

The Performer

Newsletter of the Australian National Eisteddfod Society



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Editor's note

Because we have only recently started to put out a regular newsletter, (resuming after many years' silence) there is no established pattern. Most of the Eisteddfod events happen in the second half of the year, so there are likely to be more news items in the second half. However, don't forget the highly successful Bands and Orchestras event which is held in May, and is well worth attending.

We hope that this newsletter will remind people that competitions other than those in which they have a direct interest, are held throughout the year, and that to attend even one session of each competition gives us a glimpse of how much talent there is in our city and how much hard work goes on behind the scenes.

This letter is emailed to all current members. We have standardised renewals so that membership subscriptions will run out at the **end of March 2010**, and a letter will be sent by email to all existing members inviting them to renew membership. All current members are eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting which is held in the middle of March every year. Your membership keeps you in touch with what is happening throughout the year, and from our side, having a good membership makes for a stronger voice in our application for funding.

Calendar for 2010

All divisions excepting for Instrumental have held their competitions for 2009. Instrumental has been delayed for various reasons, and will be held next year. Details will be announced on the website and in the newsletter.

The Bands and Orchestras Division for 2010 will be held from May 27 to 30. The event will have a similar format to that of previous years:- Rock Bands, Primary School Bands and Orchestras, Jazz Bands, High School Bands, Concert Bands and Brass Bands. The syllabus has been drafted and will be published this year.

Dates set so far

Division	Entries close	Division dates
Bands and Orchestras	30 March	27-30 May
Choirs	30 June	13-14 August
Piano	3 July	31 Aug – 4 Sept
Speech and Drama	TBA	TBA
Singing	TBA	TBA
Instrumental	TBA	TBA

Eisteddfod Office

The Eisteddfod Office is staffed part-time by Mary-Helen Davidson. Leave messages on the answering machine if she is not in the office. Phone 62497421.

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New committee members

We are fortunate to have a number of new volunteers to serve on the committee and in the various divisions. These people will provide a valuable service to the Eisteddfod. As their positions are formalised by the committee their names will appear on the website. We are very grateful for the rejuvenating influence of new people.

The Governor General, Her Excellency Mrs Quentin Bryce, and Voluntary Organisations

On Friday 2nd October our President, Dr Rhian Parker, attended Government House for an early evening event to which the Governor General invited representatives of all the organizations in the ACT for which she is Patron. Dr Parker reported that it was a good event and that she met a lot of people from the voluntary sector. We are privileged in having a Governor General who is genuinely interested in the Arts, and who values the people who keep voluntary organisations going.

Speech and Drama

The competitions were held over four full days: 14th-17th September, starting with the younger sections at the Waldock Hall, Baptist Church, Kingston.

Our Adjudicator was Mrs Esmay Thomas from Sydney who is an experienced Speech & Drama teacher and examiner, having taught at Loreto College, Noramhurst for 20 years. She is also on the committee of the Parramatta Eisteddfod and a member of the Australian Speech Communication Association. Mrs. Thomas gave very encouraging adjudication reports and commented on the good standard of dramatic work being performed by Canberra students.

The memorized poetry sections are always popular with students performing in all age groups commencing with the 6 years and under verse. Two very confident 4 years olds captured the hearts of the audience. The 8 years *Poem for two* proved highly entertaining. Good numbers of students took part in the upper primary and high school sections. Jim Graham won the 12 years Art of Speech Trophy out of a field of 15 competitors.

Other sections proving popular were *Original Verse, Character solos, Australian Prose* and *News Reading*. In the Drama Festival, groups had to broken into A & B sections for dramatic

scenes. Torrens Primary School hosted the Thursday Sections which included Speech Choirs from second and sixth grades and Duo mimes. Torrens was triumphant with brilliant presentations conducted by teacher Mrs. Heather Swift. Other schools taking part were St. Bedes, Red Hill and St. Judes, Holder. Praise was given by the adjudicator for the work being done by teachers and students.

The 13 years & over sections were boosted by students from Blaxland High School. Teacher, Aaron Warmold brought a busload (45) of talented performers to Canberra on excursion. They took part in *Group Drama, Improvised Team Performances and 16 years & under monologues* at our Eisteddfod. The Open sections included religious readings, Australian verse recitals and the Bard Competition (Shakespearian works).

This year's Bard is Ylaria Rogers from Canberra, a budding actress who recently performed in *Sense and Sensibility*. The beautiful shadow glass Catherine Frohlich Perpetual Trophy was passed on to Ylaria by her Speech and Drama Teacher and the 2008 Bard, James Scott. The runner-up Bard is Jenny Oliver and third place was awarded to Jeevan Nadanakumar.

The presentations took place at Tuggeranong Arts Centre on Thursday evening 17th September wrapping up a very successful eisteddfod. Thanks to all the volunteer helpers and sponsors for 2009.

Convener: Janelle MacDonald

Singing

The Singing Division held a successful Eisteddfod 21-26 September. The sessions from Monday to Friday were held at the Austral Asian Christian Church in Isaacs. The Final of the National Operatic Aria Competition was held in Llewellyn Hall on Saturday 26th at 7.30pm.

Our adjudicators Anne Robinson, Lucy Bermingham, Professor Janet Delpratt AM and John Pringle AM with their vast experience in their related fields as directors, performers and teachers were able to give valuable feedback to the competitors.

There was a high standard of singing across all ages from the juniors to the open sections. While adjudicating the open sections, Professor Delpratt commented that she had not heard such singing from a large number of singers in the one competition for quite some time, which resulted in a large number of highly commended certificates being presented.

Competition was very strong in the Oratorio, Lieder and National Operatic Aria heats and the results were as follows:

Oratorio : 1st Alexander Lewis, 2nd Lauren Zolezzi,

Lieder : 1st Anna Whitehead, 2nd James Roser, 3rd Alexander Lewis.

Alexander Lewis went on to win the *National Operatic Aria Competition* with John Longmuir 2nd and James Roser 3rd.

First place winners of all the sections can be found on the website.

Results of 2009 Raffle

The raffle was drawn during the interval at the Aria Final at the Llewellyn Hall on Saturday 26 September. Winners were announced and also contacted individually. The Raffle raised over \$6500, and thanks to the generous donation of prizes, this money will go to the Eisteddfod.

1st	No. 01619	C. Nattey	LOEWE 32" CONNECT LCD TV worth \$500) Donated By Duratone Hi – Fi Pty Ltd
2nd	No. 01407	A. Murphy	Akimate iPod Hi-Fi System valued at \$65
3rd	No. 00711	B. Pretty	Tivoli Songbook valued at \$400
4th	No. 08284	Helen Catchatoor	Cadry's Carpet Voucher valued at \$300
5th	No. 00723	Chris Davis	Davis Wheeler Music Voucher valued at \$200
6th	No. 03504	Nicky Gielen	2 x Canberra Symphony Orchestra Llewellyn Series Concert tickets valued at \$126
7th	No. 01340	Judith Bauer	2 x Pro Musica Concert Tickets valued at \$100
8th	No. 06356	J. Mangione	2 x Artsong Concert Tickets valued at \$100
9th	No. 01127	Rhian Parker	ABC Limelight Subscription valued at \$80
10th	No. 08412	Trish Levick	Aubergine Restaurant Voucher valued at \$75
11th	No. 06355	P. Clinch	Early Music Enterprises Concert Tickets valued at \$50

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