

## Portland CEMA Inc. - Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts

### Newsletter - September 2004

#### President's Report

Well what a hectic month since our AGM in July. As you will have read in the Observer, and hopefully seen for yourself, the "30 Years Exhibition" is currently on display. Thanks to Jane Hayes and to Ron Colliver for assistance with the preparation of the exhibition.

We were saddened to learn of the death of member Doris Amor. Our sympathy has been extended to Ben and family. Doris was a great supporter of CEMA and the Arts in general. Shortly before her death she donated her collection of programmes and Arts memorabilia to our archives. We are very grateful and I used quite a few of her pieces in the current exhibition.

To happier news... The weekend of celebrations went off well. Thanks to Allen Jones for the Saturday film, and to he and Berice for lots of help with hanging the exhibition, and cleaning up Sunday's dishes.

Thanks to Bev and Bill Martin for an extraordinary effort, in helping hang the exhibition and preparing the Music Hall, arranging catering, and being always ready to take on more chores. The distances the Jones and Martins travel to support our organisation are phenomenal!

On Sunday we played host to former councillors of the Portland Town Council and current Glenelg Shire Councillors, to former Arts Officers and the current CSO, to past presidents of CEMA inc, to past and present members of CEMA inc, and to friends of the Arts.

Country style catering, and hospitality was at its best, and there was a real sense of community and friendship in abundance.

Thanks to the theatre group girls Jenny, Kat and Danielle for a long day in the kitchen, along with Lyn Smith, Helen Myles, Berice Jones and Cath Yuill.

Thanks to the soup cooks : Helen Myles, Lyn Smith, Hilda Egan, and Stephanie Conlan. I am unsure of names of all who provided slices and treats, but please accept the thanks of executive for your contribution.

Thanks to our multi-talented Mayor, Mr Bill Collett for sharing his time and talents with us, and setting the tone for a jolly good afternoon of fun at the Music Hall. Thanks to June Roberts for conducting both the choir and concert band, and to all performers. What other organisation could boast 14 year olds through to 80 year olds on the one programme!!

Of course my great pleasure of the day was in presenting a Life Membership award to Don Chalmers. He was far too humble in his acceptance. The award was justly deserved and very overdue!! Don held office on executive as Snr Vice President 1973/4 and President 74/5,75/6, 76/7, 77/8, 78/9 79/-80 Jnr Vice President 1980/81.

He made a huge contribution to Drama group as a director and actor in a string of productions in the 1970s and into the 80s. He contributed significantly to Film group.

But probably most importantly for the organisation he was on the Arts Centre Management Committee for all the years that it operated, and paved the way for a very good lease arrangement for CEMA with the Portland Town Council in 1984. The lease recognised our contribution to the building and allowed CEMA groups to use the building at an affordable rate. This paved the way for a huge development in the Arts through the 1980s, 90s and now!

Congratulations on your award Don, and thanks for what you've given to the Arts in Portland.

While we were in exhibition and celebration mode, Lex Chalmers and Berice Jones were sitting at their computer terminals tapping out a brilliant submission to the Kleenheat/ Alcoa Community Service awards, on our behalf. The submission is in, and we await the judges verdict!! Thanks to both of you for a job well done.

Now its back to "normality" let's get on with our group activities, secure our next lease with council, sort out the signs for the building, and enjoy our Artistic pursuits.

Jan Colliver (President)



Presentation of CEMA Life Membership to Don Chalmers

## Membership Secretary's Report

Membership payments are progressing well, we now have 76 members.

Congratulations to Don Chalmers who was awarded CEMA Inc. life membership at the 30th celebrations on Sunday. Don's activities in the Theatre Group for many years after arriving in Portland in 1969 earned this long overdue award.

The weekend celebrations were well received by all present. Some patrons were still singing "Old McDonald" as they were going down the steps !!

Bill & Bev Martin (Membership Secretaries)

## The Kleenheat/Alcoa Awards

Our submission of CEMA Inc and The Arts Company to the Kleenheat Gas "Community of the Year" award has been lodged. Copies are available to view at both buildings.

This turned out to be a marathon for Berice Jones, author of the 2000 word submission supporting the Arts community's nomination for the Community Award, and for Lex Chalmers, who was trying to compile information about our volunteers' wonderful support for the arts.

Thanks Warren Mars for his work on an accompanying CD, providing photos to illustrate the range of facilities and cultural activities our arts groups offer.

We managed to complete the nomination and post last Friday. Thanks to those groups which supplied information (they know who they are).

59 years for CEMA Inc, nine years for the Arts Company - and such a lot has happened!

We could only make a tiny selection from a vast number of possible supporting documents, and the nomination could



MC Bill Collett at the CEMA Arts Centre 30th Celebrations

only provide an overview of the Shire's cultural developments.

Now we have to wait and see if our nomination catches the regional judges' eyes, but in any case we hope that it will get some media coverage through Channel 10 and the Weekly Times.

Important - Please let either Berice or Lex know if you see any items about this Kleenheat nomination.

Lex Chalmers

## Community Arts Blast

The 30th Anniversary Exhibition of the CEMA Arts Centre is a credit to President Jan Colliver and helpers - don't miss it!

And the Celebration last Sunday was terrific; congratulations to Bev and Bill Martin and helpers, and (again) to Jan Colliver.

Ron, Jono and Joel Colliver appeared on stage in various segments as well as working behind the scenes, even to the washing up, (that's the trouble with the community arts tradition of sharing a meal!)

It all added up to a good launch for the CEMA Arts Centre's next 30 years, due to be celebrated in 2034 - and everyone had better start planning now because that will coincide with Portland's 200th Anniversary.

... from "One Who Knows".

## Notes From The Executive

Executive thanks on your behalf Theatre group and Historical Society for their generous donations.

- a note from Portland Aluminium that groups are welcome to set up displays at the Open Day 31st October. (Secretary Jenny Heath has the nomination form if you are interested.)
- Treasurer Gregor is still waiting for financial reports from some groups.
- Please remember ALL groups should be represented at Executive meetings, 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30 - 9.30 pm.

Karl reminds us to check the cupboard immediately to the right of the kitchen door, for a large collection of plates that have been left at functions in the Arts Centre (probably 30 years worth!!) They will be soon taken to an opportunity shop.

## THE ARTS COMPANY

If you are a member of a group based at The Arts Company, you are represented on the Management Committee. Do you know who your representatives are?

Next meeting is Wed. September 8th.

Berice Jones (Chair)

## Community Concert Band

We farewell conductor Eddie Morosini who currently has work in Northern Victoria. Thanks for a job well done Eddie. June Roberts is holding the baton at the moment. New members always most welcome.

We are happy to have Swedish exchange student Erik joining us on guitar at the moment. What a cultural experience Sunday must have been for him! Thanks to former members Reg Thomas and Brian Healy for joining us on Sunday, you are always most welcome.

Tune up from 7.45 pm Thursdays at the CEMA Arts Centre. Ring Ron Colliver:

Ron Colliver (Convenor)

## Graft Group

Have been busy getting a candlewicked quilt together.

Over the next few weeks we will be doing "mirror" mosaic covered boxes which will be taught by a recently new member. After this project we will be making Christmas-Tree wall hangers.

The CWA members joined with us this month to make crocheted "Snowflakes".

Carol Darby (Convenor)

## Fibre Group

During 2003/2004 we have had a constant membership. Not all members attend all meetings. Meetings are held every Thursday, in the Pavilion, at the Arts Company from 10:30 am to 3 pm.

We have manned the Arts Company Gallery on a regular basis as rostered.

Our member's sales in the Gallery are very satisfying.

Work on the Coat of Arms tapestry is complete and it has been cut down by the Mayor: Councillor Bill Collett. We now await word from the Shire Council about where it is to be hung.

We have all worked on our own projects during this year but have plans to complete an item or two for an exhibition in November.

On the social side, we have attended friendship and sharing days at Halls Gap, Streatham and Yulecart. One member attended the Craft School at Glenormiston during the first week of the school holidays.

After our AGM held recently the following members hold office:

- Convenor: Mary Sharrock
- Secretary: Jo Koch
- Treasurer: Mary Sharrock
- Vice President: Nadine Anderson
- Roster: Mary Sharrock

We are always looking for new members. Anyone interested would be most welcome.

Josephine Koch (Secretary)

## FILM GROUP

### The English Patient

Based on the prize winning novel by Michael Ondaatje.

A study in different responses to love and war. With Ralph Fiennes, Juliette Binoche, William Dafoe, and Kirsten Thomas.

Friday, 10th September.  
7.30 pm at The Arts Centre.

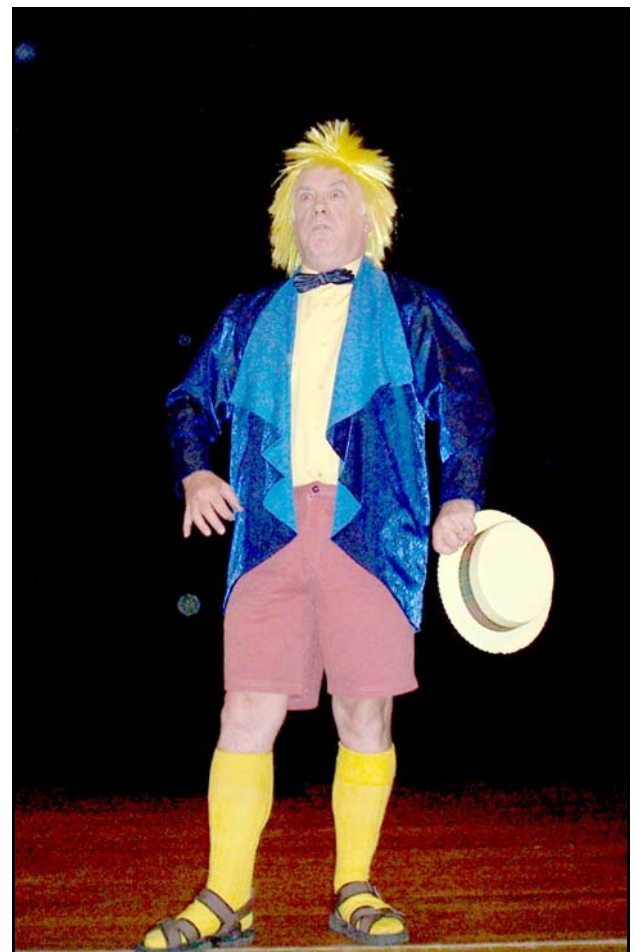
Allen Jones (Secretary)

## Historical Society

The next meeting is on Thursday, September 2nd at the CEMA Arts Centre at 2.30 p.m. Guest speaker Stan Jarrett will talk about the Portland Citizens Brass Band.

Members are asked to bring coffee cups, for the September/October display in History House, to this meeting.

Betty Vivian (President)



Phil Darby as Lewis Carroll's alter ego reads "Jabberwocky" at the celebrations.

## Choral Group

The Choral Group were proud to participate in the celebrations commemorating 30 years of our wonderful Arts Centre. We all dressed up in period costume for our bracket of 4 songs and we also led the sing-a-longs interspersed throughout the performances.

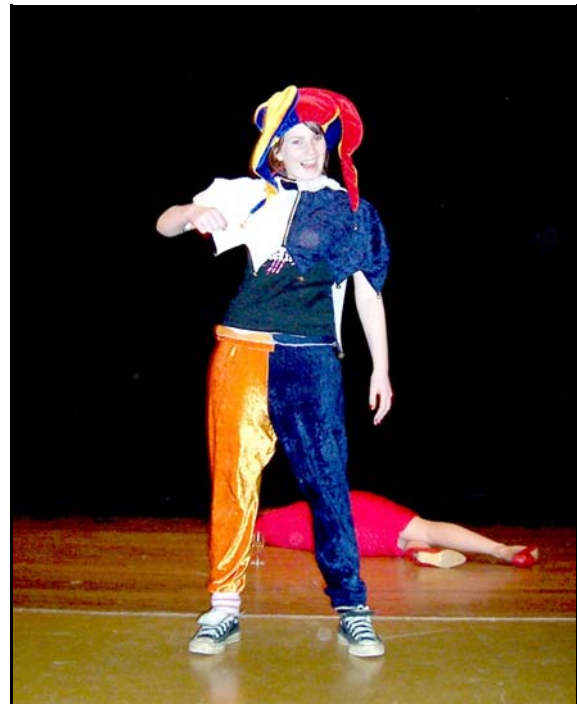
We sang “Set me as a seal”, “Shenandoah”, “O occhi manza mia” and “New York, New York”. Thanks to Sue Podger who accompanied us.

Elsewhere in proceedings, June Roberts and I played a bracket of 3 folk songs: “The Ash Grove”, “Ye Banks & Braes” and “O’Carolan’s Concerto”. I played the recently fettled viola made by Johnny Johnstone in 1973 and presented as a gift to CEMA not long before he died. It seemed appropriate to honour his gift on this occasion. June accompanied me on the Shire’s Grand Piano.

Warren Mars (Bass)



CEMA Arts Centre’s beautiful 30th Birthday Cake  
courtesy of Ian Rankin



“Chuckles the Fool” in the Theatre Groups segment during the celebrations.