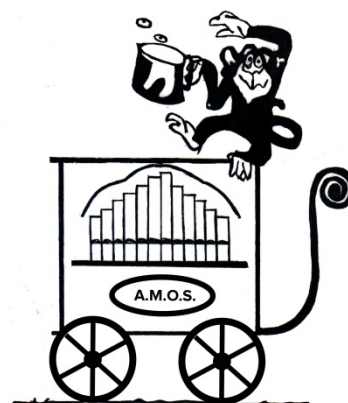




A.M.O.S.
WIND
CHEST
SEPTEMBER, 2021

The Newsletter of the
Australian Mechanical Organ Society Inc.
ABN 51 312 657 041



2021 AMOS RALLY CANCELLED

Unfortunately, this year's rally has been cancelled due to the Covid situation which is beyond our control. Those who have paid their rally fee will have it refunded in full by Des Lang our treasurer. Please remember to cancel any accommodation bookings you have made.

After telephone committee meetings it has been decided that the rally for 2022 will be held somewhere more central for members to get to. This will be decided later in the year and members will be advised in the December, 2021 newsletter of further developments.

THIRLMERE – we hope this will be able to go ahead in late March, 2022, but will let members know later in the year about this event.

LOST TRADE FAIRS – Sydney will not be going ahead due to Covid, and Pam will let us know when she hears that any of the Fairs will be running again.

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 May for June edition

15th August for September edition

15th November for December edition.

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THE COMMITTEE

AMOS WEBSITE: www.australianmechanicalorgansociety.com

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AMOS COMMITTEE – The committee had a telephone conference and declared that the current committee hold office for the next 12 months by which time we should be able to have an Annual General Meeting. The current pandemic circumstances have made it very hard for small clubs to get together and have an AGM, even more so when the membership is spread around Australia.

The Committee wish to thank Joan and Peter Datson for all their work over the last couple of years in trying to put together an AMOS rally in the hardest of situations one could imagine. Very few people put their name down for the rally due to concerns re virus, with some people contacted saying they would prefer a more central location, but the Garden event where we were going was cancelled anyway.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

When we had to cancel the 2020 rally who would have thought that the world would be in this predicament in 2021! Life certainly throws some curved balls and we just have to make the best of it and do what we can. Unfortunately, we now have to cancel the 2021 rally, as due to Covid restrictions the event we were going to play at has had to be cancelled.



Those of us who usually attend the rallies certainly miss catching up with everybody and playing our organs, so let us hope that by next year we will have reached a new normal and can get together once again. When speaking to some of our rally regulars they expressed a reluctance to attend due to Covid and also due to the fact they are getting older and it was a long way to travel to the bottom of Victoria. Because of this the Committee is looking at a different location for the 2022 rally, somewhere that will be more convenient for all members.

Keep safe and keep well,

Daphne Holt



It is with sadness that I have to inform you that one of our long time members, **JOE CARRODUS** or “Mr Music” as he called himself, died on 26th May, 2021 aged 93 or 94yrs.

The picture at left is how I like to remember Joe at our 2008 Rally at Echuca when we had an evening trip on an old paddle boat and Joe came dressed as a Captain.

Joe built his own Wurlitzer type band organ – photo right at Echuca – and we all remember as it got more and more out of tune each year, but that did not worry Joe at all.

He loved ballroom dancing and a good laugh and will be sadly missed.



Richard Ellis informed me that another member HANS MOLL from Bowral in NSW has been very ill and has spent some time in the Westmead Hospital, but is now home and on the mend.



RONALD SHARP, who used to be a member a few years ago died on 21st July, 2021 in Sydney aged 92yrs.

Ron was a self-taught organ builder and worked on a number of notable organs in and around Sydney including the Sydney Opera House Grand Organ and Perth Concert Hall Organ.

The photo is of Ron on the right with an organ gadget he brought along to the

Bathurst Rally in 2009.

FRIENDS, FOLLIES AND FUN

By Craig Robson

Second part – first part in June, 2021 Wind Chest

FAIR ORGANS – coloured photos on separate page.

89 key Whale-Mouth Gavioli Organ

This lovely 89-key G4 *Whale Mouth* organ that we believe was built in the late 1890s, spent a lot of time in the Netherlands as part of a switchback ride that was later converted to dodgem cars called the Nurberg Ring and operated by the Kunkels family. The dodgem cars were purchased for operating in Luna Park, Australia and according to the legend the organ was given free with the usual “take it or it will be burnt. It came out to Australia in 1951.





Ken Beech from Queensland swapped the organ for restoring a smaller Bruder organ called *Hannah*. The Gavioli was in storage under a set of slippery dips/slides for 20 years with many parts missing, but it did have a reputation for being a very sweet sounding Gavioli

This G4 is a number 2, the most mellow of all

the 89-keys. The music arrangements supplied by Arthur Prinsen are spectacular and the organ now sits in the centre of an English 1900 steam set of gallopers that involved five year restoration and spent 10 years in Luna Park, Sydney.

87 keyless Gavioli

Amongst the carousel organs is a magnificent 87 keyless Gavioli in original condition. It has never been fully restored, has beautiful figures and is generally regarded as a military band organ. If it is your wish to go deaf listening to a military band organ, this is the one.

It has nine inches of pressure, the loudest reeds and bass pipes I have ever heard, with percussion that you could hear from the government industrial noise banning bureau! It certainly makes a statement and luckily with the fitting of a MIDI you do not have to stand behind the machine. Also with the MIDI the normal 89 key music sounds fantastic, as does the 87. On this machine there is a fair amount of Carl Frei music.

When it went into a travel wagon, unfortunately part of the presidium was lost. It is understood that most of its life was spent in Northern Europe, but certainly in fantastic original condition. I understand it was given as an engagement present by a showman to his fiancé. It certainly looks as though it has been looked after by a lady. It came out to Australia in about 2000.

Ruth Fair Organ No 36

Next to the previous organ is a 36 model Ruth Fair Organ converted by Voight to a 37. Personally I think this model is the best of the Ruth machines. It is still in its original timber Mack wagon. Most Americans would have come across this, being mounted on the back of a 1940s truck, operated by Bill Soper, from The Clock Works in Statesville, NC. After I heard a magnificent Ruth at Waldkirch it was felt this would be the machine to have. So I went searching until I met Bill. Luckily at this time travel was easy and rewarding in Friends, experiences, research and education. Bill was extremely helpful with packing, shipping and his knowledge of the Ruth. Apparently he had purchased the machine in Germany whilst on active military service and brought it back. He had spent many an enjoyable year doing charity work and listening to this beautiful machine.

Small Ruth Organ

Next to this is a small Ruth that came to Australia in the early 1980s. We believe it was owned by Jan Van Kees father and it spent time on the streets in the Netherlands. Prior to this we have no history, but understand it was a barrel organ converted to book playing. A lovely machine that George King, now 100 and still driving and working, used for at least 15 years. He is meticulous in everything he touches. Marvellous the longevity mechanical music gives you.

Bruder 110

Under continued restoration is our large Bruder 110 built in Waldkirch in the early 1920s. This is regarded as being the largest of the Waldkirch organs and came about by an Australian showman having an Apollo organ that knocked the socks of other carousel operators.

Mr Frank Lauret of Lauret Electric roundabout decided to go to Waldkirch and order three organs. Two of them still exist.



His instructions were “I know you have built the biggest organ for Australia, but I want bigger”. Apparently the organ took two years to construct and during this time Mr Lauret passed away and his wife was arrested for murder. She was subsequently found not guilty and the organ duly arrived in Sydney.

The Bruder was sold by the public trustee with the promise that it would play magnificent marches and spectacular waltzes. It did not perform as promised! A court case resulted and the judge’s comment was that it was “meant to play magnificent marches and spectacular waltzes wherein it never made a sound”. This was probably because of timber shrinkage.

Eventually the organ was sold and had a rough life traveling the Australian back roads with several show families. Everybody knew that this machine existed and was stored under mango trees in Queensland. The façade was in a million pieces, but after many years of perseverance it came our way.

We are lucky to have Ken working on it at the moment. Bruce Newman has constructed new bass pipes that are spectacular to replace the pipes that were pulled out to save air. Fred Dahlinger has been incredibly free with his wealth of knowledge to guide us and we are looking forward to the organ sounding within six months. Tom Meijer is sorting out the scale and adapting suitable music, and Jeffrey Verbeeck is supplying replacement trumpet pipes.

Wow, what a world-encompassing hobby! The façade we have managed to put back together with missing parts re-carved. We are excited to see this machine finished. If anybody has seen any 96 or 98 keyed or keyless Bruder music please let us know as we have only a few original tunes.

The black and white photo is an original catalogue image of the Bruder 110 organ.

De Klok

De Klok received its name for the two tubular brass bells (chimes) that hung in the chassis. It is number 990 and built by Mortier in the early 1920s to Carl Frei's specification. I understand he constructed the pipes and they certainly sound sweet.

This Dutch favourite machine is probably the most travelled machine in the world, having been used by KLM airlines for many years. We have photos of it playing throughout Africa, North and South America, Indonesia and about every country that KLM airlines went to.

On a three-wheeled trailer it has not been restored, but is a great demonstration machine on how the organs work. *De Klok* came to Australia in the late 1970s, went to Adelaide then after some controversy went to Perth in Western Australia. From there it was going to South East Asia on a permanent basis, but luckily we were able to obtain the machine prior to the humidity doing its usual damage.

JAZZ ORGANS

The Benelux 92 key Decap Jazz Organ

There are two Decap jazz organs fully restored, a 92 and a 95 key. The smaller organ, called *Benelux* we understand was in the United Nations Building in Brussels.

It was built in 1947 and is almost a transition machine with magnificent carving below the instruments with, of course, the usual changing of lights.

This machine came to Australia as a wreck and was purchased for approximately \$1000. Being now fully restored it still plays on original music. This is one of the machines that will have to eventually be sold.

95 key Decap Jazz Organ

The 95 key Decap Jazz Organ has double accordions, but with not much carving. It must have been a spectacular music machine in the cafes and dance halls. This machine is also now on MIDI with wonderful music supplied by Tom Meijer.

Robot Decap Organ

While I am talking about Decap there is a set of three robots – the centre robot stands up, the other two robots have particular actions in time with the music. This is also another one of the most popular machines with its moving eyes, cheeks going in and out, robots looking at each other, etc etc. This machine came from England and when it was new I understand it was in a clothing store in Scotland.

Decap Accordion

Next to the robots there is a modern accordion machine made by Tony de Cap. It plays over 3000 tunes and would be spectacular in a pizza restaurant. All of our MIDI systems have come from Tony de Cap, and may I say that his work is efficient without any breakdowns as we have been using these for at least 15 years.

The I-pads and controls have been supplied from America by Mike Falco (MIDI Nitty Gritty) and our resident technical guru, Peter Coggins, is invaluable with keeping the quality high of all our machines.

SUMMARY

Well fellow enthusiasts, I hope that you can make time when this Coronavirus passes to visit our wonderful collection, listen to beautiful music and create lifelong memories with us.

We have thanked everybody else and all the contributors, but I am still trying to work out what my contribution is. Have fun – all the best.

Craig Robson

Editor's message – If all goes well with Covid restrictions and the Thirlmere Steam Rally goes ahead in late March members should get the opportunity to be Craig's guests at Fairground Follies at a special viewing.

Special thanks to Ron Bopp, Editor of Carousel Organ Journal in USA and Craig Robson in allowing us to use this article.

EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope you all enjoyed the second half of "Friends, Follies and Fun" and that one day you may be able to see these organs in real life. The museum is well worth a visit!

It is getting harder and harder to get articles for the newsletter, because with nothing happening in the organ world anywhere there is not much news. So please, if you have any interesting photos, snippets, organ anecdotes, or would like to write a short article it would be very much appreciated. Also, any news about some project you may have embarked on during the Covid shutdowns, as I am sure that many of you are like David and spend a lot of time in the shed.



DAPHNE HOLT

FAIRGROUND FOLLIES – coloured photos.



The 87 keyless Gavioli in original condition



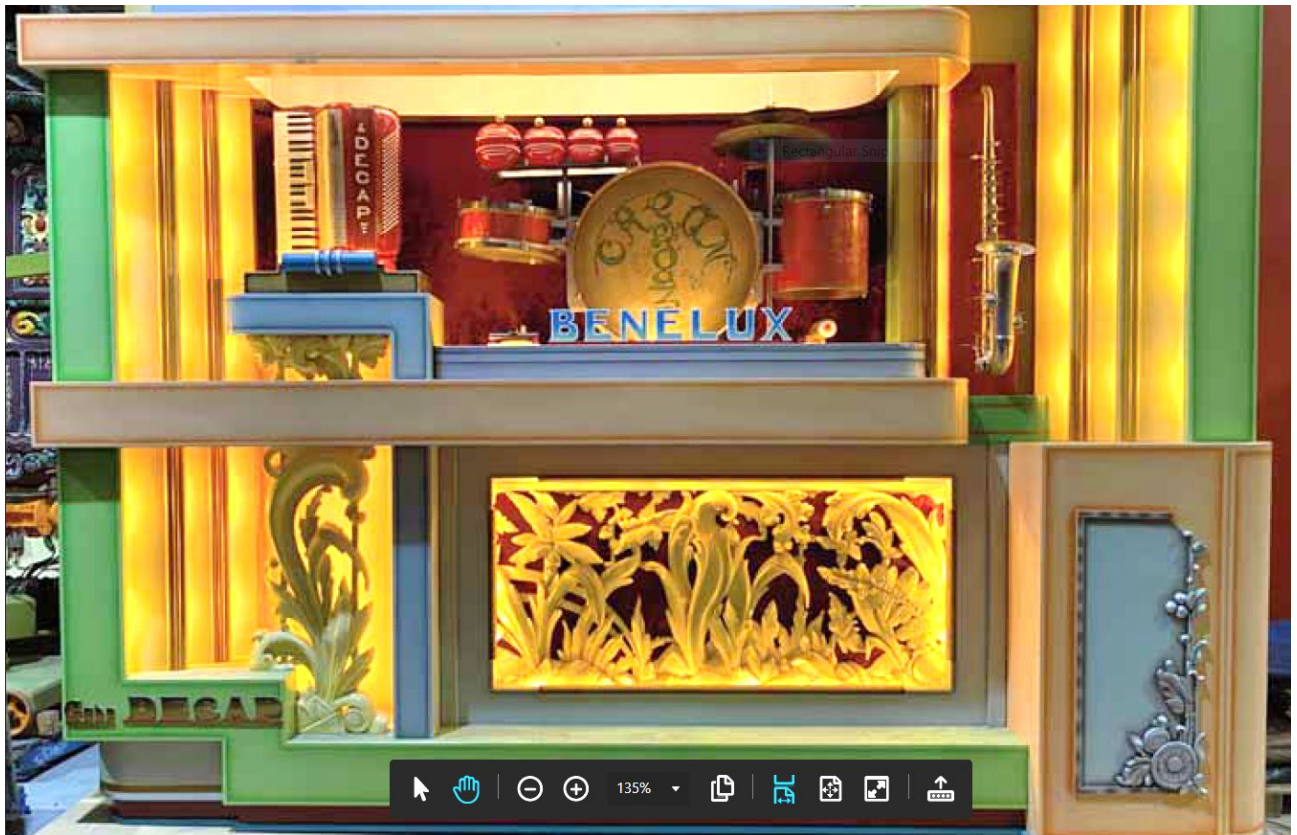
Ruth model 36/37 fair organ



57 Key Ruth Fair Organ (formerly owned by AMOS member George King)



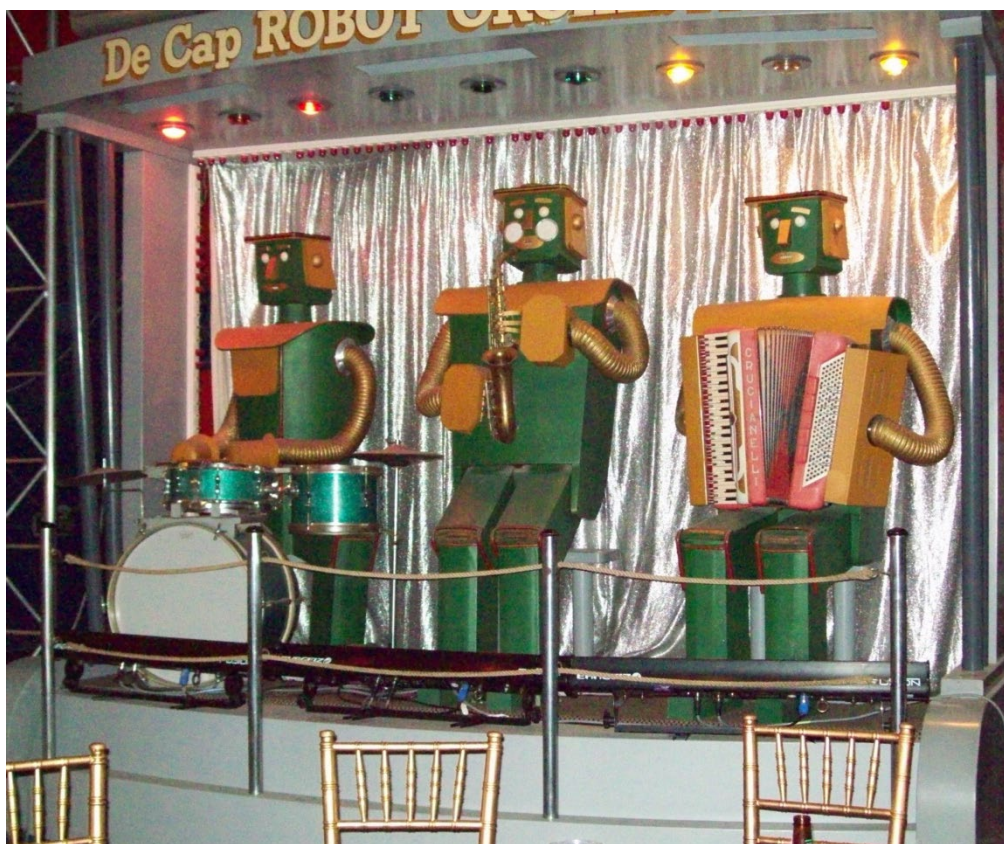
Above - De Klok, which is a former Mortier organ



The Benelux 92 key Decap jazz organ gives a beautiful presentation.



Above - The 95 key Decap Jazz organ, complete with singer in front.



The Decap Robot organ with three full-size automata



Decap Accordion



Just two of the many other things of interest in Craig Robson's museum.