THE Artful DODGER

AUGUST:2010

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

THINGS I HEARD THIS MONTH

I heard that the letterboxes are gorgeous. We must have photos next issue, Marj!

I heard ex-PM impersonator turned rock impresario, Bill Mitchell, is turning the Mechanics Hall into Festival Hall next Saturday with some fine local bands, many of which include a Mitchell in the line-up. Rock on.

I heard that Caroline Shaw is back in town and wondering how to fit four houses and a Valiant on the stage for *Pig Iron People*.

I heard that WAA life member Bobbi Wilson has been officially hung at Martha's Point Retirement Village in a quiltessential piece of stitching.

I heard there's been another episode in the famous foyer floor stuff up. The floor was ground back during the renovations but coated with the wrong stuff which promptly peeled. This month it was ground back again and finished with the right stuff but apparently foreign stuff blew under the door and left the new surface as prickly as a Mick Malthouse press conference. So now it has to be all done again. The next grinding you hear could be President Ken's teeth!

But the best bit of news I heard was that Pumpkin (Treasurer Simone Kiefer) and Schatze (Theatre Group President David Tynan) got engaged. Isn't creative collaboration what the WAA is all about?

Our heartiest congratulations!

Pig Iron People AUDITIONS! 8pm , Thursday 12 August & 2pm, Sunday 15 August @ the Hall.

Group reports.

Painting

Congratulations to our Life Member Bobbi, Wilson, now residing with her husband Keith at the Martha's Point Retirement Village.

Bobbi for the last year has put many hours of research and physical energy into producing this amazing quilt along with the help of 20 other residents at the village. The quilt has been painted, embroidered and quilted by the ladies.

Early in the month of July they had an Official Hanging Ceremony, with the local Lady Mayoress and Greg Hunt the member for Flinders in the unveiling ceremony. In attendance were the Manager, Staff and friends and a pleasant afternoon was had by all.

Bobbi with local Member Greg Hunt, local Mayoress and her team of quilters.

From the Leader newspaper:

"From Mt Martha's bathing boxes to the Mornington pier or Queenscliff ferry, it's all there in colourful fabric and thread.

A team of about 20 residents at Martha's Point Retirement Village spent about a year quilting and embroidering a Mornington Peninsula themed wall hanging. Resident and contributor Julia Bickers said the fabric illustration had been the brainchild of fellow resident Bobbi Wilson who runs the craft and painting group. It's quite detailed…. basically. Thursday mornings we dedicated to the quilt she said. The 210 x 140 cm quilt now hangs in the dining room of Martha's Point Community Centre."

Further News ..... We all had a very pleasant surprise when our past member Bev Herridge arrived to paint with us in the Hall 3 weeks ago. Bev is over here visiting her Son and Family. The following week we all got together with Bev at Jill Dickason's home for a catch up and cuppa. Thank you Jill.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775

Craft

Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

Pottery

The mosaic letterboxes we are creating for the Strathewen district are half way there. Jan and her Wednesday crew are doing a fantastic jpb. Stoo are the Tuesday girls. All quite different. Each with a distinct personality. Ceri, who recently returned from a stint overseas has just begun one which looks to be the most interesting.

Thankyou too to Doug Smidt who did some running repairs on the "Potter's Folly". What would we do without the Smidts?

We would love any members of the WAA who are interested to visit the studio and see for themselves. Tues or Wednesday or by appointment on 9844 3206.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Theatre

1.OAP on tour

The One Act Players were on the road this month to Macedon and Ararat. See pages 3 and 4 for reports and pics.

2. Pig Iron People

Previously I mentioned that Aldo King was to direct this great play, however, due to work commitments taking him to New Guinea on a regular basis, he has had to withdraw from this gig. Thats bad news of course, but we are very lucky to have our recently returned Caroline Shaw to take over the reins, with Simone Kiefer as Assistant Director. Gail Macrae has generously agreed to take on producing the play. The initial challenge will be to work out how to design and build the elaborate set (four houses and a Valiant!). Stay tuned for more information, and no doubt we will be asking for lots of off-stage help.

3. An engagement

Just for the benefit of those folk who have not yet heard, two members (Pumpkin and Schatze) recently announced their engagement.

David Tynan 9844 5727

STOP PRESS: PIG IRON PEOPLE AUDITIONS

THURSDAY AUG 12 8PM AND SUNDAY AUG 15 2PM

Performance dates are
Fri Oct 15th 8pm, Sat Oct 16th 8pm
Fri Oct 22nd 8pm, Sat 23rd 2pm & 8pm NOTE MATINEE
Fri Oct 29th 8pm, Sat 30th 2pm & 8pm NOTE MATINEE

Rehearsals will be the usual Tues and Thurs with Sunday times by agreement. You must be able to commit to all performance and rehearsal times and dates.

Cast is 4 males, 3 around 60ish and one around 30ish, and 3 females, 2 around 50-60 and one 30ish. A little simple singing is required especially for the younger female.

Beside the usual Stage Manager, Producer, Set builders (set not designed yet, most likely a big job) Lighting Designer, Sound Designer, Lighting Operator, Sound Operator, Front of House we require a "Musical Director" - this could be 2 people, one to research the songs required, and one to teach cast members. Neither very big jobs. Mostly just a couple of lines or phrases of the song is sung. Mostly old standards. This is not a Musical. Please let Gail know if you are interested in any of these off stage roles.

OAPs at Macedon

We did our first festival at Macedon on 17/18 July and though we didn't win heaps of prizes we did ourselves proud and had a great time. David Howell and Bill Connolly were shortlisted [the adjudicator called it 'being nominated' which seems a bit silly to me] for the award of BEST MALE SUPPORT, Lisa Upson, Jan Nance and Raine Dinale were shortlisted for the award of BEST FEMALE LEAD and Adrian Rice similarly for the award of BEST DIRECTOR. As well as these 'nominations' we won a SPECIAL ADJUDICATORS AWARD FOR COSTUMES for Red Hot In Amsterdam. All of us thought our performances were excellent and if we had been giving awards we would have won everything but there ya go - you can't win them all. Seriously we did feel that our performances continue to improve and watch out Ararat!!! Lots of excellent feedback from audience members too.

The weather, as always, was cold and late on Sunday afternoon became and stayed wet but the facilities at Macedon are so good and the locals so supportive that it doesn't seem to matter. It did matter when we had to load the sets and then unload them back home in steady rain but it all got done and we all got home safe. Special mentions to Phil Dyer who generously lent us his covered work trailer and to Bill and Phyl [who towed it] for necessarily being first to start and last to get home.

OAPs at Ararat

Last weekend, a cold and rainy one up around the Grampians, Phil Dyer helped us load up his (fortunately) covered trailer and joined us on our expeditionu to Ararat. The theatre was wonderful though a little inflexible which gave us a few setting up issues, but of course we coped like the troupers we are. The adjudication was perhaps the best we've struck, sometimes puzzling, but with lots of feedback and positive support, particularly to the younger productions which were a big part of this festival. Jan Nance was nominated for Best Actress and Raine Dinale for Best Supporting Actress. *Mental* and *Red Hot in Amsterdam* were both nominated for Best Comedy and *RHIA* went on to take out the title! Congratulations to Phyllis and cast.

So that's the OAPs for another year, successful on many levels. Well done all concerned. Now on the our next production!

(Unfortunately we have no photos from Ararat, so here are some bad leftover pics of our two Mental actresses.)

WARRANDYTE LIVE!

Saturday, August the 7th, live at the Mechanics Hall! Featuring three of our best young local bands. *Yoshitoro,* featuring former WTC groupers Josh and Tom Mitchell, play their indy, alternative rock sounds. Followed by brother and Follies favourite Jesse fronting *The Jesse Mitchell Band* for some soulful, funky dance tunes. Rounding off with *The Thod*, an eight-piece upbeat rock and dance group featuring Keryn Wood's talented son, Alistair.
And it's all MC'd by local comedian Dave Warneke.
Doors open at 7.45pm, entry $10.