

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and welcome everyone, to the "official" start of 2010 for EUCMS. I'd like to first acknowledge the wonderful work done by those members of the 2009 Executive who did not continue in their roles:

- Robyn Mead, whose clarity and foresight in leadership will be greatly missed, and whom we welcomed into well-deserved Life Membership at the February AGM
- Rosemary Roach, whose efforts as General Secretary for 2009 were heroic, given that for every EUCMS meeting and function she had to perform, it was necessary to add four hours of travelling time to and from her home in the Shoalhaven, and finally
- Keith Barry, who it seems cannot be stopped, either by ill-health or any other cause from working himself into the ground for EUCMS.

To the 2010 Executive we welcome for the first time the energy and enthusiasm of Cathy Bulfin – not only playing a leading role in *Gondoliers*, but now editor of your Bulletin also. And to the returning members of the Executive, thank you so much for your support as I attempt to step into Robyn's shoes.

This year Caroline Reddel steps up as Vice-President and Membership Convenor, while Megan Willis continues her years of invaluable service as Business Secretary (where would EUCMS be without her?).

Lynn Bock, the Public Officer of EUCMS, again takes the reins as Treasurer. Those present at the AGM will know that 2010 is her last year in this role – if you have basic book-keeping/accountancy skills and the commitment to be regularly available to collect and distribute money on behalf of EUCMS, please speak to her as early as you can to find out more about the job.

Elaine Gow seems to be inexhaustible, adding the "pastoral care" role of keeping up with and responding to Members' news and life events to her position of Director for *Gondoliers*. Jessica Allen, not content with Production Managing for *Gondoliers*, is also taking on the new role of Events Co-ordinator, overseeing all the many "non-show-related" occasions that make up part of the life of the society, and Adam Wilson will once again this year continue to develop the Publicity campaigns that help to make our shows so successful.

At the AGM, the positions of General Secretary and of Property Officer were not filled. We hope to be able to bring good news about these positions in the next Bulletin (although as the people currently considering the roles have some difficulties to overcome in taking them on, we would still appreciate hearing from other members who would be interested). This looks to be a strong, committed and positive thinking Executive team – just what we need to face the challenges of this coming year.

Please give all of us your prayerful support in the task ahead. 2010 will be an exciting and rewarding year as far as shows are concerned, but also a crucial year for

our future as a society, as we begin long-range planning for the 2012 celebrations of our milestone 50th Year, and as we face financial challenges greater than we have yet encountered.

For an excellent overview of what has been accomplished and what lies ahead, please have a look at the President's Report to the 2010 AGM, presented by Robyn Mead at the February meeting, and included in this Bulletin for the benefit of those who were unable to be there.

In terms of immediate ways you can help, please give thought and consideration to the following. We will form two new and important subcommittees this year – Fundraising and 50th Anniversary, and we would love to hear from you if you'd be interested in serving on either.

To make our 50th "Jubilee" a special and memorable time for members past and present, planning needs to begin now, tying in both the shows we will present to showcase EUCMS, and the other events that will form part of the celebrations.

Also this year, we find ourselves safely home at Eastwood Uniting Church, and ready to present two shows once again. But this does not mean everything is "back to normal". Our contribution to the Church for their consideration of our needs of time and space has doubled to \$4000 p/a, and the new configuration of the hall means that we are able to sell considerably fewer tickets to any one show. Not only that, but with the increased distance between the ceiling and the stage floor, our (already quite worn) curtains are now much too short to be used, and need to be replaced, as does quite a lot of the lighting equipment and the power tools used by the back stage crew. It is also very likely that a new piano for the hall will be necessary in the near future.

Due to the foresight and good management of previous executives, there are still contingency funds available – we are by no means bankrupt, but these are very major expenditures, and some of them are not "one-offs", but continuing issues.

The last thing EUCMS wants to do is to compromise our commitment to charity giving, but to continue and to keep producing high quality shows, we need to put some thought and effort into fundraising, particularly this year. There have already been several suggestions, and even a few well-formed plans for events that can help in this regard, but if you have ideas you'd like to contribute, or the time and energy to serve on this subcommittee, it would be great to hear from you.

Although some of these matters seem daunting, I am excited by the expressions of support and encouragement, and by the creative and enthusiastic suggestions I have already heard – with a membership so passionate and dedicated to the EUCMS cause and the principles behind our work, I look forward to a very rewarding year.

*Penny Wilson,
President*

STOP PRESS

A huge thank you to Cathy Bulfin, Warren Charlton, Beth Madden, Caz and Megan Reddel and Adam Wilson who responded to last weekend's emergency call for helpers to rescue the costumes and electrical equipment that needed airing and checking for damage after the "Great Floods of February 2010", and to Tim and Sarah Keith for the loan of their dehumidifier, which is doing hard labour in the costume store. There is much work still to be done, and it would be unfair to leave all of the burden with the hard-working and very busy Wardrobe Team for the current show. Please speak to a member of the Executive about how you can help, and we will pass the message on to the Wardrobe Librarians – these resources belong to all of us!

THE GONDOLIERS NEWS

"Owing, I presume, to an unusually wet season"!!!



I am not sure we needed to be quite so authentic in our preparation for "The Gondoliers" but we certainly know what it is like to be wading through ankle high water after the recent flood. I think it would have been quite possible to float our gondolas out of the garage and down to the railway station at Eastwood!!!

However, we are pressing on with our preparations for a great time in Venice and will be looking for heaps of support from all those members who are not involved with the production directly.

We now have three more members on the construction of the set - Tony Tesoriero (who says he is substituting for Keith whilst he is unwell), Peter Bulfin and Warren Grzic (who is a dab hand at painting I believe). Howard Cosier has also offered to help backstage and Janette Cosier is helping to feed the hungry hordes on Friday nights at supper!

We also welcome Felicity's friend, Ryan, to the Lighting Team but would be quite happy to have more assistance from anyone who feels they could help in any way backstage. This includes the Make up and Wardrobe teams so don't hesitate to contact Jess with your offers.

Under the friendly but firm guiding hand of Sarah, the music is moving along at a great rate and the principals are having a great deal of fun with their respective roles.

We do have one LARGE problem. The Lord Chancellor's wig cannot be located anywhere. If you borrowed it or just gave it house room during all the moving, could you please bring it down to the hall any Tuesday or Friday night as we really need it for this show.

Many thanks and arrivederci!

Elaine

Libretti and scores

If you can't do the show but you do have a libretto and/or score for *The Gondoliers* that you can lend or want to sell, please contact our Production Manager, Jess Allen on 9716 6832 or email jessa_melb@hotmail.com.

Ticket information

Preferential bookings for *The Gondoliers* will open on 9 April and bookings for the general public will open from 13 April.

Prices for tickets start from \$12 for children (under 16), \$16 for pensioners and \$22 for Adults.

The first Saturday night of the show (22 May) will be a special concession night for students (\$16). Students wishing to take advantage of this will need to show their student cards as proof.

Fun facts about gondoliers and gondolas

- Only three to four gondolier licenses are issued annually. To qualify, applicants must be able to finish an extensive training regime after passing a rigorous exam. There are only 400 licensed gondolas operating in Venice today.
- Gondolas are hand made using eight different types of wood (fir, oak, cherry, walnut, elm, mahogany, larch and lime) and comprise 280 pieces. The oars are made of beech wood and the left side of the gondola is made longer than the right side to counterbalance the weight of the gondolier.
- In the 16th century a law was passed to ensure that all gondolas were painted with seven layers of black lacquer!

EUCMS NEWS

Payment of subscriptions online

Our treasurer Lynn Bock advises that you can now pay your subscriptions online, if you wish.

If you do want to pay this way, please remember that you will need to specify both our BSB number (**032 080**) and our account number (**17-9835**).

You will also need to specify who the payment is from, eg "P Smith Subs". Please send an email to Lynn if you make an online payment, so she knows to look for it.

Unfortunately, if you don't identify your payment as specified above, Lynn will have to put the payment in as a donation and it won't be recognised as a subscription payment (meaning that you'll remain unfinancial).

We are investigating the possibility of using PayPal facilities for payments — let us know if you are interested.

Wigs and costumes please!

A general plea for the return of any outstanding costumes and wigs as some key items needed for *The Gondoliers* are currently missing in action. Please bring them down to a rehearsal — no questions asked!

Great Australian Bite

The Great Australian Bite is a national community participation event held each year in April. By hosting a "bite" to eat with friends, family or workmates and asking them to make a tax deductible donation, hosts and their guests make a vital contribution to the fight against diabetes.

EUCMS is participating with a special supper during rehearsal on Friday 30 April, starting at 9:15 pm.

Everyone is invited, including those not in this show, so please come along, make a donation, enjoy the supper and catch up with your friends!

Janette asks that a few people bring a plate of food to contribute – if you can help, please contact her this week (**9868 2535** or **hjcosier@gmail.com**).

Cost will be a gold coin or folded money donation.



New members

We have two new members, Vickie Heilbronn and Felicity Amos. Felicity is no stranger to EUCMS, as she was one of our invaluable backstage crew during *Seussical*.

Welcome to both of you!

AND THE WINNER IS...



Here's the news you've all been waiting for. EUCMS is proud to announce that the first show of our 2011 Season will be *Anne of Green Gables*!

Thank you to those members who voted. We had quite a decent representation of your views, with about half of our membership voting. We'd like to see this percentage increase even further in voting on future questionnaires, but we felt this was a good start for the new system.

The results of the voting were surprising. In fact, we had to resort to giving weighting to second and third preferences in order to split the two most popular shows, (which both received the same number of first preferences) and the third choice made a very respectable showing also.

As a result, it is likely that a large number of members will be a little disappointed this time, but included in the responses were requests from several members asking that whichever of these shows was not voted in be considered again – so fear not, they will be!

Along with these shows, we also had plenty of thoughtfully chosen shows suggested for the SSSC to

consider for the next shortlist – thank you!

In the meantime, please get behind and involved with *The Gondoliers*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Anne of Green Gables*. It takes all of EUCMS to make our shows great!

More information about the musical

Anne of Green Gables - The Musical[™] is a musical based on the novel, *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery (see our short section on LM Montgomery below). The book is by Don Harron, the music is by Norman Campbell and the lyrics by Don Harron, Norman Campbell, Elaine Campbell and Mavor Moore. It has been performed every summer since 1965, headlining the Charlottetown Festival at the Confederation Centre of the Arts, making it Canada's longest-running main stage musical.



The idea for the musical came when Norman and Elaine Campbell visited Don Harron, and he gave them the book *Anne of Green Gables*, suggesting that it would make a great musical. The trio prepared a musical version, which was broadcast in 1956 as a television movie.

Since then, the musical has played to audiences in Japan, London and New York. It has even been translated into Japanese and Swedish.

You can view a photo gallery of *Anne Of Green Gables - The Musical*[™] at the Charlottetown Festival website: <http://www.confederationcentre.com/en/home/onstage/charlottetownfestival/anneofgreengables/photogallery.aspx>, or to look at YouTube footage go to <http://www.confederationcentre.com/en/home/onstage/charlottetownfestival/anneofgreengables/default.aspx> and click on the YouTube link.

Keep an eye on your Bulletin towards the end of the year for more information about this great musical!

Lucy Maud Montgomery

Lucy Maud Montgomery (30 November 1874 to 24 April 1942) was a Canadian author, born on Prince Edward Island, Canada.

LM Montgomery (as she's commonly referred to) is best known as the author of the "Anne books". This series of novels began with *Anne of Green Gables* in 1908. The books are still loved by girls all around the world. (Including your editor!)

Anne of Green Gables was followed by a series of sequels with Anne as the central character. The novels became the basis for a television miniseries and several other television movies and programs. Although LM Montgomery wrote several other series and standalone novels and short stories, the Anne books remain the best known and loved of all her works.

MEMBERS' NEWS

In sympathy

EUCMS wishes to express our sincere sympathies to Liz McCann on the recent death of her partner.

Author! Author!

Congratulations to Wendy Cosier on the publication and launch of her second book, *Paul's Story*. What a great job!

The great Tupperware party!

Come join us at Adam and Penny's house for a special fundraiser event for EUCMS on Saturday 20 March. The event will start at 3:00 pm and you are welcome to stay into the evening for a BBQ dinner (BYO meat plus something to share)

Please let the Wilsons know if you can come.

Matt will be showing the new range of Tupperware products for 2010 and will be happy to take your orders. Hunt out all those broken lids to bring along!

Wedding bells

Our warmest congratulations to Jocelyn Birdsall and David King who have announced their engagement. We wish you both many happy years together.



The Turramurra Passion 2010

(Thanks to Matt, who let us know about this.)

Experience the Timeless Easter Story

Performance Dates Announced

We commence our 7 performance season on Friday 19 March, 2009.

- Friday 19 March 8 pm
- Saturday 20 March 7 pm
- Friday 26 March 8 pm
- Saturday 27 March 7 pm
- Monday 29 March 8 pm
- Tuesday 30 March 8 pm
- Wednesday 31 March 8 pm

Full details at www.turramurrapassion.org.au

Bookings

Tickets are free, but booking is essential as many of the performances in 2009 were "sold out". Bookings now open via the website.

Your News?

If you have something to share with the rest of EUCMS please contact Elaine Gow on **9872 6453** or at **eebeegee@bigpond.com** so we can include it in the next bulletin.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2010

President - Penny Wilson

Ph: 8812 2575 ozpanda@optusnet.com.au

Vice President - Caroline Reddel

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General Secretary - Vacant

Business Secretary - Megan Willis

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Treasurer - Lynn Bock

Ph: 9871 6869 kbandlb@optusnet.com.au

Property Officer - Vacant

Floor Member - Jessica Allen

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Floor Member/Current Director - Elaine Gow

Ph: 9872 6453 eebeegee@bigpond.com

Floor Member - Adam Wilson

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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: **euchatsubscribe@yahoogroups.com**.

Next Executive Meeting

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

Important EUCMS 2010 Dates

20 March	Tupperware party fundraiser at the Wilsons' house
29 March	Next Executive meeting
9 April	Preferential bookings open for <i>The Gondoliers</i>
13 April	General bookings open for <i>The Gondoliers</i>
30 April	Great Australian Bite supper
21 May	<i>The Gondoliers</i> Opening performance
6 June	<i>The Gondoliers</i> Closing performance