

From the President

Goodness, where has the year been going? Apart from the cold weather, I could swear that it still feels like only March!

As this Bulletin comes out, EUCMS is going through the excitement of gearing up for our next production – The Music Man. For those of you who haven't yet given much thought to this production, I strongly encourage you to come along to our read through on Tuesday 31st July, and to the first full cast rehearsal on Friday 3rd August – both are on at the Lakeside Road Uniting Church Hall from 8m sharp. Even if you aren't sure you can commit to the show at this stage, you should come down simply to have a bit of a sticky at our fabulously talented cast and production crew!

Many of you will notice from the cast announcements listed in the bulletin that we have a reasonable number of new names in principal roles this season... although I firmly believe that this is a testament to EUCMS – to both our Show Selection Sub-Committee (who are hard at it again, at the moment) for choosing such an appealing show; and to EUCMS in general – no matter how good the show, new members wouldn't want to work with us had they not heard great things about the sort of place we are. The audition panel on this show ran 5 audition sessions (not including new members auditions), and thought long and hard about the talent and balance of performers who have been given roles in this show. We have selected a cast bursting with older and newer talent – each and every person in there is going to blow your socks off with their enthusiasm, charm and sheer determination to make this a fabulous show for EUCMS and for our audiences. I appeal to anyone feeling a little saddened by audition results to be encouraged by the fact that, although you may not have ended up with the role you wanted this time, your efforts were (and continue to be) very much appreciated by the Production team, and you are part of the community that has enticed fresh faces to us.

And furthermore, (never mind the furthermore!!!! – you'll have to listen to MM to get that) – yes, furthermore, as I spoke about at the AGM in February, our choice in the Musical Theatre world is to adapt, to change, to welcome new permanent, and new transient members with open arms and non-judgemental hearts – otherwise we will not survive. The arrival of so many new members for this show is a real chance for EUCMS to both expand our permanent membership base, but to also spread the word of our community throughout the Musical Theatre fraternity.

I shall now retire the Presidential hat for a while... ☺

By the time the next Bulletin reaches you, we will have even more New Members to welcome, after a very well attended new Members audition this week. And we should have also come together in prayer and celebration at our Annual Church Service. If you are looking for a way to participate in that, please see the ad further down. And then the Sewing workshop will be upon us. I many not be able to type a Message next month, as I will most likely have sewn my thumbs together!!

Your couldn't-sew-to-save-herself (but willing to learn!!)
President – Sarah ☺

The Music Man News

The first day of auditions had arrived. The panel was raring to go, the music was set, the potential 'victims' were just about to arrive and 'poof' Sydney's largest brownout occurred over the Eastwood region. Well maybe not the largest, but it felt like a big deal when you introduced yourself to nervous faces (and new hair colours) by mobile phone light!



As creative people we quickly thought on our feet, took our auditionees on a little night tour through the city of Ryde over to our assistant music director Niki Barton's place where the panel of four crammed onto one lounge whilst we had very warm, up close and personal auditions.

And now we can finally announce after 5 sessions of auditions and callbacks (and that many audition locations) the principal cast list (minus one character) of both new, particularly our leading man and lady, and familiar faces for EUCMS next show 'The Music Man.'

- **Gavin Owen** as Harold 'could I get anymore suave' Hill
- **Samantha Centellas** as Marian 'don't mess with me, I read a lot' Paroo
- **Max Newstead** as Marcellus 'for the last time I'm not Hill's sidekick' Washburn
- **Kathy Smith** as Mrs 'I have the facial characteristics of a cornet' Paroo
- **Matthew Forbes** as Winthrop 'I fith and I vote' Paroo
- **Justice Massard** as 'Biggest Supporter of the Evening Star Postal Service' Amaryllis
- **Dorian Newstead** as Mayor 'as much tact as a thumbnail?' Shinn
- **Jenny Firth** as Eulalie 'Author of Greek Pottery for Dummies' Shinn
- **Jessica Burns** as Zaneeta 'Ye gods, I sound like a broken record, ye gods!' Shinn

- **Oscar Partridge** as Tommy 'I got as much right to dance here as anybody' Djlilas
- **Isobel Bongers** as Gracie 'Daddy's little girl' Shinn
- **Michael Simms** as Olin 'How low can you go' Britt
- **Daniel Tambasco** as Jacey 'I love helium' Squires
- **John Kane** as Ewart 'Middle man' Dunlop
- **Caroline Reddel** as Ethel 'Proud player pianola player' Toffelmier
- **Cathy Bulfin** as Alma 'Bring on the brrrrrazen overtures' Hix
- **Bess Yager** as Maud 'Dirty Books Abolitionist' Dunlop
- **Warren Grzic** as Charlie 'Worker's comp victim due to heavy suitcase lifting' Cowell
- **Caryn Kneale** as Mrs 'Can't wait to hear this band' Squires
- **Andrew Forbes** as Constable 'tar and feathers make for a great fancy dress costume,' Locke

Don't know what all those quotations mean? Well you'll just have to come and join the cast to find out.

Congratulations to all the successful auditionees, and to all those that missed out, we'd once again like to tell you all how much we enjoyed each one of your auditions and how much we appreciated the effort you put in, especially for those who had to choreograph their own dance piece or were asked to do cold readings at callbacks.

I can say confidently on behalf of the team that we are itchy with anticipation to begin, and that is due to the commitment and charisma we know will come from the principle and chorus roles.

Clare Burgess (director): 0407 087 029 or princessbride1980@hotmail.com

Read-through night: 31 July, 2007

First ensemble rehearsal: 3 August, 2007

Music Man Scores Anyone?

If anyone has a Music Man score that they are willing to sell or lend, could you please contact our Production Manager, Jess Allen on 9716 6832 or 0405 654 533.

EUCMS News

New Members & Subscriptions

Firstly a welcome to all those new EUCMS members who are now part of the society having decided to be involved with our upcoming production of *The Music Man*. We welcome you and trust that your EUCMS experience will be a rewarding and fun experience as you rehearse and perform with us. We will have a full list published in next month's bulletin.

A reminder to all that you will need to be a financial member if you intend to be part of *The Music Man*. For



members new and lapsed, your **\$20 subscription fee** is due within the first three weeks of rehearsal. You can pay Tristram Fieldhouse (our Treasurer) in person or post a cheque to: EUCMS, PO Box 246, Eastwood, NSW, 2122. He can be contacted on fieldhouse2121@yahoo.com.sg if you have any questions.

The Yeoval Pirates Experience

On Saturday, June 9, one of the wettest and wildest days in NSW history, the cast and crew of E.U.C.M.S.' production of *The Pirates of Penzance* set out for Yeoval, in the Wellington parish, to perform for the farmers and their families in this particular drought-stricken area.



This came about as a direct response to the Moderator, Mr Jim Mein's, address to our congregation last year, and after consultation with one of the outback pastors.

Forty people travelled by coach, along with all the scenery, props, costumes, make-up and lighting gear etc and the rest went by private car. The rain poured down and the fog enveloped the mountains, but as we got closer to Lithgow we could see patches of blue sky and knew that our prayers for fine weather were answered.

Of course the people at Wellington and Yeoval had been delighted to have rain preceding our visit and they welcomed us most warmly. We were catered for with typical country generosity and if you ask what we did at Wellington, one answer would be, "We ate!"

It was a great thrill to perform for the 300+ audience and everyone involved coped well with the different stage arrangements. The appreciative comments warmed our hearts and the whole weekend was a tremendous experience for all involved.

After the performance the cast mingled with the audience and many youngsters had photos taken with the 'pirates'. Then everything went back in the bus and we arrived at Wellington about midnight for a much needed sleep - some at the very comfortable Uniting Church hall and others at a motel.

On Sunday many of us worshipped with the Wellington congregation after being given a hot breakfast and then all set off for Eastwood and home, tired but feeling privileged to have been a part of this venture.

Many thanks to those who supported our theatre party to EUCMS production of *The Pirates of Penzance* and we were able to add \$98 to the church funds.

Thanks also to those who donated money after the show towards the expenses of taking *Pirates* to Yeoval - we were bowled over by the generous response.

Elaine Gow

Yeoval Letters of Thanks

Dear Elaine,

What a wonderful gift you all brought to us. It was a really great show! Thankyou for all of your hard work. The whole district benefited from your visit - and had a wonderful weekend.

Your show was superb and it was great to be able to share in it. We also loved having you for Sunday worship. Everyone was blessed by your presence. Personally we were encouraged by your gift and our grandchildren who were visiting us had a ball.

It was so good to see all of Yeoval laughing. They were suitably impressed with the performance and appreciated your generosity. We know you worked very hard for months to rehearsal the show and that it was no mean feat to bring everybody and everything to Yeoval. The fact that \$400 was donated for other drought relief shows they understood the value of your gift. That day will be long remembered in the village - all ages loved the show and the occasion.

Thankyou again for your blessings to us all. Please pass this on to the society. Grace & peace. Norm & Narelle Hawkes.



Dear Jim,

On behalf of our congregation here at Yeoval we wish to sincerely thank you for all your hard work on our behalf.

Your visit with your wonderful show was a highlight in our congregational life. It also touched many people outside the church. People came from the whole district and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time. To many it would have been a new experience, the children had fun and so did the adults.

Your drought gift earned donations which will keep other communities who are still "cash poor".

I know the whole visit would not have happened without your hard work and cheerful leadership. We loved the Sunday in Wellington too - many were blessed by your presence and participation. We feel very blessed to have been chosen to receive your gift. The impact on Yeoval was great and very positive. The occasion will be very long remembered.

It would be nice if you were able to come again! You'd be very welcome. Meanwhile you have earned a good rest.

Thank you again. Grace & peace. Norm & Narelle Hawkes.

Clean-up Days

Another big thanks to Elaine and her team for doing more work recently towards our clean-up days. This group included Elaine Gow, Barb Sharpham, Shirley Sharpham, Niki Barton, Ben Cosier, Heather Clarke, Jenny Lyle, Megan Willis.

The executive is very grateful to members who have given their time over the last 12 months to help clean out the costumes, props and under stage areas.



However, we notice that each clean up is attended by many of the same people. Our eventual move of all our "assets" from the hall into storage is still to come. We cannot achieve this without help from our wider membership. Advance dates are announced in the Bulletin. We know that Saturdays are busy for some people but surely there are more than 8 members who can attend such an occasion. Please think about how you can help your society with the many extra things which need to be done.

Leisure Lea Concert

We continue to thank Elaine for all the hard work she put into organising the recent Leisure Lea Concert. Thanks to all those who participated including: Niki Barton, Daniel Tambasco, Neil Litchfield, Denys Gillespie, Rebecca Foulcher, Sarah Keith and Tim Keith.

Audition Workshop

A big thanks to Penny Wilson and Andrew McAlpine who ran our Audition Workshop. We have been told it was a very well received evening and all those that were in attendance learnt lots about auditioning!

We would love your feedback if you have ideas for other workshops for us to organise.

Sewing Workshop

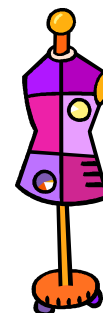
Want to know more about basic sewing techniques and costume making? This workshop will be run by Pam Bland and Barbara Lyle on 18 August starting at 10am and running into the afternoon.

Those interested are asked to bring along your sewing kit such as sewing needles, pins, scissors, measuring tape and other general sewing supplies, a pattern and material if you have something you would like to make, otherwise we will supply something for you. We can then talk about 'the art of cutting without using twice as much fabric as you need!'

Yes, men are encouraged to come too!

You can come for part of the day if that's all you can manage, you will still learn something, and bring some lunch with you, otherwise you can go down to the shops. Let Megan Willis know if you would like to book for the day and if you able to bring a sewing machine with you. You can reach Megan on 9869 7413 or email Barbara Lyle at bronly2@bigpond.com

Important Update: Megan or Barbara MUST have your intentions to attend the workshop as soon as possible due to the fact that the ladies will need to do a lot of planning, as well as travelling two hours plus each way to run this workshop. We currently have only one name down and if this number doesn't increase significantly, we will need to cancel.



Mid-year Church Service

A reminder that our mid-year church service is on at 7pm on 12 August at Marsden Road Uniting Church.



We are organising a choir and we would love you to be part of this singing group. Niki' Barton's Mum, Sherie, and Phillip Bongers are organising rehearsals for the next two Friday nights at 7pm for an hour (before Music Man rehearsals) and on the night of the service from 6pm. We would love to hear from you on 9802 9686 or bandsbarton@optusnet.com.au

Rev Alastair Christie will be speaking on the night.

All are welcome as we worship together. See you there!

Mid-year Dinner Feast a Success!

Those who attended the mid-year dinner on Saturday, 23rd July enjoyed a long evening of good company, conversation and laughs, over an abundance of food brought out to us by the staff of Sam's Pizza and Pasta - we may have sampled every type of pizza and pasta there is, and all before the main course! Looking forward to the next one."

Thanks to all those involved with organising the night, especially for Tristram juggling all the money!

Members' News

In Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the Taylor Family in their recent bereavement.

Wendy Cosier's Book

Our society is blessed with members whose talents span many fields other than "singing and dancing". One such talented member is Wendy Cosier who has written a book called Gillian's Story. Some of you may have recently seen the article in the Northern District Times.

Minister for Disability Services Kristina Keneally today launched a new book to help create a better understanding of the lives of people with a disability and those that care for them. Ms Keneally was officially launching *Gillian's Story* at The Epping Club today. It is the biography of Gillian Smith, a woman in her 50s who has Down syndrome and who has been supported for much of her life by Achieve Foundation – formerly Hornsby Challenge.

Ms Keneally said *Gillian's Story* is a moving record of this woman's life, and her transition from home to an institution and then back into a community-based setting.

"In tracking Gillian's journey, it also tracks the changes that have taken place in the provision of services to people with a disability in NSW, the love and anguish of her family and details the contribution that Gillian has

made to the community," Ms Keneally said.

"This is an important story that everyone should read."

Ms Keneally acknowledged Johnson and Johnson Medical Pty Ltd for funding the project and Achieve staff member **Wendy Cosier**, who wrote the book.

The book is available (\$25) through Achieve Foundation (an organisation in Eastwood that supports people with disabilities). You can order a copy by contacting Susan Lee (phone 9874 8544 or email Susan.Lee@achievefoundation.org.au)

Executive Members 2007

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Next Executive Meeting

13 August at Niki Barton's house, starts 8pm.

Important EUCMS Dates

31 July 2007	Music Man orientation night
3 August 2007	Music Man rehearsals start
12 August 2007	Mid-year Church Service
18 August 2007	Sewing Workshop 10am onwards
9-17 Nov 2007	Music Man performances
8 Dec 2007	EUCMS Christmas Party