

From the President

2008 – The year for moving forward.

The words: change – do something different – our way – your way – are all phrases that can have emotional implications. From whichever angle you view or hear those phrases there is the possibility, or perhaps even the likelihood of not everyone being supportive. There has been much talk about these phrases, but we need to hear constructive concrete suggestions as to how to move forward.

Your new executive for 2008 will be working toward moving forward hopefully with all of our members and some new members along the way. I do urge you to support and communicate openly with all the members of your new executive for 2008. They are:

President: Robyn Mead

Vice President: Penny Wilson

Secretary: Belinda Bongers

Treasurer: Lynn Bock

Business Secretary: Megan Wilson

Property Officer: Adam Wilson

Floor Members: Jess Allen, Beth Madden, Caroline Reddel and Tony Quance

Personally I look forward to working with a team who I believe has a great blend of experience and enthusiasm, ideas, capabilities and a willingness to share and explore possibilities.

Our first meeting, although lengthy was productive and positive. We have planned an afternoon where we can focus on ways to move forward for our society. We will be looking at short and longer term planning for the next two years where we will be “homeless” i.e. we will be out of Lakeside Road Church. However as I said at the AGM it is the people who make the society and to which we belong, not the buildings themselves. The aims of EUCMS can be fulfilled regardless of where we rehearse and perform.

This brings me to make a statement that we have been waiting to utter for a significant number of years. Work on the Lakeside Road site is imminent. Council approval is secure, tenders let and construction will begin very soon. We will still believe it when we see it!

A huge thankyou to those who have been working hard on Saturdays moving all our belongings to various sites and temporary homes around the district.

Some slight changes in our storage facilities have had to be negotiated due to the decision by Jim and Valmai Murch to sell their home in Eastwood and move to Woy Woy. On behalf of EUCMS may I wish them both our warmest wishes for a safe move and a happy relocation.

The contribution of these 2 wonderful members over so many years is immeasurable. THANK YOU - THANK YOU.

Again can I urge you to talk to members of the executive about what we are planning, about your ideas; we need to hear your suggestions as to how to move forward. Email addresses are available on the back page if you wish to put your ideas in writing as are phone contacts if you wish to talk or ask questions. All suggestions will be presented to the executive and discussed.

Robyn Mead

Carousel News

"When you walk thru' a storm,

Keep your head up high...."



Well, thankfully we have weathered the storm of too few men in CAROUSEL and now have a complete cast and chorus who are singing and working along with great enthusiasm.

The rollicking "Blow High, Blow Low" has the men really getting into the spirit of the show and the ladies are suitably excited about the betrothal of Carrie and Mr. Snow!

We are delighted to welcome David Lang and Adam Wilson to the cast as Enoch Snow Jnr and the policeman, respectively and look forward to working with them both.

If you do not receive a copy of the advertising leaflet with this Bulletin, please come and see us at Marsden Road Uniting Church and Tuesday or Friday and pick up a bundle to deliver to all your friends, neighbours, relations, workmates etc and give us your support even if you cannot take part in the show.

This show is one you can recommend to anyone who loves musical theatre as there are so many aspects to the story, there is sure to be something to appeal to everyone.

Look forward to seeing you there and bring your usual supporters with you!

Elaine

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

Ticket Sales

As listed in the last bulletin, ticket prices will be \$20 adults, \$15 pensioners and \$12 children. This is the first price increase in about 5 years and still represents great value.



Production News

Looking for a US Flag



Megan and Barb are looking for a large(ish) US flag. Please give one of them a call if you can help.

Supper Volunteers

A request for supper volunteers, particularly for the following dates:

Fridays 4, 18, April, 2 and 16 May, Tuesdays 6, 13 April and MONDAY 19 May and all performances except opening night. For performances there will be no washing up but we'd love help with setting out and overseeing suppers.

Volunteers should ring Megan on 9869 7413.

Banner Making Day

Please join us on Saturday 12th April for a social lunch 12pm onwards on Adam & Penny Wilson's house (32 Pinetree Drive, Carlingford) as we share a BBQ lunch together (BYO meat and something to share). We will also be making the banners for *Carousel*, which is always a fun job when we have many hands to make it light work! Bring some scissors too!

Ticket Bookings



Preferential ticket booking night for *Carousel* is 11 April and public bookings open 15 April.

For those new members, preferential booking night is a chance for those involved with the show to purchase tickets before they go on sale to the general public. Your friends and family can have great seats.... All you need to do show up early on the night with the numbers, the dates and the money (cheque preferred but cash is OK too!). It is first in, best dressed on the night (before the start of rehearsal).

Start organising your bookings NOW!

Charity bookings

As you are aware, we donate significant amounts of money each year to charities nominated by members. What you may not know is that we have another avenue of "indirect" donations to different groups, which is done through our "charity bookings" system we run for each show. Before each ticket season commences, the Business Secretary (currently Megan Willis) invites the groups (we call them "charities" but strictly speaking they are just interested groups who like coming to our shows and appreciate an avenue of raising money at the same time) on the charity bookings list to take a number of tickets for any performance. The minimum number is 10 tickets with additional tickets booked in multiples of 5.

EUCMS sells each ticket to the group for half the normal price and the group sells them to their members for at least the same amount that we sell our tickets (\$20). The group pays us \$9 for each ticket and gets to

keep up to \$11 (depending on each ticket type sold) for its own fundraising activities. We are currently updating our list of those interested in charity bookings. As with all the charities we support, we would like to see small, local groups benefiting from this method of fundraising. To give you an idea, we have several social or fundraising committees from local retirement villages, church groups etc currently as regular "subscribers".

So, if you know of a group which you think might be interested in participating (and they can choose to be invited to purchase tickets for both or only one show each year), please telephone Megan on 9869 7413 and give her their details. If you have a contact person at the charity, perhaps you could check with them first to see if they are interested. The work involved for the group would be to have someone willing to advertise the show, take down names, collect money, respond to our letter and pass on the tickets to their patrons.

Thanks

Megan Willis

EUCMS News

GOING TO GALSTON.....

Finally, after many false starts over the last 3 years, EUCMS has (temporarily) moved out of its home for the last 45 years and.....gone to Galston. Well, almost....



"Packing Saturday" took place on 23 February, with "Moving Saturday" scheduled for 1 March. Due to a last minute weather malfunction at Galston, the shipping container which is to be the new home for much of our equipment was not able to be delivered to Galston in time for Moving Saturday, and a further date needed to be arranged. However, in true EUCMS spirit we got on with as much as we could on that day, and moved everything needed for *Carousel*, as much as we could anticipate for *Seussical*, and all items we would need regular access to in the next 12-18 months to their more local temporary homes - at Epping and Denistone. We thank the Carroll and Bongers families for their generous offers of space.

Both days saw much activity at Lakeside Road. Boxes were taped, packed and stacked. Lists were made, changed and misplaced. Things which had been missing were discovered (including, thankfully, our new orchestra lights!). Photos were taken so we could remember where everything had been put. A small army of volunteers trundled back and forth with all kinds of odd things; passers-by must have wondered....

Although the last several Bulletins reported a disappointing advance response to our request for helpers, on both days we were almost overwhelmed with volunteers, some of whom attended on both Saturdays. So, many thanks to the following: Andrew McAlpine, Megan Willis, Barbara Sharpham, Elaine Gow,

Adam Wilson, Belinda Bongers, Phillip Bongers, Keith Barry, Niki Barton, Caroline Reddel, Shirley Sharpham, Heather Clarke, Jenny Lyle, the Cosier family, Helen & Colin Wilson, the Carroll family, Andrew Gollam, Alison Anderson, Lynne James, Tony Quance, Peter Drakakis, Harold Bedford, Jenny Byron, Warren Grzic and Ken & Lynn Bock.

If your name has been left off the list, our apologies, please let Adam know and we will acknowledge your contribution in the next Bulletin. The only excuse is that there were so many of you the list-maker couldn't keep up.....

There is still one more day to go - Saturday 29th March from about 9 am to 2-3 pm when we will really be "going to Galston". Please contact Andrew McAlpine on 9877 0856 if you can attend.

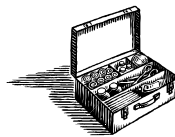
Bulletins Electronic or Printed?

We have had numerous requests from members saying they would prefer their bulletins emailed rather than posted.

If this is the case, please let Adam know, otherwise we will continue to send your bulletin via the post. You can also have it sent both ways if you prefer!

OH & S and First Aid Helpers

We are looking people that have at least some basic knowledge in the Occupation Health and Safety field to help us continue the great work that Niki has been doing, so we can put some plans into place to make our society safer. Those also willing to learn these skills, we would love to hear from you as well.



We would also love to know if any members have up-to-date training in First Aid so that we can compile a list of names. Please contact Robyn Mead or Penny Wilson if you would like more information regarding how you can help or if you have a current First Aid certificate and would like to be listed.

Scores/Libs for Sale

The society has been given a collection of scores and libretti by a past member who has suggested that we could offer them for sale and put the proceeds into funds.

Scores: Ruddigore, Pirates of Penzance, HMS Pinafore, Princess Ida, Merrie England, Vagabond King, Showboat, Carousel, The Gipsy Baron, A Waltz Dream, Song of Norway

Libs: Pirates of Penzance, Annie Get Your Gun, Vagabond King, Gipsy Baron, Song of Norway, Bless the Bride

Contact Elaine Gow if interested.

SEUSSICAL Sneak Peek?

For those of you who would like a sneak peek at the story of SEUSSICAL the Musical (our second show of 2008) make sure you get along to the cinemas now to see the wonderful animated movie *Horton Hears a Who*. This Dr. Seuss book is the main story of Act 1 of Seussical, with Act 2 being based on the book *Horton Hatches the Egg*. The musical also includes many other Seuss themes from several other books he wrote.

SEUSSICAL Request

We hope to be able to announce many members of the Seussical production team in the next Bulletin, but at the moment, our biggest concern is the need for a Musical Director. This is a big music show, so please put on your thinking caps and put out your feelers - we are really looking for offers or suggestions. Do you know the right person for the job? Or are you the right person?



Please contact Penny Wilson with your ideas or offers ASAP.

Kookaburra Supports Community Theatre

On Tuesday 18th March, EUCMS members, Clare Burgess, Nicole Winter and Penny Wilson attended a forum, hosted by Peter Cousens at the home of Kookaburra (Australia's National Musical Theatre Company) to begin the process of working out how this professional company can best become involved in partnership and support of Community Theatre groups throughout Australia.

Peter Cousens himself had a background in amateur theatre, before becoming one of our nation's best known and loved performers and now the founder of Kookaburra.

He spoke passionately about the need to support and develop the artform at a community level and the initiatives (including country tours and extended workshops provided by theatre professionals) already planned by the company, and then opened the floor for suggestions and concerns to be raised by the representatives of at least 50 societies who attended.

Some helpful directions for the future were hashed out, and regular communication will be commencing soon.

A précis of the evening's events will be made available to EUCMS in the near future if you'd like a look.

Kookaburra's Website is: www.kookaburra.org.au

It has lots of information including their three upcoming productions.

Members' News

Musical Congratulations

Congratulations to Linda Cosier whose musical composition for the H.S.C. was featured in the "Encore" concert on Monday 10th March.

Engagement News

Congratulations and best wishes to Minh Huyn and Mitch on their engagement. Hope all the future shines brightly for you.

Baby News....

Congratulations to Shirley, Barbara and Katherine Sharpam who have just become grandmother, great aunt and aunty to Tessa Grace. What a wonderful team of supporters!

More Baby News!

Congratulations to Peter and Rosie with the birth of Thomas James Roach on 19 March at 8.18pm weighing in at 9 pounds (4 kilos).

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, email Adam.

Important EUCMS 2008 Dates

March 29	Moving to Galston
11 April	<i>Carousel</i> Preferential Bookings
12 April	Banner Making BBQ for <i>Carousel</i>
13 April	Executive planning lunch at Robyn's
15 April	<i>Carousel</i> General Bookings
23 May	<i>Carousel</i> Opening Night - 8pm
24 May	<i>Carousel</i> Performances - 2pm & 8pm
30 May	<i>Carousel</i> Performance - 8pm
31 May	<i>Carousel</i> Performances - 2pm & 8pm
21 June	Mid Year Dinner
3 August	Annual Church Service, 6.30pm at Lakeside Road Church

Executive Members 2007

President - Robyn Mead

Ph: 9736 3432 mead_19@hotmail.com

Vice President - Penny Wilson

Ph: 8812 2575 ozpanda@optusnet.com.au

General Secretary - Belinda Bongers

Ph: 9874 7334 bbongers@froggy.com.au

Business Secretary - Megan Willis

Ph: 9869 7413

Treasurer - Lynn Bock

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Property Officer - Adam Wilson

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Floor Member - Jessica Allen

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Floor Member - Beth Madden

Ph: 9874 2009 beth-madden@hotmail.com

Floor Member - Tony Quance

Ph: 9874 3326

Floor Member - Caroline Reddel

Ph: 9449 4561 cazthelion@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

Next Executive Meeting

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