam Lawson, Margaret and David Badman prepared a tasty spread whilst Simon and Anna Ellis provided Tea and Percolated Coffee with trimmings.**



**It was great to see regular visitors to TOSA concerts,  
Barry and Pam Crick from Canberra**



## **Next Player was Graeme Costin**



### **Graeme played**

"Getting Sentimental Over You"

"Toccata in D minor" (Bach)

"The Good the Bad and the Ugly"

"Who Will Buy"

"Besame Mucho"

"Consider Yourself"

### **David Badman then stepped up to play:**

"Bye Bye Birdie" and

"Beautiful Ohio"

## **David Badman at the Allen**



## **Next was Rod Blackmore**



## **Rod played**

The Theme from Faulty Towers  
and  
"Bird Songs at Eventide"

## **Ron Smith followed on the Allen**



### **Ron played**

"Sing, Sing a Song" and "On Top of the World"

## **Geoff Brimley and Harriet Ellis then drew the Lucky Door Prize**





## **Simon Ellis finished off the afternoon at the Allen**



### **Simon played some lovely arrangements of:-**

"Great Day"

"Moon River"

"All the Things You Are"

"Almost Like Being in Love"

President Neil Palmer thanked Simon, Anna and Harriet for inviting us to the Bijou for a great afternoon, Pam Lawson and the Badmans for providing a tasty afternoon tea, Anna for providing tea and coffee and all the members who played the instruments and all the TOSA Members and Friends who came to experience the new "Allen" Theatre Organ and the new Classical "Content" Organ.

# TOSA NSW Divn Inc

## Annual General Meeting

**Saturday 12th November 2022 at 2:00pm  
St Columb's Anglican Church, Cnr Dickson Ave  
& Bellevue Ave., West Ryde**

**Please come along to the meeting and take the opportunity to hear about the significant progress on the installation, including many more aspects of the Christie and the resolution of reliable operation of the Uniflex Relay.**

Afternoon Tea will be provided following the meeting to allow members to mingle and chat to the Executive and Committee members about your Society.

### **Nominations for Office Bearers & Committee for the year 2022-2023**

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**gcostin@mac.com by the 30th September 2022,**

Please include your **Member Number** in the email

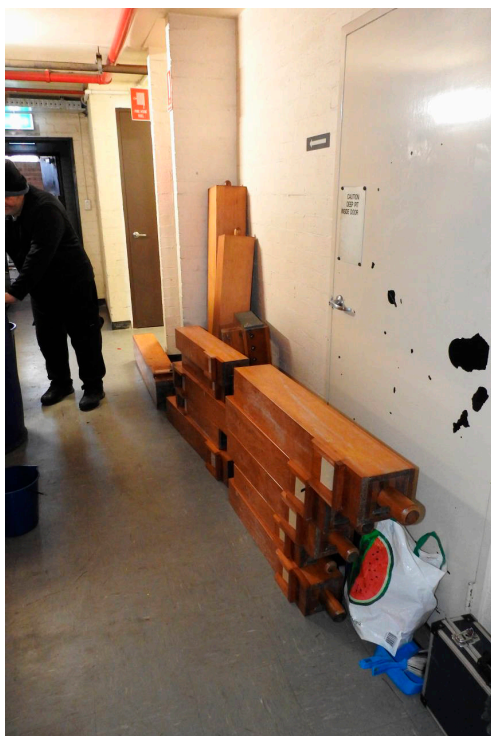
### **Any Motions or Special**

**Resolutions for the AGM** *must reach the Secretary at: PO Box 63 Buxton NSW 2571 by the last mail on Friday 7th October 2022 or by email to [secretary@tosa.net.au](mailto:secretary@tosa.net.au) by 7th October 2022 so Members can be advised in the November TOSA News*

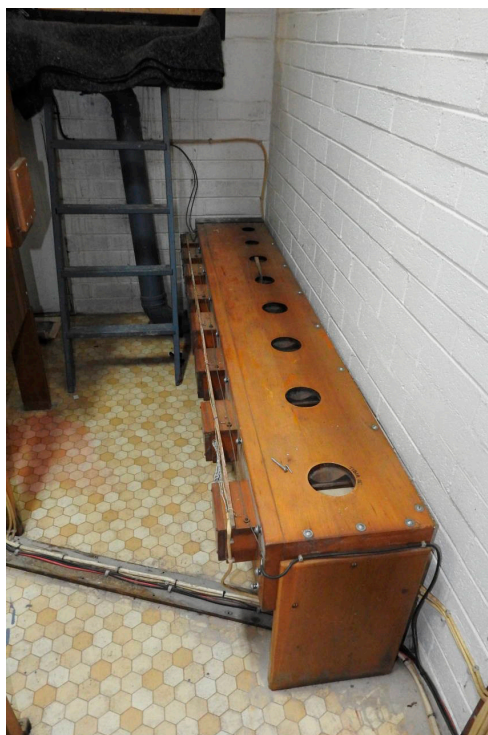
## Orion Wurlitzer Update

The Insurance Claim by Canterbury City Council for the water damage to the Solo Chamber of the Wurlitzer at the Orion Centre Theatre has been approved based on information provided by the Organ Builder.

Committee Members recently assisted the Organ Builder to access some parts of the Organ for shipment to the Organ Workshop to commence restoration. By the time you read this edition of TOSA News work will have already commenced on the restoration.



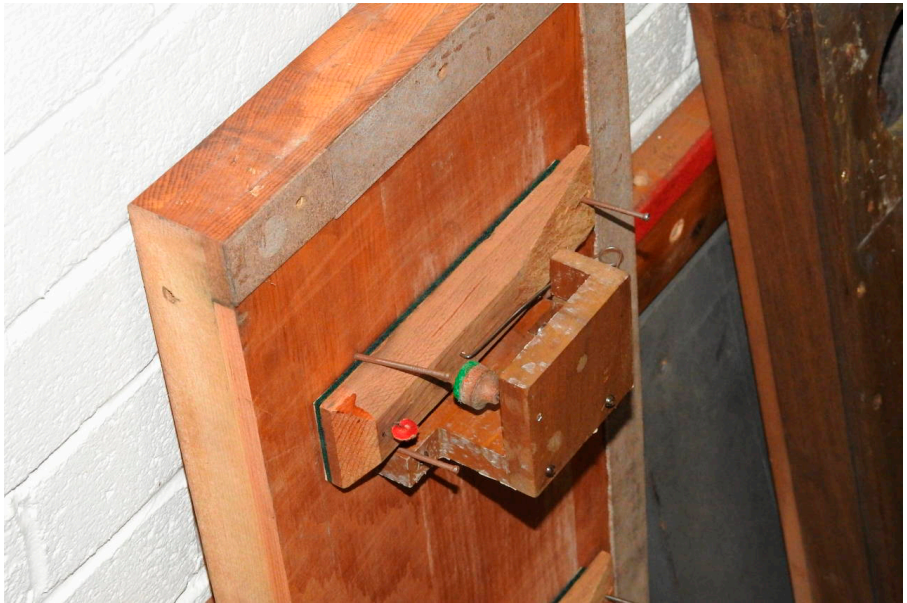
**Tibia Offset Pipes removed from Solo Chamber and stored to allow access to the chest.**



**Tibia Offset Chest on floor of Solo Chamber**



**Insides of the Tibia Offset Chest**



**Showing gaskets inside Tibia Chest that got wet. When they dried out they became hard and need to be replaced.**





**Regulators in the Solo Chamber. The leather is to be replaced**

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## **Marrickville Piano Upgrade**



**Vice Presidents prepare the lifting frame to raise the piano**



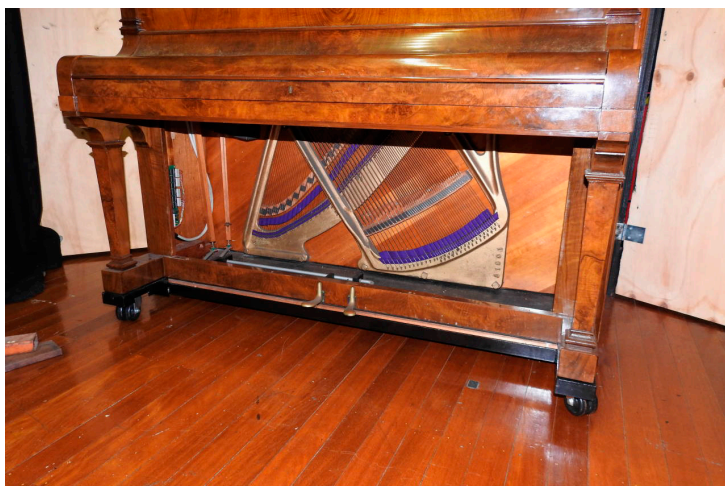
**Fixing the hoist to the frame**



**Placing the hoist over piano**



**President Neil Palmer removing old single castors**



**New frame now under piano with new double wheel castors**

## **BEGINNINGS:**

*Continued from August 2022 TOSA News*

*An excerpt from The Encyclopedia of American Theatre Organ  
Volume 3 by Preston J. Kaufmann*

### **THE UNIT ORCHESTRA FLOUNDERS: September To December 1912**

"The National Association of Organists closed its *Resolution of Endorsement* with the words: 'If his genius has free scope, a marked uplift to the musical life of the world will result'."

Yet it seemed more time was spent dealing with problems than sales efforts or boosting production--*FW to RHJ in Manhattan, November 11, 1913*: "The attached is a copy of a telegram we sent you today. Mr Kelly [position or affiliation with Wurlitzer unknown] just called me up over the telephone and told me the Style J [Opus 19] in Syracuse was not finished and what we were going to do about it. [It was contracted for \$6,000 less a \$1,000 allowance; the discount may have been given due to the difficulties in getting the organ into operation.] He says that McSpadden left the instrument in an unfinished condition; that it will not repeat the notes and that McSpadden told Kelly's man in Syracuse that he was going to have some special music rolls cut for the Style J that would repeat. This, of course, is ridiculous. If McSpadden did say this, he should know better, and what I cannot understand is why McSpadden did not write us if he knew that the instrument was not finished and working properly. Mr. Jones here at the factory states that the instrument worked perfectly when he left.

"Mr. Kelly is under the impression that the instrument hasn't enough wind; that the blower is not large enough, but this hardly seems possible. Perhaps the suction is at fault.

"As you know, it is absolutely necessary that this instrument is in perfect shape by the 15th, and that we make good with it. If we do not, it will come out at the end of two week's time. Furthermore, every day that the instrument is not in use we do not get paid for it. If you think it is necessary to send someone from the factory instead of having McSpadden go up from New York, be sure and wire us. If possible, I think it preferable for you to stop off there



so that you are sure that everything is right. Mr. Jones thinks it would be best to have Mr. Marr so that he could see whether the work was done right or wrong. If you want Marr to go, wire us."

*RHJ in Manhattan to FW, November 11, 1912:* "Regarding Hotel Martinique, [Hotel Manager] Chandler is distinctly hostile to our instrument and makes things as difficult for us as possible. . . . and [hotel manager] Mr. Taylor is most favorable and [organist Archer] Gibson is on the fence--so far we have done well--especially this evening.

"Regarding Syracuse. I am having untold trouble to secure a player [organist]. No one feels it worthwhile to leave present employment for a two week engagement. I turned at last to a Philadelphia pupil, but a wire informs me he cannot leave his present job!

"Dr. Ronfort has to play at Cort, Chicago and I have to keep Century, Statler, Bronx and Martinique going.

"McQuarrie will be through at Statler on Sunday night--but that is just too late. . . .

"The heater not being in [probably referring to Syracuse job] and the place very cold and damp, doubtless something has gone out of adjustment--but I am surprised their man could not fix it. Perhaps I may go instead of him [McSpadden] to fix the trouble and train their own musicians to play our instrument. He is reported to be a good man. I told Murphy to rush that heater-- has he gotten it delivered yet?"

*FW to RHJ in Manhattan, November 12, 1912:* "This morning to my surprise, Mr. Kelly telephoned me and told me that he had received the following telegram from you: 'Will send McSpadden to Syracuse Wednesday night. Am finding it impossible to secure player. Telephone me Hotel Martinique, New York, Tuesday 1 O'clock. I think I had better meet their own musician in Syracuse Thursday and teach him to play the instrument.'

*The drama about Syracuse continues in the next TOSA News.  
To be continued (Editor)*

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