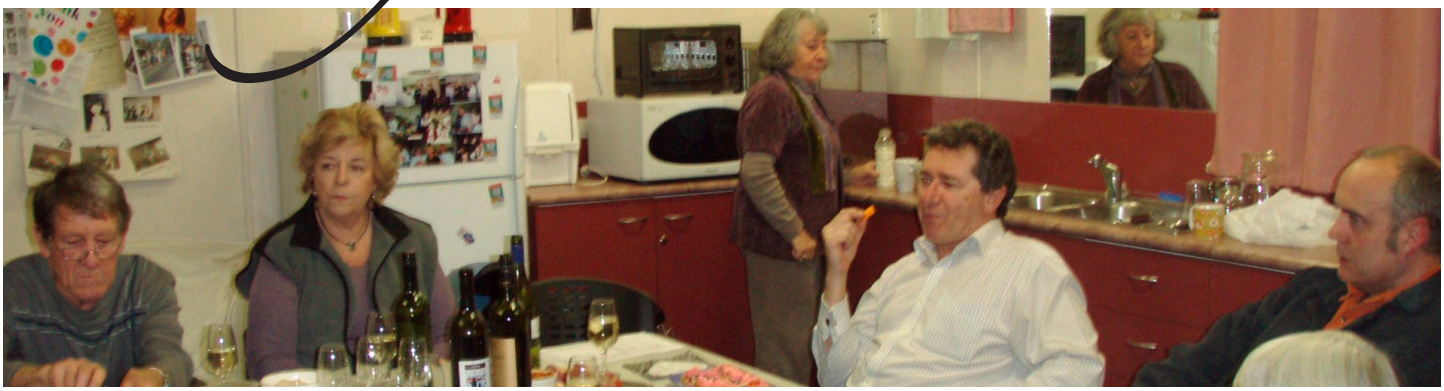
MAY:2009

# 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



## AGM

The AGM was a pleasant evening where committee members shared their own company with the welcome addition of Libby Skeels and Simone Kiefer, plus a bit of wine and food. Ken Virtue, whose report is included on page 3, began his 17th term as President before jetting off to the UK. The meeting also farewelled Rosemary Climas after some six years as Treasurer. Our heartfelt thanks, Rosemary, for your loyal service. Replacing her will be Simone Kiefer who also helps brings down the average age of the committee. Positions are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Ken Virtue |
| Vice President | Jack Stringer |
| Treasurer (Craft) | Simone Kiefer |
| Secretary | Pat Anderson |
| Assistant Secretary | Noelle Burgess |
| Membership/Newsletter | Alan Cornell |
| Painting | Pauline Cross |
| Pottery | Marj Beecham |
| Theatre | David Tynan |
| Committee Member | Anthony Burgess |
| Hall | Graeme Breadmore |

## KNEES UP MOTHER BEECHAM

Missing the AGM was Marj Beecham who decided instead to go under the knife and have her knee reconstructed. We heard it was very painful, probably still is, but it's hard to slow Marj down and we expect to see her out on the field again in no time. We all wish you a swift and successful recuperation!

## HALL IMPROVEMENTS

Exciting things are afoot in the Hall. Safety barriers are being installed in unsafe places, doors are being upgraded in doorways and the back entrance is being rejigged with the likely inclusion of, yes, a deck!

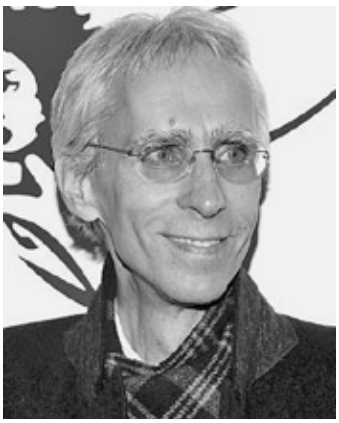
Jock has also prepared a design and costing for upgraded toilet facilities usinging recycled rainwater from two tanks to be instal;ed behnd the Hall. This has been submitted to the Bendigo Bank for consideration as part of its next round of community grants. Legs and fingers crossed!

## ONE ACT PLAYS

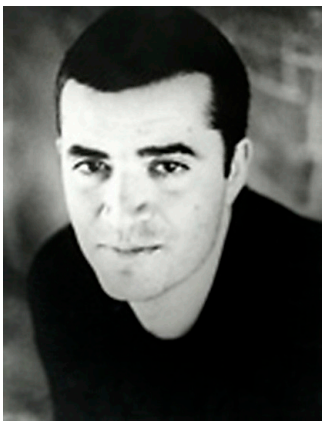
Last Sunday saw first Auditions for the 3 One Act Plays, to be staged in June. There's a second Audition on Tuesday evening, and because that clashes with the Bushfire Forum, another on Thursday evening. Two of the plays are by David Ives who is a real favourite with Warrandyte audiences. The other is by local playwright Raimondo Cortese.

*Rosemary Climas*

*Simone Kiefer*



*David Ives*



*Raimondo Cortese*

**DATES TO REMEMBER** One Act Plays ~ 19, 20 & 26, 27 June @ Hall. Visit or ring Joan on 9844 1744 for bookings.

# Group reports.

Welcome back for 2nd term. I am finding it hard to think of any spontaneous or hilarious news for the Artful Dodger. I am surrounded by creeping, doddering geriatrics who speed up and down the corridors at lightning speed.
However I am really looking forward to an interesting and exciting term. You know a workshop is only as good as its students. So gather your talents and get on to your masterpieces.
Thankyou for your flowers, cards, phone calls, visits and best wishes. I have no excuses for not making a startling recovery.

Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206

Congratulations to the Theatre Company for their outstanding success with the Seven Deadly Follies, the house was full on the night the Painting Group attended, all the audience participated and really enjoyed themselves.
We had a break for the Easter term holidays. Some members were fortunate to get away painting in that time. We have had two pleasant Wednesdays painting, down Pound Bend and Bradley's Lane.
The soft Autumn light produces the most delicate warm glow along the River, great painting opportunities.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775

## One Act Plays for 2009

For those interested - here is a brief rundown on our OAP offerings - a brief synopsis and the major characters. The cast will be announced after the audition process is completed (about 8th May). We even have a producer - the amazing Gail Macrae! Don't forget to put the production dates in your diary (19, 20, 26,27 June)!

**OAP1: St. Francis Talks to the Birds (by David Ives)**

A comic excursion into death and dying in which the holy man meets a couple of desert vultures waiting to turn him into dessert. (2M, 1F, to be directed by David Tynan)

Characters

*Mike:* A 'vulturic', opportunistic and proud wise-guy/vulture, with a broad New-York/Italian accent. He and his wife Angela enjoy a simple existence, feeding on the decaying remains of others. His world-view is relatively small, and he is a little incredulous about the attraction of St Francis' take on life and the hereafter. However, as Francis continues to share his world view, Mike begins to reflect upon his own mortality, and the point of it all.
*Angela:* Also a vulture, Angela is more than a match for Mike in the wisecracking department. She enjoys a love-hate relationship with her husband, and is equally coarse. She laughs heartily at Francis's 'folly', but in the end is persuaded by his optimism and joyfulness. How will her mid-desert experience change her?
St Francis: A gorgeous mix of soulful man and semi-beatific creature. Despite a later crisis of confidence, he manages to remain upbeat about life and people. Not bad for someone already wearing his guts on the outside. With refreshing honesty about the life of a reluctant saint-to-be, he teaches his new friends a little about leading a more meaningful and authentic life.

**OAP2: Borneo (by Raimondo Cortese)**

Two women, Angelica and Sal, meet on plane returning from overseas. They seem very different ...strangers thrown together. But they make a connection and make arrangements to meet up after their return. They seem to have become friends but then ...
(2F, to be directed by Adrian Rice)

Characters

*Angelica:* Angelica is a psychotherapist and a traveller returning from a trip along the Barito river in Borneo ... a route that we assume is less travelled – off the beaten tourist track. She seems to be successful, sophisticated; a knowledgeable traveller – educated but also hiding something and constructing an imaginary life for herself.
*Sal:* Sal is a hairdresser who has done the regular tourist trip to Bali: dancing with the local boys, taking local drugs, accepting a local talisman. She is gregarious and friendly, keen to get the most out of life. Maybe opportunistic and naïve ... or perhaps she is simply calculating and strategic?

**OAP3: The Mystery At Twicknam Vicarage (by David Ives)**

Three shots are fired on a dark stage. The lights come up on the corpse of a sex addict (Jeremy), a detective (Dexter), and the three people he most recently 'bedded': his wife (Mona), her girlfriend (Sarah, the vicar's wife), and their minister (Roger). The plot twists on the discovery that Jeremy has also been having sex with the furniture. They attempt to solve philosophical quandaries as they investigate: Who killed Jeremy Thumpington-Fffienes? A hilarious parody of English drawing-room mysteries, with a possible moral - go ahead and appreciate the beautiful things in life, but don't copulate with all of them. (3M, 2F, to be directed by Phyl Swindley)

Characters

*Jeremy:* The randy and initially 'deceased' gent
*Roger:* The haughty vicar, with a ridiculously snooty accent
*Sarah:* The vicar's wife, who has slept with Jeremy
*Dexter:* A bumbling Scotland Yard detective Inspector
*Mona:* Wife of the 'deceased', who has also slept with Jeremy.

## From the AGM - a shiny new WTC Committee

As a result of our recent AGM, I am most proud to announce the shiny new WTC Committee - some fresh faces, and some stalwarts from previous committee!

David Tynan (Pres)
Noelene Cooper (Sec.)
Simone Kiefer (Treas.)
Lynne Counsel
Bill Connolly
Phyllis Swindley
Blaine Oataway
Naomi Oosting
Ian Craig

(Committee members note - meetings to be on 2nd Monday of each month, with first meeting scheduled for Monday 11th May)

Many thanks to retiring members Lea and Jack Stringer for all their past, present and future contributions to the committee's work. Thanks also to John M-C for his great service during the past year.

As well as the committee being plump again - we are most fortunate that most portfolio ministers are willing to continue in their specialist role. As one of its first jobs, the new committee will review these roles to make some improvements to communication with the committee, and perhaps some rationalising ...

Communications (TBA)
Promotions (Darren)
Costumes (Caroline)
Creative Development (Adrian)
Front of House (Hazel)
Technical Services (Ian)
Set Design & Construction (Bill)
Social Activity (Phyl)

Thanks to you all for your generosity of spirit - what a team we are!

*(Cont'd page 3)*

## Follies DVD night

We are having the 2009 Follies DVD night on Sat 16th May at 8 pm til midnight in the Hall. Please bring ... plate and grog, and a festive spirit. Also, if you wish to purchase a copy of the DVD - orders will be taken on the night!

## Follies feedback survey

Please take the time to fill out our Follies feedback survey - its quick, painless and really helps us improve our productions!

Click (or type) the link below to complete the survey.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=esy1N9Qr2KYPZm_2bliWnx6w_3d_3d

## Come to the shoe party!

WTC entrepreneur Loiuse Phelan will be having a Laura Benini shoe party on Friday 22 May at the Mechanics Hall. Feel free to bring friends with you. According to reports, she will have the new winter range for you to order from and a few discounted shoes from the summer. Give her a call or email if you want more info. Looking forward to an evening of fun and footwear!
(Tel: 9844 0220/0400 973942; email: loulou1961@gmail.com)

David Tynan 9844 5727

Craft

Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

# Letters to the Editor.

Dear Editor,

It is not relevant to W.A.A. activities but I thought I'd write anyway (since you say you would like letters) about the birds. We all know we should have a bird bath out for them. I have three: big, medium and shallow for the different size birds. But then there is the matter of feeding them. The 'experts' tell us we should not do so. But I sometimes wonder if the experts have noticed that twelve years of drought have left the birds with almost nothing to forage for. In England one is advised not to feed them but what is the correct food to put out according to the time of year.
Lacking this sort of information here I put out a mix of cat biscuits and mixed seed, plus slices of apple for the lorikeets. We get magpies, currawongs, ravens, bronze-winged pigeons, choughs, noisy miners, lorikeets all as regular visitors. The number and types vary from day to day and time of year; we get a great deal of pleasure from watching them and ore of them get to survive until (hopefully) conditions improve. A flock of lorikeets all chewing pieces of apple - they suck the juice out and leave the chewed apple - but lots of other birds seem to be really keen on pieces of chewed apple - or a family of choughs all trying to get into the same bird bath together is an absolute joy.

Your sincerely

Ceri Masiulanis (Pottery)

*Well that wasn't what I was expecting in this column, but it makes a pleasant change of pace, doesn't it? And gives plenty of scope for others to contribute. Thankyou for writing Ceri! Ed*

# President's report 2008.

I have pleasure in reporting on yet another successful year for WMI&AA.

Once again the various groups have been able to continue their activities in purposeful ways, which have been in accord with our objectives to utilise the Hall and to make Arts activities broadly available for the people of Warrandyte.

Our Potters Group under Marjorie Beecham's leadership have kept up their workshops and undertaken more community projects within the boundaries of both Manningham and Nillumbik Shires. Not only have they had their regular enjoyable group days, but also they have also actively supported U3A and the undertakings of other Groups, including those of Painters and Craft

Pauline Cross has guided the Painters Group to more exhibitions and art bargain shows, as well as providing support to members via their monthly working sessions in various Warrandyte locations.

In the same way, Rosemary Climas has continued to lead the Craft Group to further their skills and experience in a wide variety of applications. Rosemary has also kept our finances in order, for which we are very grateful. We say farewell to her Treasurer services this year after the AGM, and we will always be in her debt as we seek a new office bearer. Thanks, Rosemary !!

It has been wonderful to see the positive impact of Theatre Company teamwork, ensuring that all productions have continued to be profitable. Once again a locally written annual Follies ,"The Seven Deadly Follies", has seen strong audience support, raised funds for local CFA's ,as well as raising significant funds for the Association.

Alan Cornell has done a great job of continuing the monthly Newsletter, and the colour, content and graphic design of the "Dodger" has lived up to the high standards enjoyed by our members. A great use of colour photographs has been artfully mixed with information from each Group.

Thanks also go to Noel and Anthony Burgess for assisting with Newsletter and mail distribution, and for their consistent support for central committee meetings.

Graeme Breadmore has once again provided effective services as our Hall Curator, often under difficult circumstances involving his travel times. The Hall has been kept in well-maintained order, and we continue to have external hirers to utilise the facilities in a good community spirit.

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous assistance that we have received from our Secretary, Pat Anderson and from our Vice President, Jack Stringer. Pat has tirelessly followed up on all the difficult details, like insurances, grant applications and all of the much-needed processes for the Association.

Jack has really been instrumental in the upgrade of our lighting capabilities and with the purchase of our new video projector and screen in conjunction with Ian Craig. We have also added a new operators' desk in the biobox, and some new access doors for the costume cupboard.

My sincere thanks go to these key helpers who in so many ways help us all to keep the Association on the right course. I also acknowledge that we have also had solid contributions from all of our members, and I know that together we keep producing special artistic outcomes in our community to offset the challenges of our busy lives in Warrandyte.

Next year we hope that we will gain funding to assist with more lighting purchases, and hopefully an upgrade of the toilets (with new rainwater tanks) and an upgraded foyer area.

I also wish to publicly acknowledge the generosity of the Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Foundation. They recently have advised that they wish to provide the WMI&AA with the balance of their fund to assist in a stage refit for the Hall. This will then bear a plaque in the names of these two beautiful and talented young people who were lost in a tragic accident in 1998.

*Ken Virtue, President*

## Joy to the World

*(by Louise Joy)*

*Darwin*

He really was
a nice man
DARWIN
200 years on
from Galapagos
Garden of England
galluping consumption
of his dear daughter
DARWIN
is drowned in
evolutionary
controversy
in Warrandyte
fossilised remains
remind us of the
common humanity of
DARWIN

*A NICE MAN: " a family man, the devoted husband and father of 10 children who had free run of the house and even his study." The Guardian Weekly 20-02-09 Gillian Beer*

*HUMANITY: "two books that enlarge our understanding of Darwin's sginificant impress, the kinship of all creatures" Gillian Beer p.34 -35* Darwin's Sacred Cause: Race, Slavery and the Quest for Human Origins *Allen Lane (2009) by Adrian Desmond and James Moore. "The intial drive for Darwin's investigation of species formation was his personal loathing of slavery."*

*FOSSILISED REMAINS: "The Presence of Fossils in the Warrandyte Area. An Introduction from an Historical Perspective." Monograph (June 2003) by Murray Houghton, Warrandyte Historical Society*

*GALAPAGOS/GARDEN: The Guardian Weekly 6-2-09 p.25-27 Review by Steve Jones* Darwin's Island: The Galapagos in the garden of England *pubished by Little Brown (2009) "To celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the birth of the scientist who changed the world, his home in Kent, South East England, and the nearby woodlands, fields and ponds, that have been called his landscape laboratory, have been nominated as a World Heritage site."*

*sandals*

Men never wore
SANDALS
like they do now
chunky elegance
unlike women's
spindly elegance
not like thongs
SANDALS
of the modern man
Life of Brian
escaping from
crowds one lost
SANDAL
then there is
Old Testament
business exchange
where in Warrandyte
did I last see
SANDALS

*LIFE OF BRIAN: "a satirical film by the Monty Python comedy troupe, a true masterpiece" (Google)*

*OLD TESTAMENT: Ruth Chapter 4 verse 7 "Now in those days, to settle a sale or an exchange of property, it was the custom for the seller to take off his SANDAL and give it to the buyer. In this way the Israelites showed that the matter was settled."*

*scream*

Uncovering old
photos leads to
SCREAM
of recognition
pain layers of
generational
sorrow stare
out of smiling
photos stored
in Warrandyte
Edward Munch
could not be
more evocative
in his Norwegian
SCREAM

*EDWARD MUNCH: "An agonised figure wails against a blood red Oslo fjord skyline. Though the NORWEGIAN artist is known for a single image, he was one of the most prolific, innovative and influential figures of modern art." (Google)*
*EDWARD MUNCH "THE SCREAM" (1893)*
*National Gallery Oslo (SKRIK 1893)*

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To get your Dodger sooner, in colour, complete with 'extras', email me at *alan@commercialventure.com.au*

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** Cheques payable to ***WMI&AA Inc.*** Post to ***Treasurer, WMI&AA, PO Box 150, Warrandyte 3113***.

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❒ **Family $25** ❒ **Adult $15** ❒ **Junior $10** Would you like your newsletter sent by email? ❒ YES ❒ NO