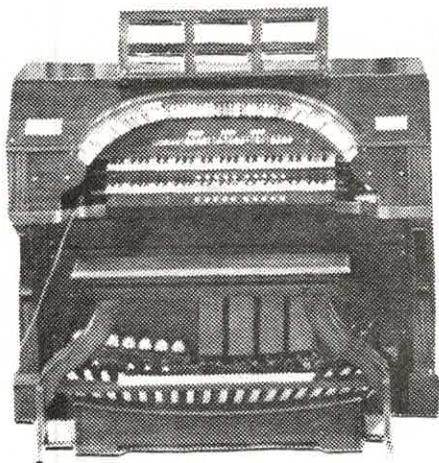


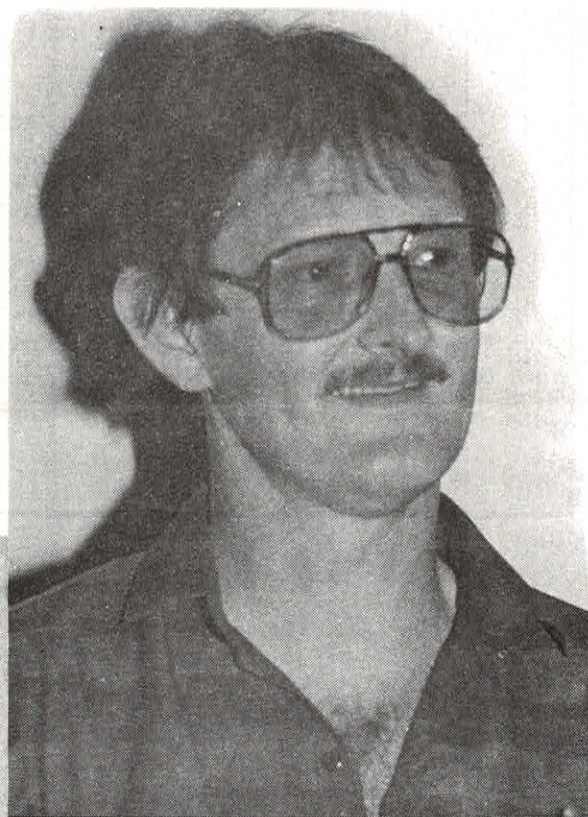
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# TOSA NEWS

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## **BILL SCHUMACHER and CLINTON WHITE in concert**



**at the console of the Mighty Wurlitzer  
Marrickville Town Hall  
Sunday 28th. July at 2.00pm.**

DIRECTORY TOSA (N.S.W.Division)

PATRON Ian Davies

PRESIDENT Alan Misdale (525 5554)

VICE PRESIDENTS Frank Ellis (649 7011) Doug Smith (750 0917)

SECRETARY Ernest Vale (570 4953 or 798 6816)

TREASURER Edna Smith (529 7379)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Ron Smith (529 7379)

RESEARCH AND ARCHIVES Ian Cameron

PRACTICE CONVENOR Jim Crombie (750 4294)

COMMITTEE Phyllis Wilson, Ron Wilson, Bill Schumacher, Robert Gliddon,  
Neil Palmer, Ron Smith

TOSA NEWS EDITING AND PRINTING Ron Wilson (759 6050)  
Doug Smith (750 0917)

PHOTOGRAPHY Barry Tooker and Ron Wilson

CONCERT TAPES Neil Palmer (798 6742)

HOME PARTIES Ron Smith (529 7379)

ARTIST LIAISON OFFICER Ernest Vale (570 4953 or 798 6816)

Address all correspondence to:-  
The Secretary, TOSA (N.S.W. Division)  
Box A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH. 2000.

NEW MEMBERS

The Executive and Committee extend a warm and cordial welcome to the following new members.

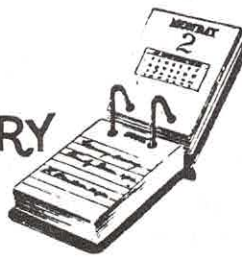
Phyllis Roberts, Wilga Carter, Les and Ann Dand, Sharon Peters, Ken and Daphne Avery, Jean and Tony Hill, Brian Tibbets, Nita Rooke, Gloria Carlson, Maurice and Dorothy Cork, Belle Armbruster, Chrystal Thorncroft, Mr and Mrs G. Chater, Margaret Burton Nessie and Joseph Newman, Gwen Kemp, Louis Macdonald.

A NEW FACE AGAIN AT MARRICKVILLE

During the Concert on 28th July at Marrickville Town Hall, the Theatre Organ Society of Australia will be proudly introducing yet another up and coming artist. He is Giancarlo Giacci who has been a pupil of teacher Joseph Maennl for some four years, learning both classical and popular organ.

At the Sydney Eisteddford Giancarlo won a First in Classical and a Second in the Popular organ sections during 1984 in the 14 yrs and under age group. I am sure you will be giving Giancarlo a warm welcome to the concert scene and I know you will be looking forward to hearing him in July.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## July

MONDAY 1st at 7.30pm.

COMMITTEE MEETING at 58 Rosebank Ave. Kingsgrove.  
(Not at Lakemba as published in the last issue of TOSA NEWS).

WEDNESDAY 17th at 7.30pm.

VISIT TO MASTERTOUC

This visit is in response to the many requests received by the Committee from members who missed out visiting Mastertouch during the Convention which was held over the Easter week-end last April.

Numbers are limited to 80, so please book early by phoning Eunice or Merv Palmer on 798 6742 NOW.

Admission: \$2.00 Tea and coffee will be served.

Mastertouch is situated on the corner of Crystal and Brighton Streets Petersham.

SUNDAY 28th at 2.00pm.

BILL SCHUMACHER & CLINTON WHITE in concert at Marrickville Town Hall.  
(Booking form in this issue).

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## August

SUNDAY 4th at 2.15pm.

HOME ORGAN PARTY at the Selwyn Theatre in aid of the Capitol Organ Fund.  
Artists for the afternoon will be Bill Schumacher and Neil Palmer.

Admission: Gents \$4.00 - Ladies \$3.00 plus a plate.

For bookings, ring Ritchie Willis on 57 3581.

MONDAY 5th at 7.30pm.

COMMITTEE MEETING to be held at 120 Dennis Street Lakemba.

SUNDAY 25th at 2.00pm.

FREE CONCERT

IAN McLEAN in concert at Marrickville Town Hall.

Guest artists appearing with Ian will be Sharron Maennl and Damien Scott.

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## September

MONDAY 2nd. at 7.30 pm.

COMMITTEE MEETING at 120 Dennis Street Lakemba.

WEDNESDAY 11th at 7.30pm.

CLUB NIGHT at Marrickville Town Hall.

SUNDAY 22nd. at 2.00pm.

WARREN LUBICH in concert at Marrickville Town Hall.

All details and booking form in next issue of TOSA NEWS.

WEDNESDAY 25th

Nominations of office bearers CLOSE.

MONDAY 30th. at 7.30pm.

COMMITTEE MEETING at 120 Dennis Street Lakemba.

## CHARITY CONCERT

Sunday 2nd June 1985 (by Ron Smith)

On Sunday 2nd June we were to hold a FREE concert at Marrickville however, with the co-operation of the Marrickville Council, this was converted to a Charity concert in the form of a variety performance. Our chosen Charity was the "Christian Broadcasting Association" radio station 2CBA FM. We have been grateful to 2CBA for the opportunity to promote our Society via the radio programme each Monday evening at 9pm and this was a chance for us to assist them in return.

Our main artist for the afternoon was **Jean Penhall** who has been well known as a theatre organiste over the years (and indeed I remember Jean as the 'lady at Palings' who gave me the six free lessons with the first 'electronic' organ I ever bought - many moons ago). She gave us many theatre organ favourites and all played with velvet smooth touch and a feeling for what the majority of the audience was wanting to hear. Jean played four 'spots' in the afternoon and her popularity was made obvious by the spontaneous response of the over 500 strong audience.

A highlight of the programme was the duo of **Leonard Lee** and **Valerie Hanlon**, who delighted us with many popular numbers from the last few decades. These two people have been singing together for many years as is evident in their precision and the way in which each compliments the other's talents. Everybody loved their performance and I was particularly impressed with their medley from Camelot. It should also be said that **Cliff Bingham**, who supplied the accompaniment to our vocalists, did a marvellous job being both precise and audible but unobtrusive.

The second half of the programme was compered by 2CBA FM radio announcer David Lloyd, whom we are used to hearing on 'air' in the evenings. It was a wonderful afternoon of variety and the Reverend Vernon Turner expressed his thanks to TOSA for the contribution to their network of \$2,500 - a most encouraging result to us too!



Jean Penhall being congratulated by Reverend Vernon Turner.



Valerie Hanlon and Leonard Lee.

## REPORT ON THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

Wednesday 12th June 1985  
(by Norm Weismantel)

The main purpose of the meeting was to ratify the Final Draft of the Constitution discussed at a meeting of members on the 6th February 1985. As no further changes to the wording of the Constitution were proposed the motion to ratify the Constitution was put to the meeting and passed unanimously. It was then moved and passed that the next election of Officers be held at the 1985 Annual General Meeting.

The Secretary reported on the supply of solid state electronic components for the Marrickville Organ. The first printed circuit boards are expected to be delivered about mid-July 1985. The installation of the equipment will be timed to avoid disruption to our Concert Programme.

The President reported that the following work had been done on the Marrickville Organ:

1. The piston action was removed from the console, overhauled and restored.
2. Preventive maintenance was done on the pipe chests to correct potential faults.
3. George Stephens of Adelaide spent four days on the pipework correcting faults and tuning the organ.
4. The opening of the inner bank of swell shutters on each chamber was reversed in operation. This has improved the delivery of sound to the centre front of the Hall.
5. The Toy Counter was removed, renovated and lifted to brackets on the back wall of the solo chamber. This move was necessary to provide floor space for the installation of a newly-acquired multiple pipe chest. New wind trunking to the Toy Counter and Marimba Harp was also installed.

The President also reported that a visit to Mastertouch had been arranged for the next Club Night on 17th July.

A motion expressing appreciation to those members who had worked so hard on the maintenance and restoration of the Marrickville Organ, the organisation and running of the Convention, and publicity of the NSW Division, especially on 2CBA-FM, was carried with applause.

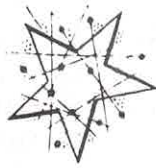
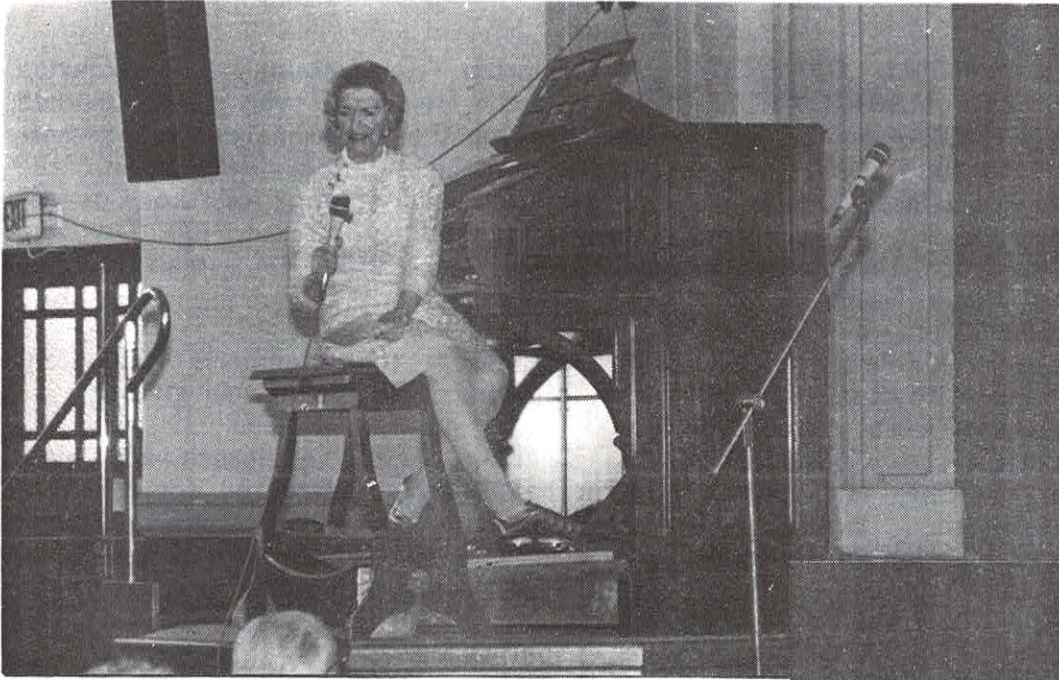
In response to member's questions the following information was given:

1. A new console enclosure and platform have been constructed for Marrickville Organ. However, some aspects to ensure ease and safety of operation still need consideration.
2. The Orion Centre Project - some parts of the ex-Capitol organ are stored in the organ chambers. The Toy Counter has been restored. A re-leathering training session will be held on Saturday 15th June next. The Console has been repainted and is awaiting electrical wiring and electronic components.

The members present extend congratulations to popular organist David Parsons on being awarded the O.A.M. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.



Norm Weismantel (far left) describes to members the work that has been carried out in the solo chamber.



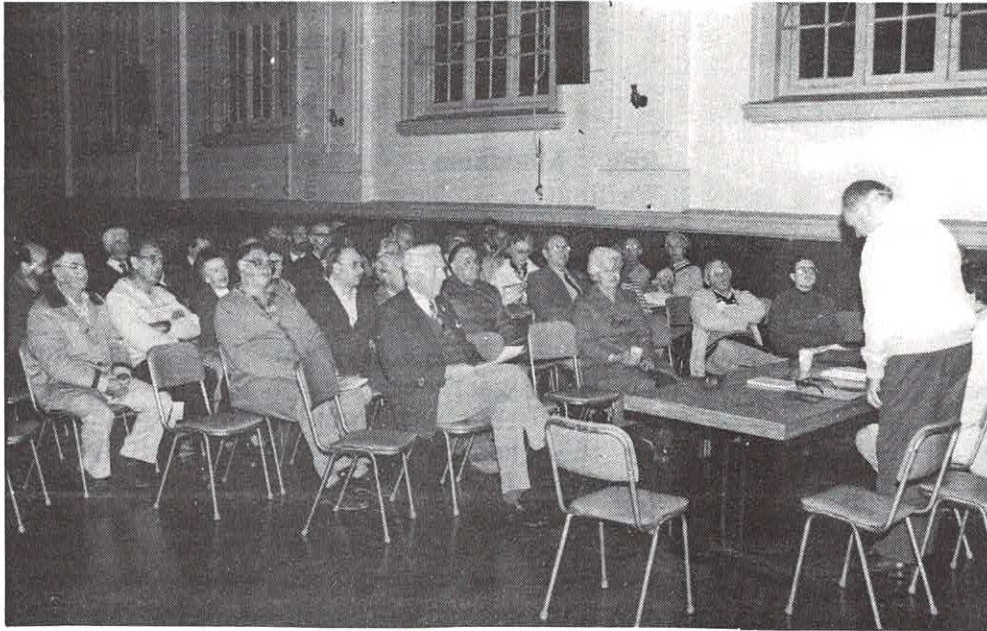
Top photo.  
Jean Penhall seated at the  
Wurlitzer.

Photo centre left.  
David Lloyd.

Photo centre right.  
Leonard Lee.

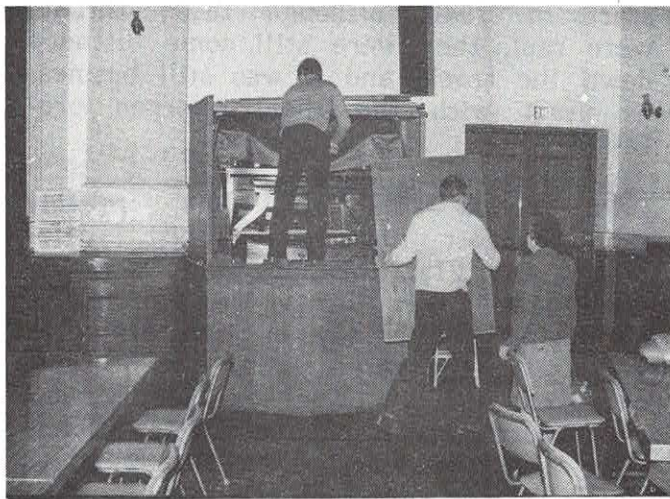
At right.  
Valerie Hanlon and Leonard Lee  
accompanied by Cliff Bingham  
on the organ.





SPECIAL GENERAL  
MEETING HELD AT  
MARRICKVILLE  
TOWN HALL  
12TH JUNE 1985

President Alan Misdale opening the Special General Meeting at Marrickville Town Hall.



Following the meeting the organ was uncovered for members to have a play.



Bill Schumacher at the console of the Wurlitzer.



Members Jack McDonald (left) and John Giacci try their hand at the organ.

DOWN MEMORY LANE.

Number 16 of a monthly series  
by Frank Ellis.

In December 1939, there was not a great deal happening on the theatre organ scene, and the year came to an end on a rather quiet note. The Australian Music Maker and Dance Band News magazine on 1st. January 1940 carried a series of adverts in the form of a greeting from many theatre organists wishing their fans a "Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year". These were in the form of a one inch panel, nicely bordered, although one organist, Jim Williams, ran to a two inch spread. However, Stanfield Holliday really let his head go and upstaged them all with a 2½"x 4½" spread, complete with his photograph, in which he wished, quote, "his many friends and admirers the Complements of the Season". Unquote. That would have cost Stanfield a bundle even in those pre-inflation days. Well, if it pays to advertise, then Stanfield Holliday was well to the fore compared to the more modest one inch panels of the rest of the organ fraternity.

As each organist mentioned the theatre in which he was then appearing, it enables me to pinpoint just who was where at that time, so here for your information is a list of some of the residencies in January 1940. Not all the organists inserted greetings in the magazine so the list is not a complete one, but it does give us a great deal of important information.

Ron Boyce - Vogue Theatre, Double Bay: Stan Cummins - Arcadia Theatre, Chatswood: Clarence Black - Astra Theatre, Parramatta: Knight Barnett - Palatial Theatre, Burwood: Les Waldron - Plaza Theatre, Sydney: Ray Chaffer - Roxy Theatre, Parramatta: Jim Williams - Savoy Theatre, Enfield: Cyrus J. Tuckwell - Duke of York Theatre, Eastwood: Bert Myers - Victory Theatre, Kogarah: Paul Cullen - Civic Theatre, Auburn: Kurt Herweg - Prince Edward Theatre, Sydney: Charles Tuckwell - Regent Theatre, Melbourne:

Reg Maddams - De Luxe Theatre, Wellington, New Zealand: Stanfield Holliday - Ambassadors Theatre, Perth: and Idwal Jenkins then working at the ABC on a Hammond.

The War was, at that time, in the early stages, but even then, it was obvious that it would bring changes to the theatre organ scene as it progressed. It was also expected that there would be a decrease in the availability of organ records from England as shipping space declined for non-essential cargoes. Enlistments and Army Call-ups would also have an effect on the theatre organ scene in Australia too, particularly in Sydney which had about half of all the instruments in this Country, but at the start of 1940, although these threats were real, they were still some distance down the track, and it was still business as usual with the theatre organ profession.

Bert Myers who was then probably the youngest theatre organist, celebrated his 21st. birthday on December 3rd. 1939. Des Tanner was reported as having had a day or two off work whilst he recovered from the effects of severe sunburn. Many of the organists were patriotically playing "We're Gonna Hang Out the Washing on the Siegfried Line" as part of their feature presentations, and this did seem to bring the War closer to home.

Writing in Music Maker magazine, Ronald Roberts said there had been three outstanding presentations in the Sydney cinemas in the previous few weeks. He named Jim Williams for a special arrangement of "Boomp-A-Daisy" played "a la Strauss waltz, march, and in practically every form except a fugue". He went on to say, quote, "Knight Barnett's 'Rose Selection' was a gem of subtlety and colour. He gave hackneyed numbers, a new freshness, a new loveliness. I've heard a number of organists on the Burwood job, and still Barnett was able to thrill me with new tone colours. Of Palmistra, need I say much? He goes into the byways of melody and seeks and finds a great many pearls of presentations. Palmistra favours the



DOWN MEMORY LANE ... cont.

medleys, and always manages to play something which will please each section of the audience, be it slightly highbrow, middlebrow, or any other kind of brow. Palmistra is one of Western Suburbs best bets" Unquote. Denis had featured a selection of Gypsy melodies.

More bits and pieces for you next month.

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REGINALD DIXON DIES

Reginald Dixon M.B.E., organist at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom died on the 10th May 1985. Officially known as Mr Blackpool, Reg presided over that famous Wurlitzer's console for forty years. He died at the age of 80 years.

During his long residency, he rose to the top in each of three different facets of his profession - namely, his personal appearances at the Tower, his many broadcasts of the theatre organ - and his prolific output of recordings.

The numbers who saw and heard him at the Tower are almost beyond counting, whilst his worldwide radio listeners ran into untold millions.

In 1966 he was honored by the Queen with an M.B.E. for his services to the entertainment world. In the same year he became Patron of the N.S.W. Division of T.O.S.A., and continued in that post for four years. No other organist has done so much to popularise the theatre organ. He retired from the Tower in 1970.

A special program, "Tribute To Reginald Dixon", will be presented by Frank Ellis in TOSA'S own program on Radio 2CBA FM Stereo 103 at 9.00pm on Monday 24th June.

THE SELWYN THEATRE CLUB  
Theatre Organ Recitals

BEVERLEY KENNEDY  
July 21st Sunday 2.15pm.

DAVID PARSONS  
August 18th Sunday 2.15pm.

IAN DAVIES  
September 15th Sunday 2.15pm.

DAVID SMITH  
October 20th Sunday 2.15pm.

REG BLACK  
November 17th Sunday 2.15pm.

DAVID PARSONS  
December 14th Saturday 8.00pm.

All the above functions may be booked in advance by phoning Ritchie Willis on 57 3581.

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In response to the many inquiries I have had to the owners of the 'legs' that appeared in the May issue of TOSA NEWS I hereby unfold the mvsterv.

L. to R. Candi Carley, Ernie Vale, Janice Powell, Ron Wilson, Andrea Harrison, Bill Schumacher, Eunice Palmer and Alan Misdale.

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HOME PARTIES.

Members will have noticed in the past issues of TOSA NEWS that we are often asking members if they would consider holding parties in their homes.

Object:

(A) To raise funds for TOSA maintenance, expansion and further instrument purchases and installations.

(B) To provide an evening of our common interest, entertainment in which we can make new friends and consolidate existing relationships.

Supplied by TOSA:

- (A) Cups and holders.
- (B) Teapots and urns.

If you would like to host a **HOME PARTY** in your home, please contact Ron Smith for any details by ringing 529 7379.

## HOME PARTY

Sunday 16th June

On arrival at the Wilson's residence we found Phil Wilson staring in amazement at the huge collection of pottery and timber kitchenware neatly put out for display in the 'hobbies' room. All these had been supplied and carefully laid out by Niki Katris for the benefit of TOSA members, who listened to a description of each item and made their decisions to purchase. A nice pottery butter jar was donated for a raffle and was won by Eunice Palmer.

All this was just a part of an interesting get together at the Wilson's, and as usual the afternoon tea was fit for a king! As the day wore on, people moved into the house and the music began with many people playing the organ and the piano plus rolls!

An attractive party tea was provided and we all partook of party pies, rolls, salad and sweets etc with a glass of wine amid noisy conversation, music and photographers.

During the evening Ron Wilson taped a Happy Birthday segment to send to our sorely missed friends in America, Candi Carley and mum Virginia. We sang happy birthday and many people spoke a few words (mostly intelligible!) of greeting for Candi and her terrific mother.

The music continued well into the evening and a good time was had by all. Thanks so much to Niki Katris and Ron and Phil Wilson for their generous efforts.



Top photo:

Niki Katris describing to TOSA members various items of woodwork and pottery.

Bottom photo:

A view of some of the pottery that was on display.



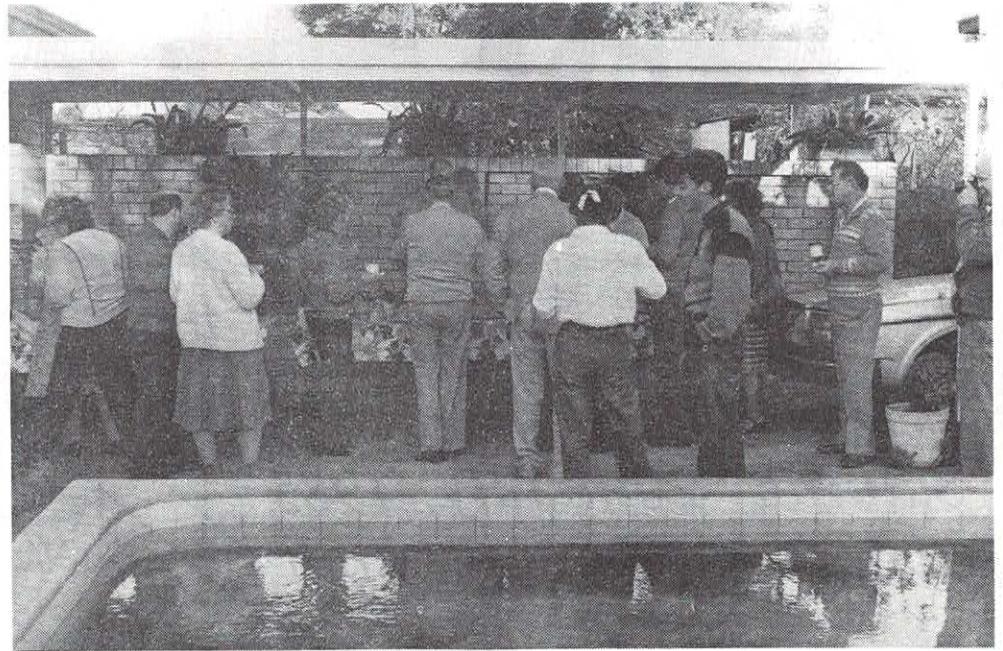
HOME PARTY  
SUNDAY 16TH JUNE.  
AT  
LAKEMBA



Decisions - Decisions!!!!



Marie Stronach & John Shaw



Following the pottery demonstration tea - coffee and 'goodies' were served.



During the entertainment supper was served.

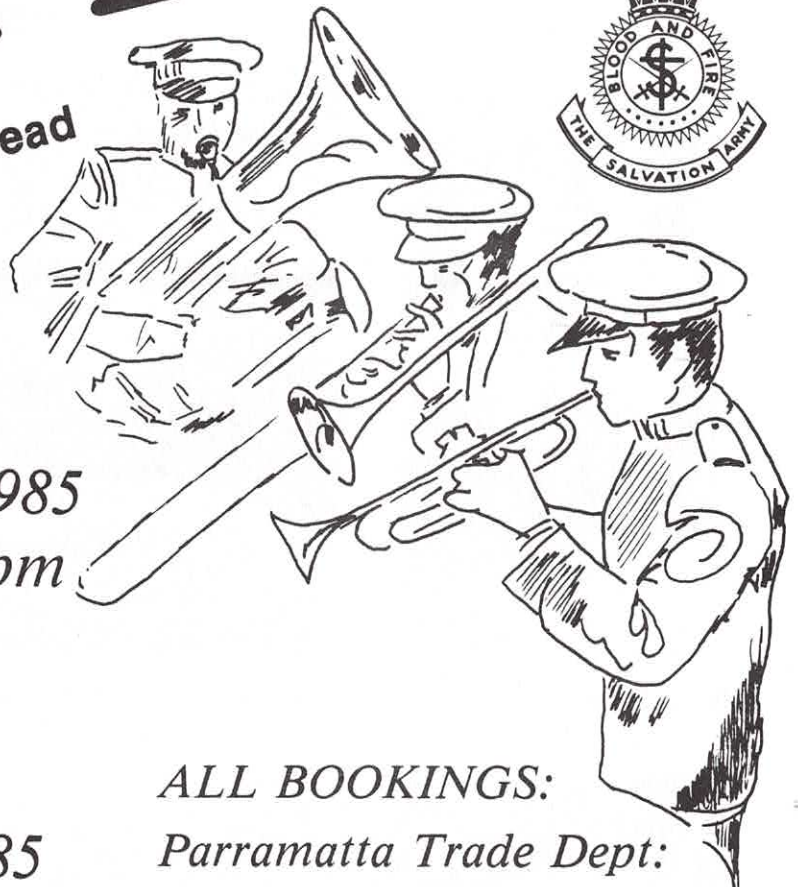


Marie Stronach being accompanied by Bill Schumacher on organ and John Shaw on the piano.



Presenting the  
**CANADIAN  
STAFF BAND**

Bandmaster  
Major Robert Redhead



*IN CONCERT....*

*Saturday 20th July, 1985  
Sydney Town Hall..8pm*

*ALSO...*

*Sunday 21st July, 1985*

*11am...Parramatta Citadel  
34 Smith Street,  
Parramatta.*

*2.45pm & 6pm...  
Sydney Congress Hall  
140 Elizabeth Street,  
Sydney.*

*ALL BOOKINGS:*

*Parramatta Trade Dept:  
635.7574*

*Sydney Trade Dept:  
266.9505*

*\$5.50 ADULTS*

*\$3.50 CHILD/*

*PENSIONER*