JULY:2012

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

MARJORIE'S BUSY MONTH

The ever-retiring figure in black in the accompanying snap is our beloved Marjory Beecham casting her critical eye over the Potters' display at the recent launch of the *Warrandyte Arts* brochure on the 15th of June - in which she, daughter Amanda and the WAA Pottery Group all feature. Apparently the launch was a great success and local MP Ryan Smith left with a boxful of booklets to show the Tourism Minister and place in the Tourist Info place in Fed Square.

A POTTED HISTORY

In the meantime she has prepared an account of the Pottery group's genesis for the Manningham Art Gallery, who, with the assistance of the Warrandyte Historical Society, is creating a display to celebrate Potters Cottage in August. You will be able to read it on their website, or on page 3 of the Dodger if you can't wait. (*You can also read a lively account of the Historical Society's current exhibition in* Living With the Trotts *in this month's Diary.)*

POTTER'S PARKING

Then Marjorie tackled the problem of one hour parking outside the Pottery Studio. And who could resist her wrath? Certainly not the Manningham Council, who have now advised that, subject to any objections to their proposal, one hour parking in Mitchell Ave will in future not commence until after 1pm. That will be a great relief for the potters. Though personally I am at a loss to understand why a limit is required there at all.

POTTERS PARTYING

Anyway, with all that out of the way, Marj is about to scurry off to potter around the Mediterranean. She's going to Crete and a bunch of other places - Italy? Portugal? She did tell me where but I can't keep up with her.

TRY BOOKING NOW FOR OAPS

Time to book, which for the first time you can do online at www.trybooking.com/bjtm.

WHILE WE'RE ONLINE

Robert Black has made some improvements to our website, including updating the Painters' Gallery and making links on the home page and theatre page to the new on-line booking system to be trialled for the One Act Plays. Robert's better half, Gill, also came across a report of another lively performance in the Hall, this one a mere 119 years ago which I have reproduced for your interest on page 3.

VALE DON CHARLWOOD

Warrandyte has lost a true gentleman and a genuine talent with the passing of Don Charlwood, a man who packed plenty into his 96 years. The Charlwoods have been members and great supporters of the WMI&AA for many years. I've always admired Don's writing and recommend you take a dip into *All the Green Year* or his account of Bomber Command in WW2, *No Moon Tonight*. He received the Order of Australia in 1992 for services to Australian literature. Our thoughts go to Nell and his family.

RUPERT SAYS NO

People who did not apply for editorship of the Dodger include Ita Buttrose, Rebekah Brooks, Stephen Mayne, Michelle Grattan, Deryn Hinch and Gina Reinhart. Or anyone else. So if you were hanging back because you were unsure of your qualifications or simply wanted to give someone else a go, now is the time to come out of your literary closet and call me on 98444111.

Dates to Remember:

11 July - Pottery term ends

3, 4, 10, 11 August One Act Plays

Group reports.

Painting

We had pleasant days out painting this month.

We have decided to meet fortnightly at this time and it seems to be working quite well. We had a very pleasant day painting the golds of Autumn across the way from the Hall. The following meeting we ventured over to Edendale farm in Eltham painting chooks and views around, the change was most appreciated.

We welcome John Downing back with us, I'm sure Ray will welcome some male company.

On a sad note, we send our sincere sympathy to Robin Dawson and Family. Robin's husband Brian passed away recently after a long illness.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775

Pottery

Many thanks to Lea and Jack (proud holder of RSA certificate) and Simone and David for their great help at the launch of the Warrandyte Art information booklet. It is a great publication and gives WMI&AA some good publicity. Thankyou too to John David for the loan of his magnificent ceramic and iron fish. They certainly stood out at the mini exhibiton held in the Community Centre.

A reminder of changed term dates. 2nd term will end on July 16 and resume for 3rd term on August 13th.

Anyone who has seen the film "The Way" will be interersted to hear that Wednesday potter Hai Sook Wilson together with her husband has recently left to make the walk on the Il Cammino. She plans to join the trail at Bentos. We wish her a fantastic experience.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Craft

Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

Theatre

OAP's

Winter for me means footy, blazing fireplaces, hearty soup and the Warrandyte Theatre Company's season of One Act Plays and we have 4 wonderful plays for you. Here is a little synopsis of each play.

A Talk in the Park - Alan Ayckbourn

Four people sit comfortably in the park, minding their own business and enjoying a semblance of solitude. This changes when Arthur arrives setting off a chain reaction that could almost be the pre-cursor to Grumpy People!

Ferris Wheel - Mary Miller

John and Dorie aim to conquer fear and phobia and addiction by riding the Ferris wheel - an unlikely love story of sorts.

Father,s Day - Allan Williams

Dad spends his days alone and in his own world. Getting old, he has few visitors but he can look after himself as he demonstrates in this drama.

Android Upgrade - Vee Malnar

Is Amber desperate? Is Larissa an opportunist? Can the Android really do what it says in the manual? The future is here! Funny and futuristic.

So we hope to see you there. Don't forget to try Mrs Rice's wonderful cup o' soup, or if you come on the opening night, there will be a complimentary glass of wine to enjoy.

Lisa Upson 9844 1436

WAA Pottery Group & Potters Cottage

Warrandyte Arts Association was born at a meeting called on 22nd November, 1955 to address the growing cultural needs of the community. The following year, at the suggestion of Reg Preston, a public meeting was held, with the idea of forming a pottery group. The supper room at the Mechanics Institute was full of potential potters. By the end of the evening the WAA Potters' Group was a reality. Betty Hipwell and Reg Preston undertook to purchase a second-hand kiln (very small) and a wheel. After operating in various members' sheds, we finally came to rest at Walsh's Old Bakery. This fascinating and historical old building, still with the old ovens, was dark and cold in the winter and boiling hot in the summer. Water was obtained from an outside tank. Windows were few and far between. Some enterprising person drew a square on a blank wall, with the caption, "window". Within earshot of the tolling of the bellbirds and the gurgling of the river, it was a wonderful place to pot.

Elsa Ardern, followed by Doris Granger, were the tutors at the Old Bakery. We dug our own clay from the Kangaroo Ground Quarries. Several times each year, a group of potters would head off, decked out in their oldest clothes and gum boots, with picks and shovels and buckets. After seeking permission from the manager, we would clamber down the sides of the great pits and collect the clay that had risen after the gravel had been washed. This water was 50 to 60 feet deep. The clay settled on top, rather as cream settles on top of milk. At the danger of sinking into the gloomy depths below, we would carefully scrape the beautiful terra cotta clay into buckets and head off back to the bakery, after making a quick count to assess that no one had disappeared into the depths below. We then mixed the terra cotta slurry with ball clay and set it out on plaster bats to firm up. It was a tedious business.

When I became the tutor in 1965, I contacted Walker Potteries, which were then in Mitcham, and asked them to mix us a terra cotta groggy hand building clay. This was an enormous break through – not as romantic but certainly more reliable. The clay arrived in 10lb plastic-wrapped packs. I used to collect them in my Holden until I broke the back springs. Then we decided to spend the extra money and have the packs delivered to the studio.

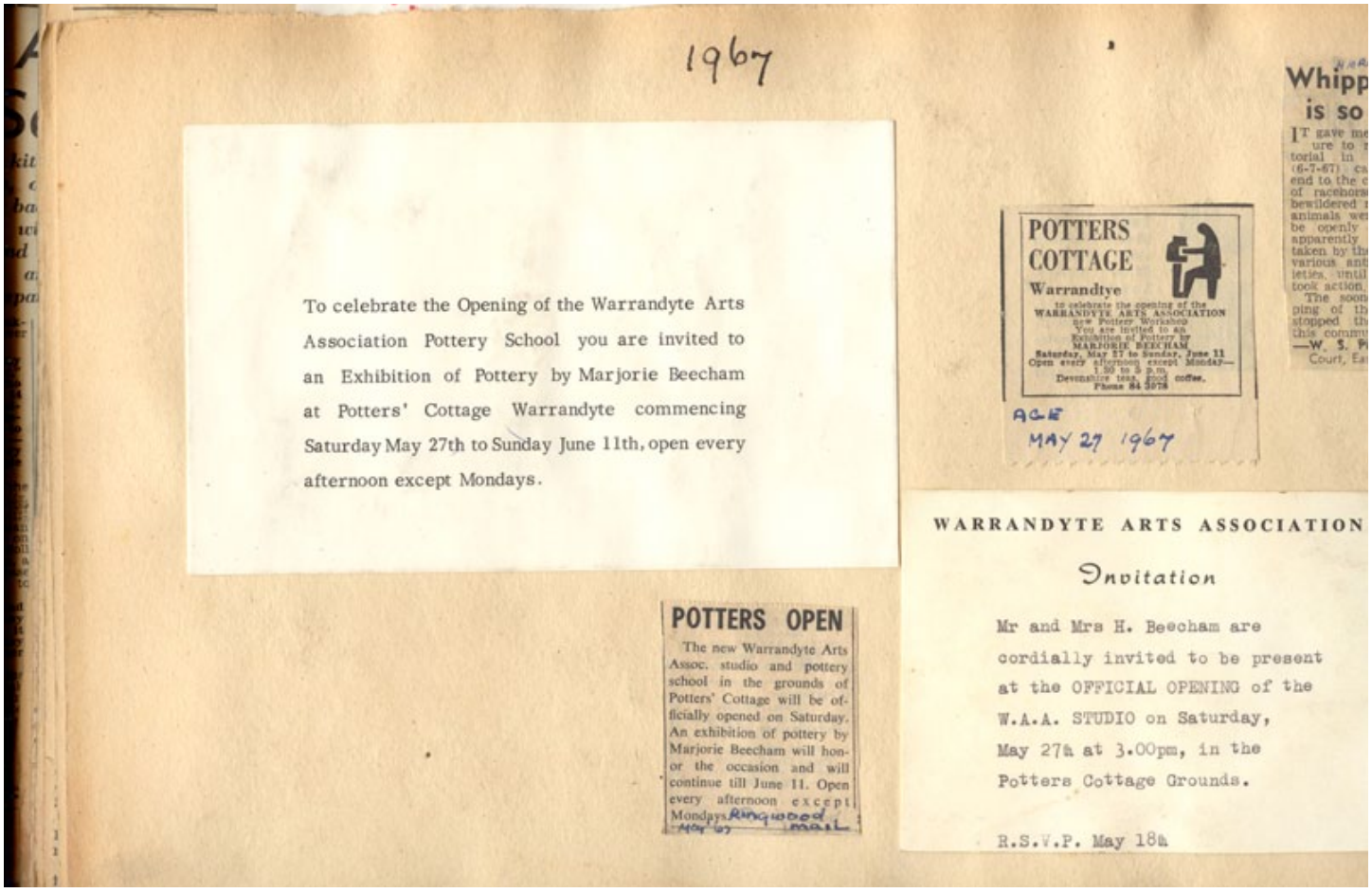
When the tenancy of the bakery terminated, Reg Preston and members of the Potters Cottage, offered us permission to build a studio in the grounds. We held a meeting at my home and it was decided to take out debentures in order to raise the necessary cash. We moved into our new home on 27th May 1965. For the grand opening, potters made sherry mugs. These were glazed in white with cobalt brush decorations. Once having purchased the mug, the owner was entitled to drink as much sherry as desired, then take home the mug as a memento. This eliminated any washing up and avoided the laws about selling alcohol.

Our studio contents grew to five electric wheels, a kick wheel, a front-loading kiln and a huge, new, top-loading kiln. The purchase of these items was mainly due to the generosity of several of our members.

In 1980/1, the original, rural fire station building, which was built on land belonging to the Mechanics Institute, became vacant and we decided to move. This was a massive undertaking, requiring a crane truck for the kiln. As the fire station was not available until early January and Potters Cottage had asked us to vacate the studio there in December, all the contents were stored in the hall and then moved round to the new studio. The move began on Boxing Day 1980. Ted Domeyer, the then president of WAA, with his trailer, helped Henry Beecham and me. It was a stinking hot and very dirty job.

We have happily potted on in the old fire station ever since. Very few of our current members would be aware of our humble beginnings or how much we owe to Reg Preston and Betty Hipwell and the other, far-sighted members of WAA. I thank them on their behalf.

Marj Beecham


1967

To celebrate the Opening of the Warrandyte Arts Association Pottery School you are invited to an Exhibition of Pottery by Marjorie Beecham at Potters' Cottage Warrandyte commencing Saturday May 27th to Sunday June 11th, open every afternoon except Mondays.

POTTERS COTTAGE
Warrandtye

AGE
MAY 27 1967

WARRANDYTE ARTS ASSOCIATION

Invitation

Mr and Mrs H. Beecham are cordially invited to be present at the OFFICIAL OPENING of the W.A.A. STUDIO on Saturday, May 27th at 3.00pm, in the Potters Cottage Grounds.

R.S.V.P. May 18th

POTTERS OPEN

The new Warrandyte Arts Assoc. studio and pottery school in the grounds of Potters' Cottage will be officially opened on Saturday. An exhibition of pottery by Marjorie Beecham will honor the occasion and will continue till June 11. Open every afternoon except Mondays.

THE EVELYN OBSERVER, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1893.

THE WARRANDYTE OUTRAGE.

INDECENTLY REMOVING A DEAD BODY

DON'T Read This

If you do not want to save money.

Read This

WARRANDYTE MECHANICS INSTITUTE

THE WARRANDYTE VARIETY TROUPE'S INITIAL PERFORMANCE.

It is always a very great pleasure to cordially endorse and encourage anything that tends to give legitimate entertainment and amusement.

The Warrandyte Variety Troupe, composed of several respectable young amateurs fond of music, singing, etc., and anxious for self-improvement, determined to give a series of entertainments, and their initial performance (in aid of the Warrandyte Mechanics' Institute), which took place last Friday evening, although the result of but few rehearsals, fully warranted their action.

The troupe, consisting of Messrs. W., A. J., and J. A. Manning, W. Watkins, A. Livingston, C. Rose, and George Treadwell, were introduced to the audience by Mr. C. A. Blair, who, in a few well chosen words, thanked them and the public for their patronage in supporting such a good cause.

The whole of the troupe possess voices considerably above the average, and in spite of the poor acoustic properties of the Hall, the songs went off in, first-class style.

With everything running on so evenly it is hardly necessary to particularize. Mr. G, Treadwell, although young in years, is evidently old in piano playing, and with Mr. C. Rose on the violin, gave great satisfaction ; his overture in the second part being a brilliant performance. Nearly the whole of the songs were new to the place.

The coster song, "Round the Town" (in character), by Messrs. W. and J. Manning, was rather an innovation, and was heartily cheered. Mr S. Graham's clog-dance brought a hearty encore and was followed by an Irish jig.

As the troupe intend give a series of entertainments in the district we can safely recommend those who wish to spend a pleasant evening to patronise them.

The following is the programme :--Minstrel portion, - Bones, Mr: W. Watkins; Tambo, Mr. W. Manning ; Interlocutor, M. A. J. Manning; violin, Mr. O. Rose; pianist, Mr G. Treadwell; Messrs. J. A. Manning and A. Livingston. Overture Troupe; opening chorus, "Climb Up, Ye Children," Mr. W. Manning and Troupe; "Old Folks at Home," Mr A. J. Livingston; " Queen of the Earth," Mr. J. Manning; 'Tan-Tan like a Fairy," W. Manning; "Anchored," Mr. Geo. Treadwell; "Willing Chap," Mr. W. Watkins.

The ordinary side business and jokes were quite up to the mark. Second Part,-Overture (piano), Mr. Geo. Treadwell; song, "Come Down by the Gale," Mr. W. Watkins; Coster Song, "Round the Town," Messrs. W. and J. Manning; "Conquer or Die," Mr. A. Livingston; clog-dance, Mr. S. Graham; "Enniscorty,"' Mr. W. Manning; "Remember Me No More," J. Manning; "I'm in the Clair," Mr. G. Treadwell, accompanied by Messrs. W. Brown and C. Rose. The Farce,- "Grandmother's Ghost." "Aunt Chloe," Mr. A. Livingston; "Jim," Mr. W. Manning; "Sam," Mr. A. J. Manning; "Hurry," Mr. W. Watkins. This was very creditably played, and caused considerable amusement.

The ball was well attended.

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