

FROM THIS PRESIDENT

(for the last time)

Christmas is over, the New Year is well underway, and the hectic pace of life seems not to have changed at all. Our **first show G&S's "The Gondoliers"** is into rehearsal mode, but urgently in need more chorus members. It is possibly a case of "more, if not all hands on deck!"

In November last year your executive met for an intense discussion about processes undertaken by the executive. One of the most significant changes to come out of the discussion is the timing and the process of show selection and questionnaires. Apart from our AGM (more about that soon) our questionnaires are our one and only source of information and communication about the shows EUCMS performs. While it is a somewhat more complex process for the executive, the questionnaire asks for similar responses to previous questionnaires, but the timeframe is significantly different. Our hope is that members' requests are more carefully considered and greater ownership of the final decision encourages members to fill out and return their questionnaires. I have outlined the process for you in the following points.

- You will receive 2 Questionnaires each year – one in February and one in July.
- The questionnaires will include an opportunity to offer to help in whatever capacities remain unfilled for the show currently in rehearsal and in the already announced following show, as well as other important events in the life of EUCMS.
- You will be asked to vote from a shortlist (generally 2-3 shows) for the show which will begin rehearsals 12 months ahead of the one currently in rehearsal. The shows included in a shortlist will have been carefully considered by the SSSC and all will have been approved by the Executive, such that **whichever** show receives the most votes from members and offers to fill the key production roles, will be announced in the relevant March or August bulletin as the chosen show.
- **Your votes and expressions of interest will be the determining factor** and will generally increase the amount of notice for production teams. The hope is that you may be more willing to step up into a new role if you have more time to plan.
- A separate page will be attached to the back of each questionnaire for those who are unfamiliar with the shows on the shortlist, with plot description, a brief character outline, and level of ensemble involvement for men and women, requirements such as dancing, accents etc, style of music or well-known songs and the general appeal of each show.
- The questionnaire will also provide the opportunity to

suggest shows for the SSSC to consider and peruse for the next season – the shortlist the SSSC will submit to the Executive will be composed of shows from responses to this part of the questionnaire. You will be free to "re-nominate" any of the shows on the current shortlist, in case your favourite is out-voted this time. So you are nominating shows that would be starting rehearsals 18 months from the time you submit your questionnaire.

- You will have the opportunity to nominate charities for to which EUCMS could make a donation. If it is a little known charity it is helpful if you can give a very brief description of their role.

We hope that this new rolling process will be a positive and helpful one to all our members, allowing them to feel more informed, more involved and better able to plan their participation in upcoming shows. We will be in line with the other societies in the area in terms of the amount of notice given to potential Production Team and Cast members. As I mentioned, we do hope that our members will feel they are being given a greater sense of ownership of shows in which they have had a final say.

Our **Annual General Meeting is on TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2010 at Eastwood Uniting Church** starting promptly at 8pm. You should have received all the paperwork for this meeting. If you have not, then contact an executive member and also check that we have correct mailing address information. This is the one opportunity for the society members to gain an overview of what was a very hectic and demanding year in 2009 and perhaps a chance for some to see the final building changes. Please consider the possibility of nominating someone you know or perhaps consider being nominated for a position on the executive for 2010. We need a President and a Secretary, however, all positions are declared vacant and while I fully support the members of the current executive that are re-standing, that should not stop you from nominating other people or yourselves. We will be fully prepared with paper and pencils for voting.

This is my last report as President of EUCMS. Can I thank all those who have supported the shows, events, workshops and working bees over the past few years. However there is still so much to do. We would love to be in a situation to replace the curtains in the hall. Our old ones are over a metre too short. Cost of replacing them is in the vicinity of \$10,000 - \$15,000 and they are just one item on the "wishlist" or perhaps the "needed" list. If you have suggestions for fundraising please speak to a member of the new executive. It is only when people work together as a team and share their unique gifts that EUCMS will continue to grow and truly gain that sense of achievement that is the essence of our society.

Yours sincerely, Robyn Mead

The Gondoliers News

*"Life's a pleasant institution
Let us take it as it comes"*

And it's always made more pleasant with a musical accompaniment!

What a great start we had at Orientation Night and how exciting to hear our Principals who had obviously done quite a bit of homework over the New Year break. Everyone was most enthusiastic and excited and we would love to have you join us if you couldn't be there that night - you won't be sorry!



Of course there is lots of work to be done before Opening Night (Matinee) but this G. & S. presents us with some of the most exhilarating music to sing (and to dance the Chacuca) that you will ever experience. Cut off date is Friday, 19th February so hope to see you there by then.

As usual, no show can be complete without willing backstage teams, so if you have the skills to build sets, sew costumes or paint - both scenery and faces (but not with the same paint) please contact Jess with offers.

I am delighted that our Musical Director will have a Music Team and we welcome Tim, Sandy and Andrew to join Sarah and Jenny

Arriverderci! Elaine

Libretti and Scores

Yet another reminder, for anyone can't do the show, but who happens to have a lib and/or score for "The Gondoliers" that they can lend or would like to sell, to please contact the Production Manager, Jess Allen on 9716 6832 or email jessa_melb@hotmail.com

EUCMS News

2010 AGM

A last reminder to ensure that you plan to attend the AGM on 23rd February 2010, in the Eastwood Uniting Church Hall - starting at 8pm. You should by now have received your materials - please contact Adam or Penny Wilson immediately on 8812 2575 if they have gone astray in the mail.

Remember that the minutes from the 2009 AGM will be "taken as read", so make sure you read them and that you plan to be there to have your say about the matters on the agenda. Don't forget the Notice of Motion, (which incidentally allows you the opportunity to show your appreciation of the hard work and guidance our outgoing President has put in over the last few upheaval-filled years, as well as her longer term service and contributions to all of EUCMS activities).

Also note that the AGM material will again include a form with an opportunity to update your contact details and tell us if you would prefer to receive the monthly bulletin via post or email. Last year, many members chose to join an email list for those who would prefer correspondence emailed rather than posted, reducing overheads and the "carbon footprint" of EUCMS!

You must be financial to vote. Your annual \$20 subs will be due at (or before) the meeting to allow you to vote for the year. If you intend to pay on the night, please get down there early, to allow time before the meeting starts to do this. If paying on the night by cash, please make sure we know who the cash belongs to, (put it in an envelope or attach a piece of paper with your name to it) as the treasurer gets very busy just before the meeting starts and can't keep track of anonymous monies.

Executive Vacancies

Every year, all positions on the Executive are made vacant at the AGM until nominations are read and voted on, however, as you read in last month's bulletin, we do already know of current Exec members who will not be re-standing this year. As a society, we need to look at filling these positions (President and General Secretary) so the Executive can continue to do all the work necessary to keep our society functioning.

Also, although Lynn Bock is happy to re-stand as Treasurer this year, she would be delighted to hear from/meet with someone who would be interested in learning about or taking on the role - in the future, next year or even 2010. In Lynn's words, "It takes some book-keeping or accountancy knowhow - although there are many good software products around - but the main thing that is needed is the commitment to be present and available when all the financial transactions are happening."

You have only a little time left now, to think about yourself filling a role or nominating someone else who is keen. Refer to the Executive list on the last page to see all the positions that will be available. You can look on the members' page of the website or call Robyn or Penny to get a copy of the Executive job descriptions. Please call an existing Exec member if you would like an idea as to the time and energy commitment needed. The Exec meets one Monday night a month during the year.

Nomination forms need to be posted to our PO Box or last minute forms can be dropped in to the Vice President, Penny Wilson at 32 Pinetree Drive, Carlingford before 8pm on 21st February.

February Questionnaire

Included with this bulletin, you should have found your February 2010 questionnaire in its "all-new" format. This includes your chance to vote from the shortlist of May/June 2011 shows and to nominate shows for perusal for production in late 2011. For your votes to count, please return this by 5th March to:

1. EUCMS General Secretary, PO Box 246, Eastwood 2122, OR
2. hand to any member of the Executive OR
3. email your answers to eucms.inc@gmail.com

Remember: An electronic version of the questionnaire can be filled in via our website at www.eucms.org.au

Welcome New Members!

Apologies to one of our lovely principal ladies - we forgot to welcome Millie Lindquist in last month's Bulletin, who is enriching her family's EUCMS legacy by joining us for the first time in Gondoliers.

We also welcome Emma Ayers to Gondoliers and to EUCMS - she was accepted as a member at the recent New Members' night, and were also pleased on that night to see a familiar face - David Forbes - join us as an adult member.

Great to have so many young and enthusiastic new faces on board!

Wigs and Costumes please!

A general plea for the return of any outstanding costumes and wigs as some key items needed for *The Gondoliers* are currently missing in action. Please bring them down to a rehearsal and there will be no questions asked!

Members' News

Mysterious Birthday Wishes...

EUCMS congratulates Barry Barton on reaching his 70th Birthday this month, and will allow him to decide whether he wants to reveal what is behind the question mark! All the best for your birthday and beyond, Barry!

The Best Kind of News From NZ

Congratulations to Lynn and Ken Bock on the safe arrival of their newest grand-daughter, Marlo. She was born on the 31st of January, with Lynn and Ken in NZ to welcome their 4th grand-daughter and 7th grand-child altogether.

Tupperware anyone?

As well as being a star performer on stage, Matt Sismey is also a Tupperware demonstrator. You are all invited to join us at Adam and Penny's house for a party on March 20 to see the new range of products for 2010. Hunt out all those broken lids to bring along!

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

President - Robyn Mead

Ph: 9736 3432 mead_19@hotmail.com

Vice President - Penny Wilson

Ph: 8812 2575 ozpanda@optusnet.com.au

General Secretary - Rosie Roach

Ph: 8064 3757 peterandrosie@aonet.com.au

Business Secretary - Megan Willis

Ph: 9869 7413

Treasurer - Lynn Bock

Ph: 9871 6869 kbandlb@optusnet.com.au

Property Officer - Adam Wilson

Ph: 8812 2575 ozpanda@optusnet.com.au

Floor Member - Jessica Allen

Ph: 9716 6832 jessa_melb@hotmail.com

Floor Member/Current Director - Elaine Gow

Ph: 9872 6453 eebeegee@bigpond.com

Floor Member - Keith Barry

Ph: 9887 1837

Floor Member - Caroline Reddel

Ph: 9449 4561 cazthelion@hotmail.com

Mail: P. O. Box 246 EASTWOOD NSW 2122

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

Next Executive Meeting

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

Important EUCMS 2010 Dates

19 Feb	Gondoliers cast cut-off date
21 Feb	8pm cut-off for AGM nominations and proxies
23 Feb	EUCMS Annual General Meeting at 8pm
5 March	Questionnaire return date for show vote count
21 May	<i>The Gondoliers</i> Opening performance
6 June	<i>The Gondoliers</i> Closing performance