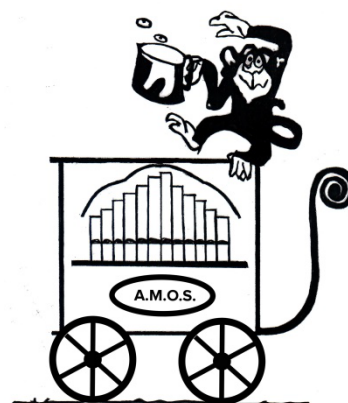




A.M.O.S.
WIND
CHEST
DECEMBER, 2021



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

ABN 51 312 657 041



Painted silos at Kimba, SA
Just one of many around the country well worth looking at.

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

We would like to welcome Emma Sputnik of Glebe, NSW as a new member. Emma was a member a few years ago and has returned to the fold, welcome back Emma.

Another new member is Brian Welsh from Belrose in NSW – welcome to the club.

Hopefully we can meet our new members at a get together sometime in 2022.

MOOS NEWS – The latest MOOS (Mechanical Organ Owners Society, UK) newsletter shows that some of the UK organ museums are beginning to open up after Covid lockdowns, but under stringent new rules to comply with Covid restrictions.

There is also an article about the Jacquard Loom with its punched cards (which are linked to the original organ books) with a reference to a computer website regarding these machines. <https://macclesfieldmuseums.co.uk> which is a UK website.

Remember today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday

Be happy – it drives people crazy.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well what a year 2021 turned out to be – NO RALLIES, NO GET TOGETHERS, NO MIXING WITH PEOPLE. Let's hope 2022 turns out to be a better year and we can all meet up for a huge catch up and play our organs. ONLY TIME WILL TELL!

David and I have done short holidays in and around South Australia and I should imagine many of you have done the same in your own states, but none of us ever dreamt that it would become difficult to travel across the border from one state to another.

Richard Ellis has told me that Thirlmere is going ahead in 2022 – more about this below. We are waiting to see what happens before we can give you any details re the 2022 Rally, but should have more information in the March, 2022 issue of the newsletter.

So keep yourselves safe and take time to play your organs occasionally at home, hopefully we can all catch up in 2022. David and I wish everyone a **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Daphne Holt



THIRLMERE FESTIVAL OF STEAM

Richard Ellis has informed me that the next Thirlmere event will be on Friday 11th, Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th March, 2022, with a visit to Craig's museum on the Friday afternoon.

At the moment we do not have any details, but as soon as we do you will be contacted either by email (if we have your email address) or by mail. Details will be in the March newsletter, but this does not really give everyone much notice thus the special supplementary notices being sent.

Let's hope we can finally get together at Thirlmere without having any border restrictions etc affecting those of us who have to come across the border to get there.

MUSIC AND MEMORIES

ECHUCA RALLY 2008



This rally was organised by Des Lang and, unlike other rallies, there was no dinner on the Saturday night as we all went on an evening cruise on the above paddleboat on the River Murray with a nice array of nibbles for supper. The atmosphere on the river was very nice and we all enjoyed it very much.

The following are extracts from an article written by Heidi and Frank Wever who are no longer members:-

There is something about the organ-grinders, some of you will call it magic – but then it could be voodoo. When we organ-grinders arrive in town the rain comes pouring down, so you could call us the RAINMAKERS. Wagga Wagga, Corowa and Eucha all the same, the rain just follows us every year. Those who arrived on Thursday were looking forward to a very nice weekend with good weather, those who arrived on Friday did so with windscreen wipers going and even the most optimistic organ-grinder had a bad feeling for the weekend.

Our welcome BBQ had to be relocated to the breakfast room in our motel, only the cooking was done on the burners undercover. NO WORRIES the 20mm of rain was welcomed by our host city. Beside that our Barbie food tasted just as good and nobody was left hungry or thirsty. Joost and his accordion are always a welcome

intermezzo, his Dutch, German and English songs sound so good to most members and he had the help of his singers. The newbies were served first with the food to make them feel at home – so nice is it not!

I have to say the organizing committee did their homework well and our designated area was a lovely part of town. Close to the River Murray the precinct of the old port made us organ-grinders happy to be part of a bygone era. So good to play the organs and hear in the background the steam whistle of passing paddle steamers carrying passengers instead of wool or other cargo up and down the River Murray. We had a good attendance with many organs – the old ones and the new ones – the homemade – the factory made, just a lovely collection of organs ranging from 14notes to 52notes (or was that perhaps 50notes?) The DeCap, Piccalilli, Tirolian, the Raffins, the home made, Vrede, Castlewood, Deanes, Stubers, Wurlitzer, Smith variations and the Verbecks The pipe, reed, rex, pressure box or valves and many more, you all did so well to present your organs. The club can be proud of the attendance and the quality of skilled members representing our club and organs – so good that plenty of photographs were taken by members and the public.

Editor – we were then all told to get something to eat ourselves as only supper would be served on board the paddle-boat.

The CANBERRA paddle steamer was waiting for us with a hot boiler and ready to take us anywhere. A lovely night, not too cold and not too hot, no flies or mosquitos and at precisely 7.30pm the steamer set sail with all aboard and we went upstream on the river. Finger food was tasty and nicely presented – the sunset presented us with a red glowing sky. Now I know how our explorers would have seen the journey with the ghostly red gum trees on the banks of the river during the night – you still feel that whatever going up your spine.

Sore arms from grinding did not stop us going again to the Echuca wharf, we left a bit late but it is so good to chat and exchange information about organs between ourselves. You know the Dickins are still talking about who has the most notes on their organ, and Ana thinks the Raffin sounds better than any other organ, and George King knows for sure that the Raffin was made in Switzerland. We were sure the Piccalilli's trumpets are just as much out of tune as the Wurlitzer, the Golden Clog plays only half notes, the Deanes all play the same music.

Sunday night most of us went to the RSL over the river for dinner and then Monday morning it was all over and it was time to go home!

As you can tell by the above this was a great weekend for everyone, it was also the weekend that I became Editor of the newsletter. Some of the people mentioned in the article are no longer members, or have since died, but I do hope the current members enjoy this article and it brings pleasant memories to those who are still members and were there.

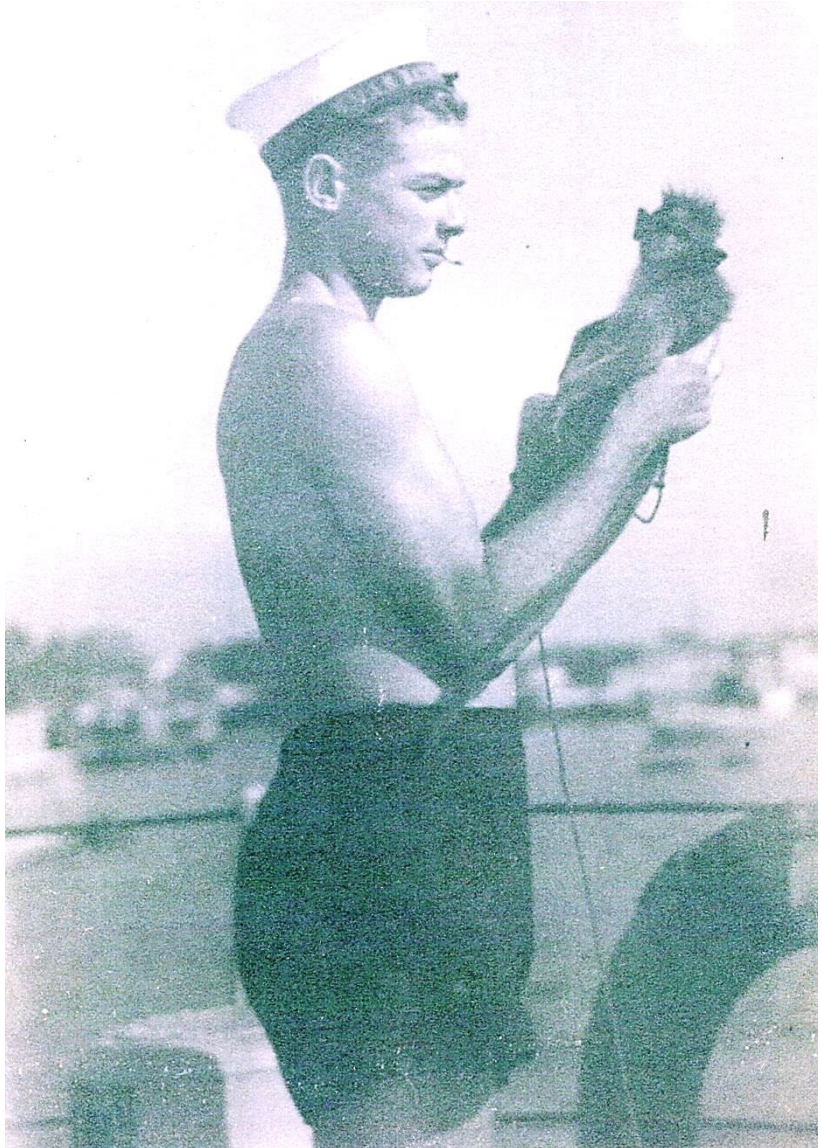
Daphne

I refer back to the article about AMOS member George King, who turned 100years old in April this year, which was in the March 2021 edition of the Wind Chest.

This is a photo of George – who was on the “BATHURST” in World War 2 (George is on the left of the photo) with his monkey CHIKO who was mentioned in the article.

As you can see George was a good looking young man (he has also given permission for me to put this photo in the newsletter)

Thanks to Pam McDiarmid for sending me the photo for us all to enjoy.



Editor – If any new members would like to read the article about George's life please send me an email and I will forward you a copy as it is a very interesting read.

Common sense is a flower that does not grow in everyone's garden.

LOST TRADES FAIR

Pam McDiarmid has informed me that it looks like the Lost Trades Fair in Bendigo may go ahead, but not with our organs. The following is the message she received from Lisa:

The Lost Trades Fair is expected to be going ahead in Bendigo in 2022 in a reduced format and capacity and AMOS will not be included this time.

If you wish to visit the Lost Trades Fair you must prebook tickets as there will be no ticket sales at the gate.

If anything changes we will let you know.

EDITOR'S NOTES

This has been a very hard newsletter to produce as there has been so little going on in the organ world in general, and even less in Australia.

With 2022 just around the corner it is to be hoped that some events will go ahead (including an AMOS rally) and there will be more to write about.

This makes it even more important that members help to keep the newsletter going by sending in anything that may be of interest no matter how small – a photo – a memory – etc.

Hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and that 2022 proves to be a better year for us all.

Daphne Holt – Editor.



ORGANS FOR SALE — I would like to remind all members that if they have an organ they wish to sell they are welcome to put a piece in the AMOS newsletter – which is free of charge. I do get asked at various times if I know of any organs that are for sale and the newsletter is one of the easiest ways to get it known when an organ is on the market. At the moment I do know of someone who is interested in purchasing a small organ so if you intend selling one please let me know.

ORGANS AT ALICE SPRINGS

One of our new members recently sent me some photos he had taken of organs at events over that last few years, which was greatly appreciated. The photos of particular interest were from Alice Springs and the organ belonged to Fred and Mien Blom who were members of the club a few years ago, but no one has been able to contact them for a few years.

Below are the photos in question.....



If anyone has any information about this organ or where it is now please let us know. Fred did have more than one organ so someone may have a photo of the rest of his collection.

THE ORGANS AT THE ECHUCA RALLY IN 2008



Left – Piccalilli, an unusual but very interesting organ.

Right – Derek Deane with the small organ he built with an animated band playing. Below right – Joe Carrodus with his Wurlitzer band organ he built.



Left – David Holt's "Roger" the organ with his dog.



Above left – Frank and Heidi Wever with their organ.



.Above right – Doug Drummond, George King with his Raffin and Crag Robson on right.



Craig and Ana with her Raffin



Tom and Janette Callow and their 1910 Renault car



Left - Tom Waterland (a NZ member at the time) with his monkey friend. Right – Janet and Robert Dickens first time out with their own organ.



Left – Joost's organ. Right – Joost with his piano accordion entertaining us with music and a sing along.





Left – Reubin Grieger with his self- built organ and monkey talking to David Kerr.



Right – Audrey Harrison with her monkey friend.



Left – Peter Dickins partly finished organ



Right – Richard Harrison with his self-built organ

Left – Peter Speedie with his organs, including the organ that the monkey turns the handle.





Lorna Hawkey's Tyrolean built by Derek Deane.



Warren Starr with his Verbeeck



Above left -Des Lang with Dorothy's Deane organ with the official greeters at the Echuca Wharf.



Above - De Cap organ, now owned by Richard Ellis



Glad King with daughter Margaret's Deane organ



Jo Allen with her Deane organ