JUNE:2011

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 98444111 or alan@commercialventure.com.au

AGM

On 2nd May, a healthy crowd attended the AGM of the Central Committee to hear reports from the President, Secretary, Treasurer and each of the groups. There's a copy of the President's report on page 4. The following office holders were elected:

Ken Virtue (President)
Jack Stringer (Vice President & Public Officer)
Simone Kiefer (Treasurer)
Pat Anderson (Secretary)
Noelle Burgess (Asst Secretary)
Marjorie Beecham (Pottery)
Pauline Cross (Painting)
Alan Cornell (Newsletter)
Robert Black (Website)

DRAMA QUEEN

Congratulations Lisa Upson on becoming the new Theatre Company President! The Dodger sent its intrepid cub reporter to interview her.

Lisa, congratulations on defeating an eager and talented field of rivals for the President's role. Can you tell us who is your new committee?

The new committee is: Noelene Cooper (Secretary), Simone Kiefer (Treasurer), Adrian Rice, Naomi Oosting, Darryl Mitchell, Louise Phelan, Jenn Aitchison and me.

Is there a Vice President in case you forget which night the meetings are on?

No VP. I don't share well.

What direction would you like to lead the group in? Any exciting new ideas?

I think the group is heading in the right direction (good name for a song). I do have some ideas but I can't divulge anything yet.

Do you plan to produce anything by A.L.Webber with yourself in the starring role?

Don't know who A.L.Webber is but if I can be a glamour queen for once, I'm in.

A for Andrew L for Lloyd.

Ha! If you had said Andrew Lloyd W. I would have got it. What a wozzle am I. Anyway the answer is still the same, except for Cats. Am not interested in being a glamour puss!!

Do you have any comment about the previous president, preferably slanderous?

On the subject of the past President, I am bound by the theatre code - whatever happens on a one act play festival weekend, stays on a one act play festival weekend.

Can you think of an intelligent question we should have asked you then provide an intelligent answer to it?

No.

Do you have a preferred headshot or shall we dig into our files for the least flattering pic we can find?

All photos of me have to be okayed by my publicist. She can be contacted on her mobile. *(Phone always engaged - Ed)*

Thankyou and good luck.

You're welcome.

Dates to Remember

ONE ACT PLAYS
24, 25 June 1, 2 July
Matinee - 2pm 2 July

Group reports.

Pottery

The Studio has taken on the guise of a mini "Stonehenge" at the moment. The potters are trying their hand at sculpture. We have a dozen huge slabs of limestone in the process of being converted into works of art? Anyone interested is welcome to join us downstairs (too heavy to carry upstairs) in the Studio on Tuesday morning. Ring me on 9844 3206 or Amanda on 0409 88399.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Painting

We had a quite month out painting, had one pleasant day painting the Warrandyte streetscape. Our Bargain sale day was very quiet in the morning - it was rather cold. However it picked up in the afternoon with good quite a few visitors and reasonable sales.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775 Gill Beddington 9842 2151

Theatre

Hi All. This is my inaugural report for the Dodger. Firstly I would like to thank David Tynan, the previous President, for the wonderful job he has done steering the ship. The Company has had a very successful time under his leadership. I would also like to thank the outgoing committee members, and welcome the new members. I am looking forward to continuing the success and injecting some new ideas over the coming year.

AGM

We had a great turnout of interested people at the AGM last month. Thanks to everyone who showed up and contributed to some lively discussions on future directions and on how to improve our profile within Warrandyte and surrounding areas.

OAP's

We are smack bang in the middle of rehearsals for the OAP's and actors and directors are working hard. I would like to thank Naomi Oosting for taking on the role of Producer and Jo French for being our Stage Manager. If I am not mistaken, they are both first timers in their respective roles, so I wish them well. Opening night is Friday, June 24th, so don't forget to book tickets for a wonderful night of theatre. This year we are taking all 3 plays to the Macedon and Gemco OAP Festivals. Always an enjoyable weekend of good theatre and cold winter weather.

2012 Follies

Plans are already on the go for next year's Follies with our first writer's meeting scheduled for August. A wonderful Director has gallantly put their hand up - announcements soon!

So we will see you all at the OAP's.

Cheers and Chookas,

Lisa Upson 9844 5727

Craft

Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

SOAP OPERA by David Ives

Directed by David Tynan

A washing-machine repairman falls in love with a picture-perfect washer. Should he tell his girlfriend Mabel? Is the washer two-timing him with a dryer? Stay tuned.

DECLINE & HALL by Roger Gimblett

Directed by Bill Connolly

The Community Hall is falling down. The building committee is hopelessly divided and penniless. Will the Cub Scout troupe lose their meeting place? What of the Drama Club and Indoor Bowls? And will love spring anew for the local Minister?

GOOD GRIEF by Frank Wilkie

Directed by Phyl Swindley

Ever felt your therapist was more messed up than you? What drives needy and unstable characters to become counsellors? In Good Grief, a man with a tragedy-scarred past falls into the clutches of self-absorbed volunteer counsellor Evelyn Barge who hijacks the therapy session to pursue her own psycho-sexual agenda. Both Evelyn and her client undergo radical transformations during the process but the results and revelations are not what anyone expects. Textbook Counselling 101? Imagine the opposite.

24, 25 JUNE
1, 2 JULY
MATINEE
2 PM SAT 2 JULY

BOOKINGS
048 333 575

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (for year ended December 2010)

Things have changed.

For one thing it's already 2011. For another, I am now retired from daily corporate employment, hence I no longer have the excuse of being "too busy at work" to avoid / delay any administration duties for WMI&AA !

So much happened in the 2010 life of our association that I hardly know where to begin. So I might just grab another cup of mid-week coffee with Vice President Jack Stringer to marshal my thoughts...speaking of whom, he has once again being an outstanding support to me, particularly with leading the Association during my absence in China in the early months of the year. Jack also put in his well-regarded musical efforts with the Theatre Company, and his wise counsel to Central Committee matters. Thanks, young friend.

When you think about what sort of person might make the ideal community Association Secretary you very quickly work out that Pat Anderson would be at the top of such a list. Detailed, thoughtful, reliable are just a few relevant adjectives. We all love your work, Pat, and we really want you to know how much we always appreciate your efforts.

Our Treasurer, Simone Kiefer, has coped with all manner of financial and bookkeeping hurdles. Firstly we had significant outflows for hall building works late last year beyond our normal and grant incomes and thus we managed to get perilously low on funds. Then we had to balance out all the bookwork for the major Groups, and throughout all of this Simone kept us 'in the black' along with her trademark smile and good humour. Sincere thanks for a great job under trying circumstances.

It is clear that our Group Presidents made 2010 another year to remember with their various sterling efforts directed at promoting the Arts within our community, as well as helping to maintain and improve our historic Mechanics Institute Hall.

Marjorie Beecham has been an ongoing 'energiser bunny' with our Pottery Group, running both normal and U3A classes. Their work on those CFA letter boxes was an artistic and charitable highlight, but LOTS of hours of hard work – well done, all!

David Tynan managed his fourth brilliant year as President of our Warrandyte Theatre Company – yet another successful Follies (from out of the wardrobe), a season of well-awarded One Act Plays, and of course the innovative season of "The Pig Iron People" which demonstrated the growth of both our acting and set building reputations. Excellent work, thespians!

Pauline Cross, in her usual calm and professional manner, led the Painting Group for their regular working sessions as well as Art Shows. Pauline's support for Central Committee activities has been invaluable as always.

Rosemary Climas continued to organise the Craft Group monthly activities with her 'no-fuss' approach which has been appreciated.

Supporting these Groups, our three other Central Committee members deserve special mention.

Noelle Burgess has worked solidly with other Committee members on mail and Newsletter distribution, and even on Hall gardening with Marjorie. Thanks, Noelle.

Alan Cornell showed why his contributions to WMI&AA led to him being awarded Life Membership in April 2011. The "Dodger", our lovely monthly newsletter, has been an ongoing joy, and a much-discussed communication link for all of us. In addition Alan's creative work on directing the 2010 Follies, as well as writing sketches, songs and the classy program was of the highest standard. He further solidly contributed to the "Hall Stars" fundraiser sub-committee later in the year to achieve a most pleasing and entertaining result – well done to all those involved!

I want to sincerely thank our Hall Curator, Graeme Breadmore , for his work with our regular hirers and for his much-needed maintenance and cleaning duties. Graeme has helped to make the use of the Hall a friendly experience for all concerned.

In conclusion, on behalf of all members, I wish to gratefully acknowledge the wonderful ongoing support provided to us by the Warrandyte Bendigo Bank and the Community Enterprise Foundation. Their donations have meant that we were able to undertake the major projects of foyer upgrade, new toilet facilities and our rainwater collection tank system during 2010. Also, we were able to purchase some further theatre lighting units to assist us with professional productions.

In this regard I also wish to thank Jock Macneish for his ongoing and generous architectural contributions to our Association. Bravo!

I look forward to the challenges that face us in 2011, and I know that if we keep operating as we did this year that we will surely continue to be a positive force in the community life of Warrandyte. *Ken Virtue, President, 2 May 2011*

ARTICULATE

One of our Warrandyte painters, Sandra Finger Lee, is aspiring to compose a collection of poems on notable Australian artists work from colonial days to the present. Starting with Rupert Bunny.

BUNNY, RUPERT CHARLES WULSTEN (1864-1947)

Educated at Alma Road Grammar School, St Kilda, The Hutchins School, Hobart, and in Germany and Switzerland. 1881 enrolled at the University of Melbourne to study civil engineering; abandoned studies hoping to become an actor. Frustrated by family opposition, joined the National Gallery schools. 1884 went to London; 1886 left for Paris to study.

1888 Exhibited at the Salon de la Société des Artistes Français (Old Salon) Became the first Australian painter to receive a mention honorable. 1901 left the Paris Old Salon for the New (Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts). This coincided with a change in his work from large, idealized subject compositions drawn from the Bible and classical mythology, to paintings of women, landscapes, and portraiture.

1911, at his height visited Australia for successful exhibitions. 1912, returned to Paris. 1920s held exhibitions in Melbourne Sydney and Paris. 1933 returned to Melbourne due to hard economic times and death of his wife.

Later devoted increasing time to music. Composed several ballets. Hailed as one of Australia's finest artists of his time - a skilfully eclectic painter whose works ranged from large-scale compositions in the grand manner to decorative scenes of feminine intimacy. Died 25 May 1947 Melbourne.

THE GOLDEN AGE *watercolour (c1889-93)*

Rupert Bunny painted
The Golden Age
youth barefooted in grass
by woodland in sunshine
tresses flowing romance budding
sweet innocence fresh
Love's golden years.

His paper absorbed love's intoxicate whispers
the maiden's hand yearning
to be grasped
cooled unrequited tension her presence enamoured
full robed her to shield
from Eros bare breasted.

Like juice from a watermelon
Rupert's paint dribbled
washed soft violet shades and young love's green
French kissed his thick paper and
splashed pale pinks blushing
and youth walked the grassy meadow
love's golden years.

Rupert's world idyllic
mood romantic
classic tradition transformed with paint
youth is the golden age
a dream on a breeze
drifting on
drifting on love's golden years.