

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I'm feeling pretty sad as I write this short note today – I wonder whether perhaps it would be better if I didn't write any more "President's Messages", since at the moment, every time I sit down to do one, it is in the shadow of another crushing world disaster. The January Bulletin was written in the aftermath of the Queensland Floods, the invitation to the AGM was written as we sat up late watching Cyclone Yasi approach Tully. The AGM itself was the very night of the Christchurch earthquake, and now as I write, four nuclear reactors seem to be melting down in the wake of the horrific earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Each disaster seems to dwarf the last, and yet the suffering in Queensland is still very real and present – the pain of this latest nightmare does not replace, but amplifies all of the other cries for help in our very broken world.

"Compassion Fatigue" is a phrase that has been thrown around quite a bit lately. It seemed such a "no brainer" that we would watch telethons, give individually and as a group to the Flood Appeals, but the appeals just keep coming, and each is obviously just as real and important as the other. It really is exhausting – how can we help all these people, make even the slightest dent in all this suffering?

At times like this, it feels a little frivolous to be putting so much time and energy into "doing shows" - getting all worked up about piano covers and banner ads. But it is also at times like this that I am amazed again by the vision of the Foundation members of EUCMS, who, 50 years ago, decided that these skills they had, this desire they had to perform and create and entertain, could also be used, under God, to make a real difference in the local and world community, not only in times of crisis, when of course, we give, but also to many smaller, less publicly supported charities, whose needs are ongoing at all times.

As part of the preparations for the Anniversary in 2012, we are looking into an "adding-up" of all that EUCMS has given (in money terms, although as the CCA, and the people of Yeoval, for example, would attest, we contribute more than just funds) over the years – it's really quite amazing.

I would never want to say "don't give – EUCMS is doing it for you", but when the hard work of sewing your costume or practising your choreography, begging for ushering volunteers or washing up supper dishes gets to you, it's worthwhile remembering that we're not just doing it for ourselves. *Anne of Green Gables* is shaping up to be a wonderful show, and the community is really buzzing about it – let's all work together to make it a sold-out season, so that we can make many meaningful donations again this year.

I also wanted to thank the members who attended the AGM, and gave so much valuable feedback about how we can better do the things we do. I look forward to some major announcements in the coming months, based on ideas that came from the floor.

Finally, if you're after an announcement right about now, have a look at the Show selection sub-committee report and please, fill in and hand in Questionnaires 1 (due end of March) and 2 (attached to this Bulletin) - either to a friendly Exec Member near you, or online via the EUCMS website.

*Penny Wilson,
President*

Show selection sub-committee report

First of all, the SSSC would like to thank all EUCMS members who responded to the September 2010 Questionnaire for their very thoughtful and well-judged suggestions. We asked that people suggest shows that would be suitable for the "Big Year" of the 50th Anniversary of EUCMS in 2012, and the suggestions were overwhelmingly suitable, exciting and practical.

Because we have to announce a whole season well in advance (so that former members, long-distance members and life members living far from Eastwood can arrange to attend the special celebrations that will coincide with the show seasons) the short-list voting system has been suspended for one year only. But with such great suggestions, (and since, in the end the number of nominations received by both of the two shows ultimately chosen were so dominant as to almost represent a society vote) we don't think anyone will be disappointed with the shows recommended to the Executive by the SSSC and approved this week.

I'll keep you in suspense a little longer, by following through on our commitment to make sure that we explain why each of the "also-nominated" shows were not chosen this time. The reasons fell into four main categories.

1. Not a big enough "Blockbuster" for the 2012 season

Some shows, while well known and loved by some groups within our membership and our audiences, were not considered to have the universal, intergenerational appeal that would make them shows to really remember as anniversary celebration shows. They would be very appropriate at other times, though.

These shows included *Big River, By Jeeves, Calamity Jane, Cinderella, City of Angels, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, The Pyjama Game, The Rebel Maid, Ruddigore, Sunday in the Park With George* and *The Vagabond King*.

2. A little bit too "Blockbuster" for the EUC complex

The opposite reason – shows we'd love to do in terms of being huge celebrations – massive blockbusters, very well known, but difficult to do justice to in terms of the scale of the show in the EUCMS hall.

The idea was raised that we could go to an outside venue to make it really special, but the consensus was that the 50th Anniversary was a bit different to all the other Anniversaries, and should really be held "at home". Perhaps re-suggesting one of these huge projects for

2022 might also give us time to save up – as they are also such massive orchestral shows that we have been advised we would probably have to break precedent and pay not just for hall hire, but sound and even musicians.

The show suggestions that fell into this group were *Les Miserables*, *Singing in the Rain* and *West Side Story*.

3. Not good matches with current or upcoming shows by EUCMS or other productions

Show suggestions that fell into this category were felt to be either too similar in style, content, era or audience appeal to shows on the EUCMS 2011 list, or shows that have been or we know will be, done in close proximity by other groups in – well, close proximity!

These shows (and in brackets the shows they dash with) are:

- *Annie* (*Anne of Green Gables*)
- *Godspell* (Joseph)
- *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Joseph)
- *Oliver* (2012 at Riverside – same group that just did Joseph. We can “follow” them once, which is unfortunate, but twice would be carelessness (sorry Oscar Wilde)
- *Peter Pan* (just done by NUCMS), and
- *The Secret Garden* (*Anne of Green Gables*).

4. Star vehicles or small ensemble shows

Many of these are also shows we would (and indeed have) considered doing any other year, but the hope is that all active members (and perhaps some who haven't been active for a while) would like to be involved in one or both of the 50th anniversary shows. For this reason we steered clear of shows in which there wasn't plenty to do for both male and female chorus – either because there was generally little chorus work, or a significant bias towards one gender.

The show suggestions which fell into this category included *Annie*, *Hello Dolly*, *The King and I*, *The Secret Garden*, *South Pacific* and *Sunday in the Park With George*.

5. Other reasons

There were a couple of other shows not selected for other reasons – *Fiddler on the Roof* because it is too recent – we try not to repeat shows we have done within the last ten years. We also decided to “rest” both *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Me and My Girl*, as they had recently been third choices in short-list voting. They were both re-nominated, however, and if you are keen to do them, next time we have a questionnaire asking for suggestions for the first show of 2013 (I know!) please put them forward again. No doubt their time will come!

So finally, the big announcement ...

Many of you will have noticed two shows you nominated (and both of these shows were nominated many times) missing from the list of “not this time” shows.

If your detective skills have not already made it obvious, that is because, as I am very happy to announce, the two shows that will make up the EUCMS 2012 50th Anniversary Season are (drum roll please).



MY FAIR LADY

AND

THE PUKADO

Congratulations, EUCMS – excellent choices! At this stage, it is likely that the above order will apply, although that will be subject to decisions about production teams for the shows. Both, however, are great fun for everyone on stage, and genuinely beloved of audiences: four very exciting show seasons to look forward to for all of us!

EUCMS NEWS

Anne of Green Gables news

“Great Workers For The Cause...” are busy pouring their energies, their free time, and their hearts into rehearsals for what is shaping up to be a wonderful production!



As we move into the second half of the rehearsal season, the *Anne of Green Gables* team is happy to report some more additions to our cast:

THE MAILMAN – Peter Merry

THE MINISTER – Andrew McAlpine

RUBY GILLIS – Laura Rughoover

PRISSY ANDREWS – Jennifer Massey

There is also quite a bit of crew news to catch up on. (Although the cast all know these people and have seen them working hard at rehearsals!) Tony Tesoriero and Keith Barry have been working solidly at managing the set construction since before rehearsals started, and Megan Willis has taken on the task of continuity. Jess is being supported greatly by her two assistants, Peter Bulfin and Bronwyn Carroll, and Beth Madden is acting as my assistant. One of the things on everybody's mind is getting the word out about our show. Ticket sales open very soon (Friday 1 April for preferential bookings, Tuesday 5 April for general bookings) so start spreading the word.

If you know of a spot suitable for an A4 or A3 poster to advertise the show, such as a community noticeboard or a willing local business, let us know and we will arrange for a poster for you. We also have examples of wording for notices you might like to place in a school or church newsletter. And of course don't forget to book your own tickets to come and see the show!

The production is coming together beautifully – every rehearsal makes me that little bit more excited. You can sell tickets to your friends with pride in what's going to be a fantastic show!

Caroline

Publicising Anne of Green Gables

Promotional postcards for *Anne of Green Gables* are included with this Bulletin. Printed A3/A4 posters are also available, and electronic versions are on our website or obtainable from Adam Wilson. We are also promoting the show to the local schools. Where can YOU leave a poster or some postcards to help sell our show?

Ushering for Anne of Green Gables

This is an easy job that people who are not in the show can do, and is a very helpful way that you can contribute.

Please help if you can. If you are able to usher for one or more shows, please contact Janette on hjcosier@gmail.com.

It is possible to usher for the same show as one that you have booked tickets for - just let Janette know if this is the case or come and help on another date.

If you'd like to help, please email Janette, letting her know:

- the dates that you are able to help, and
- whether or not you are booking a ticket for that performance.

Ushers need to be at Lakeside Road Uniting Church at 1:15 pm for the matinees or 7:15 pm for the evening performances. Ushers need to wear black clothes (or white top and black bottom). EUCMS supplies vests that can be worn over this.

Booking your tickets

Our Preferential booking night is on Friday 1 April. For the cast and crew, this is your chance to get in early and book seats for *Anne of Green Gables* before bookings open to the general public on Tuesday 5 April.

Bookings will open in the Atrium, from 7:00 pm. Preferential tickets MUST be paid for on the night – cash, cheque or credit card. Bookings will close at 8:00 pm, so that rehearsals are not disrupted. EUCMS members are limited to purchases of 20 tickets at a time (you can join the end of the line again!). To help cover bank costs, each credit card booking will incur a \$2 booking fee regardless of the number of tickets purchased in one transaction.

From Tuesday 5 April, tickets will be available for purchase for the general public. Adam Wilson is our booking officer and can take your orders via phone, via the website, or in person in the Atrium, prior to show rehearsals, from 7:30 pm. We encourage you to pre-book your seats during the week so that order processing on Friday nights is quicker.

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

New members

Welcome to Sancha Prowse as an adult member (non-performing).

Events

The EUCMS annual church service will be held on 21 August, 7:00 pm at Marsden Road Uniting Church. Mark the date now. More details will follow later this year.

Our annual mid-year dinner will be held - mid-year! Date and venue to be confirmed.

There will also be a concert on 6 August, details of which are still being organised.

Stay tuned for further details on all these events!

Costume storage/workshop areas

Please remember that our costume storage area needs to be kept clean, tidy and orderly. Jenny Lyle and Heather Clarke have spent many hours organising and cataloguing costumes, jewellery, hats etc.

If you are returning costumes or other EUCMS property, please do not simply dump bags in the area. Please make prior arrangement with Jenny or Heather (or if you don't have their contact details, with the current Production Manager or Wardrobe team) to return things.

Only costume items should be left in the costume storage area. If you have other materials to return, they should not be left there.

This also applies to the storage area above the costumes. It is a work area and the stage crew cannot work there if it is full of junk.

We also have policies for the borrowing of props, equipment and costumes. If you do want to borrow something please ask the appropriate person so that your request can be noted. It may need to be approved by the Executive so please make your request in plenty of time before you need the item. If you are unsure who the right person is to ask, please ask a member of the Executive, who will put you in touch with the appropriate person. Please do not simply take what you want.

New minister at Eastwood Uniting Church

Since the departure of Andrew Williams late last year, Eastwood Uniting Church has been without a permanent minister, until now. The church is in the process of welcoming Nicholas Fried, and we will invite him to an "Anne" rehearsal so he can see what we do to put on a show.

Pianos

Yes, that's right - pianos. We don't do anything by halves. Our lovely new, shiny, black beauty is in place in the main hall and Jenny Gillespie had the first opportunity to play it. It is being protected by its very own custom made cover. We thank Lynn Bock for organising the actual purchase of the piano, the sourcing and delivery of the cover, and for supervising the delivery of both to the hall.

Our second piano is a secondhand piano which one of our members no longer wanted. We bought it for a very modest amount and have donated it to the church for general use. We don't know where it will be located but it won't be locked and will be available to all who use the hall.

Our old piano will still be used by us and we will probably still keep it locked. We are discussing with the church where we can place it.

AGM follow up

As you know from last month's Bulletin, there was no nomination at the AGM for the position of General Secretary, and there has been no subsequent offer from any member to take on the role.

Because the General Secretary deals with all the society's administrative business this is a role which can't be left empty for too long. Elaine Gow, who for many years was General Secretary, and who nominated for a floor member position for 2011, has offered to take on the duties of General Secretary this year, and the Executive has accepted her offer.

Although Elaine will be acting in the role of General Secretary she will still officially remain as one of the four floor members on the committee this year. That still

leaves the Executive one member short and it has been decided to directly approach people to join the Executive and take on the floor member job which Elaine would otherwise have taken. We hope soon to fill that role.

EXECUTIVE NEWS

The Executive discusses a lot of things each meeting. Here are some you might find interesting.

- we are looking at replacing the current make-up mirrors with lighter, modern versions. We are looking into a couple of options at the moment.
- Also in need of upgrading is our current dimmer board and our stage lights.
- Our music stands are beginning to show their age and we are looking at whether they can be repaired or will need replacing
- We will also be getting printed four professional banners for each show, to be placed around the area (don't forget, if you have a suggestion for a banner placement, please let Adam Wilson know)
- We have also been offered the use of a small shed in which to store "stuff" (thanks to the Bocks for the offer).

Executive appointments

The following members have been appointed to various roles for 2011:

Public Relations: Elaine Gow

Bulletin Editor: Cathy Bulfin

Events organiser: Jess Allen

Publicity: Adam Wilson

Mail Bookings: Helen Wilson

EUC representative: Narelle Murray

CCA representative: Barbara Sharpham

Usher Convenor: Janette Cosier

Archivist: Jess Allen

OH&S: Peter Bulfin

First Aid Officer: Alison Anderson

Public Officer: Lynn Bock.

Some, but not all of these are Executive positions. The Executive thanks these members for taking on important roles for the society.

50TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

Don't forget all the exciting events which are being planned for next year. The current list was in the last Bulletin - don't forget to add them to your calendar too.

We are looking for all our foundation members. If you know the current addresses of any of the following, please let Megan Willis or Jess Allen know:

Gwen Adcock, Lindsay Adcock, Warren Bartholomew, Richard Brown, Toni Cowlshaw, Jennifer Dibley, Margaret Dibley, Nancy Douglas, Lea Farr, Meredith Farr, Betty Francis, Lucille Glover, David Granger, Bob Hetherington,

Anne Hart, Keith Mccoy, Barrie Martin, Beryce Moore, Peter Moore (orchestra, not singer), Merrill Penman, Gail Perryman, Judith Rowling, Robyn Slater, David Stanton, Wes Taylor, Nerida Tonge, Megan Wade, Carol Wilson (Granger), Lynette Wilson (Kinniburgh).

Offers are still being sought for help in organising events. Please contact Caroline if you want to offer, even if you aren't sure how you could help, or if you think you don't have appropriate skills - you do!. So far offers have been scarce. We need help now, even though next year seems far away.

EUCMS history

One of the events planned for next year is a display of photos and memorabilia. If you have anything EUCMS-related which you think might be of interest and which you would be willing to loan, please let Jess Allen know.

If you have boxes of really old Bulletins (doesn't everyone?) **please** let Jess or Megan Willis know ASAP as they are compiling various pieces of information about our history, a lot of which was recorded in the Bulletins. We have Bulletins from 1990 but not before.

If you are a more recent member, you can also help. Did you go on the trip to Yeoval in 2007? Did you take part in the Curtain Raiser last year? Did you "go to Galston" or help with moving out from the old hall or moving back into the new hall? Were you at rehearsal in February last year when we had "the great flood"? Were you around when we did away shows? There are many occasions which we need to remember in our history and not all of them happened long ago. You might consider putting down your memories of an event and contributing some photos. The options are endless.

MEMBER NEWS

Clare Burgess is competing in the International Ballroom Dance-O-Rama Competition in Canada. To raise funds she is holding a "Give It a Go" Ballroom Night on Saturday 9 April.

This event will take place at Seven Hills High School, Johnson Avenue, Seven Hills, from 7:30 until 10:30 pm. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, paid at the door.

Dress is smart casual with comfortable shoes. If you are interested, contact Clare on 0430 552 703 or theprincessbride1980@hotmail.com

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 must be received before the next Executive meeting (4 April).

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2011

President- Penny Wilson

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Vice President/Current Director - Caroline Reddel

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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: **euchat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**.

Next Executive meeting: 4 April at Adam & Penny Wilson's house, starts 8:00 pm.

IMPORTANT 2011 DATES

1 April	Preferential booking night for <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
5 April	General bookings open for <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
20 May	Opening night for <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
21 May	Matinee and evening performances for <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
27 May	Evening performance for <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
28 May	Matinee and evening performances for <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
3 June	Evening performance for <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
4 June	Matinee and closing night for <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
21 August	EUCMS annual church service, at Marsden Road Uniting Church

Put the calendar on your fridge!