

TREMULANT

The Official Newsletter of
Theatre Organ Society of Australia (Western Australian Division) Inc
www.tosawa.org.au

JANUARY * FEBRUARY * MARCH 2022

Best wishes for 2022 from the Theatre Organ Society...



COULD YOU PLAY THIS COMPTON?

**SEE PAGE 5 TO UNDERSTAND WHY IT MIGHT BE A
CHALLENGE!**

TOSA(WA) – AGM – SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2022

Our AGM is on **Sunday 6 March 2022** at 2:00pm in the John Leckie Pavilion. The AGM should only take about 45 minutes, after which we will have music provided by our regular musicians.

The agenda and reports are included in this Tremulant.

MEMBER'S DAYS AT JOHN LECKIE PAVILION:

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

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

6 MARCH 2022	5 JUNE 2022	4 SEPTEMBER 2022
3 APRIL 2022	3 JULY 2022	2 OCTOBER 2022
1 MAY 2022	7 AUGUST 2022	6 NOVEMBER 2022
Karrinyup Wurlitzer concert dates are not yet confirmed – contact John Fuhrmann to get updated details at www.wurlitzer-karrinyup.com		4 DECEMBER 2022



Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/theatreorganwa

Visit our website at
www.tosawa.org.au

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

2:00pm on the first Sunday
of each month from March to Nov.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE and the 2022 membership form is attached on the last page. Please return your membership renewal as soon as possible.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2022 Annual General Meeting is to be held at the John Leckie Pavilion, Melvista Avenue, Nedlands at **2:00pm** on **SUNDAY 6 March 2022**. The meeting is only expected to last 45 minutes, after which we will continue with a normal "Member's Day" afternoon of music.

AGENDA OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Welcome.
2. Apologies.
3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Previous AGM (held 7 March 2021) – and published in this *Tremulant*
4. Reports:
 - a. President.
 - b. Treasurer.
 - c. Membership.
5. Election of Office Bearers:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Committee Members (Minimum of 2 required)
6. Election of Conveners:
 - a. Catering
 - b. Editor
 - c. Raffles
 - d. Patron
7. General Business.
8. Any other Business
9. Meeting Close



Christmas Luncheon, December 2021

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DIVISION) INCORPORATED, HELD AT JOHN LECKIE MEMORIAL PAVILION, ON SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021.

The Meeting was declared open by the President, Rodney Raymond, at 14:05. In opening the meeting, Rodney advised the meeting of the death during the previous week of Gold Coast TOSA secretary, Mr. Bill Schumacher. Bill had presented many concerts in Perth, the most recent being in 2017.

ATTENDANCE

Fourteen (14) financial adult members and four (4) visitors as per the attached list.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Simone Collins.

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting had previously been circulated via the *Tremulant*.

Moved, Philip Surtees; Seconded, Thelma Law, that the Minutes are a true and correct record. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING: Nil.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (See Attached)

The President's Report was circulated with the notice of meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT (See Attached)

The Treasurer's report was circulated with the notice of meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership declined from 46 members in 2019 to 43 members in 2020.

Moved, Phillip Surtees; Seconded, Beryl Channer, that the reports be accepted. Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The following nominations were received:

President: Rodney Raymond Nominated Ray Harasymiuk, Seconded Anne Holland. Carried.

Vice-President: Phillip Surtees Nominated Ray Harasymiuk, Seconded Bernard Varney. Carried.

Secretary: Ruth MacDonald Nominated Philip Surtees, Seconded Bernard Varney. Carried.

Treasurer: Bernard Varney Nominated Ray Harasymiuk, Seconded Thelma Law. Carried.

Committee: Anne Holland
Simone Collins

The two nominations for committee were nominated by Beryl Channer, Seconded Thelma Law. Carried.

ELECTION OF CONVENORS

Catering: Glenys Raymond.

Tremulant Editor: Simone Collins.

Raffle Organiser: Anne Holland.

These nominations were accepted.

ELECTION OF PATRON

Rodney advised that Len Rawle was not wanting to continue in this role. Nobody was elected as Patron.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. **Membership Fees for 2022:** Rodney advised that several people had indicated when renewing membership fees, that the Society should consider increasing membership fees for 2022. After discussion about possible fee structures, it was moved by Rodney Raymond and seconded by Anne Holland “that membership fees be increased to \$50 per family and \$40 per single for 2022.” The motion was carried.
2. **April 2021 meeting:** Rodney advised that the next member’s day would fall on Easter Sunday. The group agreed that the member’s day should occur as normal.

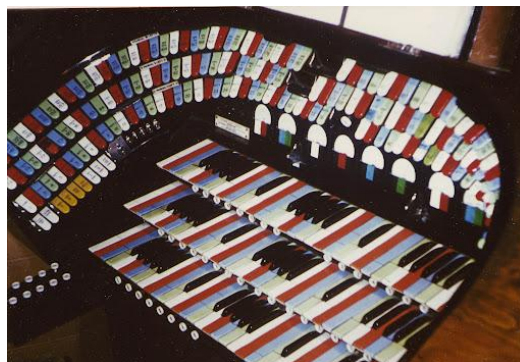
CLOSE: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 14:25.



The “Other” Compton Console

What is different about this Compton Console?

If you are a musician, you probably noticed the black keys are in the wrong positions. The reason for this is because it is not a Compton Organ Console but a Compton Console repurposed by Strand Lighting as a Lighting Desk!



Kingsley Herbert, President of the ACT Theatre Organ Society in Canberra has done quite a bit of research on the subject and has sent us information along with a link to his research. Canberra, like us, are proud owners of a Compton Theatre Pipe Organ which is located in the Albert Hall, Canberra.

When the John Compton Organ Company stopped building theatre pipe organs, they continued building consoles, but for the Strand Lighting Company. The repurposed consoles permitted a single operator to control lighting for stage shows in major theatres. There were 17 of these built between 1936 and 1955 with at least one still operational in 2019. The last new Compton **Theatre** Pipe Organ was built for the Plaza Cinema Crosby in September 1939. However, the company continued to build, repair and tune church and classical pipe organs up until its demise in 1964.

More detail of the Compton lighting story can be found at:

www.theatreorgans.com/canberra/news.htm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2021

Looking back at 2021, I am reminded how fortunate we have been in Western Australia that Covid has not affected us like it has in other parts of Australia and the world. The Theatre Organ Society was able to hold all planned events bar one, our only cancellation occurring in June. We were even able to hold a successful concert featuring John Pound and Hudson Wheeler in October. Although the attendance was disappointing, those who attended and heard John and Hudson play were certainly not disappointed. What a fine performance by the two players, each complementing the other so well.

Our biggest challenge into the future is definitely our declining membership. More of our group are moving into care, and many are no longer able to drive. Still, the feedback I continually receive is that people enjoy the friendship of the group and people enjoy coming along to listen to the music. To try and advertise ourselves, we again attended the "Have A Go" day at Burswood, handing out flyers to people who attended. Thank you to Anne Holland and Philip Surtees for helping out on that day. Quite a number of people took brochures, but only one person was added to our mailing list.

I would like to thank the committee from 2021 which consisted of Simone Collins, Anne Holland, Ruth MacDonald, Philip Surtees and Bernard Varney. I appreciate each of these people for the help and assistance they provide in helping to keep this organisation running. I would also like to thank those who come along early to help put out the tables and chairs, those who have provided food for afternoon teas and Glenys Raymond for providing help in the kitchen. A big thank you to Simone Collins for all her work in producing *The Tremulant* every few months. Producing a regular newsletter is a mammoth task and Simone does a great job of that, as well as keeping the news up to date on our Facebook page.

Membership in 2021 declined to 37, a drop of six people from 2020, despite two new members joining. Falling membership remains our biggest challenge for the future. Surely we can continue to exist as a group for some time to come, but it will require effort and assistance and dedication from those in the group to try to expand our horizons. Invite someone along to our next meeting.



Rodney Raymond
PRESIDENT

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2021

During 2021, income and expenditure was very similar to previous years. The total income for the year was \$3,615 and total expenses were \$4,951, resulting in a loss for the 12 months of \$1,336. The cash balance sheet shows our bank balances as totalling \$13,139.

Some expenses, such as hall hire, insurance and performing arts fees seem to continually increase each year. These expenses are unavoidable, and with declining membership fees, our budget for 2022 indicates that we will again have expenses above income of about \$1,500. The detailed Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure reports follow below.

Rodney Raymond and Bernard Varney

Theatre Organ Society of Aust (WA Division)

15/01/22

Income and Expenditure
January through December 2021

	Jan - Dec '21	Jan - Dec '20
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Bank Interest	111.78	210.54
Christmas Dinner	1,340.00	1,250.00
Concert income		
Ticket sales	49.00	0.00
Total Concert income	49.00	0.00
Donations	185.00	162.00
Membership Dues	730.00	825.00
Members Day Income		
Afternoon Tea	168.25	247.00
Raffle Takings	520.90	530.00
Organ Practice	510.00	445.00
Total Members Day Inco...	1,199.15	1,222.00
Total Income	3,614.93	3,669.54
Expense		
Christmas Dinner expen...	1,350.00	1,440.00
Concerts		
Concert artist fee	0.00	100.00
Performing Rights	53.82	90.00
Total Concerts	53.82	190.00
Insurance	957.42	960.26
Members Day Costs		
Afternoon Tea	0.00	38.01
Hall Hire	1,092.00	812.00
Organ Practice Hall Hire	1,498.00	1,277.00
Sundry Costs	0.00	117.00
Total Members Day Costs	2,590.00	2,244.01
Website and Domain Na...	0.00	49.90
Total Expense	4,951.24	4,884.17
Net Ordinary Income	-1,336.31	-1,214.63
Net Income	-1,336.31	-1,214.63

Theatre Organ Society of Australia (WA Division) Inc

15/01/22

Cash Accounts Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2021

	Dec 31, '21	Dec 31, '20
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Current/Savings		
General Account	686.05	2,133.96
Term Deposit	12,452.54	12,340.94
Total Current/Savings	13,138.59	14,474.90
Total Current Assets	13,138.59	14,474.90
TOTAL ASSETS	13,138.59	14,474.90
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00	0.00

HERE'S HOW THAT LIGHTING CONSOLE WORKS

By way of a historical introduction, it should first be mentioned that up to the early 1930's all stage-lighting equipment comprising electrical control boards, dimmers or faders, blackout switches, etc. were operated by a team of backstage technicians turning wheels, switches, and levers from gantry-perches high above the wings with no view of the action. In 1929, Moss Mantle, an engineer with Strand Electric invented a magnetic clutch for gripping onto or releasing from a constantly driven rotating shaft that made it possible for existing manually operated dimmer wheels to be remotely activated in either direction by switches. Couple those lighting dimmers to a controller and it became possible to achieve absolute control of all lighting intensities and dramatic contrasts by a single lighting operator having full view of the stage action. The controller chosen was a "repurposed" Compton organ console.



Comparing the console layout with any cinema or theatre organ console, the Stop-Tabs (stop-key sweeps) represent individual lights, battens, spots or separate lighting circuits that can be individually selected from the Stop rail or by using the pre-set Piston capture actions. Every stop-key lighting circuit operates a remote mechanical dimmer controller to vary the lighting intensity of that circuit.

The keyboard keys control the lighting intensity. Generally, holding down a colour key will raise the lighting intensity for that colour group and depressing the key to second touch will lower the lighting intensity for the colour selected. Only those stop-keys selected of that colour grouping will operate.

The Swell Shoes are 'Speed Control' Pedals – one for each key manual or keyboard – to increase or decrease the dimmer travel speeds for all stops set for that keyboard between 3 seconds and 40 seconds, depending where the pedal is statically positioned in its travel.

The Toe-Stud Pistons, as in any organ console, are pre-wired for selective swift actions, such as immediate Dead-Black-Out, Full-on, Raise/Dim, Cancel settings, etc. The side-panel switches included Automatic House-lights Up/Down with pre-set dimmer settings or as Immediate; customised settings for House Calls and other theatrical effects such as mechanical Cloud operation. All of the stop-keys, keyboard manuals and toe-pistons have 2nd touch capability as in conventional Compton consoles.

There were from 12 to 14 Compton cinema style Strand Light Consoles installed in London theatre auditoria including *London Palladium* (1941; and 1949), *Theatre Royal Drury Lane* (1950), *Royal Festival Hall* (1951), *Coliseum* (1952), *Her Majesty's Theatre* (1954) and others were exported as far as Ankara, Caracas (still operational in 2019), Lisbon (1940) and Warsaw (the last cinema console style, built in 1955).

For more information, visit www.theatreorgans.com/canberra/news.htm



T.O.S.A. [W.A.] Inc.

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2022

I / We wish to renew my membership of T.O.S.A. (W.A.) for 2022.

Membership fees are **\$50** Family or **\$40** Single Membership.

(Please PRINT Clearly)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
[First name/s] [Surname]

My details have not changed from last year. If details have changed, complete the following:

Address

. Post code

Telephone number Date of birth

EMAIL ADDRESS:

Please indicate your preference:

I would like to receive the newsletter (*The Tremulant*) by:

Paper copy or Email

I am interested in receiving **interstate** newsletters by email: YES/NO.

TOTAL AMOUNT = \$ _____

Please tick one:

I have enclosed a cheque made out to Theatre Organ Society of Aust. (W.A.) Inc.

I have deposited directly into TOSA Bankwest account: BSB 306-073, Account 4191824.

Date of fund transfer

PLEASE FORWARD THIS FORM
(WITH PAYMENT IF BY CHEQUE) TO:

Rodney Raymond
3 Chamberlain Circle
BATEMAN 6150

Or you can scan and email the form to us

(Office Use Only) List updated Addresses updated Receipt issued