

TREMULANT

The Official Newsletter of
Theatre Organ Society of Australia (Western Australian Division) Inc

www.tosawa.org.au

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2018



2018 TOSA(WA) DIRECTORY

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 Find us on Facebook:
[facebook.com/theatreorganwa](https://www.facebook.com/theatreorganwa)

Visit our website at
www.tosawa.org.au

TOSA(WA) meets at the
 John Leckie Pavilion
 25 Melvista Ave, Nedlands



IN THIS ISSUE:

- TOSA(WA) Directory Page 2
- From the President Page 3
- Upcoming Events Page 4
- 50th Anniversary Celebrations Page 6
- Reflections of a long term TOSA member Page 7
- A theatre organ celebration Page 8

FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a year 2018 is turning out to be. Who would have thought back in 1968, that fifty years later we would be celebrating the starting of the Theatre Organ Society in Western Australia?

In the TOSA newsletter of 5 August 1969 (49 years ago), the then Secretary, Ray Clements wrote the following:

Today is our birthday! Yes, it is just one year since the West Australian Division of T.O.S.A. was formed at a meeting at Max Bell's home. At that time we had eleven members, including two in country areas, and a committee of four was elected to get things moving.

Since that meeting, our membership has grown to an enthusiastic 46 members, and your committee has provided 16 meetings, 4 concerts, a barbeque and a country picnic for your enjoyment. Our prime objective for the next twelve months is to obtain our own Theatre Pipe organ. Let us all work together to make this venture possible. Remember, all members will benefit once an instrument has been procured and installed. (Ray Clements)

Fifty years later, we can look back and see what we have achieved in that time! Yes, we achieved the goal of owning our own theatre pipe organ. Our membership has flourished, probably peaking in the 1990s to a number around 100. We continue to hold meetings and concerts for members' enjoyment. And in just a few more weeks, we plan to celebrate that 50 year milestone with a weekend of theatre organ music.

We have arranged to bring Australia's finest theatre organists to Perth to help us celebrate this occasion. Chris McPhee (together with soprano Rosanne Hosking), John Atwell and Tony Fenelon will be our featured guests. West Australians John Pound, John Fuhrmann, Ray Clements, Ruth MacDonald, Simone Collins, Len Harris and myself will also provide music throughout the weekend.

If you haven't booked your tickets yet, don't leave it too long. We currently have 33 registered for the full weekend – 20 from WA and 13 confirmed from interstate, with at least another 26 known to be coming from interstate. The weekend will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with like minded folk from around the country.

Be sure to be part of our fiftieth celebrations,

Rodney Raymond

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOSA(WA) - JOHN LECKIE PAVILION

Members Days - First Sunday of each month – 2pm start

Free admission to a relaxing afternoon of theatre organ and piano music.

- 5 Aug 2018 – Members' afternoon, with special guests, the singing group "Good News Singers" and two brackets of community singing. Bring along your best voice and a friend.
- 2 Sep 2018 - Members' afternoon (It is Father's Day, but we will still be meeting)
- No concert in Oct (due to 50th Anniversary) – See Karrinyup concert below*
- 4 Nov 2018 – Members' afternoon
- 2 Dec 2018 - Christmas Celebration



TOSA(WA) 50th Anniversary - 29 & 30 September 2018

Featuring Tony Fenelon, John Atwell, Chris McPhee and Rosanne Hoskins plus others in a weekend of celebrations. Full details are available at our website www.tosawa.org.au

CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

Do you want to have a Christmas Luncheon this year? If so, would you be able to invite another person to come with you? Our falling numbers means that unless people are prepared to invite others, we may not make the minimum number of 40 required. Alternatively, would you prefer an upmarket afternoon tea? Please make your ideas known to Anne Holland.

CONCERTS AT KARRINYUP

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 12 Aug 2018 | David Johnston (Melbourne) |
| 7 Oct 2018 | Ray Clements and John Fuhrmann
(Perth) |
| 4 Nov 2018 | Simon Gledhill (UK) |

Contact John Fuhrmann on 9447 9837 for tickets.

<http://wurlitzer-karrinyup.com/>



CONCERTS AROUND AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

www.tosa.net.au

- 9 Sep 2018 Scott Harrison – Marrickville Wurlitzer
18 Nov 2018 Simon Gledhill – Orion Wurlitzer 30th Anniversary Concert
9 Dec 2018 Tony Fenelon & John Atwell – Orion Wurlitzer

QUEENSLAND

www.tosaq.com.au & <http://www.tosagoldcoast.net/>

- 20 May 2018 David Bailey (Gold Coast)
12 Aug 2018 Tony Fenelon & John Atwell
11 Nov 2018 Simon Gledhill

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

www.capri.org.au/theatre-organ/

- 29 Jul 2018 Tony Fenelon & John Atwell
16 Sep 2018 John Giacchi
22 & 23 Oct 2018 International Youth Silent Film Festival
11 Nov 2018 Simon Gledhill
2 Dec 2018 Bill Schumaker & Debbie Fitzsimmons

VICTORIA

www.melbournetheatreorgan.com.au

- 29 Jul 2018 Thomas Heywood
16 Nov 2018 John Atwell & Hetty Kate
10 Nov 2018 Simon Gledhill

Have you spotted any theatre organs in recent TV programs?

On Sunday 1 July on ABC TV, "Score: A Film Music Documentary" featured a small section at the beginning devoted to silent film accompaniment. Bill Field was shown playing the Wurlitzer organ at the "Old Town Music Hall", El Segundo CA.

And prior to that, a recent episode entitled "Cartouche" of the British detective series "Endeavour" went to air, again on the ABC, on Friday 23 June. This episode was centred in and around an Oxford cinema back in the late 1960's. One of the leading characters was the house organist, who was seen playing the organ on several occasions, before ascending on the last occasion, slumped over the keys!

The former and now restored old "Carlton Cinema" in Islington (London) was used for the exterior shots whilst the interiors were filmed in the "Broadway Theatre" at Lewisham (London) featuring their Compton organ – complete with its 'jelly mould' lighting surround. (Thanks to Melbourne Theatre Organ VOX for the additional information about the filming locations).

Towards the end of the film, the cinema was set alight and was burnt down. I remarked at the end of the film "The most important question – did they get the organ out before the cinema was burnt down?"

OUR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2018



We start with a "Meet and Greet" morning event at 10:00am on Saturday 29 September 2018. This is an opportunity catch up with interstate visitors and friends. Local artists, including John Pound, John Fuhrmann, and Ray Clements, will present a short concert, followed by lunch.

Saturday afternoon's concert will feature Chris McPhee and Rosanne Hosking from Adelaide. Chris McPhee started learning organ at age 8, but his passion for theatre pipe organ was kindled here in Perth in 1989 when he met and heard legendary British organist Douglas Reeve.

He will be joined for this concert by soprano Rosanne Hosking. Rosanne's performance career spans over 20 years and has taken her all around Australia as well as overseas. She enjoys singing opera, musical theatre, cabaret and contemporary stage. She and Chris will team together to produce a wonderful concert.



SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

We will have lunch together on the **Sunday**, then in the afternoon, a concert by Tony Fenelon and John Atwell. Tony Fenelon and John Atwell played a concert together on our Compton organ in September 1975 (soon after the organ was first brought to Australia from England). It is fitting that these two great musicians will perform together for us again, forty three years later.



Tony Fenelon first played a concert for TOSA(WA) in May 1969 in the Metro Theatre in Perth. He is an internationally acclaimed musician having completed 18 major concert tours.

John Atwell is well known to Australian audiences, being another theatre organist who has achieved international recognition. John has played in the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand as well as Australia.

Finally, on the Sunday evening, we finish with a gala dinner in the evening.



REFLECTIONS OF A LONG TERM TOSA MEMBER

This was originally printed as a letter to the editor from Lin Richards in TOSA VIC's April/May 2018 issue of E-VOX.

I recently told Tony Fenelon "that it was all HIS fault" that I had joined TOSA.

To explain: At the time I was living in Perth, Western Australia, and the year was 1968. One Saturday morning I had gone down to our local shopping centre, called Dianella Plaza. Whilst doing what I needed to do there, I became aware of some organ sounds, and upon turning a corner in the complex found this young fellow playing a very large electronic organ, and boy, what a wow sound he brought forth from it. That "young fellow" was, of course, Tony Fenelon. I stood there for a while absolutely transfixed until I was approached by a member of the WA Division of TOSA and asked if I would like to join up, and it was a case of "Quick! Where do I sign?"

I had loved the sound of the theatre organ for many years before that, having heard the instruments in Sydney's State Theatre and the Prince Edward Theatre – I grew up in Sydney and two Anglican churches I attended both had superb instruments. From my early teens I started acquiring theatre organ records and now have quite a collection, but I digress.

After joining the WA Division of TOSA I went to the monthly meetings for members which were at that time held in member's homes all over Perth. I had a lot of fun attending those meetings and made a lot of friends. Theatre Organ concerts were not held that often due to Perth's geographical isolation. At that time, Perth only had one theatre organ, a three manual WurlitZer in a theatre whose name I have forgotten now (we're talking about 50 years ago now!!!) but I can remember that it was next door to Wesley Church. I witnessed Tony Fenelon playing there, and also Vic Hammet from England. Vic was a real "dag" – to get to the console he had to walk along a plank suspended between the stage and the con-sole platform and I remember his saying "Cor!! I come all this way and I gotta walk the bleedin' plank!!!"

Then, in 1972 I left Perth and moved to Melbourne. Naturally, I was keen to join up to TOSA Vic Div and since then I have been to quite a number of theatre organ concerts, and mostly thoroughly enjoyed them.

So, there you have it – I have been a member of TOSA, on and off, for 50 years, and yes, it was all Tony Fenelon's fault!!! So, even though I have reached the young age of 72 I hope to be a member for many more years yet and be able to attend many more great theatre organ events.

The Theatre Organ Society of Australia (WA Division) presents

A theatre organ celebration

**John Leckie Pavilion
25 Melvista Avenue (Corner Loton
Road) NEDLANDS**



The Theatre Organ Society in Western Australia celebrates its fiftieth anniversary with a weekend of concerts. Featuring local artists, Australia's top professional organists, together with the wonderful voice of soprano Rosanne Hosking, we have a smorgasbord of entertainment for everyone.

For more information and tickets, phone Rodney 9310 2838 or visit www.tosawa.org.au

Tickets are \$22 (adult) or \$20 (conc). Tickets are available from our website, at the door or from www.trybooking.com/SDGO

The John Leckie Pavilion has been recently refurbished, is wheelchair accessible and is a disability accessible compliant venue.



SATURDAY 29 September 2018, 11:00am: John Pound, John Fuhrmann, Ray Clements plus others

SATURDAY 29 September 2018, 2:30pm: Chris McPhee and Rosanne Hosking

SUNDAY 30 September 2018, 11:00am: Australia's Got (theatre organ) Talent

SUNDAY 30 September 2018, 2:30pm: Tony Fenelon and John Atwell