

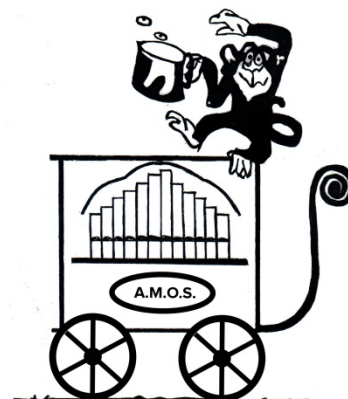


A.M.O.S.
WIND
CHEST

MARCH, 2020

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

ABN 51 312 657 041



STOP PRESS

**THIRLMERE STEAM FESTIVAL
HAS BEEN POSTPONED,
THEREFORE OUR AMOS
WEEKEND IS CANCELLED**

Our weekend which was to be held on Friday 28th February, Saturday 29th February, Sunday 1st March and Monday 2nd March, 2020 has been postponed due to the bushfire situation. At the moment no new date has been decided upon and we will update you when we learn anything.

**PLEASE CANCEL ANY ACCOMMODATION
BOOKINGS YOU HAVE MADE!**

WIND CHEST – Wind Chest is published by the Australian Mechanical Organ Society Inc. quarterly in March – June – September – December, and **is distributed free to members of AMOS** – **closing dates for Wind Chest are:**
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

AMOS WEBSITE: www.australianmechanicalorgansociety.com

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AMOS RALLY 2020

WARRAGUL, VICTORIA

Fri 9th, Sat 10th, Sun 11th OCTOBER, 2020

A reminder to members that accommodation for AMOS has been reserved until 29th February, 2020 and after that date rooms will be made available to traders and other visitors.

If you intend to bring a “big” organ can you please advise Peter Datson by 1st March, 2020 on peter.datson@gmail.com – as he is meeting with the Lions Garden Show organisers to arrange potential places for our organs. They are preparing the plan for traders and stalls, so we need to reserve appropriate spaces.

Peter Datson

Reminder of accommodation available (details in December edition):

Warragul Gardens Holiday Park – cabins etc. (contact Pam) 03 5623 2707

Comfort Inn Motel & Suites, Warragul (contact Feng) 03 5623 2189 (4 star)

Edinburgh Motor Inn Motel 03 5622 3339 (4 star)

Warragul View Motor Inn Motel (contact Tony) 03 5623 5222 (4 star)

REMEMBER TO MENTION AMOS AND PETER DATSON WHEN BOOKING

MUSIC AND MEMORIES

GEELONG 2001 RALLY



This early rally was organised by John and Jan Ham and was in conjunction with the 2001 AMICA (Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors Association) convention, which is a worldwide group of collectors. It was a great opportunity to meet fellow collectors from around the world by having our rally at the same time. Steampacket Place, Geelong Eastern Beach was an ideal site for the organs that were placed adjacent to the Herschell carousel, which is housed in its own glass building right on the waterfront.

The setting and weather were perfect and helped to draw a constant stream of people all weekend and they were all very interested in the organs etc on display.



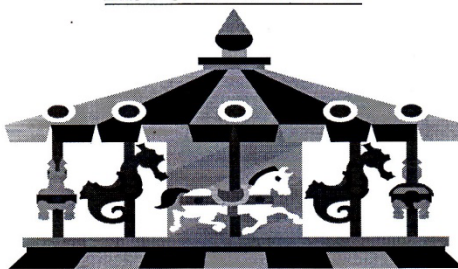
David and I had our “Gallery of Clowns” Findlay organ in front of the carousel building and most of the others were positioned on the grass area adjacent to this building. The overseas group arrived by bus and were very busy with their cameras going from one organ to another talking to us about our organs and listening to them play. It was great to talk to fellow enthusiasts from other countries. (left – Daphne and David Holt).

There were about 40 people in our group, with a total of at least 19 exhibits bringing a good variety of instruments.

On the Saturday night we had a dinner at the motel and then on the Sunday night, those that had not already headed home got together for dinner at the all you can eat restaurant at the end of the pier (Smorgys),

Continued – page 4

LIST OF ATTENDEES



7th. National Fairground Organ Festival
Steampacket Place Geelong 2001

Allen Ikki and Jo	03 5243 0409	Restored Carousel Steam Engine
Beeforth Bernie and Joan	03 5975 7496	John Smith Buskers Organ John Smith Buskers Organ Mk2
Bernoeth David and Avis	03 5443 0018	Air Calliope Manual keyboard 50 Whistles
Carrodus Joe	03 9336 7192	Wurlitzer 125
Ellis Richard	02 4681 9237	The Flying Pieman
Ham John and Jan	03 5426 1476	1927 CA 43 Tangley Calliope Roll Operated
Holt David and Daphne	08 8382 1486	34 keyless Findlay fairground organ
King George and Glad	<u>02 9522 7108</u>	1980 Raffin Monkey organ
Lang Des and Dorothy	03 9543 4994	Findlay fairground organ No.1
Meyer Ralph and Ellen	02 9879 7450	Portable hand cranked barrel organ
Meertens Dirk and Margaret	08 8562 1924	52 key Decap 'Berber Maria' 25 note keyless Perlee organ
Speedie Peter and Betty	03 5475 3078	John Smith 20 note roll playing 30 pipe 20 note street organ roll playing
Starr Warren and Betty	07 3201 7982	J Verbeek 36k hand turned organ 4 tune barrel organ [reed]
Williams Newton Gillian	03 5032 9385	Wurlitzer style 205 Military band organ Sagina 43 keyless hand cranked street organ
Williams Miriam		Diadem 28 keyless busker organ
Broderick Carol and Richard		
Deakin Graeme & Fuller Ken	02 4885 1750	
Dickens Janet and Robert		
De Saxe Elaine & Ross Elaine	07 3848 1302	

And those wonderful staff at the carousel

This is the actual list that was given to us on the weekend by John Ham, and you will note that some of the organs etc. now have different owners.

There were other attendees not on this list such as Hans Hahnemann, who brought his hand turned organ.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any written report about this weekend so have had to rely on my memory (please forgive any errors), but I do have the list (on page 4) of those who attended along with a list of what instruments they brought to the rally.

Many thanks for the photos go to David Holt and Janet Dickins – this was the first rally that Janet and Robert Dickins attended. It was a great weekend full of fond memories for all of us.

Daphne

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope you are all safe and well and not affected by the bushfires or the heavy smoke associated with them.

You will notice on the front page that for the first time in the club's history we have had to cancel an event. This has come about because the Thirlmere town festival is actually organised by the Picton Rotary Club. Their main reason for cancelling is that the volunteers who organise the festival are largely the same people who for weeks now have been volunteering for firefighting related matters which makes it all too much. The Railway museum has gone along with the wishes of the Rotary Club so the whole thing is off for now. Richard Ellis says that the fire has largely been and gone around Thirlmere, but you never know! When we hear anything more we will let you know, as we were all looking forward to the event and also going to Craig Robson's organ museum in Bowral.



Keep safe and keep grinding whatever part of our country you live in.

Daphne

CLUB WAS CONTACTED THROUGH AMOS WEBSITE –

Wanted to give away Alexander Pere reed organ, partially restored, made in Paris circa 1888. (Editor – I have a few other photos that I can email anyone who is interested).

**Chris O'Connor
Cumberland Park,
South Australia**

0419 034 410

chrisoconnor@internode.on.net



Lost Trades Fair, BENDIGO 7 + 8 March 2020

This is a Labour Day weekend in Victoria

Skill, tradition, lost arts, rare trades and heritage crafts. Meet the makers - see how things are made; made by hand, made with skill and made to last. Incredible world class career makers practising their trades - coopers & carriage builders, silversmiths & saori weavers, glass blowers & gunsmiths, chandlers and clockmakers - over 100 traditional artisans from Australian and abroad come together for this spectacular event.

Be inspired by the 'art of handmade' at the Lost Trades Fair - Bendigo 2020

Getting to the Lost Trades Fair:

Bendigo is located in central Victoria and is easily accessible by planes, trains and automobiles – yes, there is an airport in Bendigo with flights direct to and from Sydney NSW daily.

Trains run direct from Melbourne's Southern Cross Station, with free shuttle service to the venue.

Bendigo is easily accessible by car from across the state.

By Car: Parking is available on-site

By Public Transport: Trains run regularly from Melbourne's Southern Cross Station (Bendigo Line) there will be free buses to and from the racecourse from the station.

Venue: Bendigo Racecourse, Heinz Street, Bendigo, Victoria 3551

**Please note: Dogs are strictly NOT permitted at this event (Service & Guide Dogs are accepted)*

The venue is beautiful, but it is worth noting that the weather is often warmer than Kyneton, so come prepared with lots of water.

Dates: **7 + 8 March 2020 – Labour Day weekend (Victoria)**

Venue: **Bendigo Racecourse, Heinz Street, Ascot, Bendigo, Victoria.**

Set up: from 10 a.m. Thursday 5 March

(Security will not be onsite on the Thursday, although the site itself is very secure if you wish to put up your marquee on this day)

- AMOS members bring your public liability card with you (the one Des sent you).

It is suggested you arrive sometime after Friday midday, when you can see the general layout of paid stalls, and find yourself a nice place to play your organ/s.

I need to know the following by Sunday 9 February:

- 1.If you wish to be kept informed of all Lost Trades Fair information (Bendigo, Toowoomba and Sydney), please email me with your email address, or the email of a friend or family member who can receive emailed information and will pass it on to you as it becomes available.
2. If you will be attending the LTF in Bendigo, please let me know if you are bringing a big, a little organ, or no organ, and if you require power. (I need to have this info. for tickets and admin)
3. Indicate if you would like to go out with the AMOS group for an evening meal (at your own expense) on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 March, and I will book venues.
- 4.Please send the above information to me by Sunday 9 February.

Kind regards, Pam pam@pmcdiarmid.com 03 5428 3842 or 0417 058 095

EDITOR'S NOTES

You will all notice that the “March” issue is out early in February, but this is due to the fact that the Thirlmere Steam Festival has been postponed as most of the organisers have been involved in some way with fighting the bushfires. When we get a new date we will let you know immediately, but in the meantime we just wanted everyone to be aware that the event has been postponed.

David and I were really looking forward to attending the Thirlmere Steam Festival and then going to Craig Robson’s museum on the Monday, so keep our fingers crossed that we hear something soon.

As I sit here writing this it is **ACTUALLY RAINING** in South Australia (has not done that in a while) but that is not unusual at this time of year, but it is nice to see rain and the garden getting a good watering.

For those who attend the Lost Trades Fair at Bendigo, please remember your Editor who is always looking for that photo or little titbit about the event – or anything else for that matter. You have all been a bit sluggish lately, so I hope to hear from at least a couple of you with a photo or article – big or small.



Daphne

The more I want to get something done, the less I call it work

THE ORGAN GRINDER'S TOAST



(my original front page before Thirlmere was postponed)

THE SAD TRUTH – There was a very interesting item on page 3 of the February, 2020 edition of **OLD GLORY** (a vintage machinery and steam magazine from UK) where the Editor spoke about the changing world with its loss of people with deep interests in steam preservation etc, which also applies to the organ world. Everyone is getting older and there are less and less younger people who are interested in preserving these old organs, steam engines etc. Today's world seems to be instant this, instant that, in fact instant everything so there is no interest in restoring the wonderful things from the past.

If you look at eBay etc. you will see organs for sale (especially the bigger variety) and the price of them has dropped dramatically, and so has the interest in owning one and restoring it. One wonders what will happen to all these organs when this generation has passed its use by date and can no longer take the organs out and play them. There does not appear to be many younger people at all interested in taking on the challenge – too busy with their ipads and phones etc.

Just food for thought – and possible discussion – but a sober thought for those of us who love nothing better than to get an organ working and take it out to play for the public.

Daphne