

# THE Artful DODGER

**March 2016**

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 [kenvirtue@gmail.com](mailto:kenvirtue@gmail.com)



## Vale Rae Danks

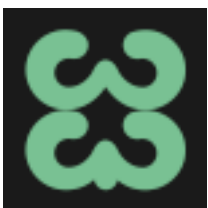
Our Association lost a much-loved member with the recent death of Rae Danks.

A lovely memorial service was recently held in the Hall, and many people from yesteryear were there to pay their respects.

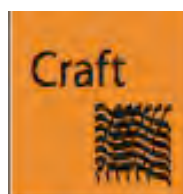
It was so nice to see many familiar friends from the earlier days of the Theatre Company.

See Denise Farran's speech on page 5.

Pictured (left) is Rae with her collection of Gus McLaren's pottery that she kept in this glass display case to avoid damage from her cats.



**WARRANTYTE**  
MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND  
ARTS ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED



**Contact : Rosemary  
Climas 9844 2154**



It is great to welcome back all last year's potters back to pottery this year, plus Des, our new member. Friday sees U3A would-be-potters so we have almost a full house. Already some interesting new projects have begun. John is creating a large fish/seaweed panel to hide the workings of his pool. This will involve both iron & ceramics. Ceri has begun her large figure and Jan is pressing on with her garden mosaics. Manda is making tiles for her new pond. Being a workshop as against a formal class means all types of interesting things are happening all at once. Very stimulating !

**Contact: Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206**



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



Hi everyone

The Follies is in full rehearsal swing. You will be in store for another action and music packed show with many newcomers among old favourites on stage with some very funny and original sketches and songs. Lawrence and Richard with support from Adrian and Matt respectively are working hard to bring it to the stage.

You may have noted that the dates do not coincide with the festival this year. We took the decision to align it with Easter dates rather than have production disrupted by Easter. It means we can actually promote the show at the Festival Parade and Alan, outside the Community Centre can announce that the show is in a week's time instead of the usual "if you didn't get a ticket, forget it!" Opening night is on 31st March.

We are reading One Act Plays this week and we will announce the titles of those chosen soon. If anyone is interested in directing, please step forward.

The end of the year production may change as we are finding it problematic getting the musicians to stage Brief Encounter. Watch this space but 1984 is in the mix.

**Adrian Rice**

**WTC President**

**Email** [aderice@tpg.com.au](mailto:aderice@tpg.com.au)

Hello Music Lovers,

We have another wonderful evening of music for you to follow on from the fabulous Light Quartet that performed in February.

Our next concert **Saturday March 12th** is an evening of **Classical Cello with Chien-Hsiu Ong and Alister Barker**. They will be presenting for us a wonderful evening of solo and duo cello works by Bach, Barriere, Haydn and Mozart.

Chien-Hsiu and Alister are both award winning musicians and I am deeply honoured to have them perform for us in Warrandyte.

Please read the attached poster for more details on Chien-Hsiu, Alister and the concert.

### Upcoming concerts

So that you won't miss any Warrandyte Music concerts here is the calendar to date and please book early to secure your seat!

**March 12th** - Classical Cello Recital - Chien-Hsiu Ong & Alister Barker

**April 30th** - The Light Quartet - a dynamic, energising evening of compositions inspired with improvisation and masterful skill - David Jones - percussion, Matthew Arnold - violin, viola, Michael Johnson - harp and Evripides Evripidou - guitars.

**May 28th** - Michael Johnson, harp & Matthew Arnold, violin with the Tudor Choristers. An evening of renaissance music and voice not to be missed.

**June 18th** - Free Reign CD Launch - Free Reign is the creation of Tony Leonard and is one of the most beautiful, mesmerising, joyful and fresh CD's I have ever heard. The music and lyrics speak of a new expression of Australian Landscape and bring the life of the Land into Sound and Soul.

I look forward to seeing you at one, or many, of our fantastic musical evenings and I deeply thank you for supporting us to grow into being.

Warm regards,  
Lisa Pear

**NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA!**

*"Dance like no one is watching"*

**Every Wednesday 7-8 pm in the Hall – Entry \$5**

Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association Inc 0009153X

[www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au](http://www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au)

# CIRCLE SINGING

Inspired by the work of Bobby McFerrin and Rhiannon...

Circle Singing is...

*a playful and deep  
group improvisation practice  
for creative, musical,  
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Primarily vocal and musical, it also  
extends and weaves in  
explorations of movement,  
language and story*

CONNECT

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PLAY

We welcome...

*voices at any level to engage  
from where YOU are, while also  
challenging you to expand and  
meet your own edge.*

**Beginners:** *learn to open your  
voices and creativity in a safe and  
supportive space.*

**Advanced singers:** *deepen  
your expressive and  
improvisational skills.*

EXPLORE

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WARRANDYTE MECHANICS HALL  
MONTHLY SATURDAYS IN 2016:

JAN 23

MAR 5

MAY 14

FEB 20

APR 9

JUN 11

2:30-4:30PM..\$15..ALL WELCOME!

Find out more: [www.circlesingingmelb.com](http://www.circlesingingmelb.com) Contact: [kirstymorphett@gmail.com](mailto:kirstymorphett@gmail.com)

## **Speech from Rae Danks' memorial service held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Our memorial for Rae is in a most fitting place, the Mechanics Institute, the home of the Theatre Company and the venue for her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

I consider myself to be a very fortunate person to have had Rae as a dear friend.

I first met Rae at the Warrandyte Theatre Company in 1993 during the production of "Noises Off". The Play was directed by Brian Laurence and Rae was his producer. When the show was up and running, she helped with the backstage crew consisting of Gail McCrae, Sue Davies and my self. Our major task was to turn a two-story set of a house, inside out. Quite some feat! I can still see Brian sitting in the hall saying he was going to time us. Well we thought we had gone like the clappers only to be told it had taken over 40 minutes. Not acceptable!!!!

We just looked at one another and burst into laughter. We did perfect our set changing and managed to get it down to 10 minutes. It took great teamwork to achieve this and it had to be done no less than twice for each performance. It was the beginning of a wonderful friendship.

Rae went on to produce for other directors and as the productions and the years rolled on she wore many hats; publicity, front of house, scouring the country side with Gus McLaren at the wheel of his van picking up furniture and other props, not to mention the litres of paint that most of us have experienced spreading on sets, floors, doors and walls. Rae and I used to comment on how much more appealing it was painting at the hall, when we knew there was a door or flaking window frames at home screaming out for paint!

The following is a list of the productions Rae was associated with:

*1993 Noises Off*  
*1994 Follies Open Season, Habeas Corpus*  
*1995 Best of the Follies*  
*1996 Bowl Em Over Follies*  
*1997 Mr. Muddle and the Magic Rabbit, Fund Raising Follies, Visiting Hour*  
*1998 Competitive Tenderness*  
*1999 Sensitive New Age Follies*  
*2000 Princess Gorgeous in Neverland, Follies of the World from the Year Dot Com, One Act Plays, Surprising Old King Cole*  
*2001 Waking Eve*  
*2002 The Real Inspector Hound, The Perils of Pauline, One Act Plays, Jubilee Follies*  
*2003 Life After George*  
*2005 Accidental Death of an Anarchist, The Hey Nonny Nonny Follies*  
*2006 Honour, Not the Commonwealth Games Follies*  
*And also Gulls and Così [not sure of years]*

She didn't half love her theatre company and many of us will have this wonderful image of Rae [in the early days] with her long hair piled on top of her head in a bun. As the evening cast party wore on, and the cask was drained, Rae's "bun" would slide to the side according to the amount of alcohol consumed. When it was down and over her ear, we all knew a good night had been had.

At about this time Rae would catch your eye and in a slightly slurred speech quote one of her favourite sayings, "you wouldn't be dead for quid's would ya."

I was able to spend some special time with her at the La Trobe Regional Hospital. When I spoke to her and said I was coming to visit she said "I'm not much fun to be with" A typical Rae response.

I combed her hair with Gus's comb, held her hand, and sat quietly, but close by as she breathed through her difficulties. Rae rarely complained about her lot in life.

When I was looking for her comb in her hospital bag I came across the usual, nightdress, slippers, but there .... the eternal optimist ... a packet of fags!!

I did say to her where and when did she plan on smoking these. She said "that's problem number two!!"

We said our good byes - "Luv ya", she said.

Having a friend like Rae is about sharing, about remembering their characteristics and their stories.

Who could forget Rae's ability to remember phone numbers. She was like a walking White Pages. She could rattle off any number of contacts phone numbers, but her two favourites were Nardee and Rasa Malaysia. And her ability to spot a spelling mistake at a hundred paces! These skills stood her in good stead during her times at the Diary Newspaper.

Rae regaled in telling the story of the day Gus arrived at her house, theatrically swinging the gate open at the top of the steps, stood, shovel over shoulder and announced to Rae at the bottom of the steps "I've come to bury the dog"  
"Too late" she said, Denise has already done it!

I buried two of her dogs Sheba and Max at 334 Ringwood /Warrandyte Rd and her little Milly dog is at Hall Rd. Then there was Dave the goose with one eye and Roger the cat that developed diabetes. Rae loved her animals. She is survived by numerous cats and dogs, now in Cameron's care.

Any friend of Rae's would know what a conversationalist she was when it came to a phone call. It's not surprising that she enjoyed her telemarketing position with Guide Dogs Victoria.

I remember a particular period in which Rae rang me every night for about 6 months to check that I hadn't been swallowed up by a depressive illness. I am eternally grateful to her for this act of kindness. Such a generous person with her time.

Not to be forgotten are our Friday night drinks at the Warrandyte Café. One particular session took a hilarious turn when Rae announced that "an elephant in a trailer" just passed by!

Of course there was the usual "What are you drinking or what's in that cigarette"  
"Can I have what you're having"? No one else saw the elephant.

Weeks later it did transcend that an "elephant" had passed by! It had been a prop used by the Indian Government to promote the next Commonwealth Games. It came to rest in the garden of local sculpture Malcolm Laurence.

The turning point for Rae shifting to Churchill came about when her little cottage was severely flooded. It was the last straw for the cottage. As Rae said "it needed to be bulldozed," but it was her home. It was her shelter for many years.

The evening of the flood I was on my way to a work reunion. A very distressed phone call from Rae had me turn around and help dig my friend out. And I do mean dig! It looked and felt like most of the screenings from the road had cascaded down her steps and piled up at her front door. The front door was wedged. Rainwater was still gushing down so I dug a trench away from the front door and diverted the stream of water to under the house.

Finally the SES arrived, the rain had stopped and we could get the front door open. Not a pretty site inside the house.

They surveyed the situation and said there wasn't much they could do. They did ask Rae "who dug the trench?" My friend Denise, Rae replied. I was asked to join the SES on the spot!

What Rae and I laughed about afterwards is all of this happened while I was dressed in my finery and good evening shoes. Ruined!!

Life in Churchill was very good surrounded by her family and a home that kept her warm, dry, and cool. She would say to me she had to pinch herself that she ended up with such a wonderful house. What's more there were roses and fuchsias in the garden and her favourite rose bush a Double Delight! Rae has carved her name in our hearts. Remembrance is all I ask.

Thank you. **Denise Farran**



Warrandyte  
Theatre  
Company

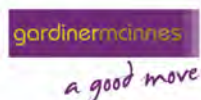


# follies Goes Viral

March 31, April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 @8PM

Book at: [trybooking.com/KKOS](http://trybooking.com/KKOS)

Mechanics Institute Hall, Tickets \$25, Concession \$20





*Rae Danks with her much-loved cat, Roger.*



**You are Invited to an Exhibition of  
Works by the Montsalvat Studio Artists**

**17 March - 8 May 2016**

Montsalvat is delighted to host an exhibition showcasing the work of our Studio Artists. Artists and artisans have worked at Montsalvat since it began in the 1930's. Surrounded by that rich tradition, artists still work in studios at Montsalvat today. Their mediums of choice include jewellery, glass, textile, ceramic, wood and paint. Through a wide variety of techniques and explorations our artists form these materials into unique works. The result is an exhibition with intriguing diversity which echoes the richness of our history.

Montsalvat, Barn Gallery, 7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham 3095  
**Exhibition Opening: Thursday 17 March, 6.30pm - 8.30pm**  
**All welcome, light refreshments provided.**

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Award winning cellists

# Chien-Hsiu Ong & Alister Barker

warmly invite you to a dynamic evening performance of works for solo and duo cello by Bach, Barrière, Haydn and Mozart.

**Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm**

(Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start)

**Warrandyte Mechanics Hall**  
Cnr Yarra St & Mitchell Ave. Warrandyte



**Alister Barker** studied at the Royal Northern College of Music with cellists Kim Dinitzen and Karine Georgian. Since returning to Australia in 2005, he has performed frequently in Melbourne. Alister has broadcast live on ABC Classic FM and 3MBS FM and attended the Australian National Academy of Music between 2007 and 2009 as a student of Howard Penny and Nicholas Bochner. Alister performs as a casual musician with Victorian Opera, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Raga Dolls Salon Orchestra, The Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and as a member of the Monash Academy Ensemble. Passionate about music education, Alister has taught extensively both the UK and Australia. Further details about Alister can be found at [www.alisterbarker.com](http://www.alisterbarker.com)

**Chien-Hsiu Ong** studied at the Detmold Hochschule für Musik and the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Her primary teachers were cellists Christoph Rocholl, Marcio Caniero and Karine Georgian. Chien-Hsiu was awarded Taiwanese Young Musician of the Year in 2003 and has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in Taiwan, Hong Kong, the UK, Germany and Australia. An experienced orchestral musician, Chien-Hsiu worked with The Hallé and Opera North orchestras in the UK. Between 2006 and 2008 she was a member of the Hong Kong Sinfonietta. Since moving to Melbourne in 2008, Chien-Hsiu has performed extensively as a chamber musician and has broadcast live on 3MBS FM. Chien-Hsiu performs frequently as a casual musician with Orchestra Victoria and very much enjoys teaching the cello. Further details about Chien-Hsiu can be found at [www.ongcello.com](http://www.ongcello.com)

**Bookings: please call 9439 0662, [warrandytemusic@gmail.com](mailto:warrandytemusic@gmail.com)  
[www.twilightmusic.com.au](http://www.twilightmusic.com.au)**

**Tickets: Full \$28, Conc. \$21, Child \$10 (under 18)**  
Our cafe will be open on the evening for refreshments.