

THE Artful DODGER

July 2015

1.n.roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist. 2.n. printed handbill full of tidings from the WMI&AA with a closing date for contributions of 25th of each month to Ken Virtue on 0411238377 or kenjvirtue@gmail.com



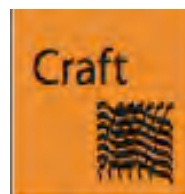
COOL ONE ACT PLAY SEASON A HOT SUCCESS

Warrandyte Theatre Company's recent One Act Play season was widely regarded as yet another local theatrical winner.

A short editor's commentary and more photos from Stephen Reynolds are published in this edition.



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MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND
ARTS ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED



Contact : Rosemary
Climas 9844 2154



We have had a very exciting June. Firstly, many thanks to Colin McLean for building the shelves to carry the personalized clay containers. This is a great step forward towards keeping the Studio clear of many packets of clay – thanks again, Colin.

The Wednesday Potters held a luncheon on the 10th to jointly celebrate the birthdays of Jan Smidt and Rene Fagan. It is not often that a group has the privilege of celebrating a 97th birthday of one of their very active and creative members.

On 23rd Amanda ran a Sponge & Pointillism workshop. We had a wonderful day. The sun poured through the Studio window highlighting the bursting wattle buds. Can Spring be far behind? Seven painters not only donated \$100 towards “Volunteers in Nepal” but they took home some outstanding masterpieces of Pointillism.

Finally, to cap off a wonderful June, Janita and her partner won the Foursome Handicap Plate at the Kew Golf Club. Well done, Janita.

Third Term dates are Tuesday July 14th and Wednesday 15th.May I remind you that fees are due on these days.

Contact: Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206



There is still no further news about reinvigoration of our Painting Group.

Any interested members should contact WMI&AA President David Tynan on 9844 5727.

NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA!

“Dance like no one is watching”

Now every Wednesday 7-8 pm in the Hall – Entry \$5



From the Warrandyte Theatre Company President

A big thankyou to the committee for accepting my nomination as president. I am really looking forward to being back at the helm and to helping the Company develop and capitalise on the momentum created by and harnessing the energy of the Youth Theatre Group and continuing the good work of the current members of the wider group.

A huge thankyou to the outgoing president Daryll for his hard work over the past two years. The role is often a thankless task. Much of the routine and mundane falls onto the shoulders of the president and we are all grateful for the time, energy and commitment that Daryll brought to the role. Under his watch the Trybooking system was introduced and has proved a great success.

Expanding the committee and roles of the committee is a priority for the remainder of 2015 and into 2016. I hope that we will be able to encourage more of our active members to step forward and join the committee and contribute behind the scenes as much as on stage.

Thankyou of course to all committee members for renominating to continue our work.

Congratulations to the teams that have put together the One Act Plays this year. I hope you will agree with me that once again we have shown our versatility and skill at putting on three varied plays and managing to find a common thread, ie "Cool" with which to promote them.

Spring/Summer Production

A reminder. If you haven't heard ... At the end of the year we are staging "*The Brief Encounter*" – stage adaptation of the Noel Coward film.

With the inclusion of eight of Coward's songs this play should have wide appeal. It also demands terrific actors and we will be looking for the following:

- 1 male actor to play a role in their 30s
- 1 female actor to match (they become lovers)
- 1 male actor to play role in 50s-60s
- 1 female actor to match ... They will be required to sing and dance too.
- 1 male actor to play role in 20s who as a bonus will be a musician to boot
- 1 female actor to match ... both roles will also be required to sing and dance
- 2 or 3 additional performers who will be: ushers, cameo actors and importantly, musicians on stage to accompany the 8 songs.

Auditions for these roles will be on 2/8 at 4 pm and 4/8 at 8.15 pm

Rehearsals will commence as soon as possible thereafter.

If you have any questions about "The Brief Encounter" please call or email me

Thanks

Adrian Rice

WTC President

Email aderice@tpg.com.au

Telephone 9844 1528

COOL ONE ACT PLAY SEASON A HOT SUCCESS

This year's season, billed as "3 Cool 1 Act Plays", offered delightfully different pieces from the dramatic to the farcical.

Susan Rundle directed *A Special Occasion*, written by Sydney playwright, Suzy Wild. There are three generations played by Noelene Cooper as Gran, Bill Mitchell as John and Anne Italiano as his daughter, Rachel. Each struggled to live with the repercussions of a family suicide that occurred eighteen years previously. Susan ably directed this small fractured family to peel back the layers of their coping mechanisms for such a traumatic life event. All three actors contributed strongly to this moving life story to ultimately redefine their family ties. Solid stuff!

Alastair Rice directed *The Blizzard*, by the ever-popular pen of David Ives, and artfully managed this short play's transition from 'normal' to 'dramatic tension'. The plot involved Neil, a screenwriter, played by David Creedon, & his partner, Jenny, played by Lisa Upson. This relaxed couple are preparing for a cosy dinner party in a cabin in the woods during a blizzard when pair of mysterious guests arrive. The menace quickly mounts and Farhad Zaiwal (Salim) & Angela Heine (Natasha) were very credible threats to the overwhelmed couple. Both Lisa & David moved together cleverly for support as they tried to fathom whether any trust could be allowed towards the stories of their unexpected visitors. This was a lovely, well-executed tight production.

Arctic Fevers, written by Seaton Kay-Smith and directed by Alan Cornell was a comedy highlight. Clever use of simple props and sound & visual effects kept the hilarity tumbling wildly, including a delightful song & dance number that included Eloise Thompson on keyboard.

Tony Clayton was outstanding as the charismatic Captain Edmonsonson, and was very closely supported by Jon Italiano as his misanthropic offsider, Elwood Fife. Trapped in an Arctic wasteland in a humble explorers' tent, this crazy duo were dogged by snowstorms, polar bears and each other in an avalanche of absurdity. This fun-filled package should find much Judges' favour for the remainder of the OAP productions.

Good luck to the WTC for all the upcoming presentations at the various One Act Play country locations!

Ed.



Above L-R : Noelene Cooper, Bill Mitchell & Anne Italiano in "*A Special Occasion*"



Above L-R : Farhad Zaiwal menaces David Creedon, while Angela Heine puts the wind up Lisa Upson in *"The Blizzard"*.



LEFT :

**Jon Italiano,
(armless),
Eloise
Thompson
and Tony
Clayton
ponder
mysteries in
the box of life
during the
recent
production
of *"Arctic
Fever"*.**

**See also front
page photo of
Jon & Tony.**

**A big 'bravo'
to all OAP
cast & crew!**

Diamond Valley Singers present

The Merry Widow From Bluegum Creek

Music by Franz Lehar. New book and lyrics by Frank Hatherley. Orchestrations by Stephen Gray. By arrangement [David Spicer Productions](#)

The Merry Widow is unchallenged as the most popular Operetta of the 20th Century. Now the soaring, pulsy, sexy, music has been lifted by a magnificent, hilarious new libretto with a distinctly Australian flavour. This new work is so good it has been endorsed by the estate of Franz Lehar.

FRANK HATHERLEY, writer and BBC TV producer, has completely re-written the Merry Widow. Instead of it being the Pontevedrinian Embassy in Paris, it is the newly installed Australian Embassy, in Paris, the first from the new Commonwealth in 1901.

It is very, very funny. The Embassy is told that if Anna, the young widow of a Wool Baron, does not marry an Aussie, the new Commonwealth of Oz will go broke.

PLEASE NOTE NO MUSIC IS CHANGED. WE CAN'T IMPROVE ON THIS.

Directors: Lynne Counsel & Graham Ford

Choreographers: Julie Wright & Narada Edgar

Music Director: Ian Lowe Performed with the [Eltham Orchestras](#) conducted by Mary Wright.

Performance Dates : Friday July 3 @ 8pm Saturday July 4 @ 2pm Sunday July 5 @ 2pm Wednesday July 8 @ 8pm Friday July 10 @ 8pm Saturday July 11 @ 2pm & 8PM

Tickets \$30 adult \$25 concession/health care card holders/full time students (does not include seniors card) \$10 children \$25 group of 10+
Check Trybooking for details.



Scenes on the Yarra - Apply Now!

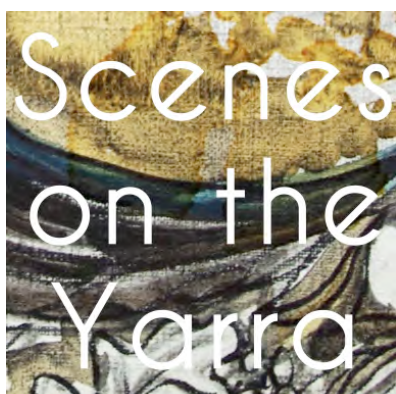
Are you creative, love the Yarra and enjoy community projects?

“Scenes on The Yarra” is a unique environmental arts project involving artists and creatives, historians, scientists and indigenous knowledge keepers in a shared learning journey, inspiring artists to create a site-specific group performance and exhibition.

Devised as part of a series of 7 events along the Yarra from headwaters to the sea. This project at Docklands will be a part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival and the public outcome will be held on World Rivers Day - Sunday 27th September. Led by Jeminah Reidy, an experienced arts facilitator and scenographer who has a passion for the Yarra River and the important roll it plays in the lives of Melbournians. She has a wealth of experience in projects involving group artistic collaboration and the environment.

We hope one of those local community artists is you!

Visual artists, performers, musicians, dancers, puppeteers, projection artists, or other creative beings are all welcome!



The workshop will run during September, Friday 18th (12.00-6.30pm), Saturday 19th (10am-4.30pm) Sunday 20th (12noon - 4.30pm) Friday 25th (12noon -7pm), Saturday 26th (10am - 4pm) Sunday 27th (12noon - 10pm including set up, public event, pack-up and feed back session over a shared meal). Workshops will be held at the Library Hub Docklands and will include materials, insurance, advertising, and delicious shared meals.

How will the project work?

Local knowledge holders, e.g. naturalists, historians, indigenous historians, scientists, will share insight into the local landscape at Docklands and the Yarra River with the artists. This part of the project will start the creative juices flowing!

This will be a wonderful opportunity to work on site at Docklands and embracing the Yarra River. Working together, sharing ideas and inspiration, Jeminah will assist the group to develop those ideas into a range of artistic

responses. Creating music, dance, sculpture, performance, or art installations – ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE! The group energy will guide the experience, and the outcome.

On the final day of the project, an audience will be invited to walk along the North Wharf, and experience the magic the artists have created.

Selection Criteria:

Demonstrated ability and interest in working collaboratively with artists from diverse backgrounds and practices.

Demonstrated understanding of experimental arts and willingness to participate collaboratively in a workshop that has a focus on the active exploration of ideas via performance and/or interaction.

Working in unconventional spaces.

Hard working- long hours.

Demonstrate a clear understanding of the project and how you may participate.

Preference will be given to artists and performers from the local area.

What does it cost?

The entire workshop is FREE. There is a stipend fee of \$200 for each artist and lunch is provided daily.

Funded by City of Melbourne, Melbourne Water and the Yarra Riverkeepers Association, this project will tell a story of the natural and built environment, the Yarra River and Docklands in a unique way, enriching both participants and audience alike.

For further details contact Jeminah on 0414 419 182

WMI&AA VP confirmed

Adrian Rice has been elected Vice President of our Association for 2015/16 following his return from overseas, Adrian will be busy in his first year of retirement as he has also taken on the role of President of the WTC.

Bravo, Adrian!

“IT’S ALL IN THE TIMING” 25,26 SEPTEMBER 2,3 OCTOBER

Warrandyte Youth Theatre present an evening of short comedic plays by David Ives.

Directed by David Tynan, they showcase the comedic writing of David Ives and the sublime acting talents of our local youth!

Plays include : Sure Thing
The Philadelphia
The Mystery at Twicknam Vicarage
Arabian Nights
Variations on the Death of Trotsky

Enquiries to David Tynan on 9844 5727