

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2006

When I attended the AGM last year I certainly didn't expect to be giving this report for EUCMS for 2005.

It has been a year of challenges and changes for me and the society and I must first acknowledge with gratitude the support that my Executive has given me in the last six months as I adjusted to this unfamiliar role. This support, above and beyond the call of duty, was given on top of the unusually heavy workload shouldered by them as a result of the uncertainty that surrounded our performance conditions this year. Their loyalty, dedication and positive spirit have helped us to become a society much better equipped for dealing with the challenges we continue to expect, if not in 2006, then certainly in the near future.

I would particularly like to recognise the contributions of Tony Quance and Caroline Reddell, who have decided not to re-stand for election this year. Tony has done a wonderful job at organising our involvement at the Granny Smith Festival, while Caroline had an extremely challenging job as show selection committee convenor, not only organising the selection of shows for 2006, but also finding production teams for them. Their energy and enthusiasm on the Executive will be missed, but will no doubt continue to be valued by the members of EUCMS.

EUCMS in 2005 has again managed to produce two shows acclaimed by our audiences as 'our best ever', and in the process donate significant amounts to charity. I had the thoroughly enjoyable experience of taking part in both the shows this year and of witnessing first hand the sense of community that developed in the rehearsal and performance period of each show. This was a credit to the hard work and prayers of the production teams, the cast and the crew of both shows.

*Fiddler on the Roof* saw EUCMS take a chance on a production team entirely composed of first-timers for EUCMS: Director - Clare Burgess, Musical Director - Jane Stewart and Production Manager - Rebecca Kimpton. It is extremely encouraging to see a new production team aim so high and achieve so much – yes, indeed a show "worthy of the Opera House stage!" I believe that it is vitally important for all established members of EUCMS to be as supportive as possible of our up-and-coming production teams, so that such talented people will continue to be encouraged to take on these or any new roles. With the recent difficulty we have experienced in finding production teams, we will not survive long as a society unless we nurture those who are trying new things. With this in mind, many members might like to consider taking on new

responsibilities, whether on a production team or as a mentor to someone trying a role for the first time. *Fiddler* was a special show in many ways: our most successful show financially to date, a critical success and a show which saw an influx of talented new members, many of whom have continued to be involved in the life of our society.

This trend continued with *Chess*, and new members from each of these shows are already filling principal roles in our 2006 productions. I am encouraged by the brave choices made by our Show Selection Subcommittee which attracted so many talented newcomers. Also important is the generally caring and friendly atmosphere of our society and the quality of our productions which have encouraged so many of them to remain members or indicate their intention to return to EUCMS. I would strongly recommend that we continue to select an exciting blend of classics and new shows, so that our reputation will continue to develop and our membership will continue to grow.

*Chess* was again a remarkable achievement especially considering the circumstances in which it was produced. Once again it was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants and the audiences, and has shown us that EUCMS should not be afraid to tackle new and challenging works. Special credit should go to Andrew McAlpine, not only as Musical Director, but for his efforts in researching and arranging a new venue, and also to all those who participated in our first 'off-site' production for many years. These pioneering efforts not only allowed us to produce another great show, but have also helped to prepare us with the knowledge we will need when inevitably the 'big move' happens. We faced and overcame a great number of difficulties in adjusting to a bump-in bump-out process and to the Marsden High venue itself, but the results were a credit to all involved and should smooth the path for those who follow. We learnt a great deal about working with new technologies, and in a show about the perils of individualism, we still managed to create true community spirit between members old and new.

I pray that this trend will continue into 2006 and beyond, and that we will support one another in practical ways and in positive and open communication. Although we find ourselves back at Lakeside Road for this production season, there is no doubt that the times of upheaval are mostly ahead of us and we will need to continue to work together with a positive attitude. The events of the last six months have encouraged me to prioritise my role as a Christian husband and father to my two beautiful girls, so I am not re-standing for presidency, but I look forward to continued involvement with EUCMS both on the Executive and in other

practical ways. I continue to be excited about the future of EUCMS. May we all look forward together.

I would like to wish all those who are part of the new Executive all the very best as they take EUCMS through 2006 and into 2007. My congratulations and special wishes especially go to Robyn Mead, our new EUCMS President!

God bless,

*Adam Wilson*

### Message from the Incoming President

As I move back into the role of President of EUCMS I do so with some excitement and anticipation. Let me firstly express my appreciation to the outgoing executive for a successful, yet difficult year. To Caroline and Tony, both of whom chose not to stand for re-election our special thanks for your contribution to the executive.

What does 2006 have in store? Our first show "the double G&S" is up and running with Elaine, Jeni and Rebecca. "White Horse Inn" is waiting in the wings – just not sure of which venue. According to latest reports, it is hoped that the DA for Lakeside Road Church may be approved in March this year. The congregation will be moving back to Lakeside Road in the middle of this year following the finalization of the sale of St Andrews. The work will then be done in stages so it is quite possible that we will be able to use the hall for the second show this year.

However our future is not based solely on where we will perform. Our future is with you, the members. I urge all our members to become involved in the "upskilling" of our society. For some this will involve them sharing their knowledge and skills with those of you who are willing and able to learn a new skill. Imagine how strongly we would grow if even half our members learnt a new skill each year. But it takes more than just learning a new skill – learning only really takes place when you put it into practice on more than one occasion. Think carefully about what areas you want to be upskilled in and talk to someone on the executive about where your interests lay.

To misquote a famous Australian advertisement "You'll never never know, if you don't have a go."

*Robyn Mead*

We need to find a Booking Agent and a House Manager for *Trial by Jury / Sorcerer...* Is it you? Call Belinda NOW!

## Trial By Jury & Sorcerer Update

"Rebecca, Jeni and I were delighted to have such strong support at orientation night and already a great deal of progress has been made with music learning by the chorus and principals, and staging with principals. How encouraging to have so much enthusiasm.

And what a thrill (and relief) to know we now have a full cast for both "Trial" & "Sorcerer"! Our Bridesmaids are Niki Barton, Taylor Best, Brigitte Carroll, Beth Madden, Ann Maynard and Megan Reddell and in "Sorcerer", Barry Barton will be the Notary Now, if only we had a 12th man for the Jury in "Trial" we'd be ecstatic! Gentlemen, PLEASE think about this!

As you will see elsewhere, Preferential and General Booking dates are 11th and 18th April respectively, so please lend us your support by encouraging friends and family to come and see these fun shows (even if you're not onstage).

And, by-the-way, perhaps you'd like to help out with suppers (you know how much we all need those) or by offering to be an usher. Any phone calls to Jeni (9638 4702) would be passed on to the relevant person.

Request: Do you have any old sunnies or specs you could give us for this show as Megan Carroll needs a dozen pairs for one of her wonderful make-up designs. Pop them into rehearsals or let Jeni know - thanks.

Since it's Valentine's Day as I write this, I'll finish with this month's thought from "Sorcerer":

"None truly loved is ever lonely" G. & S.

*Elaine Gow*

### Reminder of Show Dates:

Fri 19 & Sat 20 May at 8pm

Sun 21 May at 2pm - CCA matinee (not for public sale)

Fri 26 May at 8pm

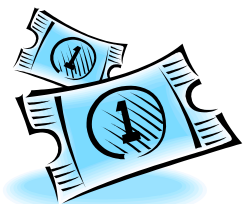
Sat 27 May at 2pm and 8pm

Fri 2 & Sat 3 June 8pm

### Ticket Bookings

**Preferential ticket booking night is 11 April and public bookings open 18 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 rehearsal.



## EUCMS News

### 2006 AGM

Our AGM was held on 21 Feb 2006, in the Lakeside Road church hall. A big thankyou to all those members who attended on the night. You will find the newly elected Executive listed on the back page of the bulletin. The three special resolutions for constitution changes put to the meeting were all passed, and will now become part of our constitution. For those wanting more information about the AGM, please contact Belinda and she can get some minutes to you.

A reminder to all members that we will need to start looking for those other society roles as appointed by the Executive. You will find a list below.

### A New Life Member

Other wonderful news from the AGM is that big congratulations are in order as we welcome Helen Wilson as a Life Member of EUCMS. As Elaine and Megan explained to us all on the night of the AGM she is truly deserving of this honour.

### 2006 New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to EUCMS for this year: Gabriella Arundel, Taylor Best, Minh Huynh, Neil Litchfield, Patty Macintosh, Andrew Myles, Jassen Rose and Laura Sullivan. We wish you all the best as you join the EUCMS family.



### 2006 Subs Reminder



Have you **paid your \$20 subs** for 2006 yet? Just a friendly reminder to do so immediately. You can pay Lynn Bock in person or post a cheque to our PO Box. Remember that without

your payment you are not covered under our insurance policy while down at the hall, so it is very important to pay quickly. If you don't, this might be also the last bulletin you receive!

### Child Protection Forms

A reminder that as a condition of membership we asked all members to fill out and return (via post to Belinda or hand in to Belinda, Jeni or Megan at rehearsal) the child protection form OR post it to Lynn with your subs if you are still un-financial.

### Society Roles for 2006

The new Executive has the fun job this month of appointing society positions for the year. If you are a financial member and think you may be interested in doing a role, please ask an Executive member! You can call any of us, we would be happy to hear from you! Some of our positions



include: Public Relations Officer, Bulletin Editor, Show Selection Sub Committee, Publicity Committee, Public Officer, Mail Bookings, Wardrobe Librarian, Usher Coordinator, Lighting Officer, OH & S Officer, Concert Party Organiser and Archivist.

Please contact Belinda if you would like to be considered for these roles or simply have some more questions to ask regarding the roles.

### Production Managers' Forum

On Saturday 11 Feb, 2006, our Production Manager's forum was held and a big thanks to all those who attended. Lots of notes were taken and we began working through the current job



description to see where this can be worked on and improved. I encourage anyone who may be interested in this role in the future to speak to an Executive member or a previous Production Manager for more information.

### Christian Community Aid



CCA is organising its 40th Anniversary March 17 to 19. On the 19th there is to be a church service at St. Anne's, Ryde (built in 1826) at 2.30 p.m. at which they would like some special music. So, because of the long and close

association EUCMS have had with CCA, we would like to organise a small group to sing something appropriate. Please contact Tom Leslie on 9868 5456 or Barb Sharpham (our CCA rep) on 9817 2779.

### Name Badges

If anybody would like a "proper" plastic name badge (ie black with white writing, your name and EUCMS logo), the cost will be about \$6. Please contact Belinda immediately if you would like a badge as part of a larger order.

### Lost Property

Several months ago there was an item about some "lost property" which Megan Willis found under the stage - a bag of rag/cloth dolls, possibly left over from *Fiddler On The Roof*. Nobody claimed them and she still has them. Megan says "It's your last chance to claim them before they are donated to a worthy charity."



## Members' News

### Sad News

KYLIE (MOORE) CRAIN - Many of our members will recall that for some years now we have been concerned about one of our past members, Kylie, the daughter of Nan & Peter and sister to Bronwen - all of whom have performed in our productions.

It is with a great sadness that we record Kylie's death early on Monday morning, 21st February, after a long and brave battle with her illness.

Kylie first became involved with EUCMS as a little girl performing in productions of "Song of Norway" & "Carousel" and also taking part in the Children's Christmas Services which we held each year.

She then went on to direct shows for us as an energetic and talented young woman who brought excitement and pleasure to those in "Anne of Green Gables" and "Finian's Rainbow".

Regardless of marriage and two little girls, she was still busy with theatre at the school where she taught and directed their theatrical productions and she was always deeply involved in the work of St. Barnabas Church, Broadway, where she still served between bouts of her treatment.

Our love and prayers are with all her family but especially Steve, Zoe and Eden and we give thanks for the wonderful memories we have of such a vital and vibrant young woman.

### Jane Stewart's CD Launch

A reminder for those not involved with *Fiddler On The Roof*; Jane Stewart was our wonderful Musical Director for the show. Since then Jane has been busily working on her next project. She will be launching her new CD of Christian lullabies called *Sounds of Serenity* on Sat 25 March 6pm - 8pm at St Johns Gordan (cnr Pacific Hwy & St. Johns Avenue). All are welcome, including children. There is no charge and refreshments are provided. Jane would love to see many of her EUCMS friends there to join with her as she performs on this special occasion.

## Important EUCMS Dates

**Please mark these dates in your diary now so you don't forget or miss out!**

### Society Dates for 2006:

**11 April** - Preferential bookings open for *Trial by Jury* and *The Sorcerer*.

**18 April** - Public bookings open for *Trial by Jury* and *The Sorcerer*.

**19 May to 3 June 2006** - *Trial by Jury* and *The Sorcerer*

## Executive Members 2005

### President - Robyn Mead

Ph: 9736 3432 / 0409 993 461  
mead\_19@hotmail.com

### Vice President - Adam Wilson

Ph: 8812 2575 / 0425 313 336  
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### General Secretary - Belinda Bongers

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### Business Secretary - Megan Willis

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### Treasurer - Lynn Bock

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### Property Officer - Andrew McAlpine

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### Floor Member - Liz McCann

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### Floor Member - Tom Leslie

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### Floor Member - Kath Sharpham

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### Floor Member - Barb Sharpham

Ph: 9817 2779

### Current Director - Elaine Gow

Ph: 9872 6453  
eebeegee@bigpond.com

**Website:** [www.eucms.org.au](http://www.eucms.org.au)

**Email List:** To join the society's email list, send blank email to:

[eucms-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:eucms-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### **Next Executive Meeting**

Monday March 13 at Tom Leslie's apartment.

### **Our postal address:**

EUCMS Inc., PO Box 246,  
Eastwood, 2122

