

# TREMULANT

The Official Newsletter of

Theatre Organ Society of Australia (Western Australian Division) Inc

[www.tosawa.org.au](http://www.tosawa.org.au)

**SEPTEMBER \* OCTOBER \* NOVEMBER 2021**

*All events are at the John Leckie Pavilion,  
25 Melvista Avenue (Corner of Loton Road) NEDLANDS*

## COMING EVENTS:

**SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2021: 2:00pm - Member's Musical Afternoon.**

**SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER 2021: 2:00PM.**

**SPECIAL GUESTS JOHN POUND AND HUDSON WHEELER.**



John and Hudson last entertained us at the TOSA(WA) 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations – John playing both organ and piano and Hudson performing Chopin on the piano. Since then, they have put together a number of piano organ duets, and will provide a variety of music for us on 3 October. Entry is free.

**SUNDAY 31 October 2021, Perth Concert Hall, 7:00pm, Silent Film Special featuring Alessandro Pittorino**

**SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2021:**

**2:00pm**

**Member's Musical Afternoon.**

**SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 2021.**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON.**

Cost is \$45 per head.

Book using the form at the end of this newsletter.

## 2021 TOSA(WA) DIRECTORY

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
President	Rodney Raymond	9310 2838
Vice President	Philip Surtees	0407 450 091
Secretary	Ruth MacDonald	0421 212 010
Treasurer	Bernard Varney	9305 0498
Newsletter Editor	Simone Collins	0411 474 450
Committee Members	Anne Holland	9407 7747
	Simone Collins	0411 474 450



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[www.facebook.com/theatreorganwa](http://www.facebook.com/theatreorganwa)

Visit our website at  
[www.tosawa.org.au](http://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.



## Interstate News:

## News from the Dendy Theatre:

There are still a few cinemas or picture theatres with theatre pipe organs still installed in Australia. The Capri Theatre in Adelaide is probably the best known, but the Dendy Theatre in Melbourne is another. The following news comes from Scott Harrison, President of the Victorian chapter of TOSA.

For the past 29 years, TOSA(VIC) has enjoyed a very close and supportive working relationship with Palace Cinemas at the Dendy Cinemas, Brighton. Prior to that, we had support from Village Cinemas and, dating right back to the 1960s and the old Dendy, the Ward family. The cinema industry itself is now very much restricted in its operations through both the lack of new film content and lower audience numbers attending their venues. Palace Cinemas have provided the Society with 6 months' notice that our time at the Dendy is drawing to a close. They informed us that they are cementing plans to divide Cinema 4 into four smaller cinemas, and therefore our Wurlitzer would need to be removed because the organ chamber area would become part of one of these new cinemas.

I can confirm that the Wurlitzer organ will be removed from the Dendy by the end of September this year, 2021. I also wish to express our sincere thanks to Palace management and staff for the excellent relationship we have had with them for the past 29 years. TOSA(VIC) is currently in discussion with RMIT University around the relocation of our Wurlitzer back into the Capitol Theatre Melbourne, its original home. Whilst discussions are still in their early stages, there is a very likely scenario that the Wurlitzer and the Capitol Theatre will once again be reunited for their Centenary celebrations in 2024.

# Bill Schumacher - 1941-2021

Bill Schumacher visited Perth on many occasions and played concerts on our Compton organ, the most recent occasions being in 2016 and then again in 2017 with Debbie Fitzsummons. The following is an abridged version of an obituary written by John Atwell, and published in the April issue of VOX.



Bill Schumacher was born in Brooklyn, NSW, on the Hawkesbury River in February 1941. Bill's musical life started on the piano accordion, something that he shared with two other theatre organists, Jonas Nordwall and Simon Gledhill. Later Bill took piano lessons at the Shefte College of Music, which provided a method for the teaching of pop music and syncopation. As his proficiency grew, he became the focus at family parties centred around the piano. Maybe that was the start of Bill's lifelong love of a 'party'.

Bill's commenced organ lessons with Howard Maugham, but his big advancement came when he took lessons on the Hammond organ with Sydney musician, Eric Smith, himself an accomplished organist. Bill soon became a regular at meetings of the Hammond Organ Society in Sydney, where he developed some life-long friends. And Bill said they used to have great parties! He eventually acquired a B3 Hammond, with a PR40 cabinet, having previously had a smaller model. These instruments came without a Leslie speaker or pedal sustain and were not the easiest to play. Cliff Bingham, a musical associate and long-time friend, stated that, in his opinion, Bill was one of only three people in Australia who could properly 'fly a Hammond'.

Bill spent most of his working life with the Johnnie Walker organisation, whose office was in North Sydney, with a great view of the Harbour Bridge. Bill joined TOSA (NSW) in 1962 or 1963 and was an active member until he moved further north to Terranora near Tweed Heads in about 2003.

It was not until later in life that Bill joined the concert circuit outside of NSW, playing in most Australian states, often with other artists such as Cliff Bingham and more recently with Debbie Fitzsummons. Bill was the driving force in encouraging Debbie to return to playing the organ after a long absence, giving coaching support on his Allen theatre organ in Terranora. He was also an integral part of the 'Legends Concerts', presented by Debbie and her husband, George Harvey, with other support.

When Bill moved from Brooklyn to Terranora, he continued to be the generous host sharing his newly acquired Allen organ and grand piano with friends at parties on Australia Day. He also hosted special afternoons for members of the Gold Coast chapter of TOSA, of which he became patron soon after he moved. It wasn't long before he resurrected his secretarial skills and became involved with the administration of the Chapter.

Over the years, Joy and I shared Bill's generous hospitality, both in Brooklyn and Terranora, and sometimes together with a couple of interstate friends. They were fun times, not always with music, but always with lots of laughter. Bill was host to many of the overseas theatre organists when visiting NSW, many of them becoming firm friends. Like all of Bill's other friends both local and overseas, they too will mourn his passing.

Bill and I have never lived near each other, but we kept in regular contact via phone. These conversations were always enjoyable, sincere, light-hearted, and usually with a bit of the latest gossip to share. Musical discussions were also never very far away. I'll miss these conversations, but very grateful for the ones we had.

Sadly, Bill lost his fight with pancreatic cancer on March 2nd 2021, having fought valiantly against it since his diagnosis back in July 2020. Normally, survival of this aggressive cancer is generally measured in weeks rather than many months, as was in Bill's case. Perhaps Bill's survival was testament to his determination never to give up! Many of his friends had the opportunity to contact him and talk about the good times they have shared with him over many years. Rest in peace, Bill. We will miss you very much, but are glad you are now finally without your pain.



# TOSA (WA) CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

## Sunday 5th DECEMBER, 2021

**You are invited to a *fully catered, sit-down,*  
Christmas Luncheon with accompaniment  
of Organ and Piano music and Carols.**

The TOSA (WA) Christmas Luncheon will be held in the:  
John Leckie Memorial Pavilion,  
25 Melvista Ave.,  
Nedlands

on **Sunday 5 December, 2021,**

Starting with Drinks at **12:00 pm** and followed  
by a sit-down Christmas Luncheon at 12:30pm.

Menu: •Sweet Potato and Butternut Pumpkin Soup.

•Turkey and ham with roast potato,  
pumpkin, cauliflower gratin,  
steamed peas and broccoli.

•Choice of Plum pudding or Pavlova.

•Vegetarian Main Course option of Spinach & Fetta parcel with steamed asparagus,  
roast vegetables & cauliflower gratin available by Pre-Order.



The cost is \$45 per person.

Please feel free to bring friends,  
as we need at least 40 attending.

For catering purposes, we need to know  
firm numbers by Friday 26 November.



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Please return this slip, with your Cheque, payable to TOSA (WA) Inc. by  
**Friday 26 November** to:

TOSA (WA) Inc.  
3 Chamberlain Circle  
BATEMAN WA 6150:

or by **email** to [president@tosawa.org.au](mailto:president@tosawa.org.au) (08) 9310 2838

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque Enclosed

I have paid direct into the TOSA bank account  
BSB: 306-073, Account: 004 191 824.

Number of Vegetarian Options: \_\_\_\_\_