THE Artful DODGER

June 2013

1.n roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*.
2.n printed handbill full of tidings from the WMI&AA with a closing date for contributions of 25th of each month. (ken.virtue@hotmail.com) **9844 2795**

New WMI&AA President, Jack Stringer

This happy face of music has become the 15th President of our Association.
Jack is well known within the Warrandyte community for his many productions as Musical Director, as well as for some memorable stage roles for the Theatre Company.
As the former Vice President Jack is well prepared for his responsibilities to lead the central committee in their future management of the Association.
He was employed as a senior music teacher and is now a retired gentleman. Often seen having coffee in the village, walking their dogs along the Yarra or cycling effortlessly up KG Road, Jack and his wife, Lea, will no doubt continue to be solid contributors to the Hall.

New Dodger Editor ☞

Everyone has said how great *The Dodger* has been under the skilled hands of Alan Cornell. He set new standards and put in a lot of hard hours to keep us all informed. Thanks so much, Alan!
Well, all of that is about to change as Alan hangs up his professional keyboard and hands over to yours truly, Ken Virtue.
I already have a headache and my hatred of computer software has reached new heights. From now on (until someone with graphic design skills takes over) *The Dodger* will look a lot less polished, a lot more 'clunky' and yes, often misaligned & just a tad blurry. Sigh.

WARRANDYTE MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

New Central Committee for 2013/14

Following the Annual General Meeting on 6th May 2013 the following stalwart volunteers have been elected:

President – Jack Stringer
Vice President / Newsletter – Ken Virtue
Secretary – Pat Anderson
Treasurer – Simone Kiefer
Website Manager – Robert Black
Mail Manager – Noelle Burgess
Committee Member – Alan Cornell
Committee Member - David Tynan
Committee / Pottery – Marjorie Beecham
Committee / Painting – Pauline Cross
Committee / Theatre – Daryll Mitchell

President's Report for the year ended December 2012

Warrandyte is known for both the number and diversity of its clubs and community groups. Increasingly, there are a lot of busy people in our town who have growing demands on their time.

Every successful community organisation relies on the active support of their volunteer members, and happily that has been an enduring feature of our own association.
Over many years the WMI&AA has also been blessed with a solid Central Committee and strong Group Presidents who have managed the Hall and various Group activities. Over the last twenty years I have been lucky to have been surrounded by such talented and reliable people who have ensured our ongoing viability and growth.

During 2012 I was once again greatly supported by Vice President **Jack Stringer**, Secretary **Pat Anderson**, Treasurer **Simone Keifer** and Hall Curator **Graeme Breadmore**. Group Presidents **Marjorie Beecham, Pauline Cross, Rosemary Climas** and **Lisa Upson** contributed their usual wonderful efforts in yet another successful year of Pottery, Painting and Theatre.

Central Committee members, **Noelle Burgess, Alan Cornell** and **Robert Black** ably maintained their specialty roles in mail, newsletter and website.
Indeed, it was a wonderful team effort for which everyone in WMI&AA is very grateful.

The Hall is in generally good shape – the exterior repainting has started, there is a new air conditioner and make-up lights in the Committee Room, a new projector over the stage and more floor boards have been repaired.

The Pottery Studio also has a new air conditioner, as well as two new sets of stairs.

What of the future?
Historic buildings such as our Hall and Pottery Studio will require ongoing maintenance. There will always be things to repair and replace, and additions that can improve general conditions.

Our Groups will require ongoing planning and management so that they evolve to attract new members to the Arts over time. The Theatre Company is already in a position where its reputation for good productions can combine regular audience enjoyment with an important level of revenue input for the Association.
However, we don't need to generate unusual levels of retained earnings.
We are a not-for-profit organisation that seeks to continually reinvest funds for the benefit of members and Hall users. We just need all of our operations to combine to generate sufficient amounts to cover our current costs and to allow for reasonable future additions to infrastructure.

I am confident that all of this can be achieved but it is now time for me to advise that at the 2013 Annual General Meeting I will be stepping aside as President. It has been an honour to work with all of you, and I intend to continue to be involved with other roles in the organisation into 2014.

Ken Virtue
President
6th May 2013

Group report

Thank you to all the people who helped make the heritage exhibition such a great day – to Pat, David, Jack & Pauline (plus gorgeous grandson) and to all the Potters who contributed with the cleaning up which can be a long process.
I loved seeing the diversity of work which proved to me that the WAA Pottery Group is still very much alive and kicking.

Contact: Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206

We had a very successful Heritage Day celebration with a good crowd coming through all day. There were reasonable sales of paintings, and the interest from the visitors was most encouraging.
I would like to thank all those members and friends who participated in the setting up and dismantling, as well as manning the exhibition. Special thanks go to Pat Anderson, our Secretary, who did all the administrative work with the Manningham Council and took part in this event promoting our Hall.

Contact: Pauline Cross 9439 1175

Welcome fellow theatre lovers. We are smack bang in the middle of rehearsals for our One Act Play season, with three fabulous directors and plays. I have included a brief synopsis of each for you. We are now looking ahead also to the Youth Theatre productions, now in their second year, and well underway. We are proud to have some young blood treading the boards in the Mechanics Hall.

ONE ACT PLAYS – June 28 & 29 and July 5 & 6.
Bookings - http://www.trybooking.com/CUKX

At First Sight - Two characters, Holly and Jack, recollect the first moment they met. The recollections veer off, contradicting themselves from meeting in a bar to meeting in a train and are confused with fantasies of what may have or could have been. The scene of their actual meeting is (briefly) replayed several times with the same dialogue and similar action. There are moments of introspection, doubt and longing about what might have been.

Sisters in Paris - Three very different sisters head to Paris for a sibling's only holiday. Harriet for the culture, Nicola for the shopping and Pauline because … because she wants the three of them to get along and have a good time together. Harriet has a secret involving a clandestine rendezvous and nothing actually goes entirely to plan.

Tudo o Nada – All or nothing - A multicultural comedy exploring contemporary attitudes to intercultural relationships and the complications that arise.

Auditions for the Youth Theatre are 2nd June @ 2pm and 5th June @ 7.30pm.

Contact: Daryll Mitchell 0423 088 217

Contact: Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

Celebrating our heritage

When Manningham Council asked if WMI&AA would take part in this year's National Trust Heritage Festival, we agreed because it would be relatively easy to mount a display of the history of the hall, the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and the combined association in line with this year's Festival theme – **Community Milestones**. But when the potters, painters and crafties agreed to be part of it, the idea took on new energy. Indeed, without the magic of a WAA-style display, the history bit would have been very dull.

The potters threw themselves into it, at fairly short notice, and under Marjorie and Amanda's professional and imaginative leadership, the hall stage was transformed into a garden, complete with arch, fencing, paving and vegetation to show off a range of pots, snails, lanterns etc, not to mention the spectacular emu and fish of John's creation. The "orphan" (unclaimed) pots left in the studio had been glazed and fired, offering potential buyers some great bargains.

Pauline had rallied the painters into taking part, allowing only 2 framed paintings per painter, because of the limited space, but again there were bargain, un-framed paintings for sale. There was a lot of talent on display. It should also be said that Pauline had also organised the big signs around Warrandyte and flyers for advertising.

The crafties are a small group and generally don't make items for sale, but they were happy to be part of the show, displaying some of their work, thanks to Rosemary and her team, while Isbel sat by the display, busily re-caning the seat of a chair – an ancient craft.

Marjorie produced some "heritage" items out of the arc and these also generated a bit of interest – even a few purchases , including Bruce Bence's "History of the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute", some bent copies of "More Wheys of Warrandyte" and the famous T-shirts from 1990, celebrating 100 years of the Mechanics Institute. Sadly, these remaining T-shirts are a bit on the small side, otherwise they could be a uniform for us all. Surprisingly, no-one bought a bargain pack of cards (with envelopes) of the hall!

The day turned out to be a great success with a steady stream of visitors and some enquiries about membership, as well as about our history. Thank you to all of you who came along, but a HUGE thank you to some stalwart members who threw themselves into helping us set up. In particular, I would like to mention Jack Stringer and David Tynan who spent some hours on Friday evening setting up the lights to enhance the exhibition and who, with the help of Pauline's grandson, Lewis, dragged the heavy stands across from behind the studio. All three came back to help clear up too. Both Pauline and Marjorie brought mountains of "props" to set off their work and both had a support team of helpers who spent hours on Saturday afternoon to create the display.
In summary, it was great to showcase our groups this way, but really too much work for just 6 hours on a Sunday. I don't think we'll be repeating this next May, but…maybe we should think about working up to a full-on weekend show sometime?

More pictures from the Heritage Exhibition….