

From the President

It is with a mixed bag of emotions that I have to let you all know that, although I have enjoyed my year as President, I am unable to stand for reappointment to the EUCMS Executive in 2008-9. The reasons for my decision are mainly personal, but I would be churlish to deny that the job has had frustrating moments which have also contributed. On a personal level (no, not more children!!), I am this year undertaking my admissions as a solicitor which is a time-consuming task, and one which (as my workplace is partly funding it) I feel obliged not to fail miserably at!! Although I have been practicing as in-house counsel for a few years now, the formal admission process will still be difficult, and I cannot justify spending the little spare time which that will allow me on Musical pursuits rather than on my family. Even my long suffering John (aren't you all going to miss knowing what he's up to?) is taking a season or two off from his own Musical interests in order to support me in this undertaking.

I intend to remain involved in EUCMS, and hopefully will be able to participate on the production side again in the 2009 shows. I am thrilled to see the Carousel cast announced this Bulletin, and am looking forward to watching it at Marsden High – it looks as though Elaine has put together a wonderful crew and cast, and I wish them all the very best for a successful season.

I also wanted to encourage people to think seriously about taking up a spot on the Executive. I have found the current (although some are shortly to step back) members to be an outstanding group of people. The meetings are (long), colourful, enlightening, (long), spirited, serious, (long), and extremely vital to the continuance of our society. Oh, there's also Supper!!

The Executive have provided me with great support and guidance during my time with them, and have helped to ease me in to running of a diverse and changing organization. Twelve months has definitely not been long enough for me to achieve what I want to in terms of change, but it was long enough to learn some of the ropes, and I do hope that you (the members) will allow me to get back on Exec in the future. So, thank you to all my team – you have been a very understanding bunch, and I have appreciated it.

So, I bid you all a fond farewell until we bump into each other around the traps. God Bless and for goodness sake come down and help with the moving!!!

Signing off - Sarah

Carousel

The latest issue of Stage Whispers, in a critique of a performance by Twelfth Night Theatre in Qld., says "*Carousel is recognised as being one of the best shows in the Rodgers & Hammerstein catalogue. Based on the play 'Liliom' by Ferenc Molnar, the work is regarded as a classic of the American musical theatre. The story of the carnival roustabout falling in love with a New England mill girl has thrilled audiences around the world since it originally opened in 1945. The emotional and uplifting ending always packs a wallop and this production certainly got it right.*"



Now E.U.C.M.S. has the challenge of "getting it right" and to do that, we need YOU to be part of the show. The principals who have been cast need a strong, enthusiastic chorus to back them up and we look forward to seeing you at Orientation Night on Tuesday, 5th February @ 8 p.m. at Marsden Road Uniting Church (Don't forget the new venue)

Your team has already begun work on all the offstage action and the plans are really exciting - guess how we're getting a carousel! Sorry, I'm not telling - come along and find out (men especially needed).

Looking forward to seeing you, Elaine

The Cast

The cast is as follows:

Carrie: Wendy Cosier

Julie: Niki Barton

Mrs. Mullin: Lynn Bock

Nettie: Cathy Bulfin

Billy: Andrew Myles

Mr. Snow: Michael Zarate

Jigger: Keith Ramsay

Mr. Bascombe: John Kane

Policeman: Darren McDowell

Armyny: Bess Yager

Starkeeper/Dr.S.: Peter Bulfin

Louise: Nicole Winter

Eldest Snow Girl: Harry Dowse (yes she is a girl)

Some parts still to be filled from the chorus.

We welcome those above who are new members to the society.

The Creative Team

The team, so far, is:

Director's Assistant: Caroline Reddel

Production Managers: Barbara Sharpham and Megan Willis

Musical Director: Ben Cosier

Pianist: Jenny Gillespie

Wardrobe: Heather Clarke, Shirley Sharpham

Stage Design: Jim Murch
 Stage Manager: Bernard Carroll
 Stage Team: Peter Dracakis, Keith Barry, Harold Bedford
 Make-up Director: Megan Carroll
 Make-up Assistants: Sarah Keith, Brigitte Carroll
 Decor Director: Liz McCann
 Choreographer: Jenny Lyle
 Logistics Officer: Jess Allen

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

Rehearsals

Will be held at the Marsden Road Uniting Church hall on the usual nights of Tuesdays and Fridays from 8pm - 11pm starting 5 February. The cut-off date for deciding to stay in the show is the 22 February.

Please be aware that we may not park on the grass at Marsden Rd. Uniting Church - there is ample parking around the back of the church (just go to the next dip in the gutter) or in Mobbs Lane.

Production News

If you have a score or lib for Carousel which you would like to sell, now is your chance. Please advise Barb Sharpham (9817 2779) or Megan Willis (9869 7413), preferably before rehearsals start, so that they know the number of scores/libs which will be needed for the rest of the cast. If you require a score, the hire charge will be a non-refundable \$20.

EUCMS News

2008 AGM

Don't forget our AGM is on again, on 26 February 2008, in the **Marsden Road Uniting Church 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. [Please read the AGM material as it will 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. Our intention is to start an email list for those who would prefer correspondence emailed rather than posted.](#)

You must be financial to vote. Your annual \$20 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. Get down there early. If paying on the night by cash, please make sure we know who the cash belongs to, ie put it in an envelope or attach a piece of paper with your name to it. the treasurer gets very busy just before the meeting starts and can't keep track of anonymous moneys.

Executive Vacancies

Every year, all positions on the Executive are made vacant at the AGM until nominations are read and voted on, however, 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 so the Executive can continue to do all the work necessary to keep our society functioning.

Those not re-standing include Sarah Hogan as President, Andrew McAlpine as Property Officer, and Niki Barton & Kath Sharpham as Floor Members.

We thank those above for all their hard work and dedication that they have given to EUCMS over the past year(s) on the Executive. You will be missed!

You now have a month 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. People interested in OH&S would be very welcome! You can look on the members page of the website or call Belinda 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 Executive meets one Monday night a month during the year.

Directors' Seminar

A big thankyou to Elaine who ran the seminar in her home a couple of weeks ago and we have had reported that those that attended enjoyed a great night of learning and discussion about directing musical theatre.

Donations

The Executive is pleased to announce our latest donations include \$2000 to *Christian Community Aid*, \$500 to *Riding for the Disabled Association* and \$500 to *Kingsdene Special School* (for disability education and care).

2008 EUCMS Plans

Moving from Lakeside Road

As outlined in recent bulletins, our move is finally imminent. There has been a disappointing response to our requests for volunteers. PLEASE consider making some time available for this important task.



PACKING DAY - 23 February - at Lakeside Road
MOVING DAY - 1 March - from Lakeside Road to our shipping container at Galston. *Do you have a van or truck we can use? We need help in loading & unloading trucks/trailers etc. We would love to hear from you if you have a safe and weatherproof storage option closer than Galston for delicate items such as clothing, props etc.*

Please telephone Megan Willis on 9869 7413 and let her know that you will be available to help these days.

"Thank you to the three members who have so far volunteered. There is no need for you to volunteer again."

We are looking for help not only in emptying the cupboards and understage/church areas, but also with the following: photograph all costumes, compiling databases of costumes, props, lights and other equipment etc. We would love offers of the use of laptops and digital cameras, plus anyone with knowledge or expertise for the best ways to approach these tasks.

EUCMS T-Shirts

It's about time we ordered some general EUCMS shirts.

If you would like a EUCMS shirt with an embroidered note logo (as on the top left of page 1). We will be getting black shirts with a white logo, but if we have enough interest we can hopefully organise other colours as well. Cost for a short sleeve T-shirt will be about \$25 and a short sleeve polo shirt will be about \$30 depending on the quantity we order. If you would prefer a sloppy joe we can consider getting some of those too. Please let Belinda know if you are interested.

We want to order these early in the *Carousel* rehearsal period.

Members' News

In Memoriam

Vale Dot Southwell

It is with great sadness we record the death of Dot Southwell, one of our long time members, on Friday, 11th January after a brave battle with illness.

Dot joined E.M.M.S. (as E.U.C.M.S. then was) for the production of "Sweethearts" and became the society's prompt for many years, as well as performing onstage at least once. Being an avid student of literature and theatre, she was a great help to many principals on the interpretation of their lines and was a staunch supporter of the musical society. During the presidency of Bill, her husband, she was always there beside him (and sometime behind him!)

Many members would not be aware that it was Dot's suggestion that we inaugurate the Christian Community Aid matinees so as to involve all members in entertaining the shut ins and disadvantaged and this performance became a treasured part of the society's year.

There are many people and groups who will miss Dot, but none more than E.U.C.M.S.

It was a privilege to know you Dot.

Congratulations

Congratulations to those who had exams, and have since got their results and placements at university and TAFE. We look forward to hearing all your news and hope you still have time to join us for our 2008 shows.

Next Executive Meeting

11 February at Elaine Gow's house, starts 8pm.

Executive Members 2007

President - Sarah Hogan

Ph: 9868 5492 skhogan@tpg.com.au

Vice President - Adam Wilson

Ph: 8812 2575 ozpanda@optusnet.com.au

General Secretary - Belinda Bongers

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Business Secretary - Megan Willis

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Treasurer - Tristram Fieldhouse

Ph: 8262 6393 fieldhouse2121@yahoo.com.sg

Property Officer - Andrew McAlpine

Ph: 9877 0856 kandy@internode.on.net

Floor Member - Niki Barton

Ph: 9802 9686 nikibarton@optusnet.com.au

Floor Member - Beth Madden

Ph: 9874 2009 beth-madden@hotmail.com

Floor Member - Caroline Reddel

Ph: 9449 4561 cazthelion@hotmail.com

Floor Member - Kath Sharpham

Ph: 9481 8376 sharp_kat@hotmail.com

Current Director - Elaine Gow

Ph: 9872 6453 eebeegee@bigpond.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 our members' chat list by sending a blank email to: euchat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Important EUCMS Dates

5 Feb 2008	<i>Carousel</i> First rehearsal and read through
8 Feb 2008	<i>Carousel</i> First chorus rehearsal
23 Feb 2008	Packing Day
26 Feb 2008	AGM at Marsden Road Church
1 March 2008	Moving Day