

THE Artful DODGER

MAY:2007

1.n. loveable young pickpocket from Lionel Bart's "Oliver!" 2.n. printed handbill full of tidings from the W.M.I.&A.A.. with a closing date for contributions of the 17th of every month to Alan Cornell on 9844 4995 or alan@commercialventure.com.au

As this year's fabulous forensic frivolities demonstrated yet again, the Follies are a sustainable force in the Association's activities. Appropriate then that 2008 will bring the Sustainable Follies to the Hall, with an admirable commitment to early planning already shown by incoming Directors Howard Geldard and Darren Bowers. Which is good news for those loyal first-night attendees who sometimes have to be a little forgiving for a show that is barely cooked. I suppose it has always been thus. I recall my first appearance with the company in School for Scandal directed by Bob Karl. Each night a little more of the set appeared, a few more volumes were painted into the bookshelves and a ruffle or so was added to someone's costume.

The Follies are also largely to thank for the steady improvements made to our beloved Hall over the years, with a much coveted projector the next likely improvement in the wind. It's a much healthier Hall than the one discussed on page 3.

And the Pottery studio has a new heater! It's not quite as glamorous as it is, but I'm sure no less welcome.

Good to see the Music nights back last month. Let's get a bit of support happening to encourage Pat and John in these most enjoyable soirees.

Can I also encourage any contributions to the Dodger by way of reviews, reminiscences, opinions, photos and any gossip about our members. Deadline is the 17thish of each month.

Oh, and last but not trivialist, how about putting in an appearance at the AGM on 4 June! You might even consider joining the Committee to share the load with Ken, Jack, Rosemary, Pat, Marjorie, Pauline, Noelle, Louise and Graeme who have each put in so much for so long.

Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the annual general meeting is scheduled for Monday, 4th June at 8.15pm at the Hall, following a brief ordinary meeting. The purpose of the meeting (which is usually brief) is to receive reports from office bearers and group representatives, elect a committee and office bearers and review fees and charges. Please attend as our required quorum is quite large.



Hall Hire

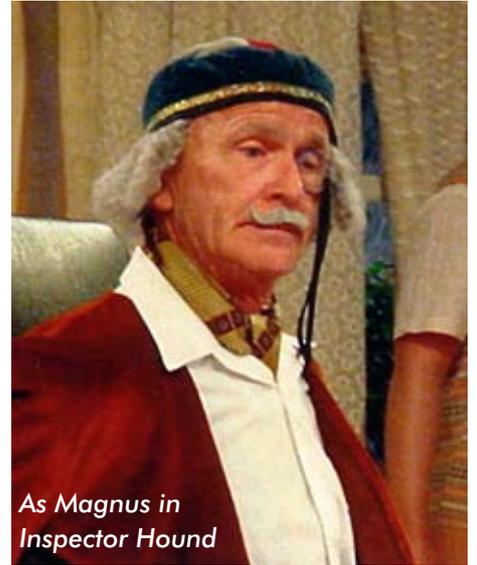
As well as being the focus of our Association activities, the Hall hosts many other community groups and the occasional birthday, reception and other functions. A couple of days/nights have become available for regular hirers and Graeme Breadmore can help with times, costs etc on 040 844 3368.

Dates to remember

Saturday, 2nd June 8pm
Music Night @ Youngs, 38 Bradleys L.

4 June 8.15pm
AGM @ the Hall

22, 23, 29 and 30 June
One Act Plays @ the Hall



*As Magnus in
Inspector Hound*

Hans Dulke

The Theatre Company lost one of its own the Monday before last with the passing of Hans Dulke after a tough battle with cancer.

Hans acted in Follies, one act plays, straight dramas, comedies and films including a memorable portrayal of Arnold Schwarzenegger in a Follies film by Sam Marsden, rippling his considerable muscles as he came out of the fish shop saying "I'll be back!"

Hans often stepped into the breach when we were short of male actors and was an enthusiastic and likeable guy to be with.

Hans came to Australia from Germany as an 8 year old. As a phys ed teacher, he was something of a fitness fanatic, playing and coaching football (Terry Wallace was one of his charges) and belonged to the Donvale Tennis Club for 40 years who named the bar after him. He was also an elder at the Warrandyte Uniting Church - a nice balance.

Hans was 65 with 3 children.



Group reports.

Pottery



Thankyou yet again to Doug and Jan Smidt for giving up a precious morning to help repair The Potters Folly. Doug arrived heavily encumbered with a welder and all the other bits and pieces needed for weldong on the spot. Hopefully by taking most of the weight from the top of the arms

the hands will now be easier to fix in place. Thanks to Ceri for set of new hands. One does feel a bit like God creating new appendages when they are needed.

Good luck to Noelle who goes to Hospital for a cataract operation this week.

Lastly welcome to Teresa Lim and Lisa Williams who have joined our pottery group. There is plenty of room for new students.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Painting



Our Bargain Sale went well, we had a queue of keen clients for the morning and a steady flow of visitors through the rest of the day, sales were most pleasing.

We had a fun day painting last Wednesday in the Hall. Sandra sat for us, dressed in a bright red hat, with purple and pink clothing, we were all most inspired and vowed to do more life studies in the winter weather.

Congratulations again to the Theatre Group for their great performance in the Forensic guests on our table thoroughly enjoyed it.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775 Gill Beddington 98441203

Music



Informal music nights resumed for 2007 on the first Saturday in May at the Andersons. It was a pleasant occasion, but our gathering was very small. There were a few apologies but we had anticipated others attending.

We have decided to make a regular time slot so that people can mark it in their diaries ahead of time - always the first Saturday of the month. The next one will therefore be on Saturday, 2nd June (8pm) and will be at Tony and Pat Young's - 38 Bradleys Lane, Warrandyte. The Youngs have a very large and comfortable room, so there is plenty of space to lounge around if not playing or singing. Their place is also very easy to find in the dark (the entrance has light coloured walls on each side which are well lit) and easy for parking. It is on the right hand side before the service roads begin, where the road is level and fairly wide. There is even space for one or two cars at the bottom of their drive for those who find walking up and down hill difficult, or who have babies and baby paraphernalia to unload. Talking of babies, it would be great to see some families with children who are learning to play an instrument. The Youngs have a grandson who has recently started to have violin lessons so I hope he will be playing. The aim of these nights is to share and support

each other in a relaxed atmosphere. While it can feel intimidating to play or sing in front of people, the more you do it, the easier it becomes. Playing in groups also reduces the anxiety.

Pat Anderson 9844 3442

Theatre



At the May meeting of the Theatre Company Committee, David Tynan was elected president, replacing Adrian Rice. Raine Dinale is Secretary, Liz Long Treasurer and Darren Bowers, Craig Willis, Phyl Swindley, Bill Connolly and Simone Kiefer complete the committee. Adrian, Noelene

Cooper and Jack and Lee Stringer have indicated their ongoing support.

The One Act Plays are cast and into rehearsal for performance dates of June 22, 23, 29 and 30. With the Forensic Follies over it is now safe to visit Joan at the Old Bakery Bookshop and book tickets! The Maroondah OAP Festival on 14 July and Macedon OAP Festival on 21,22 July will provide other performance opportunities.

A September production is scheduled for 27, 28, 29 September and 4, 5, 6 October. Bill Connolly has suggested *Lipstick Dreams* and a reading of the play will be held on August 2nd and 5th. There are four female and three male roles.

Plans are already afoot for 2008 Follies, with a working title of the "Sustainable Follies", to be directed by Darren Bowers and Howard Geldard. The plan is to get cracking earlier than usual and develop scripts by Christmas. Good luck with that guys!

Other activities being planned are a Wine and Cheese night, further play readings and Impro Workshops.

David Tynan 9844 3442



Gustav, while not a brilliant scholar, was a gifted portrait artist.

His fame grew and soon people from all over the country were coming to him for paintings.

One day, a beautiful young woman pulled up to his house in a stretch limo.

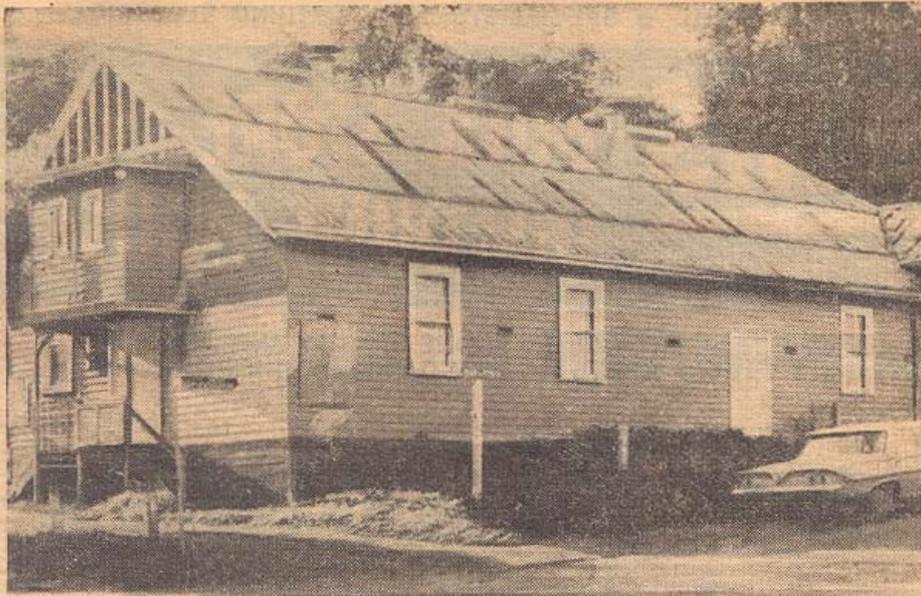
She asked Gustav if he would paint her in the nude.

This was the first time anyone had made such a request.

The beautiful lady said money was no object; she was willing to pay \$50,000.

Not wanting to get into trouble with his wife, Gustav asked the lady to wait while he went in the house and conferred with his missus.

In a few minutes, he returned and said to the lady; "Ya, shoor, you betcha. I'll paint ya in da nude, but I'll haff 'ta leave my socks on so I'll have a place to wipe ma brushes."



● The Mechanics Institute Hall. This weatherboard building has served the people of Warrandyte for more than 50 years. It may have

HALL MAY GO

“MECHANICS” FUTURE HINGES ON MEETING

The fate of the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall, above, could rest on a meeting between councillors from the City of Doncaster and Templestowe and the Shire of Eltham, on July 22.

At this meeting a recommendation will be made that both, one, or neither council offer financial support to the hall's committee of management.

The weatherboard hall has stood on its Mitchell St., Yarra St. site for more than 50 years.

It has served the people in a radius of two miles from the Warrandyte post office supplying a meeting place for local organisations, a headquarters in time of emergency and hall for many social gatherings.

But now its future is in doubt.

Unless the committee of management can get some financial help the hall may have to close.

Repairs are urgently needed, but funds are limited.

The secretary of the

committee of management, Mrs Anne Dickson, said that repair costs could be as high as \$3500.

APATHY

The hall needed new foundation stumps, roof members, exterior and interior painting and drainage.

Mrs Dickson said that her committee was not “terribly happy with the situation at present”.

She was particularly critical of the people of Warrandyte and their apathy toward the hall.

“Unfortunately the local people do not have enough interest in the hall”, she said.

“The main groups that use it now are Warrandyte Arts Association and the Buffalo Lodge.”

“And it would be a shame to see these organisations put out because the hall was not in a fit state to continue.”

Mrs Dickson said that people took the hall for granted.

EMERGENCIES

In time of emergency, such as bushfires, the hall becomes a headquarters for major relief organisations and the fire brigade.

“Extensive damage was done through misuse, during the last bushfires, and the committee of management had to foot the repair bill”, Mrs Dickson said.

“People always come running in times of trouble, but after that, the hall is forgotten.”

Mrs Dickson was sure the people of Warrandyte would regret it if the hall had to close.

She said that if her committee received more support from local groups, it could then afford to spend money on it.

OPEN TO ALL

“It's the only hall of its size in the area, and if we don't get help, we will have to have an incredibly large fund-raising drive to raise the required money”, Mrs Dickson said.

The hall is available for people both north and south of the Yarra.

But while the people north of the river have taken advantage of the Mechanics Hall in the past, two northern organisations and the Eltham Shire Council seem to be in favor of building their own hall on their side of the river.

The Eltham Council has deferred a decision on a hall in North Warrandyte pending the result of the July 22 meeting.

The North Warrandyte Residents and Ratepayers' Association has told council it is in favor of a community centre which includes a hall.

DISAPPOINTED

The North Warrandyte Council Reserves Committee of Management has told council it is disappointed at the deferment of a decision on a new hall.

We were reflecting over lunch the other day on how much the Association has achieved in restoring the Mechanics Hall to its present impressive condition.

To sit in the heated, now air-conditioned comfort of the well presented venue we enjoy today is a far cry from earlier times. That we can do so is the result of much work from many members, magnificently led in my memory by Doug Macrae and Ken Virtue. But the battle started well before, as this article from the Dandenong Nes in 1976 reports.

The NWRCM claims suitable land and funds are available for the construction of a hall; there is a need for a hall in the area and the cost of a hall will be decreased by incorporating it in the initial community centre building project.

Cr Viv Rush, of Doncaster and Templestowe, said that he personally supported council aid to the committee of management for repairs.

He said he regarded the hall as an important facility in the area and one which bears public responsibility.

community hall. Although council was negotiating for land for a community centre near Harris Gully Rd., this may not come to fruition for some time.

If the hall was repaired, it would provide better amenities for the elderly citizens and the youth club, who are at present using the Warrandyte Football Club rooms.

But Cr Rush also felt that the people on the north side of the river should also help in supplying money for the repairs to the hall.



And those magnificent men, Doug and Ken, up to their overalls in muck and coffee, in the great Hall Restoration of 1991.



Chatting Up

What
chatting up
the women again
some men can't help themselves
rising to the challenge
he bows elegantly courteously
not women but ladies
his bent wrinkled body
gracious

Warrandyte old timer
buckling Gladstone Bag
Grand Hotel to Forbes Street
his Yarra Street daily
greeting as we young women passed
the shadow of his once smart suit
Chatting Up

The Age Thursday April 26, 2007

Obituary: David Halberstram

Journalist/Author (10-04-1934 to 23-04-2007)

The GI was then, not a sort of goggled monster in padded armour, but a cheerful fellow chatting up the girls and distributing candy not as a matter of policy but out of plain goodwill.

McPhee Gribble Reprinted 1986,1987,1988,1989
Penguin Books Australia 1990 Warrandyte elibrary

Arnold Zable (2002) The Fig Tree

Sandwiches

for funerals and meetings
sandwiches
mop up grief and boredom
that splendid creation
stuffed these days unlike
Warrandyte Primary School
vegemite sandwiches
my 1960's children's lunches

avocado was for the adults'
dinner party sophistication

peanut butter sandwiches
daily fare for
cardiac physician in Bendigo
once of Warrandyte and India
a childhood reminiscence perhaps

Graduation Ceremony

Bachelors Masters Doctors Diplomas
not a sandwich in sight
to reward this endurance feat
crusty rolls and stuffed souvlaki
The Earl of Sandwich
would not recognise

Wikipedia: Earl of Sandwich; John Montague,
Fourth Earl (1718 - 1792) popularised the sandwich
circa 1762, exact circumstances subject to dispute
peanut butter: Dr. John Gault MRCP, Bendigo,
once swinging from the trees over the Yarra River at
Warrandyte

Graduation: Deakin University
Monday 16 April 2007

Over It

I wept and wailed
as our famly home of forty years
was inspected and sold
new owners at
45-47 Brackenbury St. Warrandyte
and suddenly I'm
Over It

I obsessed about split infinitives
wrote letters to the Editor
corrected friends
and suddenly ungrammatically
text messaging I'm
Over It

Isn't he handsome
she glowed in her simple way
he sot embarrassed
she slammed doors at the fizzle
of her widely proclaimed love
suddenly across the floral plastic
she confided he's just a friend
not a boyfriend
Over It

Jeremiah 9:10 I will weep and wail for the
mountains

How Proust can change your Life Picador 1997
p.102 Louis Ganderax, literary editor of the Revue de
Paris 1906 awarded himself the title "Defender of the
French Language" leading him to complain publicly
if he spotted a past participle in the wrong place or a
word falsely applied in a published text
chapter 8 How to be happy in Love
p.187 the wisest person in Proust's book, a certain
Madame Leroi, who, when asked for her views on love,
curtly replies, "Love? I make it often, but I never
talk about it."

Dear Evie,

Each month I receive WAA's The Artful Dodger lovingly folded by Evie's hands. To enable her to devote more time to her winter knitting I would like to have my newsletter posted by email to (address supplied but not published in line with the Artful Dodger's stringent privacy policy, a copy of which cannot be viewed because it is private). Thankyou Evie for past snail mail sent newsletters. Happy knitting.

Best wishes,
Sandra Finger Lee

Join Sandra and give snail mail the size 8s by sending your email address to alan@commercialventure.com.au

