February 2017

The Artful DODGER

1.*n.* roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dicken's *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 David Tynan on 98445727 or davidtyn@gmail.com

Welcome back!

On behalf of the fabulous 2016-17 WMIAA Committee, my wife and myself (pictured right in happy times), I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to what we expect will be another wonderful year of the arts in Warrandyte.

Get busy living creative people!

Who are these children?

They turned up at the hall every week in term time last year, but who are they, and what are they doing? Is the Warrandyte Youth Theatre, or something else? Well - all I can tell you that they are back this year, and they do dramatic things. Get the inside story - inside!

Follies time - get your sillies on

Its that time again! Follies are up and running, with the first weekend of the production coinciding the annual Warrandyte Festival - look inside for more details.

POTTERY EXPO

WARRANDYTE

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 10am - 5.30pm
SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 10am - 5.30pm

WARRANDYTE RIVERBANK
OPPOSITE THE PUB IN YARRA ST

www.potteryexpo.com

Programme
Sat 12 noon: The Official Opening of the Pottery Expo with Manningham Council and the Bendigo Bank Announcement of Awards

Music
Saturday: 1-4pm The Scrims
4.30-5.30pm Julia Mohr

Sunday: 1-4pm The Teskey Brothers

Saturday 4-6pm: Wine tasting with Rob Dolan Wines

Special Events with Slow Clay Centre
Sat 11-12: *So You Wanna be a Potter One Day?* Education options with Peter Pilven
Sat 2-3pm: *Makers: Inspirations and Ideas.* with John Tuckwell, Katie Jacobs and Chris Pittard
Sun 11-12: *Setting up a studio.* with Centre founder Jane Sawyer
Sun 2-3pm: *3 Makers: Ways of Selling.* with Adrianna Christiansen, Mary-Lou Pittard and Pilar Rojas

All weekend: Manningham Arts Centre and Clayworks: kids clay, wheel throwing demonstrations.

Group reports

Theatre

With Adrian away, the job has been left to the editor to piece together some news from the Theatre Group this month. Thank you also to Stephen Reynolds for the photo below.

Open Book Follies

Although there was a quiet January, we can report that the 2017 Follies is now in rehearsal with a small but feisty cast, ably led by Directors Louise Phelan and Simone Kiefer. The literary theme promises much, and we look forward to the following production dates with anticipation.

- March 23, 24, 25, 30, 31
- April 1, 6, 7, 8

Can you play the piano?

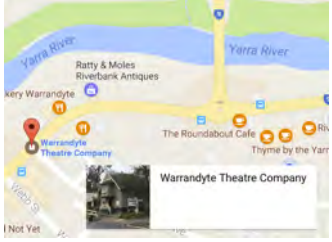
We are eagerly seeking someone to play piano as an accompanist for the Follies, and to help with rehearsals. If you feel you could do this, or you know of someone who might be able to help, the directors are eager to hear from you. Please contact Simone Kiefer on 98445727.

Speaking in Tongues - reviews

Elsewhere in the Dodger, please check out the fabulous reviews for Speaking in Tongues, which wowed the critics everywhere. Well done to the director Susan Rundle, and the fabulous cast and crew. Looks like we should have entered it in the VDL awards!

WTC on Google Maps

As mentioned on front page, searching Google Maps now locates the Theatre Company. Its the first of a number of initiatives to raise the 'visibility' of the WTC in the community. The next item is some separate signage on or near the front of the hall - stand by for more!



For Adrian Rice

Pottery

Hi! Welcome back after what I hope was a happy Christmas break. Welcome back to pottery, parties and participation in all things creative. We are hoping to have a few extra-curricular activities this year.

Before I go any further, I wish to say "thank you" to Brenda and all the Tuesday girls who participated in the "great surprise" and a surprise it most certainly was!

Never in my wildest dreams had I ever though our gorgeous pottery studio would be the "Marjorie Beecham Pottery Studio". It has certainly been a great part of my life. I am forever grateful that I was in the right place at the right time and was offered the job way back in the early 1960s. We have progressed so far since then. I have met so many fabulous life-long friends and learned many lifestyle lessons. So how can I say a big enough thank you to Brenda and the secret-keeping Tuesday girls? I feel very honoured – I have only done what I love to do most, that is, to spend time with creative friends in a happy and pleasant atmosphere.

Congratulations to Amanda for winning the "Grey Elephant" award for 2016. I must say I have not seen the gorgeous piece of art on here masterpiece as yet.

The first term dates are:

1st day Tuesday February 7th
1st day Wednesday February 8th

May I remind you that fees are due on these days. Thanks you to the five Wednesday Potters, Jan, Ceri, Sally, Des and Denys who spent every dusty morning on Wednesday Last cleaning the studio. It looks very good!

Marjorie Beecham

The Chocolate Lilies return for 23rd year!

The Chocolate Lilies is a community choir currently in its 23rd year of sublime singing under the direction of Nerida Kirov. We meet as two separate groups then combine for performances. Monday evenings are in Warrandyte at the

Mechanics Hall and Monday mornings at Allwood Neighbourhood House in Hurstbridge. Our music is an eclectic assortment of songs ranging from World music, Gospel, and contemporary styles to original material, usually in 4-part harmony. If you have wanted to let your voice fly, come and have a sing. No auditions or reading music is necessary, just a willingness to have fun.

Further information about the Chocolate Lilies go to chocolatelilies.webs.com or contact Nerida via email at neridakirov@gmail.com

Nerida Kirov

Tongues are wagging!

Warrandyte Diary's review of our final 2016 production Speaking in Tongues, reproduced with kind permission from Briony Bottarelli!

review

By BRIONY BOTTARELLI

SPEAKING in Tongues, written by Andrew Bovell and directed by Susan Rundle, is the play that the film Lantana was based on.

The film involved many well known actors, but the Warrandyte Theatre Company produced the play as it was originally written, with only four actors – Michael Fenemore, Gabby Llewelyn Salter, Gemma Porter and Christopher Farrell, playing nine different roles.

As an audience member commented, "It was a cracker." The play deals with what I would call First World problems amongst those in their 40s starting to question what life is all about.

The production was delivered by professionals and in a most professional way by all involved. It was like viewing a masterclass in drama. Learning the lines and presenting them so efficiently and effectively must have been extremely difficult for the actors involved, but they were delivered with ease.

For those locals who have never been to one of the Warrandyte Theatre Company's plays, you don't know what you are missing. It is always an excellent night out.

Pictures: STEPHEN REYNOLDS

Free Reign

in concert

In Another Lifetime ...

Saturday February 25th 7.30pm

(Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start)

Warrandyte Mechanics Hall

Cnr Yarra St & Mitchell Ave. Warrandyte

Free Reign produce a style of unique and scintillating music delivered with magical interplay and a fearless sense of adventure that takes their music from folk ballads to the edge of chamber music.

The band will tantalise you with both beautifully crafted arrangements and improvisation on violin, viola, cello, guitar, ukulele, mandolin, piano and accordion. Free Reign is music to warm your heart and enjoyed by All!!

For more information on this unique ensemble visit http://www.ajleonard.com/free-reign

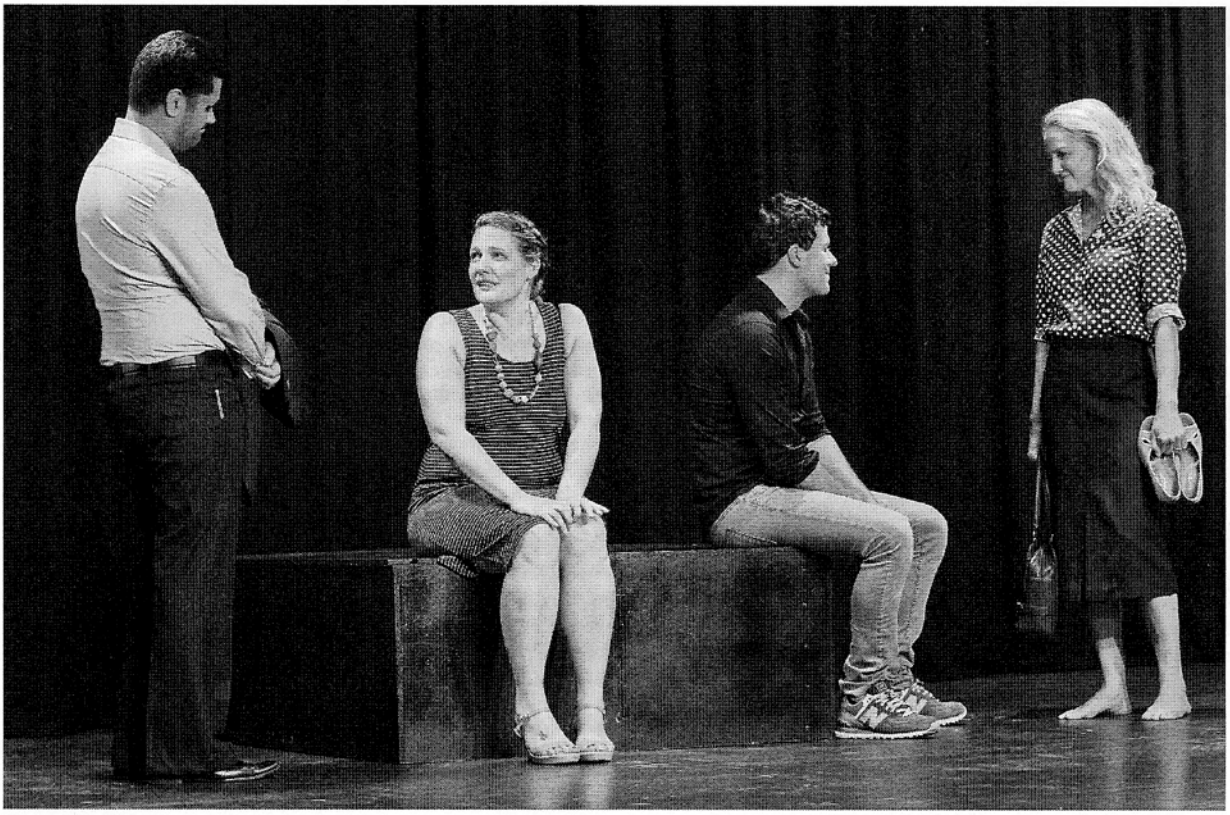
Bookings: please call 0401 167 223, warrandytemusic@gmail.com
www.twilightmusic.com.au

Tickets: Full $25, Conc. $20, Child $10 (under 18), Family $60

Our cafe will be open on the evening for refreshments.

VDL Review - Speaking in Tongues by WTC

reviews



(l–r) Michael Fenemore, Gemma Porter, Christopher Farrell and Gabby Llwelyn Salter in Warrandyte Theatre Company's Speaking in Tongues. *Photo by Stephen Reynolds.*

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

by Andrew Bovell
Warrandyte Theatre Company
Directed by Susan Rundle
Reviewed by David Small – November 25, 2016

I was not looking forward to this assignment. Of the several productions I had previously witnessed, many of the themes and nuances had passed me by. After having the privilege of seeing Warrandyte's fresh and intelligent production I could see at least two reasons why.

If you are familiar with the movie *Lantana*, and not at all with the play *Speaking in Tongues*, you have been spoon-fed with the homogenous screen version. The gritty stage play challenges both cast and audience with its four actors playing nine characters in a play where the plot doesn't always move to where you would like or expect it to go. It intersects with itself with moments already witnessed but from different angles. It's about people seeking excitement and grabbing what they can, with or without remorse.

It takes a skilful, educated theatrical team to reveal what Mr Bovell intended, and for me, Warrandyte had that.

In the programme notes director Susan Rundle wrote: "*Speaking in Tongues* is a mystery thriller, but it is also about human relationships. It's about connection or the lack of it; about trust or the lack of it. About fear, about loss, about love. This is a play full of intersecting lines. It's about husbands and wives and strangers. Life is screwed-up and wonderful—all at once. Author Bovell has said, ... it's about the right and wrong of emotional conduct ... about contracts being broken between intimates while deep bonds are forged between strangers."

The exceptionally talented cast went about proving all that and more, and I could also identify a major reason for absorbing more from this production. When actors look too much alike, and wear similar clothing, one cannot always identify the source of the dialogue. Here the actors were clearly distinguishable. The two men, Michael Fenemore (Leon/Neil) and Christopher Farrell (Pete/Nick/John) were physically quite different in shape and size. Of the ladies, Gabby Llewelyn Salter (Sonja/Valerie) was blonde and Gemma Porter (Jane/Sarah) was not.

Thankfully there was no attempt to dress Susan Rundle's very basic settings or furnishings. Lisa MacGibbon's stage management, Callum Robertson's lighting, and the sound operation of Simone Kiefer or Adrian Rice were all determined by one objective: The characters were paramount. Great work all round.

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

by Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew Archer
The 1812 Theatre
Directed by Loretta Bishop
Reviewed by Catherine Dowling Trask – November 25, 2016

Producing a much-loved television program as live theatre, particularly for an end-of-year treat, could be expected to be a great audience-pleaser. So it was with *The Vicar of Dibley*, directed by Loretta Bishop for The 1812 Theatre.

Ms Bishop selected three episodes to recreate onstage, "Wind and the Weather", "Love and Marriage" and "Winter". For copyright reasons the script of each episode must be produced in its entirety, creating challenges for the director, cast and crew, as scenes may last only seconds, requiring agile and creative solutions. For this production, the cast and the busy backstage crew, under stage manager Jan Langford, coped well with the scene changes but the many blackouts between scenes were a distraction. The set featured the Dibley Village Hall with all other scenes represented by smaller

Warrandyte Music Concerts

The next toe tapping concert at the Warrandyte Hall will be Free Reign on February 25th 730pm.
Free Reign have a unique sound as they create an intelligent blend of folk and chamber music with guitars, mandolin, ukulele, violin, viola, cello, keyboard, accordion and vocals. AJ Leonard's original compositions are all sophisticated pieces with quirky and meaningful lyrics by AJ and the thoughtful poetry of Michael Leunig set to music.

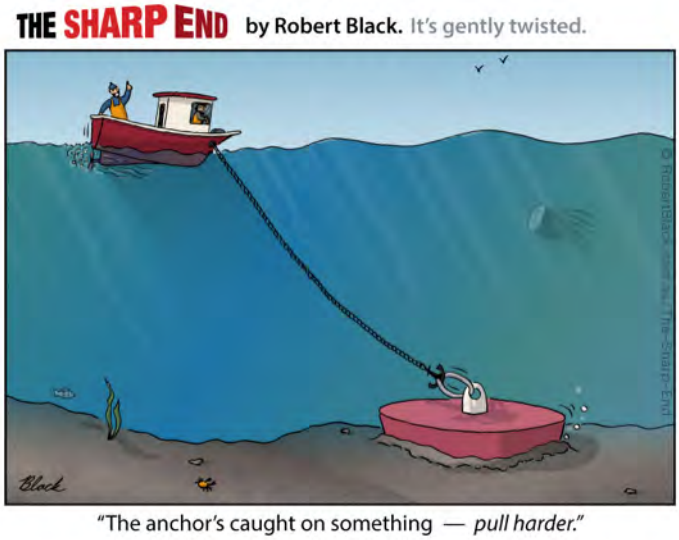
The concerts always have a local connection: Aj and Jenny (cello) lived in Warrandyte for many years moving recently to Woori Yallock. Jenny still teaches cello on Monday evenings at the Warrandyte Community Church, Wendy (viola, accordion, keyboard) is from Castlemaine (not so local) and then we have the very talented Matthew Arnold (violin) - long time Warrandyte resident also until recently.

The ticket prices have been lowered a little to hopefully make the concerts more accessible to the greater community and more people can enjoy these wonderful evenings. Prices: $25 full, $20 conc, $10 child, $60 family. Bookings please call: 0401 167 223, warrandytemusic@gmail.com. We hope you can join us for a great local evening of fantastic music.

Lisa Pearson

The Sharp End

One of our multi-talented members and WMIAA Web and all things digital guru Robert Black moonlights as a terrific cartoonist - you may have seen his work in other publications, including in the Warrandyte Diary. Robert generously permits us to publish one of his 'gently twist' cartoons each month - thanks Robert!



"The anchor's caught on something — *pull harder.*"

House of Muchness – whats it all about?

Our dear hall has many happy hirers – here is some background from Alex Walker about the House of Muchness – a drama based initiative aimed at primary school aged children in Warrandyte. They held weekly workshops every Tuesday afternoon (term time) in 2016.

The story of House of Muchness.

I've worked in the arts with young people for 15 years, some of which has involved senior artistic positions at Australian Theatre for Young People (in Sydney), Outback Theatre for Young People (in regional and remote NSW) and St Martins Youth Arts Centre (Melbourne). Upon leaving St Martins to start my own ventures at the end of 2015, one special family asked if I would be interested in running something near their home in Warrandyte. Kelly Thomas, (the mum), was such a fan of the environment and natural habitat of the area and knew that I liked to work in a way that was responsive to surrounds and sensory elements. I leapt at the chance to dive into a new community so in early 2016 and at the same time as commencing the main venue of House of Muchness in Fitzroy, I also began a Warrandyte branch and thus The Warrandyte Project was born.

Muchness and The Warrandyte Project:

(from my site: *www.houseofmuchness.com*) Your muchness is your you-ness, your core and character, your essence, your bestness, the stuff that you're made of. It is your grit and substance. This is a place for discovering, embracing and celebrating the ingredients that make you you. Muchness is in most abundance as a young person, manifesting in curiosity and wonder, courage and resilience, imagination, and denial of the impossible. We think muchness is best fostered in a culture of inclusive, wholistic creativity. At the House of Muchness, we have created a third space. There is home, there is school, there is HOM. Here we champion the village, the community, the tribe. This is an environment where young people can belong to a collective and build social relatedness, artistic expression and find their creative kin. In alignment with these values, The Warrandyte Project is based on a comprehensive approach to the arts - incorporating all sorts of forms and processes to explore who we are and the world we live in. We utilise discussion, brainstorming, movement, creative play, sound, myth and symbol, patterns, collection and observation excursions, text creation, story, mapping, character and role-play, research of issues, games and exercises connected to self analysis and measurement of social data.....and then find ways of turning our most rich discoveries into performance material!

Project Earth Return

Pretty early on we knew our major performance piece of our first year needed to involve the local bends of the Yarra River in some way (the Birrarung). The young participants seemed to have a mature and passionate environmental consciousness that we wanted to harness as well. They were also really excited by the idea of characters and costumes and narratives and other-worldliness. So! Project Earth Return was the title given to our live art, site specific performance installation. The children played the parts of a mob of Mother Natures' offspring, the river creatures, who had risen from the underground to appeal to their human volunteers (the audience) that more needed to be done to preserve the earth at this pivotal point. They were decked out as futuristic water warriors as they spun their messages using signs, call and response chants, movement sequences and participation tasks with audience (involving the throwing of promise pebbles into the water, the gifting of packets of flower seeds and herbs to attract migrating bees, the presenting of homemade rustic talisman and more).

This year!

The Warrandyte Project returns for more creative making in 2017! We just had our first session last week, but kids can join in at any point. Each session, we divide time between generating material and experimenting with which artistic forms are the best match to it, and drama games, creative play, theatrical exercises to have fun, build a culture of space and skills build. We are yet to decide what direction our performance for the year will take - so it's a time of abundant ideas and following the curious path of imagination and inspiration. The philosophies of House of Muchness mean that benefits from participation are plentiful and include: social confidence, creative expression, a greater sense of self, cultural agency, an authentic experience of citizenship, a space for safe risk-taking, and a chance to uniquely experience the many rewards of participation in the arts!

More information:

Alex Walker (director), phone: 0413 994 428, email: info@houseofmuchness.com, website:

House of Muchness – Project Earth Return in 2016

Many of these pictures are from the Project Earth Return performance on Sunday 27 November 2016. Others are from various sessions throughout the year - at the hall and at the river and other offsite adventures.

The Marjorie Beecham Pottery Studio project

Tuesday potter Brenda Koochew tells the secret story about how a legend was successfully tricked!

Reading a weekend newspaper article about a community building being named in honour of a volunteer, drew obvious comparisons with Marjorie Beecham's years of service to the local community and the idea of the possibility of a similar honour for her. The building always known as "formerly the fire station" needed an updated name and Marjorie certainly deserved such recognition.

Discussions ensued with each pottery group and the WMI&AA committee, regarding the proposition of an official naming. The responses were unanimous and enthusiastic. It was obvious that the WMI&AA community were excited by the prospect of an opportunity to contribute to a project which would honour Marjorie.

The construction of a sign would signify the naming. Marjorie's likes and the environment of Warrandyte were discussed as a focus for planning. A mosaic element representing pottery and the colours of local wattle, combined with a rustic metal frame and writing were agreed upon.
The metalwork was planned and completed in secret, however, the need to work on the mosaic element of the sign in the studio became apparent.To disguise the real plan from Marjorie, a plot was devised which involved David meeting with our pottery group and requesting that we make a "WMI&AA" sign for the studio. With great relief Marjorie jumped on board and the wording of the sign became the only secret. Marjorie even presented a mock design and quote for the project, to the next committee meeting.

The mosaic stage of work provided challenges of design and construction. Amanda's understanding of the colours and artistic style that Marjorie would love, combined with her previous experience of group mosaic projects, saw her lead the direction of the artistic planning and execution.

Much thought was required to ensure the handmade clay tiles were rolled evenly, in sections, cut in interesting patterns and holes cut with precision for the 67 lettering and installation bolts. The imprecise effects of the shrinkage of clay from firing, added further challenges.
Amanda's artistic vision and attention to detail ensured that the sign was taking shape beautifully. Sheryle, Melissa, Noelle, Alison, Robyn, Val and Anne enthusiastically dedicated pottery sessions to rolling and cutting clay, painting, grouting, drilling holes and the many tasks required to complete the project. Good chef/bad chef Melissa and Alison supplied morning teas. Sheryle worked as the power drill and overlocker master. Extra days and unexpected skills were called upon. Guest potters from Marjorie's family, and Marjorie herself, contributed to construction in the studio.

The commitment to the sign's completion extended outside the studio. Peter Sgourakis drilled holes in cement sheeting, David Tynan organised the installation requirements and there were shopping trips for glazes, grout, tools, nuts and bolts. Karl Heine provided some much needed installation help!

With the sign completed, the unveiling of the Marjorie Beecham Pottery Studio sign provided the opportunity to reveal the real purpose of the many hours of planning and construction. Marjorie had made the suggestion that the potters bring a couple of packets of biscuits to share for a get together.
Marjorie's family and friends, the Tuesday and Wednesday potters and the WMI&AA committee arranged a grander celebration to honour Marjorie for her 50+ years of service as a pottery teacher, member of the WMI&AA and her many community contributions.

Marjorie was certainly surprised and the guests were happy for the opportunity to show their appreciation of her endless energy, enthusiasm and hard work over many years. A project well done and a well deserved tribute!

Congratulations to Marjorie!