



Entertaining: Tonya Allan and Kym Illman in front of their home in Churchlands. Picture John Mokrzycki

Soundtrack lights up Churchlands

Perth's Christmas lights have entered the digital age, with this Churchlands house decked in thousands of lights which flash on and off in sync with a soundtrack that can be heard via car radios by tuning into 92.5FM, as well as a speaker on the front lawn.

The sound and light show came about when entrant Tonya Allan stepped back and let her husband, Kym Illman, do the display. She said they had been in the competition for four years but everything was new this year.

As visitors drive by, 26,500 lights strung across the house and garden light up in tune with the soundtrack, *Wizards in Winter* by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Flashing lights cover figures, including Father Christmas, his

WHERE

BISHOP RILEY WAY,
CHURCHLANDS

sleigh and a reindeer, and as the lights flash on and off, tiny Christmas trees in the driveway look like they're moving.

"We also have a mega-tree, about 6m high, and it 'dances' to the music," Ms Allan said.

Mr Illman said he was "hopeless" with electrical things and an electrician had come in for five days to install the lights. A builder/handyman had put the shapes on the roof.

"I programmed the music with the lighting. That's my forte," Mr Illman said.

It took him 90 hours to do. He has used all LED globes and only expected an extra \$100 on his December power bill.

Others in the small street have joined in, with another display across the road and one next door.

"We'll do it until December 27 and for the last 2½ weeks it will go berserk," Mr Illman said.

The display can be seen on youtube and seems to have struck a chord because at the time of publication, it was the second-most downloaded entertainment video in Australia.

Mr Illman hopes the mega-display this year will raise \$10,000 for a children's charity.