

Christmas Message From The President



I hope you have all enjoyed a Happy Christmas, shared with family and friends. Looking forward to the start of a new year brings some excitement and challenges for EUCMS. In 2010 planning is well underway for 2 very big shows – “Gondoliers” and “Guys and Dolls”. The move back to Eastwood Uniting Church is mostly complete, but with some fine tuning and adjusting still needed as we get used to where everything is best stored and kept.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for the **Tuesday 23rd February 2010** and I look forward to seeing many of you on this occasion. It is with some regret that I will not be able to re-stand as President for 2010. This has been a very difficult decision for me and one which has been made over the last few months. It is a challenging and time consuming role that requires a deep understanding of the needs of EUCMS and its members, as well as the ability to lead the executive through the process of making decisions to best meet those needs. I am more than happy to discuss the role with you if you are interested in considering nomination.

We are in the position of also needing a General Secretary. Rosie Roach has done a great job in her first year, but having moved to Shellharbour is finding the distance and communication a major issue, which is totally understandable. Again this is a very important role in the life of EUCMS.

In November we held an executive forum where we looked at (among other things) many of the processes of the executive itself. In times when everyone is so busy and has so many other commitments, we took time out to consider if, and how the executive responsibilities could be more evenly spread among the team. Our concluding recommendation was that each of the four floor members take on responsibility for some aspect of the running of the society. While understanding that this may add some additional responsibility to the floor member positions, it is hoped that it may ease the burden on some of the other roles and ensure that the activities of the society are planned in advance. The areas of responsibility would be:

Membership – which would incorporate planning for new members auditions, but also keeping tabs on all aspects of membership.

Events coordinator – this role would ensure that events such as the annual church service, the Christmas service, the Christmas party and the mid year dinner had a team of willing organisers. It would not be the responsibility of this floor member to run the events but to ensure that planning was begun well in advance and report back to the executive.

Bulletin editor – this person would collect information during the month and then at the executive meeting and be responsible for putting together the bulletin, editing, printing (through the EUCMS photocopier) and ensuring it was posted either through normal post or “posted” as a link on the website.

Publicity – ensure that ALL events of the society were well publicised through the many avenues available to us these days.

I can hear many of the longer term members saying,

“...but these roles have always been the responsibility of the executive.” And yes, that’s true, but with changing technology they need to be redefined. It is also hoped that the “floor members” will feel they have a specific role in the running of the society. The nomination process for floor members will be exactly the same as in the past, then, once the roles are filled, at the first executive meeting after the AGM, these four areas of responsibility will be discussed and allocated to each of the floor members.

As always I urge every one of you to consider the possibility of nomination - do you think you have what it takes to contribute to the running of the society, or do you know someone who has the qualities needed? Talk to current members of the executive and to other members and discuss the possibilities. We need nominations for ALL positions.

Last year’s AGM was very successful in that there was significant discussion that took place about concerns and suggestions of members of the society. Members raised issues and were able to gain immediate feedback on the issues. This was extremely helpful for the executive as well. The AGM is the one time in the EUCMS calendar when discussion can take place potentially involving all our members. Please make the most of this opportunity again.

May 2010 be a happy and prosperous year for all of you.

Robyn Mead

The Gondoliers News

"We shall both go on requesting"

Yes, Sarah and I are still issuing an invitation to all our members to be a part of "The Gondoliers" and we are looking forward to having a wonderful response on Friday, 5th February for our Read Thru/Orientation Night.

The auditioning panel want to give our heartfelt thanks to those who auditioned and congratulate them all on the amount of preparation which they had obviously put into their performances (take a bow, Penny and Andrew - the auditions workshop has paid off). You actually made our task of casting a great deal more difficult and we had to ask the editors of the Bulletin to “hold the presses” until after Christmas, since some decisions were very hard to make! However, we are now delighted to announce the following all-star cast:

Duke of Plaza Toro	Neil Litchfield
Duchess of Plaza Toro	Cathy Bulfin
Casilda	Amelia (Millie) Linquist
Luiz.....	Mitch Bryson
Don Alhambra del Bolero	Ted Nettle
Marco.....	Phillip Linquist
Giuseppe.....	Andrew Forbes
Antonio	Matthew Sismey
Francesco	Ben Cosier
Giorgio	Warren Charlton
Annibale	Steve Lee
Gianetta	Niki Cosier
Tessa	Wendy Cosier
Fiametta.....	Caroline Reddel
Vittoria	Minh Bryson
Guilia	Megan Reddel
Inez.....	Lynn Bock

Once again, our thanks to all who auditioned and we look forward to working with you in 2010!

Have you caught up yet with the new arrangements for the performances? For Gondoliers we will be opening on the Saturday 2p.m. matinee on 22nd May and continuing with an 8p.m. performance that day with special student's concession prices with which we hope to attract more of your younger friends and, perhaps, introduce them to G. & S.

The season will then continue with Friday night, Saturday matinees and nights, until the first weekend in June, thus avoiding the Queen's Birthday Holiday. (This means 3 matinees which seem to be really popular times).

Once again our sincere invitation to be in this great G. & S. which welcomes all ages. Have a Happy and Safe Christmas and recharge your energies to take part in the first show for 2010! Best wishes Elaine, Sarah & Jess

EUCMS News

New Members

After our New Members auditions last month, the Executive is pleased to welcome Melody Newberry and Cliff Watson to the society. We look forward to seeing you on stage!

But it still isn't too late for your friends or family members to also be part of the fun of Gondoliers - the next New Members' audition night will be Fri, 29th Jan - contact Caroline (9449 4561 or 0401 307 088) to book a time.

EUCMS Christmas Service

Thanks to Elaine, Penny, Niki and the team who organised EUCMS' contribution to the 'Celebration of Christmas' church service at Lakeside Road. It was a lovely evening of reflection on many aspects of Christ's birth. Supper was also plentiful!

EUCMS Christmas Party

Thanks to Caroline, Beth and Jess for organising a fabulous Christmas party and to all those who contributed tasty Christmas treats for entrée and dessert. Thanks again to the Reddels for opening their home to us.

2010 AGM

Don't forget our AGM is on again, on 23 February 2010, in the Eastwood U.C. Hall - starting at 8pm. Stay tuned to your letterbox for the arrival of all the necessary information to prepare yourself for the meeting within the prescribed time.

If you wish to put forward a notice of motion for consideration at the AGM you will need to get it to our PO Box before our January 18th meeting so that it can be included in the AGM material to be posted to all members 21 days before the AGM. Feel free to telephone any Exec member if you want to discuss whether your proposal needs to be by way of notice of motion, or if you need help in wording it.

Consider too, whether you will nominate for a position on the 2010 Executive. Whether or not you have been there before, this is a very important way in which you can serve your Society. It can also be very beneficial to you as a member - to quote a current Exec member "I now understand so much better the reasons for the decisions that are made".

Take the time to have a look on the website at the descriptions of the roles of the Executive members - you can nominate for any position, as they will all be declared vacant at the AGM. A couple of Executive members have indicated that they will not

be re-standing, so while you should feel free to nominate for any position you feel is appropriate for you, have a specific look at the roles of President and General Secretary. Your annual subs will be due at the meeting to allow you to vote for the year. If you intend to pay on the night, allow time before the meeting starts to do this.

Memories on DVD

Beth Madden has recently transferred her old EUCMS videos of Patience (1996) and Yeomen of the Guard (1998) onto DVD (her videos were starting to go mouldy!) She is kindly offering to make some copies for anyone who's interested and able to provide blank DVDs for her to copy onto. Email is probably the best contact (beth-madden@hotmail.com).

Lost Property

Several items of lost property were handed to the House Manager after performances of Anything Goes. If you know of an audience member who lost anything, please ask them to telephone Megan Willis on 9869 7413.

Members' News

An Engagement!

We are all delighted to congratulate Brian Madden on his engagement to Irene! What marvellous news! All our best wishes for many years of happiness together.

Gang Show Congratulations

Congratulations to our new adult member Melody Newberry - she has just been accepted for Cumberland Gang Show for next year. She is very excited and her Mum, Cathy Bulfin is also very proud! Aren't we all?!

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

Executive Members 2009

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