

TREMULANT

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

www.tosawa.org.au

APRIL / MAY 2018



2018 TOSA(WA) DIRECTORY

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
President	Rodney Raymond	9310 2838
Vice President	Brian Court	9572 1157
Secretary	Ruth MacDonald	0421 212 010
Treasurer	Bernard Varney	9305 0498
Newsletter Editor	Simone Collins	0411 474 450
Catering Coordinator	<i>Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinator	Anne Holland	9407 7747
Webmaster	Rodney Raymond	9310 2838
Committee Members	Anne Holland	9407 7747
	Philip Surtees	0407 450 091
	Simone Collins	0411 474 450

 Find us on Facebook:
facebook.com/theatreorganwa

Visit our website at
www.tosawa.org.au

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



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Recently, our family visited Port Macquarie in New South Wales with our grandchildren. One of our outings was a visit to Timbertown, a village of historic buildings from the timber milling era, including a working, steam driven sawmill. I was fascinated as I wandered about the sawmill,



marvelling how the engineers of one hundred years ago designed the machinery and laid out the equipment to move and cut huge logs – all powered by a steam engine.

There was an older chap – probably a volunteer – keeping an eye on the fire under the steam boiler, and answering questions from the public as they wandered past. As I spoke with him, and viewed the boiler, engines, winches and saws, it occurred to me that this group and the theatre organ society have a lot in common. Both groups consist of a handful of like-minded people wanting to show their historic interest to the world – in this case machinery built and assembled about 100 years ago and now replaced by more efficient and modern equipment. In our case, a musical instrument built 90 years ago to provide music for sound tracks to movie films. Silent films are definitely a by-gone experience, and these days, even going to the movies is almost a by-gone experience as videos are streamed from the internet straight to large screens located in almost every room of every house.



I wondered how the sawmill (or any other preservation society for that matter) manages to attract people who have knowledge on the subject matter to keep their exhibits functioning. How do they effectively market their organisation? The saw mill, like us, cannot just pick up their display and take it to exhibitions. I certainly found the saw mill interesting, as did many others who were wandering past, but

would I go back there again?

On the way back to Perth, we had two hours to wait between flights, and I was wandering through the airport bookshop, looking at the titles of books and the offerings on the magazine rack. There were magazines on most subjects – sport, computers, women’s interests, photography, and also music. (There were no magazines about saw mills or steam engines).

The covers of different “music” magazines caught my eye – there were four different magazines each with a different picture on the front cover – but all four featured pictures of guitars. Whilst I did not expect to see a picture of an organ, I did carefully look to see if I could at least find a picture of a keyboard on the cover of a magazine somewhere. I guess that is another sign that the current generation who actually learn to play an instrument are most likely to choose guitar.

Interest in keyboard instruments, especially organ, appeals to less and less people. It will therefore become an even bigger challenge to ensure that the historic instrument that we have, does not slip into the abyss of time and become completely forgotten about. Every time we engage in conversation with someone, we need to look for opportunities to talk about the organ and invite people to our musical afternoons.

Rodney Raymond

VALE ALAN HARRIS

It is with sadness that we advise that Alan Harris passed away on March 20th at age 88.

Alan was heavily involved in the Theatre Organ scene, and was one of the regular members of the maintenance team up until about 3 years ago. He was responsible for much of the wiring of relays and solenoids in the chambers – undertaken to Telstra standards!



MEMBERSHIP – A lot of members have yet to renew their membership for 2018. We currently have just 38 members – down from 56 last year. If you have yet to renew, please see the Treasurer as soon as possible.

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.

6 May 2018

2 Sep 2018

3 Jun 2018

No concert in Oct (due to 50th Anniversary)

1 Jul 2018

4 Nov 2018

5 Aug 2018

2 Dec 2018 Christmas Celebration



TOSA(WA) 50th Anniversary - 29 September to 1 October 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

UPDATE ON OUR FIFTIETH CELEBRATIONS

It is just four months to our fiftieth celebrations. There are now 22 people registered but if you still haven't done so, please register your interest NOW. If you will have difficulty with a one-off payment for the full amount, please discuss payment options with the Treasurer.

INTERSTATE REGISTRATIONS: There are 8 confirmed interstate registrations plus another 7 people who have indicated they are planning to come.

CONCERTS AT KARRINYUP

6 May 2018

Tony Fenelon (Melbourne)

17 Jun 2018

John Pound (Perth)

12 Aug 2018

David Johnston (Melbourne)

7 Oct 2018

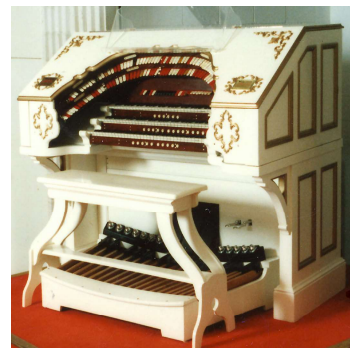
Ray Clements and John Fuhrmann
(Perth)

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

- 3 Jun 2018 John Giacchi – Marrickville Wurlitzer 50th Anniversary Concert
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/>

- 1 Jul 2018 Legends in Concert – Australian Artists
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/

- 13 May 2018 Scott Harrison and the Allstars
17 Jun 2018 John Slater and friends
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

- 20 May 2018 All Stops Out - Scott Harrison, David Johnston, Ruby Page & Films
17 Jun 2018 Tony Fenelon & John Atwell
29 Jul 2018 Thomas Heywood
16 Nov 2018 John Atwell & Hetty Kate
10 Nov 2018 Simon Gledhill



Rob Richards from the USA was phenomenal when he visited Perth on March 25th. He performed a vast array of Disney songs on the Karrinyup Wurlitzer, enjoyed by young and old.

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 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. Since then, he has been a regular organist at the Capri Cinema in Adelaide, has performed many times in Perth and has produced 6 commercial recordings.



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.



As a child, Tony Fenelon showed astounding talent as a pianist, and in later years, studied at the Conservatorium of Music in Melbourne. Tony's interest in lighter music and a love of the majestic sound of the theatre organ led to his appointment in 1965 as resident organist at Melbourne's Regent Theatre. Tony 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.



He not only performs on the theatre organ, but is also an experienced classical organist and pianist.

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

Tickets can be obtained with your membership form, using the form below, or online at www.trybooking.com/SDGO

THE PROGRAM	REGISTRATION
SATURDAY 29 September 2018	CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATIONS: 31 Aug 2018
10:00am MEET AND GREET – John Leckie Pavilion.	CONTACT DETAILS:
11:00am CONCERT with local artists	NAME(S):
12:30pm LUNCH at John Leckie Pavilion	Address:
2:30pm CONCERT with CHRIS McPHEE and ROSANNE HOSKINGP/Code.....
SUNDAY 30 September 2018	Phone/Mobile:
10:00am OPEN CONSOLE	Email:
12:30pm LUNCH at John Leckie Pavilion	Special requirements (Dietary etc):
2:30pm CONCERT with TONY FENELON and JOHN ATWELL
6:00pm GALA DINNER	I/We intend to attend the optional afterglow (Cost will be about \$100 payable on the day at the various events). YES/NO
MONDAY 1 October 2018	REGISTRATION COSTS:
OPTIONAL AFTERGLOW – Cruise down the Swan River, visit Perth’s largest pipe organ, lunch at Cicerello’s, visit Fremantle Gaol.	COMPLETE PACKAGE: \$155 (includes all concerts, Sat and Sun lunches, morning and afternoon teas and gala dinner)
More details at www.tosawa.org.au or contact Rodney on 08 9310 2838	Chris McPhee/Rosanne Hosking concert only: \$20
	Fenelon/Atwell concert only: \$20
	Gala Dinner + Fenelon/Atwell concert only: \$90
	PAYMENT METHODS:
	• Registration form with cheque posted to TOSA(WA), 3 Chamberlain Circle, BATEMAN 6150.
	• Direct Deposit to the TOSA account BSB 306 073 Account No 419 182 4 and this registration form emailed to email@tosawa.org.au
	• Internet booking with discount prices from www.trybooking.com/SDGO

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOSA(WA)

This article was compiled from information from Doug Miller and Rodney Raymond for publication in the WA Music Teachers Association newsletter. As such, the more technical information was omitted, but will be included in future Tremulants as we continue to delve in TOSA(WA)'s history. - Simone Collins

One of the highlights of a trip to the USA with my family in 1990, when I was 14 years old, was a show at the Radio City Music Hall in New York where the mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ provided the musical accompaniment. A keen organist myself, I was completely rapt! It wasn't until 2015 that I discovered that we had not one but two theatre organs here in Perth!

Some picture theatres in Australia kept theatre organs in use right up to the 1960s, but by then we had lost all but one theatre organ in Perth. The remaining Wurlitzer, at the Metro Theatre run by MGM, was only in situ because the building actually belonged to the Methodist Church and they made occasional use of the organ console.



A young John Fuhrmann soon learned about the Wurlitzer, and convinced the Metro to schedule a season of its famous old Eddy and MacDonald musicals with live organ accompaniment rather than using records. The public loved it, and grudgingly the Metro decided to continue using the organ to try to entice people back to the theatre, as the advent of television was seriously affecting movie attendance.

By this time, a few more people became actively interested in the theatre organ, and the WA Division of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (TOSA) was formed in 1968. Initial meetings were held in members' homes, playing electronic organs. One of the first functions organised by TOSA WA was a benefit concert on the Wurlitzer organ in the Metro Theatre plus electronic organs, played by professional organists from Perth, to raise funds for victims of the Meckering earthquake.

The Society also secured permission from MGM to hold a special evening concert featuring the Wurlitzer, played by Tony Fenelon, the resident organist at the Hoyts Regent in Melbourne, which was a great success. However, members

realised that they could not always rely on the generosity of MGM for use of their theatre and organ, so they started raising funds to purchase an organ of their own.

In April 1970, Perth organ builder John Lerner was on a business trip in the United Kingdom, and reported back that there was a 3 manual, 10 rank Compton organ in working order in the Plaza Cinema that was up for sale. A bid of purchase was placed, and the announcement of the acceptance helped membership of TOSA WA swell to over 60 members by July 1970.

The crated Compton organ arrived in Fremantle in August 1971, and although the West Australian published on Thursday 30 September that "Fremantle Will Get Rare Organ", as it was to be installed in the Fremantle Town Hall, disaster struck. The Fremantle City Council could not agree on the extra expenditure, but even worse, the Commonwealth Government imposed a hefty import tax that the society was not able to meet. With heavy hearts, the terrible decision to sell the organ they had worked so hard to obtain was made.



The organ was sold to local Perth businessman Bob Purvis, developer of the highly successful Purvisonic Sound business. The organ was installed in Bob's warehouse in Myaree, and it was agreed that TOSA would be able to use the instrument for concerts in return for keeping up the maintenance of the organ.

Following the death of Bob Purvis, the last concert in the Myaree warehouse was presented in April 1986 by David Johnston. Fortunately, TOSA WA was able to negotiate with Bob's estate to re-purchase the instrument. A new home was found at the John Leckie Music Pavilion in Nedlands, and the organ was dismantled at the end of 1986.

A dedicated team began the task of designing and constructing pipe chambers and trunking for the chests in the new location. A stage was constructed for the console. The console was stripped and re-sprayed in its present off-white colour. Two years later, in August 1988, the first public performance in the new location was held, and a capacity crowd was entertained by American organist Father Jim Miller. Further modifications and upgrades have since been made to the instrument, including adding additional ranks of salicional pipes and intermanual couplers being added.

Regular meetings continue to be held at the John Leckie Music Pavilion, where local musicians are able to practice on and play the organ. The society holds an afternoon of music on the first Sunday of each month at 2pm.

2018 AGM MINUTES

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 4 MARCH 2018.

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

ATTENDANCE

14 financial adult members:

Laura Gillam, Yvonne Craig, Trish Wilkins, Sonia Yeates, Brian Court, Cliff Adams, Anne Holland, Philip Surtees, Jo Hiller, Ruth MacDonald, June Varney, Bernard Varney, Simone Collins, Rodney Raymond

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Brian and Moya Browes, Shirley Rippin and Mollie Gaynor.

MINUTES

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

Moved, Simone Collins; Seconded, Trish Wilkins, that the Minutes were a true record. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING: Nil.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's Report was circulated with the notice of meeting. Rodney highlighted that in 2017 we had three excellent concerts, but falling attendances are a major issue. 2018 is our fiftieth anniversary year – a milestone for any group.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was circulated with the notice of meeting. The bank statements were verified against the circulated report in front of the meeting by Laura Gillam.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership declined from 62 members in 2016 to 56 members in 2017.

Moved, Trish Wilkins; Seconded, June Varney, that the reports be accepted.
Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The following nominations were received:

President: Rodney Raymond
Nominated Yvonne Craig, Seconded June Varney. Carried.

Vice-President: Brian Court
Nominated Anne Holland, Seconded Bernard Varney. Carried.

Secretary: Ruth McDonald
Nominated Simone Collins, Seconded Laura Gillam. Carried.

Treasurer: Bernard Varney
Nominated Laura Gillam, Seconded Brian Court. Carried.

Committee: Anne Holland
Philip Surtees
Simone Collins

The three nominations for committee were nominated by Sonia Yeates,
Seconded Trish Wilkins. Carried.

ELECTION OF CONVENORS

Catering: It was resolved that Rodney Raymond approach Evelyn
Frost, and if she declined, then approach Glenys Raymond.

Tremulant Editor: Simone Collins.

Raffle Organiser: Anne Holland.

These nominations were accepted.

A vote of thanks was extended to Ruth MacDonald acknowledging her work as
Tremulant editor for four years from 2014 to 2017.

A vote of thanks was extended to Anne Holland in acknowledgement of her work
as raffles coordinator. Anne thanked everybody for their contributions in providing
raffle prizes.

ELECTION OF PATRON

Len Rawle was nominated as Patron; Rodney advised that Len is still willing to continue in this role.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. **Member's Day 7 October 2018.** It was agreed that the members day would be cancelled on 7 October, being one week after our anniversary celebrations and also being a clash with a Karrinyup concert. We would still have members days on the first Sunday in April (Easter Sunday), the first Sunday in June (Foundation Day) and the first Sunday in September (Father's Day).
2. **Hall cost for practice.** It was moved by Bernard Varney, seconded by Ruth MacDonald that organ practice time be charged to those doing practice at \$10 per hour or part thereof. Carried.
3. **SMS reminders.** Ruth MacDonald offered to send SMS reminders of upcoming member's days.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 14:50.



The 1985 Committee: Stan James, Geoff Knaggs, Keith Hahn, Stan Higgott, Lorraine Burnett, Ken Meeks

T.O.S.A. [W.A.] Inc.
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2018



I / We wish to renew my membership of T. O. S.A. (W.A.) for 2018.

Membership fees are **\$35** Family and **\$25** Single Membership.

Anniversary Tickets are also available at the discounted cost of **\$155** each.

(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.

I would like _____ Anniversary Package tickets at \$155 each = \$ _____

Membership fee = \$ _____

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 president@tosawa.org.au

(Office Use Only) List updated Addresses updated Tickets issued