

From the President

Have you bought your tickets for Carousel yet? They are on sale and all is going well as Elaine and her team and cast work towards performances on 23/24 May and 30/31 May at Marsden High School. Bookings are now open and contact numbers are in this bulletin.

At the AGM and in last month's bulletin I spoke of the need for EUCMS to ensure that we move forward in a positive and constructive way through this period of redevelopment at Lakeside. Yes - it is different rehearsing at Marsden Road hall and performing at Marsden High; but this does not have to impact on our enthusiasm and commitment to continue to carry out the aims of EUCMS.

Your executive put aside 5 hours last Sunday to discuss responses to some thought-provoking questions and responses, and to develop a plan for the next 18 months of EUCMS, which is through to the end of 2009. There was much discussion over what we believe are current issues for our society and its members and how we could best address them.

One of those issues is the need to develop the potential of members and provide them with opportunities to experience and learn about new roles. This includes production roles as well as roles on stage. How does a member learn about what to expect if they audition for a principal role? How does someone know what is involved in musical direction and if they are capable of being involved in that area? Yes, we know it is seemingly getting more and more difficult to get teams together for shows. So what of our plans?

Your executive sees 2009 as an exciting opportunity to build the skill base of our members and renew the enthusiasm of our current members (and hopefully of new members). How?

We are going to do ONE show in 2009

Yes, that's right - not two, but ONE. Put all our effort and skills into one great show. A show that can take advantage of the "good" differences of the Marsden High space, and minimise the "inconvenient" differences. A show that is exciting for both our audience and our members. A show that we might not normally consider if we were "home" at Lakeside, with the different space there and the need to conserve energy and resources for two shows. Which show? **Fill in the questionnaire that is with this bulletin and give our Show Selection Sub Committee your ideas.** What show would you love to be involved in? What show do you think would sell to our audiences?

We are also looking to our members to get an

indication of what time of year best suits our members. May /June? August /September to bridge the gap between our "traditional" 2 seasons? Or November? Indicate your preferences in the questionnaire.

But wait! There's more!

We are planning a series of events and workshops that will provide opportunities for our members to develop their skills across a broad range of areas. Some of these will be run by professionals from within the "industry" and each workshop will be hands on leading to a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year. Some may be "one-offs", but others will be multi-week courses. This gives people the chance to learn a new skill and try their hand on a smaller scale than a show.

As an executive we are excited and enthusiastic about the opportunities we have planned for 2009. We see it as an opportunity to strengthen EUCMS, enabling it to move into 2010 and beyond with a large team of enthusiastic, willing members who have confidence to take the next step in developing their own involvement in the wonderful world of musical theatre, whether that means stepping up from chorus to principal roles onstage or taking on responsibility in a creative or production role backstage. To prepare for the challenges of our big show, the first workshop series will have a stagecraft/performance focus .

As an executive, we acknowledge that within our membership there is a wealth of skills and experience that needs to be shared. The changing society in which we live is making it difficult to maintain the level of involvement that many would love to demonstrate. Have you had experience or filled roles at EUCMS or elsewhere that perhaps other members may not know about? Do you have skills that you could share with other members? There are many ways in which this could be achieved, however, there are two questions we would love you to consider at this stage.

Do you have skills and or ideas that could be shared during a workshop? Would you be willing to share those ideas with someone who is planning a workshop? Skills of stagecraft, musical direction, lighting? Costuming? Backstage? We would love to hear from you. Please respond to this question in the questionnaire.

Or perhaps you would be willing to have your name on a list which can be given to each production team so that if they have questions, they are reassured they have someone to ring and touch base with to discuss their ideas. We see this as a very important and supportive method of sharing the experiences of EUCMS. Please let Adam Wilson know if you are willing to have your name on a list to support our future teams.

So 2009 – an exciting year with one show and lots of

opportunities to grow and build. Dates and details are in the planning stage and as I mentioned, we are looking to our members for input into that planning.

Be part of the audience for Carousel – be part of Seussical in the second half of 2008 - be part of the planning – be part of EUCMS in an exciting 2009. Talk about what you have read – the executive would love to hear your reaction to our planning or answer any questions you have. Hope you are excited as we are.

Robyn Mead

Carousel News

"Then April sighed and stepped aside

And along come pretty little May"

Yes, it's true! We're almost at the month of May when "Carousel" will spin onto the stage at Marsden High School!!

The cast are getting into character and seeing themselves in their Act I costumes was a great boost for that - love those ragged jeans, Adam!

The props are ready, the make up is purchased and designed, Ben is excited about the looming orchestra rehearsals and Liz has finished the scenery painting so we are really firing on all cylinders.

What we do need now is an audience to appreciate all the effort which has gone into recreating this delightful show. This is where we need YOU!! Please use the flyers to encourage your usual customers (and a heap of new ones) to come to Marsden and have a great night's/afternoon's entertainment.

Much thanks in advance

Elaine

Show Dates

All performances at Marsden High School as follows:

23, 24, 30 and 31 May 2008 at 8pm

24 and 31 May 2008 at 2pm

Tickets - NOW ON SALE

Ticket prices are \$20 adults, \$15 pensioners and \$12 children (16 and under). Seating plans can be seen on our website showing available seats for each performance. Call Jenny Beddoe for tickets on 8061 7195.

Supper Volunteers

A request for supper volunteers, particularly for the following dates:

Fridays 2 and 16 May, MONDAY 19 May and all performances except opening night. For performances there will be no washing up but we'd love help with setting out and overseeing suppers.

Volunteers should ring Megan on 9869 7413.

Volunteers for Ushering

Janette Cosier has graciously accepted the task of coordinating the ushering roster for Carousel, and would love to hear from you if you can help make our audience feel welcome at Marsden High!

Contact her and let her know which shows you can help with on 9868 2535.

Banner Making Day

Saturday 12th April saw a small but keen group of members for a BBQ lunch and banner making day at Adam and Penny Wilson's. Many thanks to Jess Allen, Jenny Byron, Caroline Reddel, Megan Reddel and Nicole Winter (and her Mum) who came with scissors and ferociously cut out letters and then expressed great joy when we had cake and four flavours of ice cream for dessert. See.... we told you it is worth coming to banner making days! We look forward to more ice-cream (and banners) for Seussical!!

EUCMS News

Biggest Evening Supper!

On Tuesday 6th May at Marsden Rd. U.C. at approx. 9.30 p.m., we will be supporting this Cancer Council appeal with a scrumptious supper and everyone is invited to come. Gold coin (or folding money) donation please. ("Carousel" folk - remember, this is your first combined rehearsal night, so all roll up) Those not in "Carousel" also invited to come and join us for this event. Maybe you could pick up some flyers to distribute?

GOING, GOING, GONE TO GALSTON!

Yes, finally we have gone! On 29 March a small band of hardy souls again turned out for the remaining hard yakka involved in actually moving all that remained under the stage, the little storage room, the space under the church and all the stuff already moved onto the hall floor. Probably due to the short notice of this extra day, numbers were down, but those who attended (most of whom had been to at least one, if not both of the previous two days) worked hard and managed to finish the job by 3 pm. Thanks to Andrew McAlpine, Adam Wilson, Helen and Colin Wilson, Belinda Bongers, Jess Allen, Keith Barry, Harold Bedford, Heather Clarke and Megan Willis for their time and effort. The committee also extends further thanks to Andrew who has spent months organising the nitty-gritty details of the move.

Donations Clarified

In January the executive announced an amount of \$3,000 it intended to give to Christian Community Aid, Riding for the Disabled and Kingsdene Special School. When the committee decided on that amount it was aware of certain expenses we would have to pay in the near future by reason of being out of Lakeside Road and we budgeted accordingly. Since then, further

expenses have arisen. Although the society's finances are in a healthy state, the committee has decided to wait until ticket sales are finished before making those donations, which will ensure that our everyday working account can cover the expenses without having to break our term deposits. As soon as we have a final profit figure for Carousel we will make those, and any other, donations.

2008 AGM

The AGM was held on Wednesday 12 March 2008 at Lakeside Road. We'll provide more detail in the May Bulletin but in the meantime, apart from the election of your new committee, whose names are listed in the March Bulletin, it is important that you be informed of a constitutional change. Those members present voted overwhelmingly to amend the Constitution as proposed in the notices of motion sent to you in February. The amendments mean that EUCMS' Constitution now complies with the requirements of the Tax Office for "not for profit" organisations. The updated Constitution can be found on our website. We encourage you to print a copy for your records.

Bulletins Electronic or Printed?

We have had numerous requests from members saying they would prefer their bulletins emailed rather than posted. If this is the case, please let Adam know, otherwise we will continue to send your bulletin via the post. You can also have it sent both ways if you prefer!

OH & S and First Aid Helpers

We are looking people that have at least some basic knowledge in the Occupational Health and Safety field to help us continue the great work that Niki has been doing, so we can put some plans into place to make our society safer. Those also willing to learn these skills, we would love to hear from you as well.

We would also love to know if any members have up-to-date training in First Aid so that we can compile a list of names. Please contact Penny Wilson if you would like more information regarding how you can help or if you have a current First Aid certificate and would like to be listed.

Scores/Libs for Sale

The society has been given a collection of scores and libretti by a past member who has suggested that we could offer them for sale and put the proceeds into funds. Remaining as of this week are:

Scores: Pirates of Penzance, Merrie England, Vagabond King, Gipsy Baron, A Waltz Dream, Song of Norway

Libs: Pirates of Penzance, Annie Get Your Gun, Vagabond King, Gipsy Baron, Song of Norway, Bless the Bride

Contact Elaine Gow if interested.

SEUSSICAL News

We are delighted to announce a few of the key members of our new team:

Getting us all organised as Production Manager will be Bess Yager, who is enthusiastic and experienced in the role, although new to the EUCMS version of it. So she will have the best of care from two ladies who have been there a time or two - Production Assistant, Jess Allen, and Mentor, Megan Willis.

And joining us for the first time, we have been blessed to find an enthusiastic and talented Musical Director in Lyndall Hord, a Conservatorium trained musician and, Robyn and I believe, a real asset to EUCMS. We very much look forward to introducing her to everyone in the near future - please make her feel very welcome. To help her negotiate the "EUCMS way" of doing the job, Andrew McAlpine has signed on as Mentor - thanks very much, Andrew!

Two more familiar faces will be Choreographer, Clare Burgess and Andrew "Ox" McVey, who is taking on the critical job of creating "THE HAT" (for the Cat!).

We look forward to announcing more appointments in upcoming Bulletins, and would love to hear from you if you are interested in offering to fill or help out with any production roles.

Orientation Night

On Tuesday, 3rd June at Marsden Road Church, we will be holding an Orientation Night for all those interested in becoming involved with SEUSSICAL.

Yes! I will still be giving a brief introduction to the show and handing out audition materials at the Carousel after party, Yes! It is only a couple of days after Carousel finishes. Yes! An Orientation Night is a bit of a departure for EUCMS.

This is a show many people may not know well, and I don't want to take too much time out of the Carousel Party, but I'd like to give a sense of the show's style and heart, and to share our vision for presenting it. There will be some casting and also some grouping within the chorus (including the way I'd like to include children, families and people of all ages) that are not standard for EUCMS, so this will be a good chance to find out how you (yes, You!) can be involved. (And how best you can prepare for your audition!)

Importantly, it will also be an opportunity to meet Lyndall, and share in the whole team's enthusiasm for this great show. If you are exhausted after Carousel, don't worry - you won't need to do anything other than watch and listen to the concepts we will bring, partake of the supper we will also bring, and share in the kind of community that EUCMS is famous for!

With much excitement,

Penny Wilson

Members' News

Get Well

A big cheerio to Don Glover who is in Mt. Wilga recovering from a hip replacement.

Graduations

A big congratulations to Jess Burns, Brigitte Carroll and Wendy Cosier on their graduations.

Cumberland Gang Show

Two of our members, Isobel Bongers and David Lang, are in the Cumberland Gang Show this year. It is staged annually by the Scouts and Guides at the Riverside Theatre, Parramatta, and is a fast-moving show of singing, dancing and humorous skits, great costumes and many scene changes, with a cast of 140 Scouts and Guides. This year's concert is called "Rock the House" and includes some favourite songs from the fifties. You can get your tickets for this great show by phoning Belinda on 9874.7334. Support the Scouts and Guides and book seats now – once you've seen one fantastic Gang Show, you'll be back every year.

Bon Voyage

We wish our President Robyn Mead and her husband Steve all the best as they trek around the globe for the next nine weeks.

Your News?

A reminder for members that they can let us know of their news or other items they wish passed onto members via the bulletin. If so, email Adam.

Questionnaire Reminder

Now that you've read the rest of your Bulletin, don't forget your big responsibility and opportunity - **fill out and return your questionnaire as soon as possible**. The Show Selection Sub-Committee will be meeting on Monday 28th April, so if you are passionate about your choice for our big show in 2009, make sure that it receives first consideration.

You can:

- Return your questionnaire by mail to our P.O. Box, and we will ensure that it is cleared on that Monday.
- Hand your questionnaire personally to Caroline Reddel (Convenor of SSSC) at a suitable break in rehearsals for Carousel.
- Respond electronically by filling in the questionnaire online (available on the website).

All parts of the questionnaire are important and helpful for your Executive to keep in touch with members' needs, interests and offers to contribute, so if you are unable to complete yours before 28th April, please do fill it in and send it anyway. If you need more time to consider some aspects of the questionnaire but would

like your show suggestion to be raised at this meeting, feel free to phone or email Penny Wilson (Acting President in Robyn's absence, and at-home mum, so available at hours when Caroline is not) before the meeting.

Executive Members 2008

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Floor Member - Caroline Reddel

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Current Director - Elaine Gow

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Phone: 02 8061 7195

Website: www.eucms.org.au

Join our official EUCMS email list by sending a blank email to: eucms-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Or our members' chat list by sending a blank email to: euchat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Next Executive Meeting

5 May at Adam & Penny Wilson's house, starts 8pm.

Important EUCMS 2008 Dates

23 May	Carousel Opening Night - 8pm
24 May	Carousel Performances - 2pm & 8pm
30 May	Carousel Performance - 8pm
31 May	Carousel Performances - 2pm & 8pm
3 June	Seussical Orientation Night
21 June	Mid Year Dinner
3 August	Annual Church Service, 6.30pm at Lakeside Road Church

Check your label... Are your 2008 subs overdue?