

From the President

Where is 2008 going? Already August – our second show “Seussical” now underway with a great crew, cast and chorus. Penny’s update on the show is well worth the read. A big welcome to our new members. It is exciting to think that there are a number of men amongst you, but ladies are most welcome too.

It gives me great pleasure to report that our midyear service was extremely well attended and that there were a significant number joining with us in worship from the Eastwood congregation. A very big thank you to those who were involved in the planning and participated in the actual service. Rev Andrew Williams gave a very motivational sermon and it is great to think that he is very keen to work closely with EUCMS.

Plans for a Christmas service at Lakeside Road Church are now under way and dates will be available by next bulletin, as will plans for our Christmas party.

But what of the plans for 2009? I am thrilled to announce that our show (remember we decided to do just one show) will be:

“ANYTHING GOES”

This is a great show with music by Cole Porter that provides great chorus participation, lots of dancing, and large and small principal roles for both males and females. It is great fun and will provide great entertainment for our audiences and for all those who decide to be involved. The show season will be September 2009, and the performance venue will be the newly renovated Lakeside Road Uniting Church at Eastwood. What a great way to return “home”!

This will allow us the opportunity to do some workshops leading into the show and then some more workshops after the show that will culminate in their own performance opportunities. Planning is underway for these workshops and details will be made available as soon as confirmation of dates and personnel is received.

Please fill in the questionnaire that is with this Bulletin or complete it on line if you prefer. The more information we can get the better our planning.

So much is being planned for the next 18 months and we have even looked further ahead and just started to think about our 50th anniversary, which is only 4 years away! Big celebrations take time to plan and if you have any ideas or thoughts about any part of our future – be it for next month or an idea for 2012, please don’t hesitate to contact any one of your executive members. We are willing to consider all suggestions.

If you haven’t been past Lakeside Road church recently you may like to take a look sometime. Work is well underway now.

Your executive is working hard – please support them. Being overwhelmed with questionnaire responses

would be a great start. If you cannot participate in events mentioned in the questionnaire, then a response indicating that is just as important as one that indicates your involvement. It is when we don’t know that the going gets tough.

Looking forward to hearing from all of you
Robyn Mead

SEUSSICAL News

*“When you’re jouncing along
 on a road full of ruts,
 Getting jeered by a throng
 and performing for nuts...
 Tell yourself - how lucky you are!”*



Well, perhaps not lucky - more blessed. I’m writing to you this time having just staggered out of bed in a house full of an evil gastro bug, but still - feeling very, very thankful for the response of EUCMS members, new and old to the challenges Seussical brings us.

We have an ensemble of great strength and enthusiasm to go with our principal cast, and I’ve been personally delighted to see the way they have begun to gel together to create a cast of vibrant characters onstage and a team of determined workers from both cast and production offstage. There is lots of hard work ahead of us, but with the spirit and energy this group is demonstrating, I know we will achieve a wonderful result.

To all the cast - things are starting to move at a dizzying pace now - thanks for your hard work and positive spirit at rehearsals - please make sure you are learning your music at home with your RehearScore, and mentally revising the staging you have done, so that it is second nature each time you come to learn more!

An official EUCMS welcome goes out this month to the following new adult members: Bridie Amos, Carol Amos, Nathaniel Burgess, Daniel Convey, Suzanne Davey, Brendan Hord, Annemarie Murphy, Jessica Saxon and Robert Schmiga - although it goes without saying that we hope you are already feeling very welcome among us.

We also welcome Clare Burgess and Stephen Lee, both formerly non-performing members of EUCMS to the stage! (The love and support of the whole cast and team are also extended to Scott and to Keith who is helping him out - although you can’t be with us any longer, our thoughts and prayers are with you.)

In terms of key (and in at least one of these cases, I mean this literally) production roles, I must also apologise for neglecting to welcome and thank these very important members of our team:

- Pianist and accompanist, the multi-talented Andrew Myles,

- Prompt (and glutton for punishment), Elaine Gow
 - Technical Support (in many ways), Peter Roach
- We do still have other needs, though - while our members responded with enthusiasm to the call for Chorus performers, we continue to be short of a coordinator for our make-up team. The design side of the job is now done, and the purchasing of supplies is in hand - all we really need is someone to co-ordinate the rosters and delegate the roles. Please consider whether this is something you could take on.

Our other Team need is for a House Manager for Seussical. Ideally, it would be great to have the same person be available for all of the performances, we would still love to hear from you if you could be there for most of them!

As this column is starting to get quite long, I'll finish now, but look out in the next Bulletin for

- Dates that you can become involved in painting the fun sets our Décor and Stage team are creating,
- Dates you can become involved in promoting Seussical and EUCMS, especially the now legendary Banner Making and Feast Day,
- A unique opportunity to win a great prize by simply selling tickets
- A list of props we would like to find or borrow for the show - (Although for now, anyone who can donate any amount of any shade of pink wool or similar synthetic yarn - we'd really appreciate it - no-one at rehearsals is going to have any spare time at all... we have a lot of pom-pom clover flowers to make! OR can YOU make pom-poms at home for us?)

Please let Bess Yager (9481 4143) or me (8812 2575) know if you can help in any of these ways.

Penny Wilson

EUCMS News

Mid-year Church Service

Our annual church service was held on Sunday 3 August 2008 at Lakeside Road Church. Approximately 100 people attended, both EUCMS members and the church congregation. The organising committee (Tony Quance, Niki Barton and Elaine Gow) liaised with the Reverend Andrew Williams to ensure that both the Society and the congregation were included in the service. Our members provided a choir, a liturgical dance, and a short play.

As a result of the collection during the service we were able to make a donation of just over \$300.00 to the church to be used towards work being done in Tonga by church members at the end of this year. A lavish supper was enjoyed by all at the end of the service. The executive thanks the committee and all members who participated. We also extend our thanks to Sherie Barton for playing the piano for some of the choral items.

Audience Appreciation

We often receive cards, letters and messages from appreciative audience members. A card was recently received from a gentleman in Newcastle who thoroughly enjoyed Carousel and took the time to let us know. He enjoyed it so much that he intends coming down again for Seussical, a show he doesn't know, purely on the basis of his opinion of Carousel. Let's hope we always affect audiences in a similar way.

Daffodil Day

There will be Daffodil Day goodies for sale at rehearsal on Friday, 15th August at Supper Time to raise much needed funds for Cancer Research. All members are invited to come and, as the ad man says, "Bring Your Money With You." If you are not able to attend, however, you don't need to miss out - donations or purchases of Daffodil Day items can still be made after Friday, by calling Elaine Gow on 9872 6453 or emailing her at eebeegee@bigpond.com

Granny Smith Festival

The Granny Smith Festival in Eastwood will be held this year on Saturday 18 October. EUCMS has for many years conducted a stall to publicise the Society and advertise our upcoming production. We really need to have sufficient members available for each part of the day from 8am to 3pm to set up the stall, hand out flyers, answer queries from the public and finally to pack up the stall.

With a large cast for "Seussical" and performing a relatively unknown musical, we need all hands to publicise and sell. We are performing at a brand new venue, at Epping Boys High School so, even for the patrons who do know us and our shows, we need to publicise the new venue as well. Our Seussical Production Team, (especially Lyndall, our MD, whose list of surprise talents includes professional clowning, balloon tying and other skills) have a lot of great ideas for promoting this show to the kids who will be everywhere at the Festival, so joining in to create a buzz should be lots of fun this year especially!

So it's **not a matter of if, but when** you are available on the day. Tony Quance is the organiser of the stall this year, so could please ring him with your name and available time to help on 9874-3326. Or else email him at Tony.quance5@bigpond.com.

Show Selection Sub-Committee

The executive are very excited to be able to endorse the Show Selection Sub-Committee's recommendation of Cole Porter's **Anything Goes** as our 2009 show, to bring us home to Lakeside Road in style!

With fun, catchy tunes such as "Blow, Gabriel, Blow", "I Get a Kick Out of You", "It's De-Lovely", "You're the Top", and of course, "Anything Goes", a cast of great characters and plentiful chorus work with the option of some fun dance sequences, we are sure this tale of romance and mayhem on the high seas will have

something for everyone! We are really looking forward to all the on- and off-stage opportunities Anything Goes will provide for everyone to get involved, show off their talents and maybe even find some new ones.

So start thinking about how you want to be involved, and indicate your interests on the questionnaire. And get creative... with a September season, there will be time before rehearsals begin for you to find out more and maybe get some training in those areas you always wanted to try but never knew how.

A big thankyou, too, to Carolyn Reddel and her show selection team, for all the hard work, research and effort that goes into considering all aspects of the shows our members suggest and the circumstances our society experiences.

An Invitation

Members of EUCMS are presenting a concert on 27th September at Thornleigh Hillcrest Uniting Church, Paling St., Thornleigh at 7.30 p.m. and you are most warmly invited to come and support your fellow members in this venture.

The money raised will be going to South Africa, to a young missionary couple who have now taken on the care of 4 very young children, one of whom is handicapped, which is a tremendous task for two people who've only been married under 2 years.

If you would like any further information, please ring Elaine on 9872 6453. Tickets \$15 for Adults, \$12 Children, (16 & under). Supper will be served at the conclusion of the concert.

Aminya Concert

Elaine would like to thank the following people for their assistance with the Concert for the Aminya residents which was performed on the 26th July: Niki Barton, Linda Cosier, Barbara Sharpham, Neil Litchfield and Andrew Myles. Elaine is sure the patients at Aminya all particularly appreciated the French Horn pieces which were quite a novelty for them.

The Executive passes on its appreciation to Elaine for all her efforts in organising the event and to our members for their participation.

Return to Wellington

Once again the weather forecast was for snow and cold temperatures when Barbara, Megan and I set off for Wellington in response to the invitation for EUCMS to be part of their Centenary Celebrations but, once again, we were fortunate to have only blue skies on our outward journey and only snow when we had stopped for lunch and coffee!!

We were most warmly welcomed by all the folk from Wellington and Yeoval and were privileged to be able to extend congratulations from our members and it was lovely to hear just how warmly we were all remembered out there (and to be urged to "please come again"). We were also able to hand over a

donation on behalf of EUCMS as a centenary gift to the church.

EUCMS can be justly proud of their contribution to the Drought Appeal and the impression we have left on all these wonderful people.

ACT Conference 2008

The Association of Community Theatre has announced details of its sixth conference of community theatre to be held at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts in Sydney on Saturday the 11th and Sunday the 12th of October.

A dynamic weekend of seminars is planned from NIDA staff, community theatre leaders and guest celebrities.

Legendary actor Charles 'Bud' Tingwell will deliver the keynote address on the importance of amateur theatre in Australia. Bud will reveal that he got his start in acting in amateur theatre and remains a great supporter as patron of the Victorian Drama League. Later he will chair a seminar on how to audition for a play.

On Saturday night Bud will present awards to those being inducted into A.C.T.'s Hall of fame. Another very popular seminar will be from A.C.T.'s patron Nancye Hayes. Squeezed in between her performances in My Fair Lady, Nancye will help teach participants how to dance like a legend in 90 minutes. Peter Cousens the founder and C.E.O of Kookaburra, the National Music Theatre Company, will chair a music theatre audition class.

Other seminars include Stage Combat, Choosing a Show, Shakespeare, Accents, Budgeting, Building a Character, Stage and Production Management, Gilbert and Sullivan master class, Marketing your Show, Directing a Musical, Stage Safety and Lighting.

Cost will be \$70 for the Conference including two lunches and afternoon tea and all seminars. \$110 for the Conference and Conference dinner inclusive.

\$50 Conference dinner only. The EUCMS Executive has approved a limited number of Conference subsidies for members wishing to attend, but financially unable.

If you are interested in attending or if you wish to enquire about a subsidy, please let Adam or Penny know ASAP on 8812 2575 or ozpanda@optusnet.com.au

Members' News

Condolences

Our love and sincere sympathy to Pam and David Bland on the death of Pam's twin sister Pat, after a brave battle with illness.

Our Thoughts

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Scott Morton and his family and to the Barton family after both Scott's Mum, Vicky and Sherie Barton were hit by a car while

walking a fortnight ago. We pray for their continued recovery.

Congratulations

Clare and Paul Taylor are Delighted Great Grandparents. Clarissa Jane Bradfield was born 8 July 2008 to David and Gillian. (Some members may remember Gill as a member of make up teams in 2003 and 2004.) Clarissa is also Great-Great Granddaughter to Paul's mother who lives at Bateau Bay and J.J. Bradfield of Sydney Harbour Bridge fame. Mother and daughter are both well and father wears a big smile.

Double Gold!

No, not the Olympic kind, but just as great an achievement in this day and age! Our warmest congratulations go to Helen and Colin Wilson and to Valmai and Jim Murch as both couples celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversaries - that's 50 years, and still going strong!

Dancing Through Life

Congratulations to Beth Madden, Bronwyn and Brigitte Carroll, who took out first place in their Dancing Section in the recent Ryde Eisteddfod.

Singing for the Pope

Congratulations to Niki Barton who was invited to sing in a small choir at a private concert for the Pope during his recent visit to Sydney.

Bon Voyage!

Best wishes to Barry and Sherie Barton as they head off on their overseas trip later this month.

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, contact Elaine Gow on 9872 6453 or eebeegee@bigpond.com

Important EUCMS 2008 Dates

19 Sept	7pm Seussical Preferential Bookings
23 Sept	Seussical General Bookings open
11-12 Oct	ACT Conference at NIDA
18 Oct	Granny Smith Festival
1 Nov	<i>Seussical</i> bump-in and dress rehearsal at new venue - Epping Boys High
7-8 Nov	First weekend of <i>Seussical</i> shows
14-15 Nov	Final weekend of <i>Seussical</i> shows
7 Dec	EUCMS Christmas Service
13 Dec	EUCMS Christmas Party

Executive Members 2008

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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

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