



EUCMS Inc. Bulletin

Volume 49 Issue 12

December 2011



FROM THE PRESIDENT

And so this is Christmas...

It's been quite a year, hasn't it? Our poor old world has been through a lot, and the things I said at the start of the year when floods, cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis were devastating Queensland, New Zealand and Japan, are just as true now when the year has progressed through further terrible earthquakes in many countries, riots in England, riots and suppression of protests in the Middle East, famine in East Africa and typhoons and flooding in Thailand and now the Philippines.

The old story comes to mind, of the young boy who discovers a beach covered by millions of stranded starfish. He is picking them up and throwing them back into the sea when a man comes by and rebukes him, telling him to stop wasting his time – the scale of disaster is too huge, and he cannot possibly make a difference. The boy picks up another starfish, considers it, and returns it to the sea, saying, "I can make a difference to this one."

EUCMS is not a huge society, but we are surely punching above our weight when it comes to making a difference, in our local community, in the world and in each others' lives. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the ways in which you have contributed to or supported two wonderful shows, (whose sold-out seasons attest to the enjoyment you have been giving to our audiences not just this year, but ever since our return to EUC) a fantastic ENCORE concert bringing clean and safe drinking water to remote communities in PNG, two meaningful church services, several concert parties bringing light and joy into local nursing homes and retirement communities, and many other service projects and charities this year.

I am not alone in attesting also to the difference EUCMS has made in my life as I have been facing difficult times this year – God has blessed me through you, and I know for certain that many of you have also felt His love through the care of your fellow members when you have needed it in 2011.

Before you get on to reading what I know you all really want to read (cast list for *My Fair Lady*, anyone?) I'd like to draw your attention to the article about the 2012 AGM, approaching on 7 February.

Our AGM is a very important opportunity for all EUCMS members to ask questions, suggest ideas (some of the best things that have happened at EUCMS have started this way) and have an influence on the way the society runs, so please book the date into your diary/phone/calendar as soon as you get one for Christmas!

Also, please consider whether you'd like to stand for election to the executive. As usual, all positions will be declared vacant at the meeting, and we'd love to have lots of candidates standing for each one. If you've been feeling

that you are about ready to learn more about how EUCMS runs, and you are willing to make a contribution of some of your time in order to ensure that EUCMS continues to grow as a community and as a respected theatre company, you can check the website (members' section!) for job descriptions, or speak to any member of the 2011 executive to find out what is involved, then make sure you submit your nomination with plenty of time to spare – (that is, more than 48 hours before the meeting!) It'd be great to see lots of new faces in the team!

Safe, happy and holy holidays, everyone... see you for the first rehearsal of *My Fair Lady*!

Penny Wilson

50TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS

Now is the time to start thinking whether you know of anyone who was a member years ago (whether three, four, 10, 20 or 50 years ago) and help us find them so we can let them know about our plans for next year, as we want to contact as many past members as possible. We have lots of old addresses, including the 40th anniversary mailing list, but without your help we are limited in knowing who has moved or changed their name or even, sadly, died. If you know of a past member whose details might be different to what we have, please email 50th@eucms.org.au with the new details or phone Megan Willis on 9869 7413.

We will only be using those details to send information for the 50th, and past members will be given the opportunity to "unsubscribe", however, if you are worried about privacy, please check with the person first.

Don't forget too, that now that Joseph has finished and the Christmas season is upon us, it's a great opportunity to catch up with your EUCMS friends and talk about your memories of EUCMS. It was very encouraging to get some written contributions during the Christmas party from some of our very new members but we have had only one contribution from the rest of the membership in the last four months. We still have some time before a final deadline for contributions, but that is very fast approaching. It's definitely time to dig out those memories and let us have them. See the "thought starters" in previous bulletins or on the website, and remember – nobody but you can tell us your memories; they are unique. There's no set length or format and you don't have to cover everything that's suggested in the thought starters. If you don't like writing, why not send us a tape/CD or even a DVD? Check out the website, Facebook or Twitter as there are also opportunities there for you to contribute.

To all the Joseph, Anne, Music Man, Carousel and Seussical children, we would love to have your thoughts on being a "EUCMS kid". A part of the book will concentrate on the involvement of EUCMS kids over the last 50 years and it would be incomplete without some

mention of all our recent "kid" shows. You are the only ones who can tell us what you remember or what happened. So please, if you have stories about being in a show, write them down (during the school holidays would be a fantastic time to do this) and send them to the 50th email address or to PO Box 246 Eastwood 2122.

EUCMS 50th Anniversary Fair

Date: 21st April, 2012

Time: 10am-3pm

Location: EUC

It's time to start getting excited about the EUCMS fair! Mark the date in your diary – it will be a fantastic day of celebrations, memories, fun activities, and opportunities to promote EUCMS to new members or new audience members!

Can you help?

Please contact Caroline if:

- you have products you sell at fairs or markets and you would like to apply for a stall (or you know someone else who does)
- you have ever been involved with organising a school or church fete and could offer advice (or you know someone else we could chat to)
- you would like to be part of the organising committee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Don't forget our AGM is on again, on 7 February 2011, in the Eastwood Uniting Church Hall - starting at 8:00 pm. Stay glued to your letterbox for the arrival of all the necessary information to prepare yourself for the meeting within the prescribed time.

If you wish to put forward a notice of motion for consideration at the AGM you will need to get it to our PO Box before the next Executive meeting on 10 January 2011, so that it can be included in the AGM material to be posted to all members 21 days before the AGM.

Feel free to telephone any executive member if you want to discuss whether your proposal needs to be by way of notice of motion, or if you need help in wording it. Two notices of motion for Life Membership have already been received, (you'll have to read your AGM package to find out who they are!) as well as the important changes to the Constitution which are detailed below.

Your annual 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.

At the AGM there will be a number of notices of motion to amend the Constitution to be voted upon. The notices will be sent to you in mid-January with all the required AGM materials, and you can read them in detail. So you can start thinking about them, here is a brief outline.

The Executive has been considering for some time amending the Constitution, for a number of reasons:

1. Because of changes to the NSW legislation upon which the Constitution was based. Various references in the Constitution to the legislation are now outdated, and need to be altered
2. There are a number of minor changes which will help to clarify various parts of the Constitution
3. A literal reading of the Constitution says that any

member who fails to pay their annual subs before 1 July each year "resigns" and is no longer a member. That doesn't accord with the way the executive believes most members regard their membership, and it doesn't accord with the practicalities of maintaining membership records and re-admitting people, and

4. Currently the Constitution does not recognise electronic messages as a valid method of sending official papers such as AGM papers, and the new legislation has been amended to include that method.

The executive proposes that the concept of "member" and "membership" be expanded to provide for members who fail to pay before 1 July (ie, those whose bulletins are "blue dotted") to stay as members for up to three years, but to be classed as "unfinancial", which will mean they don't get all the benefits of being a financial member but don't "resign" and become former members. In reality we have been informally working in this way for many (many) years.

The executive also proposes that email is added to the valid methods of "posting" documents to members.

If you have any thoughts on either the membership or email proposals, please feel free to contact any of the executive members.



MY FAIR LADY NEWS

My Fair Lady On behalf of the audition panel, it is my pleasure to announce the cast for *My Fair Lady*.

Eliza: Colleen Burns

Prof. Higgins: John Hogan

Pickering: Peter Madvig

Doolittle: Kevin Ryan

Mrs. Pearce: Belinda Bongers

Freddy: Dion Jaeschke

Mrs Higgins: Elaine Gow

Mrs Eynsford-Hill: Lynne James

We also welcome **Jenny Lyle** onto the Production team as our choreographer.

Thank you to everyone who auditioned. We had very busy three nights where 33 girls and guys turned up. As you can imagine we had a very busy time those three nights and very anxious hours of casting the show. I know that there will be many disappointed people and I can assure you that I do understand, having been in that position myself quite a few times, However I would love to see you come along to our first rehearsal and read through, as there are still many minor roles to be filled and hopefully we will be able to do that on this night.

Also my thanks to everyone who helped on the nights by way of welcoming, reading and Jenny Gillespie on piano.

Could you be sure to note in your diary the following dates for the beginning of rehearsals.

Friday 10 February will be our first combined rehearsal and this will be in the form of a read through.

The first Principal rehearsal will be Tuesday 14 February. I will advise the Principals on the 10th who will be required on the 14th.

A reminder that the Season of MFL will range from 18 May (Friday, Saturday matinee and Saturday evening) to 2 June. There will be a matinee on each of those Saturdays. Combined rehearsals will begin Tuesday 1 May. A reminder for Production team members that there will be a meeting on 17 January in the Church Hall. Christmas greetings to everyone and a Happy New Year!

Joan Chamberlain, Director



Tim Keith welcomed everyone at the door as they entered for the service and with Megan Willis, coordinated the supper afterwards. Judging by the speed at which the supper vanished this portion of

Direct debit payments to EUCMS

Just a reminder that if you need to make a payment to EUCMS you can do so via direct debit and using the following details:

Westpac Account Name: EUCMS Inc.

BSB: 032 080

Account No: 179835

Please do put a description in (eg 2012 membership!), so our treasurer knows who the money is from and why.

EUCMS NEWS

Christmas party

The growth of EUCMS in 2011 was reflected in the large numbers of members and their families who joined the festivities at the Christmas party on Saturday, 10 December! We were able to deliver two large boxes of goodies to Christian Community Aid for their Christmas drive, and will also be making a donation.

A huge thank you to all the helpers and cooks, and especially to Adam and Penny Wilson for opening up their home to all of us. Merry Christmas!

Come, Thou long expected Jesus!

When we first met to plan the Christmas service, an Advent theme seemed like the obvious choice for a service coming at the beginning of the "official" Christmas period. The end result blended drama, song, prayer and Bible readings to highlight the Advent theme.

It was a wonderful night – it was great to see so many members there, as well as plenty of the EUC congregation.

One of the most encouraging things for us was the enthusiasm of so many EUCMS members to be involved. There was a long list of people willing to do Bible readings, sing in the choir, help with supper or in some other way. It shows that EUCMS members aren't just interested in performing onstage – they care about worshipping together. Our friends from EUC were keen to be involved too; in fact our wonderful group of instrumentalists consisted entirely of Eastwood Uniting Church members (two of them are younger siblings of EUCMS members who have played for recent shows). Thank you for sharing your gifts with us and for being so enthusiastic about playing.

Lots of people gave generously of their time to help with the service. Top of this list is Janine Joannou, who advised on everything from how to work the sound system, to how to switch the organ on and the best layout for powerpoint slides so they would show up well on the church's screens. She also took care of the sound and the powerpoint during the service. Janine has had a long association with EUCMS (she coordinates the suppers that the church runs at interval during our shows) and we thank her for everything that she does.

the evening was most successful!

A highlight of the service was the drama, ably performed by Wendy Cosier, Guy Burge and our own resident rocker, Andrew Macalpine. This was written especially for the service by Penny Wilson. When life events made it impossible for Penny to personally oversee the play, Clare Burgess stepped in and directed it. While the play was incredibly amusing and entertaining, it contained a very real message – thank you!

In addition to the drama, we were blessed with a number of musical items. Thanks to Kath Sharpham and Elaine Gow, who coordinated and led the adult and youth choirs respectively. We were all especially inspired by the words to the item that Kath chose and it was a joy to sing it. It was also a joy to see our younger members out the front as well. Four of the youth choir are recent "graduates" from invited child members to full members, while others have been in recent shows. All are children or grandchildren of EUCMS members. The future of our society is in safe hands indeed!

Belinda Bongers and Sarah Keith also rose to the occasion when asked to help with solo items. Belinda gave us a rendition of "The angel Gabriel", to fit with one of our Bible readings, while Sarah agreed to sing part of another Bible reading from the well-loved "There were shepherds" section of *The Messiah*.

Our other Bible readings were read with great feeling and reverence by Peter Bulfin, Caroline Reddel, Robyn Mead, Warren Charlton, Andrew Forbes and Narelle Murray. We thank them for the time they took to prepare and for the thought they put into the readings.

Thanks also to Bec Kimpton for leading us in prayer and to the Reverend Nicholas Fried for his reflection on Christmas and giving.

Thank you also to Phillip Bongers who not only played the organ for the service, but turned up to practice with the choir for many of our practices. As if that wasn't enough work, Phillip also transposed the choir item and put together our order of service!

The retiring offering raised \$350 in aid of Christmas Bowl. It was a wonderful lead-up to Christmas – we hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did!

Cathy and Peter Bulfin

New members' audition night

Our next new members' audition night will be on Friday 3 February. Tim Keith would be very happy to hear from anyone wishing to join EUCMS. If you know of someone who'd be interested, please encourage them to contact Tim on 8850 5578.

OTHER NEWS

Have you borrowed some power tools?

We are missing three power drills at the moment! Both mains and battery operated tools are missing, and one of them – a drill with accessories in a case – does not belong to EUCMS, but is Keith's personal property. If you borrowed them and have not had an opportunity to return them, or if you were finishing a job at home and forgot to mention that you were using them there, please let Keith know – no questions will be asked, but it's going to be tricky for even our dedicated crew (by the way – extra volunteers for set building and stage crew will be very welcome – this will be a big show!!) to create a set for My Fair Lady without the tools to build it!

Lost and found

A pair of glasses were found in the hall during the clean-up after Joseph. They have been stored in the House Manager's box. If you have lost a pair, or know of someone else who lost a pair during Joseph, please contact a member of the executive.

The Cosiers have about five black jumpers/tops also left behind after Joseph. Please contact Wendy or a member of the executive of them if you think might be the owner of one of these.

The following items were found during the cleanup for the Christmas party:

- A large white plastic divided bowl
- Large black umbrella

Please let Adam or Penny know if you own either of these items.

Our World Vision child



Many EUCMS members may not be aware that EUCMS sponsors a child through World Vision. His name is Vincent Mwale. (EUCMS previously sponsored another child called Charity. She and her family have moved to another place and was taken off the World Vision list.) Here are the details; you may wish to pray for him or even send him a letter

(contact details as below).

Vincent was born on 6 October 2010 and he lives in Zambia. He has four sisters and his parents are farmers.

Vincent lives in a very disadvantaged area — there is no reliable access to safe drinking water and his community has poor sanitation and hygiene practices.

Our sponsorship of Vincent is helping to provide:

- Upgrading of local infrastructure

- Improvements to sanitation and hygiene
- Education on health and social issues
- Boreholes and protected wells to provide safe water
- Educational support and training for teachers.

If you'd like to send a letter to Vincent you can — simply include his name and child number (ZAM-190043-1792) with your letter and send it to:

C/- CRS Manager

World Vision

PO Box 31-083

Lusaka

ZAMBIA.

MEMBER NEWS

Engagement congratulations and very best wishes to Rebecca Foulcher who has just become engaged to David Hansen. We are all thrilled for you both and look forward to meeting David very soon.

YOUR NEWS?

If you have something to share please contact Elaine Gow on **9872 6453** or at eebeegee@bigpond.com so we can include it in the next Bulletin. **All items for the Bulletin are needed before the next Executive meeting (9 January 2012).**



[Ed: Another picture from our Christmas service (many thanks to Sarah Spear for allowing us to use it and the other photo on page 3).]

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2011

President - Penny Wilson

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Phone: 02 8061 7195

Website: www.eucms.org.au. To access the members page on our website, click on the little black note on the left hand side of the main page (as shown below):



Click here to access the member section of the website.

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.

Email us at 50th@eucms.org.au with anniversary-related information or questions.

Next Executive meeting: 9 January 2012 at Adam & Penny Wilson's house, starts **8:00 pm**.

IMPORTANT 2012 DATES

3 February	New Members' audition night
7 February 2012	AGM
10 February, 2012	First rehearsal for <i>My Fair Lady</i>
14 February	First Principals rehearsal for <i>My Fair Lady</i>
21 April, 2012 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	50th Anniversary Fair
1 May	First combined rehearsal for <i>My Fair Lady</i>
18 May to 2 June 2012	<i>My Fair Lady</i> season
23 June 2012	50th Anniversary dinner (North Ryde Golf Club)
20 October, 2012	Granny Smith Festival
26 October to 10 November, 2012	<i>The Mikado</i> season
4 November 2012, 9:30 am	Thanksgiving service at Eastwood Uniting Church
<i>Put the calendar on your fridge!</i>	

