

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

Newsletter - April 2005

President's Report

I have just returned from a 3 day conference: "Living Music and Dance", at the Darebin Arts Centre in Melbourne.

I participated in a range of workshops from:

- gospel singing with Tony Backhouse,
- creative dance with Peter Hockey from Mangala studios and Lisa Peters Roose from Antz Pantz Dance in Geelong,
- to some inspiring Orff music teaching workshops with James Harding from San Francisco.
- I felt somewhat uncoordinated in the Latin street dance session,
- and the "Big Samba" drumming and percussion workshops,
- and had some wonderful conversations with Arts Educators from all over Australia.

BUT...I missed the last executive meeting and want to thank Allen for chairing the meeting.

Portland CEMA 60th Birthday

Last year we celebrated 30 years anniversary since the opening of the CEMA Arts Centre. THIS YEAR IN JULY WE CELEBRATE THE 60TH BIRTHDAY OF PORTLAND CEMA. The Portland Branch of CEMA, Council for Encouragement of Music and the Arts was formed on 20th July, 1945, and the first meeting of the organisation was held on Monday 30th July 1945.

Bev Martin has been negotiating with Musician George Dreyfus, to visit Portland to coincide with our birthday. MARK THE 30TH JULY ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

On the Saturday afternoon George and friends (an 8 piece ensemble) will present "Sebastian's Greatest Adventure", live music played along with a series of cartoons.

We want to encourage families to support this activity.

In the evening George will present an "Early Works Programme"...stay tuned for more details. All CEMA members will be asked to help with ticket sales, and support.

Some years ago Leslie Jackson did a series of "Oral History Interviews" with members of CEMA I will endeavour to include some snippets in the next few newsletters. See next page for the first instalment....

Regards,

Jan Colliver (President)

THE ARTS COMPANY

Welcome Back Bruce Campbell

The Arts Company Committee was pleased to hear the announcement that Bruce Campbell has been appointed by the Glenelg Shire as .6 Professional in Residence until March 2006.

In the past Bruce has worked in the Glenelg Shire as Cultural Services Officer, and so has had valuable previous experience with the Arts and Arts Organizations here.

Bruce will be undertaking a Study to show how the Arts have an impact on the economy of the Shire.

Also he will be assisting The Arts Company to administer manage and promote the June Hedditch Studio, and also in consultation produce a comprehensive Manual of Procedures encompassing all Arts Company activities.

For all these tasks Bruce will need the co-operation of everyone.

On behalf of The Arts Company I welcome Bruce into our organisation and urge all groups and individuals to assist him as much as possible.

This Professional in Residence program is funded by The Glenelg Shire and Arts Victoria. For more information contact Karl Hatton (CSO), Jan Colliver (CEMA), Bruce Campbell, or me.

Arts Company AGM

Also a reminder that The Arts Company will hold its AGM on Wednesday April 13th, 5.30 pm at 19 Julia St.

Berice Jones (Chair)



From the Mint'Ji exhibition at CEMA Arts Centre

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Recorded at the home of Mrs. Nancy Malseed (31/3/1990).

Leslie Jackson: Mrs Nancy Malseed was then Mrs. Nancy Edwards in 1945 when CEMA began.

Mrs Malseed would you like to tell us what you remember of the start of CEMA, Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts in Portland in the early 1940s

Mrs. Malseed: That was the year that I came here, in 1945 actually. My first husband was the first Deputy Principal of the High School which only started that year - it had been a higher elementary before then - and he was the Science Master. It was war-time and it was very, very difficult to get a house. When I look at all the "for sale" notices we have got about now I think of those days when there was never a "for sale" notice - we never even heard of a house - it was a deep secret and you did not dare mention it.

There were all sorts of problems - of course, being war time it was very, very grim. So that when in July 1945 I saw a notice in the paper for a public meeting to form a branch of CEMA which was to encourage the music and the arts - and there were quite a number of branches around then - I thought this should be very interesting, and so I went along to what was the Old Town Hall (which is now History House). There was quite a good crowd - very hard to estimate. I would think probably about 50, which was very good for something new starting in war-time, because of blackouts - it was not very easy to go out at night.

So the branch was formed and everybody said "Of course, it won't do any good; nothing like that ever lasts in Portland; it will die out after a while. John Harris was the first President, Leila Carthew and Joan B----- were the joint Secretaries, but from that meeting we decided on different groups. (That is a pattern that has lasted right up until today).

We had music, drama, literary and the historical group. (I was mostly interested in the music. Later on I became interested in the drama too.) So that was in July and we formed a Choir and an Orchestra straight away.....

(Part of Interview 1990)

Wood Water Wind

An exhibition of prints by Catherine Bailey

24th - 31st March
Portland Bay Press
21 Julia Street



From Mint'Ji - Songs from a Paintbrush

ARTISTS' SOCIETY

Our Thursday painting days are always "interesting"; much chatter and little work; but the first Thursday each month is Topic Day. Next month is "Three Colours", so come and join us at 1 pm.

We hold our meetings on the last Thursday of each month, meeting at 12 noon before our paint out.

We are holding an award exhibition this year, but later on, an exhibition of 9 x 5s on our west wall was considered.

Also a trip to Camberwell Rotary Art Show is a possibility if there is enough interest. It is held 23 - 30 April.

Any information on the above contact any members or the Arts Company.

Betty Trewavis (Convenor)

Book Discussion Group

During March we are reading: "An Australian Son" by Gordon Matthews. Adopted at birth, he grew up in the 50's in the leafy suburbs of Melbourne. Colour set Gordon apart and he had no answers to the crucial questions of who he was and where he came from.

We will discuss this book at our next meeting on Wednesday, April 6th at 1:30 pm.

Last month we read the delightful: "No 1 Ladies Detective Agency".

Lyn Smith (Convenor)

Nothing On A Plate

An exhibition celebrating women's journey towards equality.

11-30 April
CEMA Arts Centre

Choral Group

We have been preparing for our performance in the Botanical Gardens at 2 pm on Sunday, April 3rd, as part of the festivities for the annual Friends Of The Botanical Gardens Day.

Sue Podger is unable to provide her normal accompanist duties on the day but Tony Elias has kindly agreed to stand in.

We look forward to a pleasant afternoon, (weather permitting)!

Warren Mars (Bass)

FILM GROUP

Next screening 2nd Friday in April.
Film has not been chosen yet.

Allen Jones (Secretary)

Historical Society

Our 41st birthday will be celebrated on Thursday, April 7th at 2.30 pm in the Narrawong Lavender Farm. Those requiring or providing transport meet at the CEMA Arts Centre at 2 pm.

Betty Vivian (President)

Leadlighter's Guild

The Guild will be holding more Leadlight Classes starting 26th April & 19th July 2005, each class is for 7 weeks on a Tuesday Night 6 pm to 9:30 pm. Please contact Pamela Travers.

We are open most Wednesday afternoons from 1 pm to 4 pm and the 1st Sunday of the month 1:30 pm to 4 pm.

The Wednesday afternoon group have been very creative and are turning out some wonderful work.

Members have been making front door windows, lamps, butterflies and other hanging mobiles. We also welcome 4 new members to the Guild.

The gallery has some pieces from guild members which offer a window into our work (sorry about the pun).

A reminder to members to check on their financial status the list is on the guild notice board.

Pamela Travers (Convenor) and Jan Lineker (Scribe)

Poetry Reading Group

The next meeting will be Sunday 17th April, at the CEMA Arts Centre at 2 o'clock. Individual choice of poems to be read.

Readers and listeners are most welcome to share our readings and friendly discussions followed by afternoon tea.

Dawn Turner (Convenor)

Theatre Group

Rehearsals are currently underway for the performance of SHENANIGAN'S WAKE by Daryl Peebles.

This production was written as a pub theatre / theatre restaurant show. Like Jack Hibberd's Dimboola, it examines an Australian celebration; this one imported with the masses of Irish immigrants who have been gravitating to these shores since the First Fleet. The celebration is of course a wake.

Performances will be at Sandiland's Restaurant in June.

Glenelg Shire Arts Program

From the Arts Centre Desk

Patrons of performances are now aware of the changing FOH staff at the Box Office. This pool of casuals employed by the Glenelg Shire Council has greatly assisted the role of the Box Office Manager and the CSO.

The Glenelg Shire Arts Program is now happy to also announce the employment of a pool of casual Technical Support staff. These employees will assist with the bumping in of stage productions and some exhibitions.

Joy Ralph (Assistant CSO) 5522 2301



Pam Connelly - Bridgewater Hill
From the "Happy Gannets" exhibition last month

The Idea Of North

Modern jazz vocalisation evolved from Eddie Jefferson through to Lambert Hendricks & Ross, Manhattan Transfer and the more recent Nylons and Take 6. Following the tradition is Australia's premier *a cappella* quartet "The Idea of North".

Trish Delaney-Brown (soprano), Naomi Crellin (alto), Nick Begbie (tenor) and Andrew Piper (bass) are jazz graduates of Canberra and Adelaide conservatoriums, who possess eclectic musical tastes. Their latest CD: Evidence, certainly displays an impeccable standard of musicianship, with flawless harmonies and crisp production.

"A cappella is sometimes thought of as being minimalist, but when you can sing and entertain like The Idea Of North a band would just get in the way - such musicianship! "

- James Morrison

8 pm, Friday, 8th April
CEMA Arts Centre

Adult \$25 Conc \$20 Student \$10 Family \$60



Ashley Oombagooma - Wandjina

BPM (Beats Per Minute)

Tap. Vocals. Bass. Guitar.

Beats Per Minute is tap dancing like you've rarely seen.

Performed by an ensemble of seven of Australia's most talented musicians and dancers including creators: Nathan Sheens (Tap Dogs, Steel City, SHOUT!) and Glyn Gray (Moulin Rouge, SHOUT!), Beats Per Minute is a fusion of exhilarating tap set to an original score. Beats Per Minute is renowned for dynamic stagecraft coupled with dance that is raw, fresh and invigorating.

Saturday 16th April, 8 pm
Portland Civic Hall