

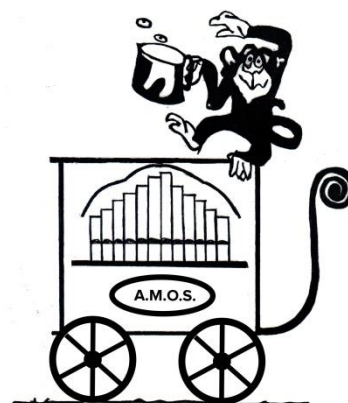


A.M.O.S.
WIND
CHEST

MARCH, 2022

**The Newsletter of the
Australian Mechanical Organ Society Inc.**

ABN 51 312 657 041



GOOD NEWS!!!
THIRLMERE EVENT IS BACK ON FOR 2022
COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE FIRST
ORGAN GET TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After all the stops and starts of Covid some events are finally being organised and held. Thirlmere Steam event is one event now going ahead, therefore, we will finally be able to have an organ get together to play our organs and to catch up with other members. What more could anyone want than to see old steam engines, the smell of steam and to listen to a variety of organs playing their hearts out. If you can possibly make it to this event I can assure you that you will have a great weekend, even more so with a visit to Craig Robson's organ museum arranged for the Friday afternoon for AMOS members. DETAILS FURTHER ON IN NEWSLETTER.



At the moment I can only let you know that **our rally later this year** will most likely be on 14th to 16th October, 2022 as details have yet to be confirmed, but it should be a good location for all members to get to. When we know things for certain I will email all members who I have a current email address for – if you got an email regarding Thirlmere then I have your email address, if you did not and want me to send you information please forward your current email address to me. We hope to have this information in early March so that you can make your accommodation bookings in plenty of time.

This year it has been very hard to arrange things as many people organising events are still unsure whether to carry on and hold them or stop altogether - Covid has a lot to answer for! We must not forget some of the extreme weather that parts of Australia has experienced lately as this also affects places trying to carry on and run special events.

Hope you are all occasionally playing your organs at home – David plays our regularly in the shed – and it will be great when we can get out and play to the general public again.

Daphne H

WANTED TO BUY

**SMALL ORGAN – ANY TYPE CONSIDERED
MUST BE IN GOOD CONDITION
PLEASE REPLY WITH DETAILS AND PHOTOS**

DOUG MURPHY

THIRLMERE FESTIVAL OF STEAM

2022

Extracts taken from official notice:

“After a two-year absence we are pleased to announce the Thirlmere Festival of Steam is officially back for 2022.

Enjoy steam train rides behind one of several different operating steam locomotives, steam crane demonstrations, vintage steam machinery displays, mini-train rides, roving performances, railway art and more!

This year’s event is being delivered in partnership with Wollondilly Shire Council, who will bring the township to life with a special family fun event on Saturday afternoon, ahead of a Sunday filled with amusement rides, live music, market stalls plus a street parade.”



THIRLMERE FESTIVAL OF STEAM, 2022

AMOS GET TOGETHER 11th, 12th, 13th MARCH, 2022

FRIDAY 11th March – The larger trailer organs will be positioned on site at the Thirlmere Steam Museum on the **Friday morning** 11th March between 10am and 12noon. Richard E will be in attendance to ensure that this goes smoothly. **PLEASE NOTE – ANY ORGANS REQUIRING POWER NEED TO HAVE CURRENTLY DATED AND TAGGED EXTENSION LEADS.**

FRIDAY LUNCH can be obtained in Mittagong at the “Café Guru” at the “Highlands Shopping Centre” on the Old Hume Highway (park on the upper level and it is on the right next to the main entrance), toasties, sandwiches, good coffee etc. Lots of free parking nearby and the shopping centre also has a food court.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON we will gather at Craig Robson’s Mechanical Organ Museum “Fairground Follies” at 93 Kirkham Road, Bowral for a private showing to AMOS MEMBERS of his fantastic collection of instruments, the best in the Southern Hemisphere, **from 2pm onwards**. Bring your smaller instruments and unload them at Craig’s museum so we can have a concert/share our music with others after seeing Craig’s instruments. This will be followed by a barbeque (or some other meal) at around **6pm**. **DO NOT BRING ANY FOOD, but do bring your preferred drinks!** Note that this address is near the Bowral brickworks, over the railway line from the centre of Bowral and has no sign indicating that it is a musical museum.

WRISTBANDS to give you free access to the Thirlmere Steam Museum will be distributed on the Friday afternoon – **this is why it is essential that Richard Ellis knows you are coming so that he can get the correct number of wristbands from the museum.**

SATURDAY MORNING we will need to be on site at the Thirlmere Steam Museum, Barbour Road, Thirlmere with our smaller instruments by 9.00am. Park your car on the street and enter with your organ through the main gate. The Saturday is not the main festival day so street parking etc should not be a problem.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY LUNCH – The museum will provide a sandwich lunch. At the end of the day the organs can be kept in a secure place on the museum site.

The day will finish with an evening meal at a place yet to be determined.

SUNDAY - is a repeat of the Saturday details. As this is the main festival day the sooner you get there in the morning the better, especially for parking. We can remove our organs from the museum site after 5pm. On Monday we go home.

Cont....page 6

ACCOMMODATION – We once again recommend the Bargo Motor Inn on Remembrance Drive, Bargo (south of the town) **02 4684 3727** which is clean, basic & cheap. Make your own arrangements. This motel can be cancelled at a moment's notice if you can't get there on the day. **There are a couple of other motels in nearby towns – contact Richard E if you have any problems.**

These are very uncertain times with Covid and what the Committee of AMOS recommends is that you think positive, plan your trip, book the Bargo Motel and then a few days before the event decide whether the trip to Thirlmere is feasible based on the latest information.

ADVISE RICHARD E IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

It is very important that Richard E knows you intend to come to this, the first AMOS event since 2019. Send a message to [Richard E](#) (preferred) or call him and leave a message saying who you are and what instrument you intend to bring, or that you simply intend to come along. His answering machine does not record your phone number so make sure you leave the number as part of the message.

He totally understands that if nearer the date your attendance proves to be impossible but, equally, he needs some information to give to the railway museum and to Craig as to what numbers and instruments to expect.

AMOS ANNUAL RALLY MID OCTOBER, 2022

At the moment the tentative date for the rally is the weekend of Friday 14th, Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th October, 2022.

We will know more details in three or four weeks as we have to work in with event committees who have not yet had their meetings etc, but this weekend is looking good. The town we are looking at is equally accessible to members from SA, Vic and NSW.

As soon as we have more news I will email all those members that I have email addresses for with the place and accommodation details. Full details will be in the June newsletter.

Keep this weekend in mind as it has been so long since we have all been able to meet up and play our organs at an event.

EDITOR'S NOTES

As you can see from this edition I have not had much sent in from members – and not much has been happening in the organ world, BUT finally things are on the move again. So anyone who goes to the Thirlmere event please remember to send me photos for the newsletter, they are always very welcome. Any thoughts or comments you have about the event would be appreciated as well.



Daphne H

GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT!

Janet and Robert D last saw and played their organ at Numurkah rally, so you can understand the smiles on their faces when Val and George S arrived at their home in Wahgunyah with their repaired organ.

What a saga! There have been bush fires, floods, and then COVID. Each time the organ was going to return to them from South Australia something happened to prevent the trip.

Border closures over the last two years made things even harder to travel the distance and get home without having to quarantine for 14 days. So the organ has been waiting in George and Val's wardrobe for its long drive home.

Finally last week the organ set off for Wahgunyah in northern Victoria much to the delight of Janet and Robert who could not wait to play a few tunes.

Smiling faces all round.



An interesting item in the latest MOOS NEWS which may be of interest to some members is about a Smartivity Music Machine.



It is sold in Australia in Big W, but you can find details on the internet by just putting the name in.

It is sold as a toy (but I am sure some of our young at heart members would be interested in it) in kit form that you put together.

Included are an eight note glockenspiel, beaters and a pre-drilled barrel for arranging pegs to make the beaters play a tune on the metal bars.

Back in 1983 Herbert Bachli designed the more substantial Gloggomobil for Naef Toys that was handmade by Swiss craftsmen with an eight note glockenspiel, beaters and pre-drilled barrel for the tune pegs.

Also in the MOOS (Mechanical Organ Owners' Society in the UK) News are other items of interest similar to the above.

Earlier, in the 1970's, the Spanish company Luis Congost sold the Xylomatic which was an eight note mechanical glockenspiel with tinfoil barrel, body and beaters but plastic sides and crank handle. The plastic sides were either blue or red and the barrel had thin rods running lengthwise along which a peg could slide to line up with and make the beater play the note. Each of these eight note instruments had the hand crank at the side.

In 1929, before the other eight note instruments, the Wolverine Supply & Manufacturing Company introduced the Zilotone of a clockwork Clown playing a twelve note glockenspiel with his whole body turning left or right to line up with the note that his arms, that move up and down, make the single hammer hit. All actions being controlled by a tune plate made up of two serrated edge cam discs. Each lithographed metal Zilotone was supplied with a selection from the nine interchangeable tune plates and driven by a hand wound spring motor.

More of an automaton than a mechanical instrument, the Timberkits wooden Xylophone Player is a 123 piece self-assembly kit with hand turned crank to make the toe tapping player move and 'play' the eight note xylophone.

Thanks to Mark Jefford of MOOS for us to be able to use this article.