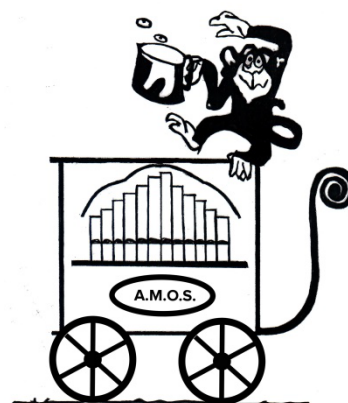




A.M.O.S.
WIND
CHEST
SEPTEMBER, 2020



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

ABN 51 312 657 041



THE HORSE TRAM AT VICTOR HARBOR, SOUTH AUSTRALIA (AND YES, THAT IS HOW IT IS SPELT)

The horse drawn tram commenced running on the causeway from Victor Harbor to Granite Island (which is a very small island just off Victor Harbor) in 1894 and is still running today.

The locals say that it is the only place in the world where you can catch a horse drawn tram to the railway station, get on a steam train to Goolwa and then step onto an old wooden paddle steamer. The steam train and paddle steamer are subject to special time tables, but the horse drawn tram operates most days.

Editor – this is not a tourism promotion, but I just thought it might brighten up your day.

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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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

David Briggs from Horsley in New South Wales

Gillian Tyler from Grovedale, Victoria

Brenda Bakes from Mentone, Victoria (sorry I missed you when I put Geoffrey's name in)

Unfortunately we will not have a rally this year where we could say hello, but hope to meet you all when we next get together in the future. So for now it's just a big welcome to our club from the committee.

2020 RALLY

As you will have read in the last newsletter this year's rally had to be cancelled due to the current situation with the virus, but hopefully we will have some good news soon about upcoming events. Everything depends on when events are allowed to take place and where they are. As soon as the committee knows anything we will pass it onto members.

Editor



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2020 has turned out to be a very different year than we all expected and I hope you are all making the best of things, staying safe and healthy and looking forward to the future. Normally during the Winter David and I head north to the warmer parts of Australia, but like everyone else we have had to spend our winter at home in South Australia in the cold. Who knows what we will be doing in 2021!

As you will have read in the last newsletter we have had to cancel our rally (which was to be held in October) due to the virus and at the moment we have no idea when we will be able to hold another organ event, but as soon as we know anything we will contact members. Because of this and the fact that our members are in different parts of the country and unable to travel at the moment, we (like a lot of other clubs) have not been able to have our Annual General Meeting this year. Des Lang has given me the financial statement that would normally be handed out at the AGM to be included with this newsletter. I only hope we have more positive news by the time the December newsletter comes out.

We are not alone in these uncertain times, organ events and meetings have had to be cancelled in England and Europe exactly the same as here. Friends who have an organ in England have had all their events cancelled for this year, and as yet no knowledge of any to be held next year. So we are all in the same boat with our organs sitting idle at home – at least we can play them for ourselves every now and again.

Pam McDiarmid is having the same problem with the Lost Trades Fairs, and there is a message from her about this further in the newsletter.

Looking forward to catching up with a lot of you sometime in the future,

Daphne Holt – President



Left – the organ monkey belonging to English member Mark Jefford.

Right – Sarah Mahoney (left) with her granddaughter and daughter playing her French Odin organ at an Adelaide Fringe event earlier this year.



VERY SAD NEWS

Elaine de Saxe, a long-time member and our original AMOS Editor, died on 26th May, 2020 in Queensland.

Elaine wrote the newsletter for approximately eight years and, even though she could not always manage to get to all the rallies, the news was always in the newsletter. She also came up with the name WIND CHEST for the newsletter, which was very appropriate.

NEWSLETTERS – well before AMOS was formed a newsletter was produced by Bob Hunt from Queensland (who sadly died too young) called “FOPS AUSTRALASIAN NEWS” and sent to Australian members of FOPS (Fair Organ Preservation Society, UK). This society was formed in 1958 by a group of enthusiasts who used to gather for Sunday recitals around the late Tom Alberts 98 key Marengi at Bolton in Lancashire, UK. Many of the early members of FOPS were organ owners, but you could be a member if you did not own an organ. They publish a society journal THE KEY FRAME four times a year for members. Thanks to Richard Ellis for this information (which was in the FOPS AUSTRALASIAN NEWS March 1996) as he was at that time FOPS representative in Australia.

In November, 2000 Richard Ellis and Ralph Meyer wrote a newsletter which was the first AUSTRALIAN MECHANICAL ORGAN SOCIETY (AMOS) newsletter sent out to members of the newly formed club.

Then Elaine took over and the newly named WIND CHEST became AMOS’s official newsletter which was sent to all members. In 2008 at the Echuca rally I then took over producing the WIND CHEST which is sent out four times a year to all members.

While collecting all the above information it was very interesting to look back at some of the old black and white photos of those “young” men and women playing their instruments – many of them are still members today, they just look a little bit different.

Page 5 is a copy of the March, 2001 newsletter’s front page (there were only two pages).

On the second page there was a piece called ‘names’ which said;

Who would like to suggest some more names for our newsletter? Presently these are the contenders: Proscenium, Monkey Business, Squeaky Notes, Leaking Bellows, Organ Notes, Wind in the Whistles, Tremulant and the one chosen for now Windchest. Unfortunately, Key Frame has already been claimed! Please make a suggestion or vote for one of the above. I do not know the results of the voting, but WIND CHEST must have won.

Hope this piece of AMOS club history is of interest.

Daphne Holt

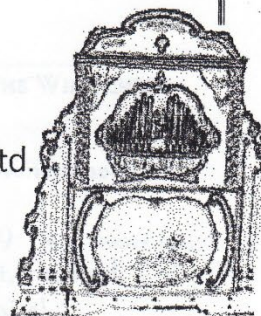
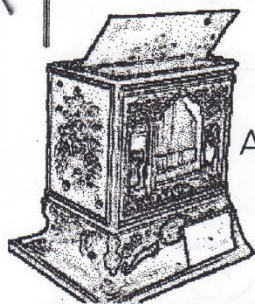
The A.M.O.S.

WINDCHEST

newsletter of the
Australian Mechanical Organ Society Co-Op. Ltd.

Vol 1 number 2

March, 2001



WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF THE AMOS NEWSLETTER.

This is a real 'quickie' to give you all the details of the regular newsletter, now in the planning stages.

The first newsletter was written and produced by Richard Ellis and Ralph Meyer. Thank you for that - we needed a newsletter and you rose to the occasion. As indeed Ellen Meyer and George and Glad King put in their effort to bring AMOS into being. Without the energy of volunteers, very little will be accomplished.

This is the Year of the Volunteer. I'd like you all to give a rousing cheer for those members, named and un-named, who gave their time voluntarily to bring our fledgling organisation into being.

It was a great rally at Geelong! Thank you to John and Jan Ham, David and Avis Bernoth and Des and Dorothy Lang who did most of the hard work.

It is always a pleasure to meet again after so long and to those of you who were unable to attend: you were missed!

There will be a full report with pics in the next issue. Expect it in April: those of you with email access will receive it as an Acrobat document. Members not yet 'on the net' will find it in their mail boxes.

Elsewhere there are contact details, dates and so on for the next issue which is planned to be the beginning of a regular quarterly news for everyone to share.

While I am delighted to be the editor, typist, graphic designer and so on I do not have organ technical expertise. If you'd love to see articles on organ building, restoration, tuning, marking ... whatever, do please send them to me for publication. The contents of the newsletter are in the hands of the members, we need your help to make this newsletter into an eagerly-awaited journal. It's as much a history of our organisation as it is a market place and way of keeping in touch and informed.

At the meeting in Geelong, it was generally agreed that the newsletter would carry members' advertising. For example, wanted to buy/sell/exchange, contacts for parts, anything organ-related you want to publicise. At this stage, there has been no decisions made for pricing of commercial/classified advertising but do send in anything you want to be made known and we'll figure out something reasonable.

Meanwhile - keep those organs blowing and the windchest full!

Elaine

LOST TRADE FAIRS

I recently contacted Pam McDiarmid regarding the Lost Trade Fairs to see if any news is available when they will be held. Below is a message she received from Lisa who organises these fairs:

“First – hello to you all – we hope that you are staying safe and remaining sane over this crazy time we all find ourselves in. This email will come as no surprise to most of you but I thought it should be official – the Lost Trades Fair at the Hawkesbury Showgrounds has been cancelled – and postponed to 2021. We look forward to running the Sydney Lost Trades Fair at the same time next year, pencilled in for 23rd and 24th October, 2021.

It is sad to think that we all will not get together again in 2020 and my hope is that things will be different in March 2021 and that we can run the fair in Bendigo.

The situation with respect to public gatherings is changing on a daily basis and these decisions are well beyond our control, due to this unprecedented time of uncertainty it is just not possible to plan and deliver a successful event without risk of late cancellation and a great loss to all involved. Council are obviously having to provide conservation but realistic advice and are clearly having events cancelled everywhere.

We are already trying to re-work how the Bendigo event will run in March 2021 with respect to distancing and crowd numbers. Additionally, we know we attracted many visitors from other states – particularly northern Victoria, and of course half the artisans came from Victoria, and others from Queensland. This being known, there is a risk not only to artisans but also to visitors.

That said, we wish you all the best and hope you stay healthy, keep safe and happy. We will miss seeing you this year!

Lisa and Glen”

Editor - I think the above answers all the questions re the Lost Trade Fairs and when more information comes to hand it will be put in the newsletter, or sent directly to those we know are interested by Pam McDiarmid.

USED BOOKS – it is now very hard to find somewhere to pass on second-hand books. Most of the op shops are only interested in novels etc, but not other old books however beautiful their bindings are and how interesting the information in them is. One second-hand bookshop said they had a whole shed full of old books in pretty good condition that they cannot even give away, and the recycling people are not at all interested in taking them. How times change!

A friend had quite a few books, all in good condition, and he had to travel around going into several shops until he finally found someone to take some of them, but not all. People do not seem to read as much now, they have lost the joy of holding a book in their hands.



EDITOR'S NOTES

Well I must say that this has been the hardest newsletter that I have produced – due to the virus there have been no organ events anywhere, therefore no photos or articles for the newsletter.

New Red and Green AMOS badges have been sent to all members by Des Lang and if you have not received yours please contact him (his details are on page 2 of the newsletter).

Now I need your help for our next newsletter – has anyone been working building an organ, altering their organ etc, or even anything special you have been doing while confined to home. No matter how short (and not too long) an article would be appreciated with photos if possible. Any ideas?

Daphne Holt – Editor

RALLIES IN DECLINE – In a recent edition of the magazine “Old Glory” was a short article about the decline of engine and steam rallies in the UK – of course this includes organs as well. One of the problems is the banning of coal and wood being used for fires to keep the environmentalists happy and also a decline in interest from the public in general. The other problem is that club memberships are beginning to decline as there are not a lot of younger people interested in taking over where the older generation left off.

SNIPPET – We are not alone in not being able to hold a rally or AGM, MOOS (Mechanical Organ Owners Society) in the UK said in a recent newsletter that they were advising members that they could not hold their AGM and put it off to late March, 2021, but not even sure if they will be able to hold it then.



Left – this cartoon was in the March, 2001 issue and showed something that happened to David Holt at the Geelong rally.

Right – the caption of “never give up!” can relate to the fact that we will get together again one day for a rally, we just don’t know when!



This is the AMOS financial report for the last financial year. It is usually given out to members at the Annual General Meeting, but due to the unique circumstances this year we (like many other clubs) cannot hold our Annual General Meeting. Therefore, the report has to be sent out for members to see.

AMOS FINANCIAL REPORT – 2019/2020

EXPENSES

INCOME

N.H.M.A. (insurance)	\$1184.00	Membership fees	\$1704.00
Name Badges	65.00	Rally income	1920.05
Wind Chest	929.10		_____
Domain name	199.40	Total income for year	3624.05
New Club Badges	831.00	A/c balance end last year	6752.51
Rally Plaques	400.00		_____
Rally expenses	1950.05	Total cash	10,376.56
Treasurer's expenses	40.00		

Total expenses for year	5598.55.....		5,598.55

		Balance in account	\$4778.01
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AMOS Treasurer – Des Lang