MARCH:2009

# THE Artful DODGER

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 98444995 or alan@commercialventure.com.au

## Follies! Book now!

Performance dates are 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 March and 2, 3 and 4 April. To book, contact Joan at The Old bakery bookshop on 9844 1744.

## Air-Conditioning

The air-conditioning has been a hot topic recently, particularly for Graeme Breadmore who has been getting not a little warm under the collar trying to get the retailer/installer/manufacturer/anyone to help get both units working properly. Hopefully his efforts get results before the Follies begin!

## Website

David Tynan has continued to improve our website with the help of Pat Anderson and her archives. More visits get us higher in the search engines, so visit *www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au* regularly!

## Help!

With Evie gone, I need someone to help assemble and lodge the Dodger. 9844 4111 if you can help.

## Subs

Make sure you're financial using the form on page 4!

## Here and Afar

Here's and instalment from Pauline Cross's history from Afar of the WAA Painters from 1968 on:

*I became part of Warrandyte Arts association in 1968. I was introduced to Christine Aldor by a dear friend who felt it would be a good time to return to my art, as for all young mothers you need to have some time for your own pursuits.*

*At this time Christine tutored art classes for two afternoons a week, one on Tuesday and the other Wednesday. This had been in progress about 12 months when I began. I was to arrive to the Wednesday class at 1pm with my drawing pad and pencil, this was the beginning of a very significant part of my life, having many happy moments and great friends right up to this time.*

*This period in time Audrey was not part of the painting group. Artists in my class then, were Jean Morris, Val Potts, Jean Domeyer - there were others but I can't remember them all. Pauline Grayling joined us on one occasion and I was overwhelmed with her drawing skills - thinking I hope I can aspire to her standard. Pauline was in the Tuesday group with Bobbi Wilson at the time. Other members of Christine's overall group were Alice Tainsh, Olive Clark, Margaret Robinson, Win Young, Elsie Taylor, Dorothy Pope, Norma Birch, Violet Buque and others.*

*We improved considerably with Christine's openness to style and medium constantly trying out different approaches to art. We worked in the kitchen and on good days outdoors. I remember clearly painting after the bush fires in 1968, an oil painting I still have. Christine's attitudes really made you think laterally about what you wanted to achieve. Christine was a very good teacher. It was a great loss to WAA when Christine passed away in 1971.*

*The Painting Group was floundering after the passing of Christine, with no leadership. Emil Aldor, Christine's husband came to our aid, followed by Cyril Arden. Cyril would take the interested artists out on a Wednesday - (this day has stayed as our Paint Out day since then). Val Potts was Secretary of the Group, Bobbi Wilson the Treasurer. We kept records of our various Art Shows, members subscriptions and outgoing costs. Christine had kept records accordingly. She had us working towards a "Studio Fund". We held small art shows, which we consequently kept going. I remember one held at the Grand Hotel it was a great success. We participated with the Potters, Marjorie Beecham, Tutor and Co-ordinator, and the Craft Group, Leonie Horne, Co-ordinator, in the Annual Exhibitions which went on each year up until recently.*

*We had many important guests opening the exhibitions over the years. Some coming to memory were - Mr Harold White VC Melbourne Teachers College who made pleasant comments on works by Cyril Ardern, Eira Dodd, Val Potts and Win Young. Roy Hampson - Channel O, Race Mathews - MP, Dale Marsh – Artist, John Voller - Potter, Frances Duffy - Artist, Lady Reid and many others.*

*New members joining in 1972 were Barbara Prowse, Harold Shewring, Eira Dodd, Dave Baird, Brenda Gifford, Margery Head and Val Gunn. Bobbi took over as Secretary, Pauline Cross took over as Treasurer. We were an eager group keen to make progress with our art and towards a studio. We came up with the idea between us, of approaching the Doncaster Council for permission to hold Outdoor Art Shows near the Bridge by the River. After correspondence back and forth we finally were given permission to hold the outdoor Art Shows, we were elated.*

*Our first Art Show was the month of September 72. We arrived with our star stakes and wire mesh to form a fence to hang our paintings on. The members turned up with a good selection of paintings, and the public were most impressed. Over the years we sold very well boosting our Studio Fund, this went on up until '76 when suddenly we had problems with smells and sludge from storm water (the toilets were very close to this spot) so the Council asked us to find a new location. 1977- We made many enquiries and were finally given permission to hold it on the old Tennis court. We had a get together to clear the area up and had our 1st Art Show there in March 77. This did not prove as good a venue, in time it fizzled out.*

Christmas at Eira Dodd's home 1979 - LtoR Bobbi Wilson, Barbara Browse, Jean ....

Shirley Hall, Dorothy Hollander, Iris Cassidy.

Pauline Grayling, Phyl Howell, Val Gunn, Margaret Robinson, Audrey Cahn

Eira Dodd, Terry Liddell, Barbara Silis, Marion Graze.

# Group reports.

## Pottery

Thankyou to the stalwart Central Committee members, Ken, David and Alan who so kindly helped me carry a lot of very dead clay to the waiting skip. Cogratu;lations to Ken upon his recent milestone.

Welcome to Melissa Fraser. A new and enthusiastic Tuesday potter. Well done to Rene our resident ninety year old who has made a miraculous recovery from her recent hip replacement and can beat most of us bouncing up the studio stairs.

In early December the historic panel we greated for St. Catrherines at St. Helena was unveiled. It was a most memorable afternoon attended by five potters. Thabnkyou to Val for suggesting that we become involved. And thankyou too to St. Catherines who gave a most generous donation to WAA Pottery Groups.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

## Painting

Dates for your Diary - Bargain Sales -

Sunday April 26th, 2009, August 30th, 2009.

As the weather has been so unpleasant outdoors with the aftermath of the bushfires,we have taken to the Hall with our still life subjects, some very interesting works have emerged.

Our thoughts have been with all those touched by the fires and we hope you make a speedy recovery.

Gill, we are thinking of you, and hope you are back with us in the near future.

Pauline Cross 94391775

## Theatre

### 1. The Seven Deadly Follies

Rehearsals are progressing well - lines are being learned, sets, costumes and props are being planned and made, and tickets and signage are complete! Less than 3 weeks to go - well done all concerned! Don't forget to book your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

### 2. Sept Play reading

On Friday 27 Feb, we had a successful play reading. There was a lot of respect for the fairly dark and confronting "Festen", but much greater love was for "The Pig Iron People" written in 2008 by John Doyle (of Roy and HG fame). It has a cast of 7 (4M and 3F), and is a very funny and charming slice of recent Australian history. Below is a synopsis, taken from the Sydney Theatre Company website, where it premiered last year.

*The Pig Iron People*

In the tradition of Patrick White's suburban satires, John Doyle, one of our great contemporary commentators, has written his first play. Set on a quiet suburban street with not quite enough parking for the residents, The Pig Iron People examines two generations and the way the politics of their time (and the politics of their carparking) have shaped them. Nick, a young man wanting to reinvent himself and find his voice as a writer, moves in to Liberal Street. It is 1996, the day of John Howard's first election victory. Looking for solitude, he ends up falling in love with April, a young actress, and striking up a bumpy but finally genuine relationship with his nosy, cantankerous old neighbours. These are the Pig Iron People of the title, the generation who grew up under Menzies. Without realising it, he and April will be growing up under Honest John. Relaxed and comfortable? Great, but every day? All the time? And when you are not...? Characterised by Doyle's tangential humour which brilliantly illuminates the hearts of his characters, The Pig Iron People is a timely satire infused with profound tolerance for the foibles of humanity.

(http://www.sydneytheatre.com.au/2008/The-Pig-Iron-People)

### 3. AV update

Ian Craig has been working very hard to update our AV facilities, including installing permanent microphones near the stage, and rationalising and improving the bio-box set up, including a new table and shelves for some of the sound and lighting equipment (thanks to Phil Dyer). We will also have improved wiring and performance from our AV monitors in the Supper Room and the SM desk. Many thanks to Ian for all his hours in making these improvements - we will all really appreciate it during future productions!

David Tynan 9844 5727

## Craft

Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

**Eltham Little Theatre** is currently presenting Neil Simon's *Chapter Two* at the Eltham Performing Arts Centre, 1603 Main Road Research. Remaining dates are March 5, 6, 7 with an 8pm start. Book on 9437 1574.

# Letters to the Editor.

*No letters this month. Or reviews, suggestions, family news, or anything vaguely helpful. Perhaps next month?*
*Ed*

Just for a change, Ken Virtue spent a recent Saturday night down at the hall. A gathering of friends joined him to wish him a Happy Significant Birthday, and rendered due tribute with the singing of such rousing numbers as *Do You Ken Virtue, Ken the Builder, The House Boat* and *Paint, Glorious Paint!*

# An Interview with David Frazer

*The following interview with former Theatre Company member and Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund winner David Frazer was published in the February issue of Victorian Writer. For the past several years, David has been producing plays under the banner of Full Dress Productions, and has now expanded into the business of publishing.*

***Q: How is it as young publisher in the big world of publishing?***

A: Very exciting, though the learning curve was exponential to say the least. When I launched Full Dress last year it was because I believed too many outstanding Australian plays simply weren't making it to our bookshelves and, in a small way, I wanted to do something about this. Nine months earlier a playwright and good friend of mine, Ross Mueller, had been lamenting how difficult it was for Australian playwrights to get their work published. In particular we had been talking about his play *Construction of the Human Heart*, a work which had deeply affected me and one which I couldn't believe had never made it to print. It was there and then that I decided to start a publishing business myself, with *Construction of the Human Heart* and (subsequently) a collection of plays by the wonderful Lally Katz to be my first titles.

I think one of the reasons I have never fell overwhelmed by the competitive world of publishing is that I never went into business with any false expectations As an independent-theatre producer I was already more than aware that performing arts publishing was a niche market - you only need to look at the shelf space most bookshops allocate to playscripts to understand that. That said, the arts community is a loyal and passionate bunch, and I have always believed that provided the work is outstanding, our books will find an audience.

***Q: Where do you want Full Dress to go and how will it get there?***

A: In time I hope that Full Dress can become a viable entity that stands on its own two feet, while making an important contribution to Australia's artistic landscape. Theatre is one of the most fleeting of artforms, and I believe the publishing of plays is an important component of any society's cultural longevity. While this is a big part of what keeps me going, at the end of the day Full Dress Publishing will only survive in the long term if it can find a market for its product - no small business can afford to martyr itself simply because it feels it's doing something positive. Importantly, however, I don't see our future as one that is restricted to play publishing alone - in time I hope to expand our catalogue to include not only playscripts, but film scripts and potentially even some non-fiction titles.

***Q: How have things progressed since you first began? Has the course changed?***

A: The kernel of the idea behind Full Dress Publishing occurred in late 2007, and our first two titles (and the company) were launched as part of the Melbourne Writers Festival in August 2008. The launch was hosted by Julia Zemiro and was just a fantastic event - there was a real buzz in the air that what we were doing was not only exciting, but long overdue. Since then I have been privileged to receive a considerable number of submissions from playwrights across the country: however, I decided that instead of rushing into additional titles, my efforts would be better spent working hard to generate interest in our current works. Since the launch, my main focus has been to expand distribution, and to date the scripts are available via our online store and in over a dozen bookshops across Australia. At this stage there haven't been that many unexpected hurdles, though coming up with new and unique ways to market ourselves is a constant challenge.

***Q: What's Full Dress's role in performing arts publishing?***

I would like to think that the plays Full Dress publish are seen to be of a particularly high standard, that our introductory notes are informed and entertaining, and that the printed product looks absolutely first class. I don't have any great aspirations to churn out dozens of new works each year, but rather to cherry-pick the absolute finest plays and collaborate closely with writers to see their work published. If Full Dress can provide additional opportunities to a select group of Australia's finest playwrights then that is a contribution I am thrilled to be making.

***Q: What three things would you change about arts publishing to improve it?***

A: 1) Far greater scope for the Literature Board at the Australia Council to fund the publication of Australian plays, and more realistic grant ceilings.
2} Greater support for new Australian writing by our major theatre companies, with obvious flow-on effects for publishers such as Full Dress.
3) The inclusion of more Australian plays on secondary school English curriculums across the country.

***Q: What have been the best/worst stages in Full Dress's life so far?***

A: As with any venture the biggest challenge is coming up with a strategy for the future. In selecting our next titles and selling our current ones I haven't really had a "worst" moment, but like any publisher I'd love to be selling more books!

And the best experience? I've got to say walking into Readings and seeing our two titles side by side on the shelf was quite a thrill -I was really proud.

*fire*

Bruce Bence
chronicled 1939
Warrandyte
FIRE
Bryce Courtenay
recreated
Aboriginal
bush control
fresh calls in
2009
FIRE
Warrandyte
remembers 1962
1969 1975 1983
prepares grieves
for neighbouring
Kinglake
St. Andrews
all Victoria
2009
FIRE

*KINGLAKE & ST. ANDREWS: ABC RADIO FEBRUARY 2009 "speed, ferocity, intensity, unpredictability of Bush Fires left people with nowhere to go. KINGLAKE andST. ANDREWS did not see the fire balls."*
*1939: "WARRANDYTE the centre of Black Friday Bush Fires in which 71 people lost their lives, the worst bush fire up to that time. The whole State was alight on Friday 13 January 1939." (Google)*
*1962: "14 - 16 January fires in the DANDENONGS, KINGLAKE, WARRANDYTE" (Google)*
*1969: "8-9 January Confluence of two fire fronts near WARRANDYTE" (Google)*
*1975: "Victoria River Fire in ST. ANDREWS, HURSTBRIDGE, WARRANDYTE" (Google)*
*1983: "Ash Wednesday. 75 died." (Google)*
*BRUCE BENCE: "FIRE The Story of a Community's Fight Against Fire." Written and Researched 1989 by BRUCE BENCE 53 Brackenbury St. WARRANDYTE 3113. On sale at the Warrandyte Historical Society "The Old Post Office" P.O.Box 67 Warrandyte 3113.*
*ABORIGINAL: "9 February 2009: Australian wild fires prompt call to return to ABORIGINAL BUSH CONTROL." (Google)*
*BRYCE COURTENAY: FOUR FIRES (2001) "passion, religion, warfare, and FIRE itself prompted by real events" (Google)*

*marysbville*

ex Warrandyte
Diary reporter
Jan Jozsa lost
dear friends of
Fruit Salad Farm
MARYSVILLE
Jan writing
their story &
new website
MARYSVILLE
Historical Society
all records lost
I remember
guest house
family holiday
croquet walks
swimming jollity
MARYSVILLE
all lost in 2009
devastation
likened to
Dresden fire bomb
Hiroshima bombing
Bali bombing
Tsunami disaster
1 February 2009
MARYSVILLE

*MARYSVILLE 2009:"There's nothing left. It's finished. Our beautiful MARYSVILLE a pile of gravel." said Simon Hudson who owned the Kerami Guest House. (Google)*
*FRUIT SALAD FARM: "This afternoon the police confirmed that two bodies had been found at Fruit Salad Farm., believed to be Geoffrey and Patrick, who would have turned 50 today. Fruit Salad Farm..opened nearly 80 years ago." (email Jan Jozsa 15 Feb 2009)*
*MARYSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: "I'm also helping the Marysville Historical Society get a new website activated so they can receive other photos and promises of memorabilia as all their records have ben LOST." (email Jan Jozsa 15 Feb 2009)*
*FAMILY HOLIDAY: Marylands, "the charm of the original country house" (Google)*
*LIKENED TO: ABC Radio continuous broadcasts February 2009*
*DRESDEN: "13 February 1945 deadly Allied bombing, deliberate holocaust of a civilian population. Kurt Vonnegut Junior's DRESDEN novel (1969) SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE, award winning film adaptation 1972 by Stephen Geller." (Google)*
*HIROSHIMA: "Atomic BOMBING nuclear attack near the end of WW2 against the Empire of Japan by the US." (Google)*
*BALI BOMBING: "the Sari Club in the Kuta district of Indonesian island of Bali"(Google)*
*TSUNAMI: "26.12.04 a series of ocean waves with very long wave lengths killed hundreds of thousands in South Asia" (Google)*

*absolutely*

it's de word
ABSOLUTELY
Jean Chapman
Warrandyte
wordsmith
can't stand
ABSOLUTELY
linked to
gorgeous
fabulous
sensational
despicable
definitely not
awesome
great word
on it's own
Victorian
fire fighters
are great
ABSOLUTELY

*GREAT WORD: ABSOLUTELY "Independently, in and by itself, arbitrarily, without extra constraint, without qualification, unconditional, positively, actually, conclusively, completely, quite, quite so, yes" Concise Oxford Dictionary 1976 p.5*
*IT'S DE WORD: ABC Radio Thursday 19 - 02 - 2009 9:45 AM Band 774 Jon Faine "Narbethong Pub Party for 500 fire fighters and victims: ABSOLUTELY SENSATIONAL Lynne Kosky Victorian Transport Minister: trains stranded ABSOLUTELY DESPICABLE."*
*ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS: BBC TV Comedy starring Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley began in 1992 with six episodes and remains one of the BBC's highest rating and most popular shows (Google)*
*ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS: "Shop Online for Natural Beauty Products" (Google)*
*ABSOLUTELY AWESOME: "It seems this is a name of God that has not really been recognised." (Google)*

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