

# Australian Acoustical Society

A.C.N. 000712658

## NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION

# CHRISTMAS TECHNICAL TALK

- The Date:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2005
- The Venue:** White City Tennis Club, Alma Street, Paddington  
(Free Parking or a short walk to Edgecliff Station)
- The Time:** 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm with dinner to follow
- The Speakers:** Donald Woolford and Euan Huggett
- The Topic:** A DESIGN PHILOSOPHY FOR ORCHESTRAL PITS

**Donald Woolford (MAAS, MASA)** The orchestral pit as essential to the opera theatre was devised hundreds of years ago in order to successfully present grand and light opera and ballet, to give performers and audience the benefit of a symphony orchestra, and maintain a balance in sound colour and intensity. Musicals came much later, as did electronic assistance. In order to achieve the best compromise for the range of functions, matters of acoustics, playing environment, sound radiation to theatre, auditory perception, tradition and electronic assistance as often applied today, must be satisfied. These matters will be briefly presented and discussed. Donald Woolford is an experienced orchestral leader, of amateur status, in symphonic, oratorio and light opera presentations. Formerly an engineer with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, he now consults in acoustics.

**Euan Huggett, Member, Australian Opera & Ballet Orchestra.** Euan Huggett is a long-time wind player with the Australian Opera & Ballet Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House, and former President of that orchestra. Euan will give an appreciation of a fulfilling music career working with the orchestra together with stage performers for opera and ballet presentations. Also he will discuss from a musician's viewpoint, problems that have existed in the Opera House Opera theatre inherent with the original design configuration and how the orchestra has managed them.

Dinner will be subsidised by the AAS. A cash bar will be available.

**RSVP:** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2005 at [rsaacoustics@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rsaacoustics@optusnet.com.au)  
if no email available ring Rodney on 9542 7979

**All Welcome**

