THE Artful DODGER

OCTOBER:2009

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

PRESIDENT KEN TO MEET CHAIRMAN HU

Our tireless leader, Ken Virtue, is about to take up a position in Shanghai. Ken, who has been around Dulux longer than a Old English Sheepdog, will be helping the company paint China red by building their business interests in a challenging marketplace. Ken and Libby fly over at the end of October before Libby leaves him after a week or so to look after himself in his modern two bedroom apartment while she gets back to psychology business.

It's a five month stint that will end in well -earned retirement on his return in April. And possibly a gold watch made in Taiwan.

WMI&AA Vice-President Jack Stringer will fill Ken's presidential shoes while he's away.

BENDIGO BANKROLLS NEW LOOS

Over the years, our grand old Hall has been restumped, refloored, relined, reroofed and re-novated from top to bottom. Except for the foyer and toilet area which it has to be said are more drab than fab. Well that's all about to change, thanks to a magnificent $50,000 contribution from Bendigo Bank's community support fund.

Jock Macneish has donned his architectural hat yet again to develop plans for a new foyer area, new ladies and gents, a disabled toilet and a private cast privy that can be reached from the changing rooms - overcoming those awkward moments when fully costumed performers have had to stand shoulder to shoulder with the audience at natural intervals. In a design flush with innovation, the toilets will be connected to a new water-tank at the back of the Hall as we do our bit to save precious water. The plan also provides for works around at the rear of the hall where the tank will be located, incoporating a safer rear entrance and an exciting back deck area.

CARPENTER POTTERS AROUND

More modest but equally overdue works have been completed in the Pottery Studio where Phil Dyer has replaced roof linings, eaves and gutters. Despite hopes to the contrary, it seems the resident possum likes his home imporvements and is considering staying.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Association has been joined as a defendant to a claim concerning an allegedly defamatory publication in the Artful Dodger last October. It is defending the claim; the committee has taken advice on the proper defence and is following that advice.

AUDIENCES LOVE LOVE SONG

The audiences have been disappointingly small but wildly enthusiastic about the current production of "Love Song". Helen Elis is the highly-experienced guest Director and the word is that the set is stunning, the cast are dazzling and it's a great script! With only three performances to go you really should get in and book - Steve and Jo Brazil at the Old Bakery Bookshop (9844 1744) will be pleased to help you in that regard.

Vanessa Alpins steals Aldo King's heart

Phillippa Adgemis, Frank McCarty and Aldo King hit all the right notes in *Love Song*.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Potter's Next Term starts ~ Tues 6th, Wed 7th October
'Love Song' ~ 8, 9, 10th October @ the Hall
Panto Auditions ~ 8pm Tuesday 13th October @ the Hall

Group reports.

Pottery

Pottery created in our WAA studio by 3UA students will be exhibited in federation Square Sunday October 4th. There will be many U3A members from all over Victoria present which is part of the Seniors Week celebrations.

Congratulations to David and his team of walkers last weekend in the "Relay for Life" at the Warrandyte oval.

Next term dates are: first days of 4th term Tuesday Oct 6th and Oct 7th, last day Tues 8th December.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Theatre

1 Love Song

Love Song is in full swing, and wowing audiences - if only there were more in them! If you haven't been to see it yet - please book your ticks now for the last week of performances. Please note that the final Saturday is well booked, but tickets are still available for both Thursday and Friday nights. Please note that bump-out is this Sunday. can we please have as many hands on deck to dismantle and place all the rostra used in the Love Song set?

2 Panto

The Panto is well under way and a preliminary meeting of Directors, Jan Nance and Lea Stringer, MD Jack Stringer (outnumbered genderwise and sometimes not a happy camper, tho considerably ameliorated with a glass or 2) writer Keryn Wood, producer me and committee rep Sim, came to many conclusions - namely.....

Audition date is TUESDAY OCTOBER 13TH 8pm The Hall. This the only date available. If you are interested and genuinely cannot make that date please contact one of the directors BEFORE THAT DATE. Jan 9844 1442 or Lea 9844 3707.

Besides a cast of pirates, wenches, Princess Gorgeous, Peter Pan, Ugly Sisters, Tinker Bell, Gaylord, Bendemere, Big Bertha, King Elvis, Queen (Lizzy?) etc etc (undoubtedly parts for everyone) we need a Stage Manager, Sound, Lights, Costume Coordinator, Props Coordinator, Set Coordinator and Choreographer (experience with remedial dance lessons a requirement) Anyone interested in any of these rolls please contact me if you cannot attend on the audition date.

Diamond Valley Singers have the Hall booked for their production, A Funny Thing Happened on the ..... over the weekends of Friday 16th Oct and Friday 22nd Oct and do not bump out till Sunday 25th Oct. We will need lots of support with set construction after that date, so all will be expected to build that into their commitment time.

Please let any of your friends who might fancy themselves as a pirate or busty wench know about the production and audition date. If they can sing or act or dance that would be a bonus.

Rehearsal dates will be EVERY Tues, Thurs and Sunday from October 18th. Directors are very keen to have everyone available for all rehearsals, so please consider your availability before committing. We have a tight schedule due to Hall bookings and will find it hard to accommodate people who cannot commit to required dates and times. If you cannot commit to the rehearsal schedule, perhaps you would consider being part of the crew.

Dates

Audition - Tuesday Oct 13th
Performances - November - Friday 27th 8pm, Sat. 28th 2pm & 8pm
December - Friday 4th 8pm, Saturday 5th 2pm & 8pm
Bump out Sunday 6th - TBA
Tech and Dress - TBA

Please contact Gail (Panto Producer) 9844 3475 or macrae.gail@gmail.com for any other information.

3 Reading

The committee has organised a social evening at BLAINE'S house on TUESDAY 6th OCT @7pm We will be reading some one act plays for next years calender. Its important that we select some suitable plays before the year ends. Please come along and bring something to share that will go with rice and bread. Perhaps a curry or casserole!!! BYO drinks

Blaine's address: 2/5 Game st Blackburn (Off Central Rd). Please email Blaine if you intend to come to this event (blaine@burnet.edu.au).

David Tynan 9844 5727

Painting

The painters are on term break.

(We were pleased to hear the Bargain Sale at the end of August went pretty well.)

Pauline Cross 9439 1775

Craft

Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

Isbel cares for chairs.

This month we're pleased to be able to showcase some of Isbel Plunkett's crafty cane restoration.

Isbel learnt French Polishing and restoration at College quite a few years ago. Nowadays she puts those skills to good use repairing chairs she finds in various places in various states of disrepair. She dismantles them, strips them clean and sands them back. Any broken parts are replaced from bits and pieces Isbel has acquired over the years. Staining is next, then comes the task of weaving the seats with 8 rows of cane. Isbel uses 2, 3 and 4mm cane brought in from Asia, made from grasses and shredded and tied in hanks.

Isbel says it's a very rewarding hobby providing a great sense of achievement when a project is completed. The chairs vary in price to buy, but most are over $100. The original cane business was started by the three Bros. Thonet in Collingwood in 1850.

Love Song *(Thanks to Jeremy Loftus-Hills for the photos)*