

THE Artful DODGER

AUGUST:2011

1.n. roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. 2.n. printed handbill full of tidings from the W.M.I.&A.A. with a closing date for contributions of 25th of each month to Alan Cornell on 98444111 or alan@commercialventure.com.au

Boring

In the recent One Act Plays, Hugh (looking remarkably like Ken Virtue) pointed out that the maintenance of a historic hall is never done. Last month, along with Phil Dyer and Bill Connolly, he trod the boards in the kitchen and found that termites had already made a meal of them. And were busy eating into more. The guys spent four days replacing much of the kitchen floor and several boards in the main Hall besides. The pest man is coming this week to spray the sawdust out of them, which may have to be a regular exercise over the years ahead.

Ken was also spotted in the Pottery Studio modifying a hand rail and holding back the waters when a tap washer collapsed.

A bit of maintenance on the website is also underway courtesy of Robert Black. See his work at www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au.



Pottery



Congratulations to Alan upon the launch of his book "The Gentle Art of Tossing". A great read, finished it already.

Our mighty sculptures are nearing completion. Thanks to Mand and Robyn for collecting the limestone for us. Thankyou too to Ken and Karen (our budding plumber) who arrived with shifting spanner last week.

Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206

Painting



Our bargain sale is coming up - Sunday 28th August, 2011 10am - 4pm. Painting members to have their works in the Hall between 9am-9.45am, paintings framed, unframed. Oils, watercolours, drawings and pastels. paperworks to have mounts.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775

Theatre



One act plays

Well we have finally come to the end of the OAP season for this year. On Sunday, July 24th we all headed up to Gembrook for the Gemco OAP Festival and enjoyed their wonderful facilities and

hospitality. All 3 plays were on the last session on Sunday afternoon so most of us stayed for the adjudication. We received many nominations and awards which seemed a fitting end to the season (see list on page 2). Many thanks to all those who gave their time and talents including Kerryn Wood on sound, Denise Farran on lights and a special mention to Jo French and Naomi Oosting for their outstanding efforts stage managing and producing.

Almost Maine

Our main play for the year, Almost Maine, now has a Director! We are pleased to announce that Phyl Swindley is the Director and Adrian Rice has put his hand up to produce. I am looking forward to the finished product knowing it is in excellent hands. Auditions are on Thursday, August 18th at 8pm and Sunday, August 21st at 2pm.

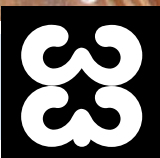
Follies 2012

The Director of next year's Follies, John Milburn-Clark is already hard at work and has called a brainstorming night to be held at the hall on Friday, August 5th at 8pm. The theme is all about aliens and space, so bring a plate to share and a bottle of fine wine along with all your good ideas.

Lisa Upson 9844 1436

Rosemary Climas 9439 3206

Craft



Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association Inc 0009153X

www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au



The WMI&AA doesn't have a "Writers' Group" (yet), despite our Association's role to 'promote all forms of the Arts within the Warrandyte community'. However, you would have thought that most of the town had turned up at on a winter's night the Hall recently to celebrate the book launch for Alan Cornell's *The Gentle Art of Tossing*. The old Hall was an appropriate venue for our latest Life Member, and it welcomed Alan's family, friends and writing colleagues to witness a special moment in Alan's life.

His publishers, Black Pepper Publishing, were there of course, and their principal, Kevin Pearson, was first to acknowledge Alan's blend of skills as he noted how much Alan had impressed them with his storytelling ability. He introduced well-known sportscaster, "Smokey" Dawson, as Master of Ceremonies for the evening who duly entertained the crowd with his memories of Alan being "a very good bowler" at Carey Grammar, and the fact that he had thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the book. He shared a number of amusing local and international sports moments from his special inside perspective as a commentator. After Smokey officially launched the book Alan took the stage to the calls of "speech, speech" (and didn't he look comfortable on such well-travelled territory!).

It soon became clear that the process of writing and publishing a book is not for the impatient or the faint-hearted, as Alan described the challenges he finally overcame to arrive at his special moment. He thanked Jan for "believing in him" and never wavering in her encouragement for him to finish his first book. He also acknowledged those who had helped him along the way, before reading a page or so in the traditional manner of an author at the launch of his book. It was no accident that such a page chosen at random moved the assembled crowd to outright laughter and applause, such was their enjoyment at hearing Alan's comic magic in real time.

Afterwards, those who weren't queueing at the table to buy autographed copies were lining up at the bar or quaffing a slice of local pizza. Others lined up for the dart board to 'toss' a few gentle feathered projectiles. It was truly a great night for Alan, and for the Arts!

Ken Virtue

OAP GONGS

MACEDON OAP FESTIVAL

Winners:

Best Male Support Actor: Ken Virtue

Best Female Support: Naomi Oosting

Adjudicator's Special Award: Louise Phelan, David Creedon

Nominations:

Best Female Lead: Simone Kiefer

Best Male Lead: Robert Black

Best Female Support: Noelene Cooper

Best Production: *Decline and Hall*

Best Director: Bill Connolly
for *Decline and Hall*

DANDENONG RANGES OAP FESTIVAL

Winners:

Best Female Actor:

Lisa Upson

Best Male Support Actor:

John Milburn-Clark

Adjudicator's Award:

Naomi Oosting

Best Production Runner Up: *Good Grief* directed by Phyl Swindley

Nominations:

Best Male Support Actor: Ken Virtue

Best Female Support Actor: Simone Kiefer, Noelene Cooper

Best Male Actor: Robert Black, Tony Clayton

Best Ensemble Production: *Decline and Hall*, *Soap Opera*

Best Director: Phyl Swindley for *Good Grief*

Bill Connolly for *Decline and Hall*



TEN MINUTES! TEN PLAYS! \$1,800 in Prizes!

Eltham Little Theatre's "Quickies" is now in its third year.

\$1,000 Best Script \$500 People's Choice Award \$300 Youth Award

Submission deadline Sunday 13th November 2011

Performances 24th - 26th May 2012

Enquiries: 10minquickie@gmail.com or Paula 0422 954 837

Visit www.elthamlittletheatre.org.au for submission form.

MILL BOYS at Collingwood Underground Theatre

A group of sawmill workers in WA struggle for individuality and intellectual expression. Adapted from James Ricks' Vogel-nominated novel '11 months in Bunbury'.

27 August to 10 September. Tickets : greentix.com.au or at the door.

