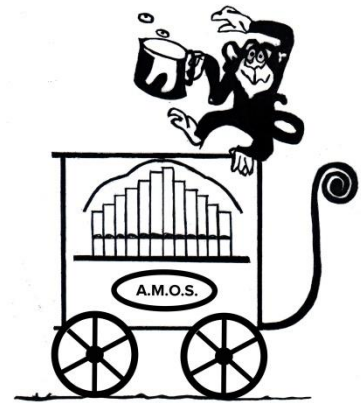


A.M.O.S.
WIND CHEST
DECEMBER, 2022
The Newsletter of the
Australian Mechanical Organ
Society Inc.
ABN 51 312 657 041



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15th February for March edition
15th August for September edition
15th May for June edition
15th November for December edition.

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THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consists of a President, Secretary, Treasurer and Windchest Editor.

AMOS WEBSITE: www.australianmechanicalorgansociety.com

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GRIFFITHS RALLY OCTOBER, 2022

WITH THE ORANGE SCULPTURE FESTIVAL

100,000 oranges are used with 700 volunteers to create them.

SOME OF THE ORANGE SCULPTURES AT GRIFFITHS





OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After seven years as your President (normally five years, but COVID changed that) I am handing over the reins to Peter D who was elected as the new President at the AGM.

It has been a privilege to serve as your President because, as a long time member, I have enjoyed meeting all the members at the rally, or simply communicating by email or on the phone. Of course, I am still a member and hope to catch up with you at the next rally in 2023, as due to one of those annoying tummy things I was unable to attend the Griffiths rally this year.



We have a new AMOS committee, as elected at the AGM. Please do not hesitate to let them know about any ideas you have, or suggestions to improve our rallies, newsletter, etc, or complaints if you have them. If you do not let the Committee know how you feel, they cannot read minds, so they cannot take measures to improve things.

We have a very nice small club, everyone is friendly and willingly to help anyone with an organ problem, or anything else. So let's keep it that way and support the committee any way you can, then we can still get together every year for a wonderful social weekend listening to each other's organs and doing lots of talking.

Keep on grinding,

Daphne H

NEW AMOS PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Thanks to the members, I was elected at the AGM as the AMOS President, together with the Committee of Graeme McD as Secretary, Des L as Treasurer and Richard E as the interim Windchest Editor.

For those whom I have not met, my wife Joan and I own a 46 Key Whitehead & Co. Fair Organ and a 20 Note Castlewood Busker Organ. We got interested in mechanical organs on a trip to the UK 30 years ago and since then we have visited a number of the Organ Museums in the UK, attended the Great Dorset Steam Fair and in June/July, went on a 3 week tour with 22 Americans, a Canadian and 4 other Australians to Organ Museums and Workshops in the UK and Europe.

We all share a love of mechanical organs (and other related instruments), and I would like to offer some ideas to make AMOS a conduit to assist our current and any new members to expand their knowledge and experiences and having those members with a range of 'organ skills' to assist others with their organs.

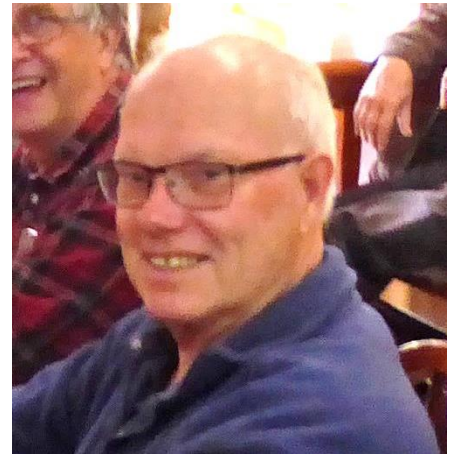
Just a few ideas that will provide the foundation of these goals:

- A register of all known Mechanical Organs in Australia (and focusing on those manufactured in Australia)
- Providing a membership list to members to communicate with others (and it will be your choice whether you want your contact details to be included or not in this list).
- Providing our Newsletter 'The Windchest' as an emailed pdf document so that photos will be in colour, offering the inclusion of more articles and content and allowing hyperlinks to other organ related items of interest. Those without email will of course have the choice for the posted version of the newsletter.
- Raising the profile of our Society within Australia and overseas through expanding our presence on our website and Facebook pages.

The incoming Committee will be discussing these and other ideas in the coming months.

I welcome anyone who has ideas to make AMOS more inclusive and better to drop me an email or give me a ring.

Peter D



NEW EDITOR AFTER THIS EDITION OF NEWSLETTER

**Richard E
P O Box 240
THIRLMERE, NSW 2572**

Email: australianmechanicalorgan@gmail.com

2022 AGM Report.

The meeting was chaired by Peter D standing in for the President who was not able to attend. Peter welcomed members and guests and called for a moments silence for members who had passed away since the last meeting. 32 members and guests attended the meeting.

Reports.

The minutes of the 2019 AGM read and confirmed.

The president's report was read out by the chairman and accepted by the meeting.

The treasurer presented a financial statement for the last 3 years.

There has been a small drop in the bank balance over that period.

Richard E reported that the AMOS web site is worth having to show previous rallies. Richard will continue with the website and reported that there has been an enquiry from the USA re. membership. Peter D reported that the AMOS Facebook page continues to attract people from across Australia and the organ world. There was great interest in the forthcoming Griffith Rally and he expects photos of the Rally will attract further likes and comments. Facebook interest groups in the organ world are continuing to grow with younger and older members wanting to expand their interest in mechanical organ music

Committee:

The following members were elected to the committee:

President – Peter D

Secretary – Graeme McD

Treasurer – Des L

Peter D thanked Daphne H and Janet D for their service to the society.

General Business:

Daphne H advised in her report that the December edition of Windchest would be her last. Richard E agreed to undertake the role on a temporary basis and asked members to contribute articles for inclusion.

Discussion about the format in which the Windchest should be produced followed.

The options discussed included keeping the paper edition only, email only to reduce costs and enable more pages and colour, produce both printed and email format and/or put it on the website. It was decided that Windchest be produced in both paper format and email with members choosing which format they want to receive.

2023 Rally:

The following suggestions were put forward: Fairground Follies in Bowral, Tasmania, Warrnambool, Horsham, Griffith, Urana, or Benalla. It was agreed that the committee would look at all possibilities.

Membership List:

It was suggested that a list of members could be distributed. After discussion including the issue of privacy, it was decided that a list of members be distributed to all AMOS members”.

Listing of Mechanical organs in Australia.

Pam McD suggested a list should be made of mechanical organs in Australia. No such record of Australian built or imported organs currently exists and this information should be collected whilst there are people around who have this knowledge.

It was agreed that Pam McD start compiling a list of imported and Australian mechanical organs in Australia.

Plaques: The rally plaques were distributed including one for Pam and Graeme McD for organising the Griffith rally.

Organs for Sale: Des L mentioned that Daphne and David H are selling Miss “B” and Friends.

Lost Trades Fair: Pam advised that the Lost Trades Fair will be happening in 2023.

Thirlmere: Richard advised that he will not be organising anything for 2023.

Graeme McD – Secretary

Re: DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERSHIP LIST in minutes above –

At the AGM a motion was passed regarding a membership list to be distributed.

The implementation of this is not automatic and the Committee will design a strategy to ensure that members are consulted as to whether they want to be included and the level of information to be listed. This is a project plan for 2023 and details will appear in the March Windchest outlining the options. The progress may be held over until Membership renewal in June to ensure full consultation.

Peter D – President

2023 RALLY – No decision has been made as yet as the Committee are still making enquiries regarding a suitable venue. You will be notified in the March newsletter as to where and when the rally will be held.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL OR PAPER

Members will receive the MARCH WINDCHEST by email – no action required
Members who wish to continue to receive the March and future WINDCHEST by post
please notify Graeme McD (Secretary).

FOR SALE

Hand turned 36 key organ

THE WAGONMASTER

Gavioli System

Built by AMOS member

John H

In beautiful condition

\$2,500

Including the cart

Comes with source code and one music book. I can help with shipping.



Contact Doug M

FOR SALE

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AUTOMATIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS by David Bowers

1008 Pages, very popular with organ owners.

In good condition \$50.00 plus postage

David H

LETTER TO THE EDITOR – from Richard E:

This may seem like a trivial matter, but can I compliment the Griffith Rally organisers for their choice of venue for the AGM meal. The meal provided was very good and a step up from previous rallies.

ROBERT & JANET D – As those who attended the Griffiths Rally already know, for the first time ever Janet came to the rally without Robert as he was unwell.

Janet rang me the other day from Melbourne (they live in Wahgunyah which is not far away from Wodonga) as they had to travel down to Melbourne (by bus, no trains running) for Robert to have surgery to improve the circulation in his legs.

She then contacted me again on Saturday 12th to say they were on the way home after a successful operation.

I would like to send our best wishes on behalf of AMOS members for a quick and speedy recovery for Robert – also for Janet after the stressful time they had getting to Melbourne and back home.

LOST TRADES FAIR – BENDIGO 2023

The Fair is on again at the Bendigo Racecourse on **Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th March, 2023**. Lisa has asked for a cap on the number of organs this time (there has been a lot of fine tuning all about the fair).

If you would like to come and play your organ (Saturday, Sunday or both days) send me your request and I will process them according to the date received and get back to you as soon as I have enough takers.

One of the interesting changes is that artisans will display clocks indicating the times they will be actually demonstrating (i.e. talking about) their craft, to save repeating themselves as people join their group of onlookers. Stalls will never be left unattended, but it will give the artisans a chance to see other artisans themselves.

Accommodation is filling quickly so if you are interested in participating please reply post-haste.

Pam McD

INTERESTING SNIPPET FROM MOOS NEWSLETTER – Historic machinery is still being used to produce new music rolls in the Wurlitzer Music Roll Department of the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum in North Tonawanda, NY for the Wurlitzer Style 125, 150 and 165 Military Band Organs, Automatic Player Piano and Caliola instruments.

A full list of the Master Rolls that the museum acquired along with the Wurlitzer machinery and tools to make them, is available as a downloadable pdf file from:

<https://www.carrouselmuseum.org/the-wurlitzer-music-roll-department.html> webpage

(This was in the Autumn Newsletter 2022 from MOOS – and yes carrousel is spelt with two r's in the web address – maybe its American?)

People who think the glass is half full or half empty are missing the point.
The glass is refillable!

EDITORS NOTE re Griffiths Rally – Some of our members may not realise that just because Griffiths was not flooded it was not possible for a few members to travel from their homes to the rally, as there were floods between where they live and Griffiths. The consequence of this was that there were a few unavoidable cancellations from members who were going to bring their organs. Then after the rally getting home to certain parts of Melbourne (and other places) was not easy. Peter and Joan D had to travel to Tocumwal and then down the Murray Valley Highway to Wodonga, then onto the Hume Highway making it a ten hour drive home. Des and Dorothy L also had to divert due to water over the roads and also had a much longer trip home. All arrived home safely. Such was the determination to attend our first rally since 2019 that there was still a large enough group to enjoy themselves socially, which is what the rally is all about.

Griffith Rally report.

Griffith was this year's chosen location. It met the criteria of being in an eastern state, equally accessible to as many of our members as possible, a large enough city to meet our accommodation and dining needs, a prevailing festival to provide the marketing to attract visitors to the town as well as be of interest to our own members.

In the initial planning it was hoped our organs could be located amongst or in the vicinity of the orange sculptures in the main street of Griffith, as well as in some of the Open Gardens around the city. The organiser of the local Rotary Market actively pursued me to have one or more organs at their Sunday Market, as did the Manager of the local Pioneer Park, suggesting busloads of visitors on the Saturday and The Ford Car Club members on the Sunday would provide appreciative audiences. The Multicultural Festival also embraced the idea of an organ or two supplementing entertainment at their celebrations.

All was well until around the middle of the year when I rang to check that everything was in order with the previous February's planning, only to hear that the festival management had changed and all the suggested planning had not carried through to the new administration. The Council's Traffic Management Plan had since been submitted and I was told there was no chance of our organs being centrally located in the orange sculpture environs. You could say I was flabbergasted!

However, I thought, the show must go on. Already there were over 30 AMOS members committed to the event and, due to the Covid hiatus, AMOS business to attend to as well as provide a forum for the social aspects of our group.





The fixture we ended up with was the result of the necessarily amended program. The Open Gardens welcomed us to play, with the expectation of busloads of public visiting the gardens. The other aforementioned activities also eagerly looked forward to hosting the organs.

Left – Jan D in the middle of town

I approached the Council re. locating an organ adjacent to the very popular bakery in the main street. ‘Easy,’ you might say. The adjacent ‘shop’ was the National Bank – closed on a Saturday. Would you believe that the local

bank personnel told me they would have to approach Head Office in Canberra for permission for a small organ to play in front of their closed building! When I had not received the relevant permission four days before the event, I contacted the Council’s ‘Busking’ Representative – who proceeded to tell me not to worry about it as she had a friend that worked at the Bank!

It was disappointing to both myself as organiser and to AMOS members who had brought their organs to find that the expected busloads and crowds did not really materialise. It seemed Griffith locals were also disappointed and attributed it to a couple of factors, one being the atrocious weather leading up to the festival, with rivers flooded, roads cut, and the threat of rain during the weekend. Indeed some AMOS members themselves kept me abreast of their efforts to reach Griffith, describing being turned back or advised to detour many extra kms out of their way to attend the rally. I felt so sorry for those who couldn’t make it, including some members who had joined AMOS since the last rally in 2019.

Right – the biggest bottle of orange juice ever.

The other factor the locals expressed that impacted on the lesser than usual crowds was that after the disrupting effect of Covid, many towns in the region were holding some sort of event over the same weekend to attract tourists to their region to make up for lost revenue during the pandemic.



There were positive aspects of the weekend like the care and concern shown by Karen at the motel as she went beyond her duty to our members by contacting them to ensure their travel safety during the unseasonal weather. (Until I approached the Exies Bagtown Motel in February, other motels had told me they were already booked out – obviously anticipating busloads of people to require accommodation during the festival).

Fay, the Events Co-ordinator at Exies, promised me in July that she would provide us with a function room for our Dinner and AGM, despite the Exies Club planning to permanently close the

function rooms before October. For those who has never organised a rally, it is not easy to find a venue that you can book for a large but unknown, or changing number of patrons up until the last minute, which includes a private room in which to conduct the AGM. I received positive feedback from AMOS members regarding the quality of the meal served at our Rally Dinner.

Right – good looking motorbike

Marj and Mick, owners of ‘Rosewood Park’ generously offered their own property for us to hold our Friday night barbeque. Not every motel that can cater for large numbers also provides BBQ facilities for guests. Barbeques could not be reserved in the public parks, so when their kind offer was made I gratefully accepted on AMOS’s behalf. (There was always the chance of inclement weather so this venue would enable to have our meal indoors if necessary). Once again Janet did a great job organising the meal with our hostess Marj ordering very tender steak from her own butcher.

I acknowledge that even though members were provided with maps indicating where organs would be located during the weekend, these locations necessitated an amount of travel and hence time between venues. The Information Centre ran a bus service around the various gardens for the public which some AMOS members took advantage of. The allocation of organs to venues was intended to ensure visitors would see different organs at the different gardens over the weekend, but even that wasn’t successful as the number of organs attending the rally was less than I had expected.



A lot of people told me they really enjoyed their Rally weekend in Griffith! This feedback made the effort of organising worthwhile. The motel layout was conducive to people catching up with other members and the Sunday night dinner provided another great opportunity for a chinwag. Thank you also to those who personally reported on aspects of the rally they thought could be improved in the future: I acknowledge your comments.

I hope this story has given you a little insight into many of the hurdles negotiated in holding this rally. I sincerely hope similar obstacles will not be the norm in the future (there will probably be different ones) and I hope we see more people being prepared to volunteer to enjoy the thrill of organising AMOS rallies in the future.

Pam McDiarmid

Editor – Many thanks to all those who provided photos for this article and this newsletter, it makes a big difference having lots of nice photos with the articles.

GRIFFITHS RALLY OCTOBER, 2022









EDITOR'S NOTES

Sadly, this will be my last newsletter as I have decided that after 14 odd years it is time to hand over to someone else to produce your newsletter. It has been a great pleasure for me to develop our one page simple newsletter into what it is today with lots of photos, articles and bits and pieces. I only hope everyone has enjoyed reading it over the years.



I felt it was time that some of the newsletters should be sent out by email as many of you now have email addresses, but others will always want a paper version. As you can see from the AGM minutes this was discussed and from the March edition onwards this is what will happen. So anyone who wants a paper copy please let the new Editor – Richard E – know, or the Secretary Graeme McD.

Richard E has agreed to take over the Editor's job and I hope you will all support him with articles, photos, snippets etc the same as you have done with me. I must especially thank those of you who have always come up with an article or photos when I have needed them – you know who you are and I thank you very much.

I will continue to be an ordinary member, along with David, and we hope to catch up with a lot of you at the next rally in 2023.

Wishing all of you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR from both of us.

Daphne H



Some of the stone sculptures around Griffiths courtesy of David Dunnet
