

Rod Blackmore's
AUSTRALASIAN THEATRE ORGANS

New South Wales section



Best known location:
Baptist Church, Mosman

Standaard theatre organ
[with additions]
2 manuals, 9 ranks

UPDATE
This organ has been disposed of by the Baptist Church and removed circa early 2007 – now in storage with private owner

The *Standaard* theatre organ was unknown to Australian cinemas. Although built in Holland there were many examples in cinemas in England.

The organ now in the *Baptist* church, Mosman (a northside harbour suburb of Sydney) originated from the *Capitol* theatre, Barking, in East London (England.) It was built and installed in 1929 as an organ of 2 manuals and 4 ranks, but removed to storage after only 4 years. The English firm of *Monk & Gunther* (specialists in “churchifying” redundant theatre organs) rebuilt the organ in the early 1950s, and sold it on to its present location at Mosman. It was first played at Mosman on 29th July 1956, being installed in a single chamber. There were two subsequent rebuilds; an unsatisfactory attempt in the 1960s added a *Dodd Tibia* (formerly of the *Drummoyne Astra* “thing”) and a *Geigen* 4'. A more professional result at the hands of organbuilder *John Parker* in about 1990 resulted in the present 9 rank organ in two chambers (one on either side of the sanctuary.)

Of the previous 6 ranks, only two have been retained – the *Standaard* Open Diapason, and the *Dodd Tibia*. To these have been added two American strings, a Horn Diapason (ex the redundant *Leggo* organ of Dulwich Hill Methodist Church, probably of *Palmer* manufacture), Trumpet, Vox Humana, Clarinet, and Concert Flute. A massive switch stack installed with the 1960s rebuild has been replaced with solid state action built by John Andrews. The console was entirely rebuilt with new electric stop actions and tabs supplied by *Kimber Allen Ltd* of the U.K. The organ has a *Glockenspiel*, and a *Xylophone* and set of *Chimes* are on loan to the instrument.

The console is a “sweeping horseshoe” in two-toned timber characteristic of the *Standaard* organs. It is a delight to play and sounds well in theatre organ as well as liturgical modes.

The organ's present complement of pipe ranks is as follows:

Trumpet, Open Diapason, Geigen, Tibia Clausa, Clarinet, Gamba, Celeste, Flute, Vox Humana.

