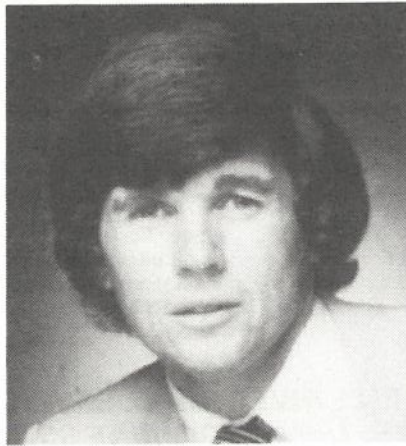


Our Thanks to Michael Edgley International

The Michael Edgley International Group is regarded as a market leader in the presentation of live entertainment in Australia and New Zealand. The Edgley organization of theatrical interests commenced in 1920 following the arrival in Australia of Eric Edgley and Clem Dawe.

Michael Edgley took over the control of Edgley and Dawe Attraction Pty. Ltd. in 1967 on the death of his father. Michael Edgley has led MEI's interests into nearly every conceivable form of live entertainment. He was awarded an MBE in 1973 for his contribution to the Performing Arts and was responsible for



Michael Edgley

the first formal cultural exchange between Russia and Australia, and the People's Republic of China and Australia.

The backbone of MEI's productions has been the presentation of family entertainment. They have offered wonderful support to EASE over 1988 with tickets to: The Moscow Circus, Wife Begins at Forty, The Royal Ballet and The Siberian Cossacks. The company always seems to have an exciting lineup of productions. Torvill and Dean are tipped to appear in Melbourne soon.

Arts Access and the EASE staff would like to thank Michael Edgley International for its assistance.

Write to Us

BENEFITS BEYOND THE LOUNGE ROOM TELEVISION

Brunswick Unemployment Group is a Community Youth Support Scheme operated under Federal and community funding, aimed at supporting young people between the ages of 15 to 25 towards employment through skills programmes, support and referral services, and recreational activities.

Many of the young people we come into contact with come from highly disadvantaged backgrounds, such as homeless young people, those with language and literacy difficulties, and because of cultural and/or economic reasons do not have the chance to access recreational activities which require a financial outlay.

The benefits of people attending events beyond the lounge room television are fairly obvious, and this coupled with the extreme lack of recreational alternatives available for young people in Brunswick, gives an immeasurable amount of value to such a programme as EASE.

Over the past year, young people from our Centre have been able to attend such events as national basketball matches, VFL football games ("...barracked for the Bombers for years but never seen them till now..."), contemporary through to classical theatre, various sporting events, and rock concerts featuring favourite overseas and local artists; the latter being so expensive now that the cost is effectively denying access to most people on fixed incomes. EASE has allowed this access, which not only has allowed young people to be entertained but has also fostered friendship between individuals within the groups which have attended arts events; friendship which may not have occurred within a more formal environment.

Victor Sant
On behalf of Brunswick Unemployment Group Inc.

RECREATION WORKERS TAKE A BITE OF THE CARROT

A group of ladies from three different homes, in Heidelberg and Caulfield, gathered together to see *Romeo and Juliet* at the Playhouse Theatre. It was a great example of how programs can be linked together to support each other, giving fulfilling results. In this case, a combination of the EASE project, the new Recreation Program for elderly people in Heidelberg, and the Anglican Homes Recreation Program.

The many opportunities provided through the EASE project has livened up the social calendars of many residents in the Anglican Homes. Negotiating a trip to the city during the day for a concert or play was sometimes considered all a bit too difficult. Surprisingly, with some encouragement through a reduced price ticket and assistance from other people, it can be done, and what's more, be a most enjoyable, trouble free experience.

I myself am startled at suddenly how many people from our homes are participating in Melbourne's entertainment. Was it really just the price of tickets that held me back from arranging such occasions? No, it is rather, I think, the EASE project that has given recreation workers and staff at various places, some incentive to beat the problems that face disadvantaged people in the pursuit of recreation. Thank you EASE for your enthusiastic and persistent encouragement in our work. I suddenly have a whole new aspect to my job which means I never have an idle moment.

Dianne Hutchins
Recreation Officer
Anglican Homes for Elderly People

A SAD ENDING

Dear Chris,

I went to see the production "Seven Little Australians" last Wednesday. It was very good and we wish to thank you for the tickets, without which we could not

have seen the play.

It had a very good theme about a family with an army captain and his wife and seven children. The ending was very sad when one of the children, Judy, dies.

But the play was very enjoyable.

Wishing you all the best
Sonia Tanbakis and group
Willsmere Hospital

BEEHIVE AND A CAKE STALL
The Schizophrenia Fellowship Women's Group has a small but very enthusiastic membership and we meet weekly at the Drop-in Centre in South Yarra. We are constantly on the look-out for new and interesting outings and a couple of months ago we decided to have an evening out at the theatre.

The only hitch seemed to be cost (nothing new to those of us on a budget!) but we overcame this by having a stall outside the Prahran Town Hall selling homemade goodies. The proceeds went a good part of the way towards purchasing tickets through EASE which were made available to us at an excellent discount. We headed off to see the sixties musical "Beehive" and for some of us this was a bit of a nostalgia trip as we listened to the music of the Supremes, Petula Clark, Janis Joplin and many others.

Not many of us admitted to knowing the songs, but there was a great deal of do-wopping and sha-na-naing on the way home that night.

Women's Group
Schizophrenia Fellowship

REMEMBER

EASE tickets come and go. Negotiations are underway all the time. Many events never make it onto these pages - for example: Siberian Cossacks, NBL finals, Little River Band. If you want to know what you are missing out on give us a call.

Ease

Newsletter of Arts Access Society Inc. - EASE Supplement

ARTS
Access

September 1988

The Comedy Plays Host to Seven Little Australians

Over recent months the Comedy Theatre has played host to David Reeves production "Seven Little Australians". Based on the novel by Ethel Turner the production is presented by James Hardie Industries and Seven Little Australians Pty Limited. It has proved very popular.

Seven Little Australians covers a few months in the life of a family whose father, a widower, marries a young girl not much older than his eldest daughter. It explores the efforts of that family to come to grips with complicated relationships.

The story and musical have wide appeal and the Producers have provided EASE with a good ticket price. Because of this and the fact that the Comedy Theatre provides a wider choice of seating than most theatres we have been busy with countless bookings. The show cannot go on forever so if you want to see wonderful entertainment please give us a call.

Arts Access and EASE thank the producers for their support. EASE staff would also like to put in a plug for staff at the Comedy Theatre who have been so understanding and helpful.

VENUE NOTES COMEDY THEATRE

(Corner Exhibition and Lonsdale Streets, Melbourne)

Seating capacity: 1,008

Wheelchair capacity: 16 (very tight squeeze)

Wheelchairs together: 8

Wheelchair areas are on either side of the stalls (next to fire exits). Stalls seating is sloped not tiered, if you wish to transfer there are many suitable seats in the central and side aisles. Once you are in the theatre, and if you have a stalls seat, there are no steps.

Parking

No special parking is available. All parking in the area is metered or within

WRITE TO US

This newsletter relies on your support. Write to us and let people know your thoughts on issues that matter. Others will benefit from your experience.



a station. If you require parking close to the theatre consider contacting the Melbourne City Council. They arranged, not long ago, a place outside the Comedy for a group using EASE tickets. Ring John Euston on 658 9800 ext. 2214.

Wheelchair Access

One step into front entrance, Exhibition Street. As you move away from Lonsdale Street the step gets

smaller but never disappears. The Comedy can provide a steep ramp into a side entrance off Lonsdale Street. Notify the theatre box office on 662 2644 when buying a ticket or before leaving for the show if you wish to use this entrance.

Toilets

No "disabled" toilets. The Comedy was built in 1928 and there is limited access to toilets.

VOLUNTEER WITH EASE

We are looking for volunteers to assist with ticket collection. If you have a few hours per week and would like to be involved with EASE please give us a ring on 699 8497.

EASE HOTLINE: 699 8497

4F
790.19605
EAT

EASE aims to assist people with special needs to attend Melbourne's mainstream entertainment by providing information, social support and incentives.

EASE also aims to encourage promoters and venue management to ensure physical access is feasible at all events within the Melbourne metropolitan region.

INFORMATION HOTLINE: 699 8497
advice about venue accessibility, what's on and booking procedures.
10.00am-4.00pm Monday to Friday.

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER:
Information, articles, letters and announcements of tickets available through EASE.

TICKET SCHEME:

Low cost tickets to many entertainment events. We would like to acknowledge the generosity over the past two months of the following: Melbourne Theatre Company, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Victorian State Opera, Michael Edgley International, Victorian Arts Centre Trust, CATS Productions, Seven Little Australians, Victoria Soccer Federation, North Melbourne Bera Giants Basketball Team, Victorian Netball Association, Caulfield Arts Centre, VFL, Sandy Beach Community Arts Centre, Nunawading Arts Centre, Nostalgia Productions, Rock Entertainment Touring, Australian Pops Orchestra, Don MacKay, Greg Hocking and Tim Woods, and Phillip Christianson (Supercross).

EASE STAFF:

Chris Milton, Co-ordinator
Barbara Milne, Administrative Assistant
Jeanette Pierce, Secretary/Bookkeeper

VOLUNTEERS:

Liz Smith
Christine Duncan
Tracey Willis
David Eustace

EASE FUNDING:

For the initial twelve month phase of its operation EASE was funded by the Department of Sport and Recreation, the Myer Foundation, Lance Reichstien Foundation and Coles/Myer Ltd. Extra funding has been generously provided by The Minister for Sport and Recreation.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ring 699 8497, or write to: EASE
C/- Arts Access, 109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne 3205

Write to Us

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MINISTER

On behalf of Interchange Family Program North West Region we would like to congratulate the Minister responsible for having the foresight to fund such a program and to the wonderful staff who cheerfully carry out this program.

Since our newsletter has advertised your ticketing service we have had a number of enthusiastic responses and positive feedback.

As you are aware families who have a child with a disability find it sometimes difficult and/or too expensive to have an evening out. They have to employ specialist care for their child, they have added travel costs if taking the child with them eg. taxis, they often lack up-to-date information on access (which your program clarifies). Your program through its reasonable ticket prices offsets these added costs and makes going out less of a financial burden.

THAT STRANGE EASE VOICE



Francis Sanders, Official Office Stirrer

Phoned EASE lately and been answered by a strange voice? A couple of EASE users have already met or heard of me when I've been out hiding behind Chris or sending them letters. Well let me introduce myself. I am Frances Sanders and I am here at EASE as a student placement (or official office "stirrer").

In the past 6 weeks Chris, my taskmaster!!, has set out varied tasks for me to do either in the office or as an independent worker interviewing people about what they want from EASE. This is where you may have seen me or will see me in the future. My task is to develop EASE's other roles and try to aid individuals using EASE in overcoming problems faced when seeking entertainment. Or simply to let everybody know that there is a whole variety of entertaining possibilities to try. Entertainment is a great area to apply the motto "you never know until you try it".

More specifically my role is to set up an educative program which will

Our host families who are for the child on a voluntary basis also benefit from your program by having greater access to a variety of entertainment and realistic costs enabling themselves and their own children to participate in greater integrated social opportunities with the cared for child.

The child benefits most of all through these varied cultural activities and interactions.

Although a number of families are still hesitant of using your service we feel it is only a matter of time before they feel comfortable about doing so.

Our Committee of Management would like to support further development of this scheme to include greater variety of children's performances and to see this scheme evolve into many more creative ventures.

**Committee of Management
Interchange Family Program North West Region Inc.**

Photo: Susie Dickson

eventually be taken out to residences, workplaces and the community to provide recreation in particular entertainment. Going to see CATS or the basketball is not just a one night stand. It is something from which you gain experiences and a reference for learning. It will also educate the community that people who use EASE are not simply a minority group they are all individuals with the same needs.

As you can see EASE is not just a ticketing system and like all the staff here, it is multi faceted.

I am also organizing an EASE conference, the idea of which is receiving a tremendous response. Unfortunately though it means a lot of people will have to miss out this time. But keep your ear on the grapevine we're working on alternatives!

If you have any questions to ask I would gladly respond and appreciate your ideas.

**Frances Sanders
Office Stirrer**

EASE Depends On Your Calls

EASE has a constantly changing supply of tickets. What you see here is only a selection. Please ring us for more details. If you want a current list of tickets available through EASE send us a note with a stamped self addressed envelope. Don't limit yourself to either the tickets mentioned on this page or what we can offer over the phone. Find out what is on and ask us to negotiate. We need to know what you most want to see.

EASE is building an extensive mailing list and our ticket sales are increasing. Because of this our postage costs are rising. It would help us if you could, when paying for tickets, send us a STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.

Over the past month EASE has distributed tickets to:

VFL, THE SIBERIAN COSSACKS, LITTLE RIVER BAND, SEVEN LITTLE AUSTRALIANS, ANDREA CHENIER, NBL FINAL, CATS, THE MELBOURNE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, OSIRIAD, THE GRAND OLD DAYS, VICTORIA VS AUCKLAND NETBALL

Tickets 699 8497

Don't Miss Your Opportunity To Enjoy:

If you want to know about these please ring. If you are interested in any other shows, concerts, events, or sporting fixtures please ring and tell us.

SPOLETO

EASE has tickets to many Spoleto shows, including dance, concerts, theatre and opera. A few of these shows are listed here. But you will have to be quick, Spoleto runs its course on the 17th September. There are also free concerts and exhibitions, ring us for more details.

ABORIGINAL ISLANDER DANCE THEATRE

Dates: 8pm September 12, 13, 14, 15.
1.30pm September 14.

Venue: Melbourne Town Hall

Cost: \$10.50

Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre takes a whole range of 'conventional' dance styles and infuses them with the input of Aboriginal culture, creating a sense of community commitment, powerful emotion and a telling reminder of the strength of Aboriginal culture. The company will present a series of new works with which they have recently toured Europe.

CHAMBER MUSIC LUNCHTIME SERIES

Dates: 1.00pm 5th-16th September (Monday-Friday)

Venue: Melbourne Uniting Church, Collins Street (There are steps at the front and a couple of steps at the side entrance)

Cost: \$7.50

This concert series has been coordinated by American husband and wife team, violist Scott Nickrenz and flautist Paula Robison. Each informal concert will be introduced by Radio 3LO's well known presenter, Mary Adams.

MOLIERE

Dates: 8pm September 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15.

2pm September 3, 10, 17.

Venue: Studio 1, Key Studios, York Street, South Melbourne

Cost: \$10.50

"Moliere" is presented by Anthill.

Written during Stalin's reign by Mikhail

Bulgakov, a Russian with a "playful genius", the play pointedly examines the difficulties Moliere himself faced in attempting to stay in favour with his courtly patrons whilst retaining the creative freedom to harshly satirize society of the day.

SOUTH PACIFIC BALLROOM DANCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Date: 8.30am September 18 (Sunday)

Venue: Sports and Entertainment Centre

Cost: \$10.50 (all day ticket, general admission)

Limited number of tickets available. The title speaks for itself there will however be more than Ballroom dancing on this day. You are likely to see the tango!

FOREIGNER

Date: Tuesday 20th September

Venue: National Tennis Centre

Cost: \$18.70

Limited number of tickets available, dependent on public demand.

REMEMBER, DON'T FORGET, DON'T LET IT SLIP YOUR MIND, KEEP IT IN THE FOREFRONT OF YOUR MIND, TIE A KNOT IN YOUR HANKY, KEEP IT UPPERMOST IN YOUR THOUGHTS: this is just a selection. Ring us for more details. We will negotiate for you. EASE tickets are only available through our office. Ticket agencies will not release tickets unless advised by EASE.

WE WILL BE NEGOTIATING FOR:

THEATRE SPORTS, ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW, AUSTRALIA! AUSTRALIA!, BRYAN FERRY, LEO SAYER, FOREIGNER, THE MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY'S NEW SEASON - AND ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SEE!