

TREMULANT

The Official Newsletter of:

Theatre Organ Society of Australia (TOSA),
Western Australian Division

T.O.S.A.(WA) INC.

Web Address: www.tosawa.org.au

APR- MAY 2016

Sunday 15th May 2016
Bill Schumacher in Concert

Sunday 1st May 2016
Sunday 6th June 2016
Member's Day

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INFORMATION PAGE

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2016

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
PRESIDENT	Rodney Raymond	9310 2838
VICE-PRESIDENT	Brian Court	9572 1157
SECRETARY	Ruth MacDonald	9206 1880
TREASURER	Bernard Varney	9304 50507
	Evelyn Frost	9295 2237
	Philip Surtees	0407 450091
	Anne Holland	9407 7747
	Simone Collins	0411 474 450

CONVENORS

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Newsletter Editor	Ruth MacDonald	9206 1880
Catering Coordinator	Malcolm Hood	9386 6045
Raffles	Anne Holland	9407 7747
Webmaster	Rodney Raymond	9310 2838

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary, T.O.S.A. (WA) Inc.



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION) INC. HELD AT JOHN LECKIE MEMORIAL
PAVILION, ON SUNDAY 6th MARCH 2016**

The Meeting was declared open by the President, Rodney Raymond, at 14:00

ATTENDANCE

28 financial adult members as per attached list

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Brian Court, Ian and Pamela McLean, Shirley Rippin and Frank Yeomans.

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were circulated

Moved, Peter Flewell-Smith; Seconded, Anne Holland, that the Minutes were a true record. Carried

BUSINESS ARISING Nil

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *(A copy is in the February Tremulant)*

The President's Report was circulated. Rodney briefly summarized the main items in the report and also indicated the membership consisted of 64 members in 2015, of whom 11 were new members.

Moved, Malcolm Hood; Seconded, Simone Collins, that the President's Report be accepted. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT *(A copy is in the February Tremulant)*

The Treasurer's report was circulated with the notice of meeting. Simone Collins verified the bank statements against the circulated report in front of the meeting.

Moved Malcolm Hood; Seconded, Simone Collins, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The following nominations were received:

President:	Rodney Raymond	Nominated Malcolm Hood, Seconded Peter Flewell-Smith
Vice-President:	Brian Court	Nominated Bernard Varney, Seconded Anne Holland
Secretary:	Ruth MacDonald	Nominated Malcolm Hood, Seconded Simone Collins
Treasurer:	Bernard Varney	Nominated Anne Holland, Seconded Evelyn Frost
Committee:	Philip Surtees	Nominated Anne Holland, Seconded Bernard Varney
	Evelyn Frost	Nominated Malcolm Hood, Seconded Ruth MacDonald
	Anne Holland	Nominated Bill Frost, Seconded Bernard Varney
	Simone Collins	Nominated Ruth MacDonald, Seconded Anne Holland

These members were duly elected.

ELECTION OF CONVENORS

Catering: Malcolm Hood.
Tremulant Editor: Ruth McDonald.
Raffle Organizer: Anne Holland.

These nominations were accepted.

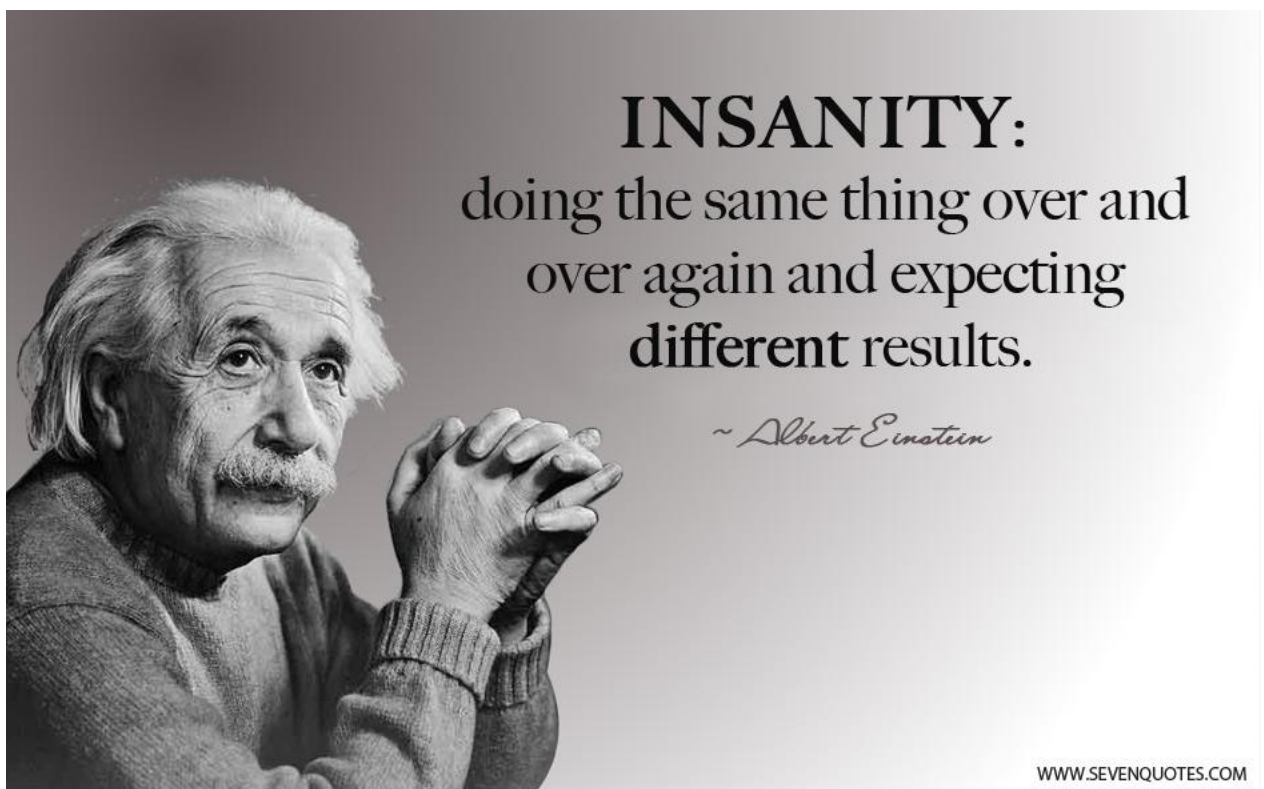
ELECTION OF PATRON

It was suggested that Len Rawle be invited again as Patron: Rodney to follow up.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Life Memberships. A question was raised as to why there are two people in the membership with life memberships. Rodney explained this was the decision of a general meeting held a long time ago, and was done to recognize two people who had contributed greatly in the formation of this group.
2. Postage. A question was raised whether TOSA, as a not for profit association, would be entitled to concessional postage. Rodney replied concessional postage is only available to individuals with concession cards and as a business we are not entitled to concessional postage.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 14:30.



PRESIDENT'S FORUM 2016

Over the second weekend in April, I had the privilege of meeting with other leaders from the various Theatre Organ Societies from around Australia. Each state apart from Tasmania was represented, as well as the Gold Coast and Warragul groups. The Nullarbor Plain provides a vast expanse that seems to separate us from the rest of Australia so it was good to meet to discuss the highlights and struggles that other TOSA societies are having.

Brett Kavanagh from Queensland gave an informative and constructive presentation on marketing, with insights into how they are marketing their group, and tips for effectively advertising and promoting concerts. He also provided information about the Register of Cultural Organisations.

Moves have been made to develop a tour schedule of Australian artists. The idea is that an organist could prepare a concert that would be presented in all states over several months. It would be expected that this would make it more appealing for an organist, knowing that more than one group would benefit from all the work of preparing a concert. It should also reduce the amount of work required to find Australian artists to come to play for us here in Perth.

The group has also committed to make an award to people or organisations who have contributed over a long period of time, to the advancement of theatre organ in Australia. Nominations would come from TOSA division Presidents to a national forum. The group at this meeting were unanimous in making the inaugural award to John Sutcliffe, who has been President of the Victorian division of TOSA for twenty years, and has also been the driving force behind organising the national president's forums.

The forum was held on the Saturday, then on the Sunday we were able to play two of the theatre organs in Melbourne. First was the Wurlitzer at the Dendy Theatre in Brighton. Later in the afternoon, we were able to play the Compton organ at the Malvern Town Hall. The photo below shows me seated at the Compton console. The weekend was a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk with other leaders of the other societies. In fact it was so worthwhile, that we plan to get together again in September to do it again.



Save the following dates in your diary:

NEXT CONCERTS: 15 May 2016, BILL SCHUMACHER from Queensland

18 Sept 2016, RICHARD and MICHAEL LARRITT from Adelaide

FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, 2:00pm, Free musical a/noons with local musicians

Members and their contributions to TOSA (WA)

This year we have sadly missed two stalwart members of TOSA – Ian and Pamela McLean. Health and domestic problems have meant that they are no longer able to continue their membership and significant contribution to TOSA.

Ian and Pamela joined about six years ago and quickly became involved. Pamela started tentatively playing the organ and soon was a regular performer at member's days both on piano and organ. As newsletter editor at the time I was grateful for her reviews of visiting organists concerts for the Tremulant. She subsequently became the editor and then secretary of TOSA.

Ian joined the maintenance time at a busy time. With his engineering background, he was inquisitive and quickly learned new skills. He made significant changes to the blower room, which improved access and safety. He was involved in the work to install the electronic capture system, which makes it so much easier for artists to change their registrations. (Incidentally the cost of this and the television camera and screen was thanks to the generous benefaction of former member Nemo Williams.)

Perhaps Ian's greatest contribution was protecting the two pipe chambers and blower room during the alterations to the John Leckie Music Centre. These alterations involved a new roof and ceiling to the building, which created a large amount of dust, which had it got into the pipes and valves, would have rendered the organ unplayable for a long time, if not forever. Every chest of pipes was wrapped in plastic sheeting and sealed. The result was that when the building was reopened the organ was playable straight away. When the organ was back in business, Ian and Pamela spent many hours before visiting artists concerts, tuning each of the 700 odd pipes – a very tedious and boring, but important, job. On top of all this, for a time Ian was TOSA treasurer.

We are indeed grateful for Ian and Pamela's contribution to TOSA. We wish them well for a happy retirement.

Another long time member of TOSA is Alan Harris, whose health also prevents him coming to member's days and concerts, although we were pleased to see him at our last Christmas Luncheon. Before retirement, Alan was a Telecom technician with wide experience. Some years ago, some extra stops were added to the organ and the cotton-covered wiring was replaced by plastic coating. As you will realize this was a very complicated procedure. Alan supervised the installation of this wiring, ensuring that it was done in accordance and to appropriate standards. His experience made him an extremely valuable member of the maintenance team. I always enjoyed his conversation at our morning tea breaks.

(by Malcolm Hood)

THE YARLOOP FIRES

Everyone in Western Australia will be aware of the devastation caused by bushfires earlier in the year. The fires destroyed the town, including the Yarloop Workshops, originally built by Millar Brothers timber milling company (and later owned by Bunnings). One of the residents of Yarloop was Mr John Larnar, who is a retired pipe organ builder. As a retirement project, John was constructing a pipe organ in one of the buildings at the workshops. The fire destroyed this organ, as well as John's equipment and tools for making pipes and building organs. Two concerts were arranged by the Organ Society of WA in January to raise funds for victims of the fire. Approximately \$20,000 was raised by these events.

John Larnar was on a business trip in England in April 1970 and reported back that there was a 3 manual, 10 rank Compton Theatre Organ located in the Plaza Theatre in Worthing. The organ was in good order, but was not being used as the theatre had now become a bingo hall. This news spurred the fledgling Western Australian division of the Theatre Organ Society into action, and eventually this organ was purchased, brought to Western Australia, and finally installed in the John Leckie Pavilion.

Our group owes a debt of thanks to John Larnar for finding our organ for us. We have been extremely saddened to hear of John's loss of his home and personal effects as well as his "tools of the trade". Our thoughts and prayers are with John and his family as he begins to piece back together his life again.



(Rodney playing a duet with Tomasz Nowak at the Yarloop Workshops – the pipe organ is in the background being played by Tomasz)

Some Housekeeping notes:

From the treasurer: If you require a receipt for your TOSA membership fees, please see Rodney Raymond as he can organize one for you. Receipts will only be issued upon request.

An extract of an email from our Patron, Len Rawle: We have been as busy as we ever were and the rest of the 2016 year is already mapped out in such a way that we see Christmas already looming up on us!!

Yesterday I was playing the lovely Wurlitzer in the Musical Museum, next weekend we are heading for the St Albans Museum with its Rutt, Wurlitzer and Hammond organs, the weekend after we are up north at the COS's Saltaire Wurlitzer, then its down to Manchester and the LTOT's museum Wurlitzer. Before the end of the month we have a concert and a dance in Hereford, then its off to the Isle of Man to check over my Wurlitzer installation there - AND SO IT GOES ON.

Despite my advancing years (which both Judith and I try to ignore) I certainly appreciate still being in demand and of course I very much value the opportunity of continuing to be your Patron.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is now 57. There are still a number of people who have not renewed from last year – time to get your membership forms to Rodney Raymond.

Welcome to our new members:

Beryl Channer
Lucia Chipper
Nick Chambers
Wendy Wilson
Jan Veal

We are extremely privileged to have many generous people in our group. There are those who give of their time in helping the society in things like setting up the hall, assisting with afternoon tea, maintenance of the organ and assisting in the administration of the society.

Recently, as the membership renewals were returned, there were a number of people who gave very generous additional donations. A total of \$1,415 has been received this year, from eight people who gave more than the base membership fee. Thank you so much for your support of the society.

And finally:

Q: Why was the organ invented?

A: So the musician would have a place to put his beer.

Q: Did you hear the joke about church?

A: I don't remember how it goes, but the punchline is "the organ player got hit by a car".

The Theatre Organ Society of Western Australian presents:

Bill Schumacher on the Compton Theatre Organ



Join Bill Schumacher, Queensland musician, for a musical afternoon of popular numbers, ballads and light classics on organ and piano.

**Sunday 15th May 2016
2:00pm**

**John Leckie Memorial Pavilion
25 Melvista Avenue, (Western end),
NEDLANDS.**

Tickets are \$20 (Concession) or \$15 (Members) and are available at the door or from our website.

For more information, phone Rodney on 9310 2838 or visit our website www.tosawa.org.au