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FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Members,

At last, we can give you notice of the events which we have planned for this year.

Firstly, **Dress Rehearsals**: There will be two – 1. *Aida on May4th at 10.30am in the State Theatre*. This is a new production in partnership with Milan. It was very well received in Sydney but with our larger stage will be even more spectacular here! 2. *On May 11th at 1.30pm in the State Theatre*, a rarely seen Verdi production of Ernani. I am told this is a very lavish production and a wonderful chance to see something new to us so enlarging our knowledge and supporting the O/A company. As usual, Verdi is always good for a tune.

Due to The Ring going to Brisbane in spring, we will not have a spring season in Melbourne. As we have had two Ring Cycles, we must wish Brisbane all the best for their opportunity to enjoy this production.

Please note the new PO Box above. This is very important. Due to all the hold ups we are enduring in being able to use the glamorous new offices, we still cannot get to our equipment. So, we have this temporary - but vital - PO Box.

Enclosed are the booking forms: 1. Morning Melodies, 2. Christmas in July, 3. Dress Rehearsals. Please return to the above PO Box as soon as possible.

To our PP members, please return unused drink vouchers. These will be replaced with current vouchers.

On a sad note, two noted singers have died. Robert Gard of memories a great performer and Taryn Fiebig at only 49 years, a great favourite of today and very sadly missed.

In future planning are an Insight (hopefully before Aida), a spring lunch, and an afternoon for members to view the new offices. The committee are looking forward to seeing old friends again. We hope as many members as possible will join the programme as planned. Wishing good health to all.

Best wishes.

Valma Allaway, OAM

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PRESIDENT