



From the President

By the time you are reading this, the final curtain will have closed on "Seussical". Congratulations to Penny and her team, the cast and the crew for all their hard work and pulling another great show "out of the hat". I do hope that everyone who has been involved in the show has made the most of the opportunity and we look forward to having each one of you join us in one or more of the following events on our calendar. They include:

A Celebration of Christmas – Sunday 7th December 6.30pm at Lakeside Road Uniting Church

EUCMS Christmas Party – Saturday 13th December from 4pm with dinner at 6pm

2009

We promised a big year of workshops and a great show and after lots of planning – this is what's happening. Please note that although some dates are not "set in concrete" as yet, we are carefully avoiding all the "EUCMS Wedding Days"!

- JANUARY:** Conducting Workshop led by Robyn Mead (date TBC)
- FEBRUARY:** Audition Workshop led by Penny Wilson, Andrew McAlpine and Elaine Gow (date TBC)
- 20th** Using Your Voice (Part 1) with Amelia Koh Butler
- 24th** EUCMS AGM
- MARCH:** Dance Workshop (date and presenter TBC)
- 6th** Using Your Voice (Part 2) with Amelia Koh Butler
- APRIL:** Auditions for *Anything Goes* (date TBC but avoiding school holidays and Easter)
- MAY:** Rehearsals commence for *Anything Goes* (Date TBC)
- 2nd** Make-Up workshop (note - this is a Saturday)
- AUGUST:**
- 21st** Stagecraft Workshop (Part 1) with Stuart Maunder
- 22nd** Stagecraft Workshop (Part 2) with Stuart Maunder (note - this is a Saturday)

SEPTEMBER: Performances of *Anything Goes*

A Wardrobe and Costume Making Workshop with Barbara Lyle will also be offered on a Saturday (TBC) during the rehearsal period for *Anything Goes*.

If enough members express interest, Penny Wilson would also be prepared to offer a Director's Laboratory Series, on Tuesday nights before the rehearsal period for Anything Goes.

This would involve a few people who were interested in learning to direct scenes or short plays (musical or non-musical). They could be chosen by the directors or provided by Penny.

The first week would involve scene analysis, then other volunteer members interested in some performance practice would be asked to attend for the next 2 - 3 Tuesdays to be guinea pigs for the student directors to work with in their pieces.

We would look at a very small performance for an audience of the directors, actors and guests to follow these series.

If preferred by members this type of series could also be held in October/November, but would then have a specific Christmas focus, with the aim of producing performances for the EUCMS Celebration of Christmas 2009

If you think you might be interested, either as a director or as a volunteer performer, please phone Penny on 8812 2575 or email: ozpanda@optusnet.com.au

Guest Presenters

Amelia Koh Butler is an experienced singing teacher and musician who is much sought after for concert performances, especially with Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and who is currently working with the ELM Centre, the Uniting Church's teaching arm.

Stuart Maunder, who many members remember from the 2007 ACTS Conference, is one of Opera Australia's eminent directors with many Gilbert & Sullivan successes to his credit as well as the current hugely successful production of "My Fair Lady".

It is very exciting to have the support and time of people like Stuart Maunder and Amelia Koh-Butler for our workshops.

Amelia works closely with the Moderator of the Uniting Church and it was very humbling to find out that she is offering her services for the workshop in response to EUCMS' performance of "Pirates of Penzance" at Yeoval last year.

Amelia was speaking to the people recently and she said that; "We will never know what we did for those people and how much it meant to them".

“ ANYTHING GOES ”

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the director for our show in 2009 will be **Caroline Reddel**.

Caroline has been with EUCMS for 10 years now and has taken on many roles, on stage, in production and as a member of the executive. It is very exciting to see one of our younger members come through the ranks and take on her first show as a Director. Our best wishes to Caroline and I am sure she will be well supported.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events.

Robyn Mead

SEUSSICAL News

“All right - I’ll be going....

But first, let me say -

Oh, the Thinks you can Think!”

By the time you are reading this, *Seussical* will be a memory - I hope as treasured a memory for you as it will be for me! The way that EUCMS has pulled together to bring off such a huge, complex and challenging show in such a professional and such a joy-filled manner leaves me in a state of amazement and anticipation about the things we can achieve in the future.

The credit goes to so many people, but here, I can only thank them in groups or through their team leaders.

Firstly, thank you to the previous Executive and Show Selection Sub-Committee, who took a chance on a new, relatively unknown, show and the current Executive who supported us wholeheartedly.

Thank you to Wayne Chee, who arranged our change of venue, and helped us to negotiate with Epping Boys High School, so that we had the facilities to make the show work the way we wanted it to. And thanks to the staff and students who helped us to have a remarkably smooth and trouble free transition.

Thank you does not adequately express what I’d like to say to Bess Yager, whose efforts as a first-time Production Manager at EUCMS have been herculean, and to her helpers - I can only hope that you know how much the whole cast and team appreciate all your hours of organisation for every tiny facet of the show.

I’m equally stuck for words when it comes to thanking Lyndall Hord - believe it or not, another first timer as Musical Director. Both our cast and our orchestra would agree that there is only one tiny clue that she has not been doing this for years - and that is her unjaded energy and enthusiasm! Lyndall, you have literally been a Godsend, and we love you. We cannot thank you, the two Andrews, or your fabulous musicians enough!

I’m not sure how I’d ever survive a show without the

wonderful Clare Burgess - my ideas on movement might be OK, but they’d never include details such as which foot first, or on what beat! Her creativity is astonishing, and I’ve really been amazed by her ability to keep me organised as well - it’s like having a Choreographer with bonus Assistant Director at no extra cost!

I cannot believe how wonderful the show looked, but most of you have never seen the unassuming heroine who created our gorgeous Décor - Lynette Jones (first timer again!) was one of our earliest volunteers, and one of our most tireless workers to make our stage look truly Seussian. Our whole Stage Crew were of course instrumental in giving her the staging to work on, and for that matter, Mike and Delia Zarate and Adam Wilson put in nearly as many hours on décor as they did in their other roles. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Megan Carroll for sorting out my design-challenged concept drawings, and to Ox McVey, for showing us how to make the magic happen.

Another quiet achiever was my own Mum, Heather Gutherson, (yes, also a first timer!) who not only sourced the fabrics and patterns we needed to bring our costumes from concepts to life, but also made most of the accessories and extra bits - apart from the adorable puppets created by Liz McCann.

This was probably the most technically challenging show EUCMS is yet to attempt, and I was so glad that we could put that side of things into the very capable hands of our Technical Director, Andrew Yager. Andrew then recruited our Lighting Designer, Jonathan Boer, persuading him to light a show finishing literally days before his wedding (all the best!) and in his spare time, helped to orchestrate our marketing campaign!

Just as we were beginning to despair, Sarah Hogan jumped on board with her make-up team, freeing Beth Madden to concentrate on hairstyles (oh, and incidentally her performance!) Together they made us look beautiful!

So many others contributed - Paul Taylor, Tony Quance and others who faithfully provided suppers, our wonderful Front of House and Ushering teams, led by Alison Anderson and Jeanette Cosier, booking agents, photographers and publicity teams.... The list of those to whom we owe thanks could go on for some pages.

But this of course leaves out the most special group - our amazing cast! It has been an absolute joy, delight and privilege to work with such a cohesive, positive and enthusiastic community of performers, that even if you were only moderately talented, instead of the superstars you are, I’d still have had a great time. As it was, I’ve had a wonderful time just interacting with such a terrific group of people, and had the added bonus of seeing you create a show that was all I could have hoped for and more, and that left our audiences sparkling with enthusiasm and joy.

I'm filled with hope and energy (which is quite uncommon at the end of a show season) and looking forward to what next year holds - the exciting opportunities already opening up in our workshop season, and of course, our return to Lakeside Road with *Anything Goes*. I have absolute confidence that Caroline and her team will do a fantastic job, and I encourage all of you to get behind them, and give them (and yourselves) an experience as rewarding as *Seussical* has been for us. All the blessings of God, to Whom be the glory! With love and gratitude,

Penny Wilson

EUCMS News

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 7th December at 6.30pm at Lakeside Road Uniting Church.

Nikki Barton and Robyn Mead have met with Rev. Andrew Williams from Eastwood Church to plan this Christmas service. It will be a shared service led by members of EUCMS and members of the Eastwood congregation. Nikki and Robyn would love to hear from anyone who would like to be involved. Due to the short period of time between the show and the service, we are not having a choir, but we want to hear from anyone keen to be involved in 2 musical items, a dance, several readings, a very short scene that will be acted out or anyone who is interested in leading any of these segments for the service. Rehearsals will be organised to suit each of the small groups, so that gives flexibility of available times. Please see Nikki or Robyn (or phone Robyn on 9736 3432) this week if you are interested. If you are not able to take a small role in the service, then please join us to worship together on the night.

Christmas Party

It's time to start thinking about Christmas – and what better way to relax and celebrate the year than at the **EUCMS Christmas party?** We're extending an invitation to members and families to join us at the Wilsons' (32 Pinetree Dr, Carlingford) on **Sat, 13th Dec**, any time from 4pm for dinner at 6pm. All you need to bring is \$15 for dinner (or \$8 for K-6 children), a picnic chair or two, and we'd love you to bring a donation (they have requested cash, in a sealed envelope rather than gifts) for CCA. The evening will also be BYO drinks.

You can RSVP and give your money in advance to Caroline, Jess or Beth at *Seussical* performances (we're sure we'll see everyone there!) or call Caroline on 0401 307 088/ 9449 4561.

Members' News

Birthday Wishes

Birthday Congratulations to Narelle Murray who is

celebrating a "special" birthday this month. Best wishes for health and happiness in the year ahead!

Congratulations!

Ron and Barbara Lyle celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on the 19th October. All the best to both of you - just newlyweds compared to the flood of Golden Weddings lately!

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

Important EUCMS 2008 Dates

7 Dec	EUCMS Celebration of Christmas
13 Dec	EUCMS Christmas Party

Executive Members 2008

President - Robyn Mead

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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

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

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