

THE *Artful* DODGER

APRIL:2012

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



CHAIRS GO WALKABOUT

A quick check before the Follies revealed that about 16 of our new(ish) chairs have disappeared! The council have lent us sufficient to get bums on seats for the Follies, but if anyone can throw any light on this bizarre mystery do please let us know.

FOLLIES SUCCESS NO ODDITY

Jeremy Loftus-Hills, who has supplied the fine photos included here, will give his Diary critique of the show in due course, complete with pros, cons and controversies. The Dodger, however, is unfettered by any sense of impartiality and can only rave about the sheer spectacle of the production and the brilliance of its performers. A view we're confident most of the audiences would endorse.

So where do we start?

The countdown commenced in a chorus of glowing faces and shiny ducting, the backdrop rose in a haze of smoke and flashing lights, and a rocket designed by Jock and built by Datsun blasted us into a whole new world of laughter and song.

It was life, Jim, but not as we know it, as Follies virgins Emily, Georgia, Claudia, Alex and Sue exploded on stage with infectious energy and a precocious professionalism that energised the whole cast. And led it through Leah's choreography which was as exciting as any I can remember in a Follies, taking the older brigade to the brink of cardiac arrest.

The other welcome addition was Dick Pengelley, whose smoking guitar electrified the music side of things.

All of whom made second-timer Lawrence look like an old hand, even out-hamming Bill Connolly.

In fact I'm tempted to mention everyone, so why not! The amazingly spicy Noelene, the consummate Ken, Tony who has developed into a likewise consummate performer, Lisa's heavenly vocals, Phyl's assured characterisations, Lea who would rip off her nose to spite her face rather than disappoint her many supporters,

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Group reports.

Pottery



It is with deep concern that I ask "Why are the Manningham Council bureaucrats destroying our beautiful and unique village?"

Not content with the continual sound of jack hammering and general road works as they put down and dig up bus stops they are now booking

the potters for parking in front of the studio on the very parling apron which Doug Macrae and I went to council to obtain. The imposition of a time limit was never discussed. Potters require more than one hour to create a worthwhile project.

Maybe if the entry to the hall car park could be improved some of the problem would be eliminated.

WMI&AA caters for all ages, many of my potters are unable to cope with the steep entrance to the car park. Plus small cars scrape as they enter Mitchell Avenue. After the parking officer booked us the following week we parked elsewhere only to notice that all the morning the aforementioned parking apron lay empty.

Is this good enough? NO!

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

Craft



FOLLIES SUCCESS *(continued)*

Darren's show-stopping brilliance, Bill C who gets applauded just for coming on stage, Bill M's inspired theatricality, Lou who starred in and out of the closet, evergreen granny June who's still prancing like a polo one, master of versatility Richard, Jan-Louise getting laughs with the worst Follies line ever, Jennifer who's so polished she shines, Simone who is the new pinup at Templestowe Orchards, and the spirit of Sara who shared our wonderful journey.

The music, produced with legendary Jackmanship, soared at the speed of sound. Sketches were either so well penned or so well performed they were laughable. And while we still find it hard to trim acts as tightly as we should, we have to leave some room to improve on this year's triumph!

Audience favourites from those I spoke to seemed to be Time Warp, Dr. Who, Star Trekking and Major Tom. Oh, and the starry-eyed duet. And Emily's song. And the rabbit one. Keep asking round and you'll probably cover the whole show.

Ultimately, of course, the accolades for such a great Follies must go to the directors, John and Daryll, who conceived the whole mission and landed it with all the skill of a NASA operation.

Supported of course with quiet efficiency by Gail, Adrian and a stellar crew at either end of the hall.

On the other hand, Barnaby Joyce thought it was crap.



Theatre



The year is going by so fast! It seems only a week ago I was writing the March Dodger notes and here we are again.

The Follies is the only thing in town at the moment and it is proving to be a huge hit with audiences. As a cast member it is sometimes

difficult to see the humour in a sketch, especially after the 30th rehearsal, but the first performance in front of an audience can really restore your faith. Our audiences are amazing. They always come to the show ready for anything and are always very supportive of our efforts to entertain and amuse. Well done Daryll, John, Jack, Adrian and Gail. It's been a fun show and the cast are all having a ball both on stage and backstage. The show is a sellout and we hope you have all booked your tickets.

With the onset of Autumn comes the realization that 'One Act Play' auditions are just around the corner. Adrian has been busy organizing a selection of plays to be available for the auditions on April 26th. So if you are interested in being part of another successful OAP season, either behind the scenes or in front, please join us for the auditions. We would also like to encourage anyone who is interested in Directing to please contact me on the number below. OAP's are the perfect training ground for first time Directors to cut their teeth and there is a good variety of plays to choose from.

Coming up on April 19th is the AGM for the Theatre Company. I would like to invite all those who are involved in the company to attend. The committee is a small group of busy, hard working thespians who come together once a month to discuss all the various important issues and make vital decisions about the future direction of our Theatre Company. You don't need to sign up but it would be good to know how the committee operates on your behalf. So please keep that date in your diary and we hope to see you there.

Lisa Upson 9844 1436

Painting



Congratulations to Pat and John Anderson for their very successful Open Garden weekend. The weather was kind, the colours in the garden stunning, all visitors looked most satisfied with their plant purchases from the Garden Nursery.

We had a very successful day painting at the Convent -Children's Farm Grounds in Collingwood. Ten members arrived all very eager. The weather was a little blustery but we managed to get shelter in the Rotunda and behind bushes. The architecture was quite a challenge, a change from our usual.

Last Wednesday found us huddled around the Hall, Kitchen table after a sudden change in the weather. We took on the task of painting/drawing each other - that created a few chuckles, don't think any of them will make the Bargain Sale.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775



"Earth laughs in flower"

- Emerson

I spent a delightful few hours at the opening day of Anderson's Open Garden on Saturday 17 March. Weather was Gorgeous. Still, with sunlight enticing rich, bright floral hues and greens from the vast garden paradise. All admired by a crowd of gardeners, plant lovers and collectors. Pat had potted over 300 varieties of salvia varieties and related types. Other donated items for sale were from Aumanns nursery - potting mix; Warrandyte State Nursery - indigenous plants. All selling like hot cakes !! Pat's husband, Jon, gave enthralling talks; our local musicians provided a captivating soiree to patrons refreshing themselves with homemade cakes, slices and muffins, tea and coffee. The vege garden was definitely worth a visit esp. to check out the huge artichokes. CFA volunteers attired in bright yellow tirelessly directed the constant flow of traffic - deserve a mention for their dedication to directing traffic with humour. Too good to miss. Hope you were able to enjoy it too.

Thanks to Sandra Lee for the report and pics.

