December 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

The little golden book

While delving into Marjorie's family albums, papers and notebooks, her daughters discovered " The Little Golden Book of Henry and Marjorie". In 2000 Marjorie wrote about her fairytale marriage of 50 years to her beloved Henry. It is a condensed version of her meeting and wonderful years she was married and raised their three daughters with Henry.

Marjorie died on November 15th this year aged 90. A dedicated and active member of the WMI & AA for more than 57 years. Her energy and determination an inspiration to her family and friends. In February, when there is more distance, we will feature some of the words from the memorial service.

Searching for Christmas ideas with a difference?

We recently discovered a treasure trove of WAA cookbooks, compiled in the mid-1980s by members of the Association.

If you would like to purchase one (its only $5), please contact me on davidtyn@gmail.com. After 2018, we are hoping to tempt the Warrandyte Historical Society to sell the remaining copies at a very reasonable price!

2018 Mechanics Institute Hall calendars

As well as the cookbook, there a limited number of these 2018 calendars for sale - first in, best dressed (same contact as above)!

Thank you to all!

We have had yet again a very eventful year. On behalf of the WMIAA Committee, I would like to thank everyone for their support. I would especially like to thank all those who have volunteered their services and time to help us keep the Hall going - fiercely independent, and work to enhance the arts in our local community. Have a safe and happy Christmas break. The next Dodger will be in February 2018.

David Tynan

A hug for our Marjorie

In a beautiful and very moving service, more than 250 friends of Marjorie gathered together the hall to celebrate her life. Its hard to express our sadness about this, but the mood was deeply respectful and loving, and a few people present remarked that it was like the hall and community gave her a massive hug. Long will she live in our hearts.

Group reports

Pottery News

What a marvellous reflection of Marjorie's community involvement it was, when nearly 300 people overflowed from our hall to celebrate her life. Stories dating from Marjorie's childhood to her myriad of 90th birthday celebrations were shared by her family. Marjorie's indefatigable love for her family, followed by her great love of teaching and playing with clay were unmistakable threads through Marjorie's life. The potters are trying to pick up the pieces and continue the many roles that Marjorie filled, with all her rules and regulations, despite missing her so much.

Brenda

Group reports

Painting News

First of all I would like to say how saddened the members of the painting Group were to hear of the passing of Marjorie, and we all send our condolences to her family.

November was a slow month for us, with members being away and other (usually grandmotherly) duties arising, together with unsuitable weather. Robyn, Wendy and myself went to the Warran Glen nursery and had an enjoyable few hours before hurriedly packing up when huge black clouds appeared. And of course last Friday 1st December with the Bureau of Meteorology forecasting such a deluge, we decided to cancel. It turned out that the property we were going to had a huge inundation with the verandah and house being swamped with rain!

I have included some art works by Robyn Bonythorne and Alison Thom, and as you can see there is a great deal of difference in style which I find most interesting. I just love to see everyone's hard work, we have a very talented group.

Marion Cooper's life drawing group is going extremely well with a number of dedicated and talented attendees. Marion has made a few extra easels to accommodate the increased numbers for her group, so not only is she a brilliant life drawer but handywoman too.

Next Sunday, 10th December an Artists' Market is being held at the Mechanics Institute Hall from 4pm till 8pm. The convenor has agreed to let us have a space to promote our group, as we really need more members to remain viable. We will not be selling any works at this market, but it is something we may consider if it continues.

As stated in our last month report we will finish up on 15 December and recommence 2 February 2018.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you one and all.

Rhonda Stewart.

Group reports (continued)

Theatre News

Post production blues

While all those involved in staging "Brief Encounter" are probably feeling at a bit of a loose end this week, they might just be breathing a huge sigh of relief.

Congratulations to everyone. We knew it was a big undertaking and we had some moments when we wondered if we'd be ready but, we were and we knocked 'em dead!

Sunday saw the stage returned to its dreary self after the action at Milford Junction which enchanted audiences that averaged roughly 60 per show. The play has received great feedback from audiences who enthusiastically acknowledged the ability of the actors and the skill of the musicians in transporting them back 8 decades to a station café somewhere in England.

Brief Encounter clearly demonstrated what we can achieve at Warrandyte as have other recent productions. The challenge now is to to maintain public interest in our work and build on our achievements. Sorry if that sounds too much like "management speak" but to do justice to our art, we should be extending ourselves as well as our audiences.

WTC Program for 2018

Next year's seasons are sorted, As follows:

Season 1 - four One Act Plays - Auditions January 21st, 4 pm; 23rd, 8pm; 25th 8pm

OAP 1: *Smitten* by Anna Stillaman and Mark Matthews, directed by Alastair Rice
OAP 2: *Albert* by Richard Harris, directed by George Benaca
OAP 3: *Little Box of Oblivion* by Stephen Bean, directed by Susan Rundle
OAP 4: *Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread* by David Ives, directed by Caroline Shaw

All four plays could be described as quirky; definitely entertaining and funny. The theatre will be arranged in table seating - so bring a group of friends and eat and drink while you are being entertained.

Season 2 - *Doubt* **by John Patrick Shanley, directed by Susan Rundle**. (June 8th,9th,17th,18th)
Auditions March 18th , 4pm 20th , 8pm
At a catholic school in New York a strict nun has doubts about the behaviour of one of the school's priests. She begins to doubt her motives and her faith and the audience is left to make up its own mind as to who was in the wrong; more doubt. A moving, Pulitzer prize winning play that was filmed with Philip Seymour-Hoffman and Meryl Streep.

Season 3 - *Vere* **by John Doyle, directed by Ruth Richter** (August 31, September 1st, 6th , 7th , 8th)
Auditions June 10th 4pm, 12th 8 pm
In Doyle's words the play "sets out to examine what the qualities that make us human" - which, he adds, are "the forces that shape us and the context in which we live". Based on his experiences while caring for his late father who suffered dementia. Doyle continues "It's black comedy, from a gloomy place with (as you'd expect from Doyle) many lighter and funny moments.

Season 4 - *The Warrandyte Follies*. **Sketch, song dance and review** (November 15,16,17,22,23,24,29,30 and Dec 1).
Auditions September 9th 4 pm 11th 8pm
The ever popular "Follies" returns to the stage at the "brand new time" of … November.
Original sketches, songs and music which will put everyone in the festive mood and still leave three weeks for Christmas shopping. The theatre will be arranged in table seating - so bring a group of friends and eat and drink while you are being entertained.

We don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves, this is Warrandyte after all but, we expect to be staging a pantomime in March 2019, as well as "All Our Sons" by Arthur Miller and of course The Follies - again in Nov/Dec.

Group reports (continued)

Theatre News (continued)

Red Carpet Ball
Sadly we have had to postpone. We didn't sell enough tickets to make this viable in December. Though not a fund raising event, we can't afford for it to be a fund losing event. So, we have postponed til July 2018. Definite dates early next year and thank you to all the hard work by Lou and her team in getting it to this stage; your work will not go to waste.

Lyrebird Award nominations
Earlier this year we joined "The Lyrebirds Awards" whose role (from their website) is to "encourage participation and reward talent in performing arts in the outer eastern region of Melbourne. The awards were designed to recognise artistic merit and celebrate artistic endeavour. Our motto is to 'Foster the spirit of entertainment."
The nominations for awards across eastern suburbs' theatre companies are out.

They include the following - all for "Proof"

* Best Drama
* Reschelle O'Connor - best actor, female in a drama
* Michael Fenemore - best actor, male in a drama
* Suzie Cazda - best supporting actor, female in a drama
* Caroline Shaw and Lisa MacGibbon -best director/s in a drama
* Denise Farran - best costume in a drama
* Jock Macneish and Caroline Shaw - best set in a drama

Phew! The awards ceremony is February 10th at Karralyka Theatre in Ringwood. Congratulations to everyone involved with "Proof.

And congratulations to the band - our very own Trio De Gare from "Brief Encounter" who were awarded a "Judges Award" for "enhancing transitions in a drama."

The full list of nominations is here :
http://lyrebirdawards.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/2017-Lyrebird-Adult-Nomination-List.pdf

Special thanks to our off-stage champions!
Since it's December and our work for 2017 is over. Special mentions to all producers, stage managers and crews, technical crews, designers, costumers, painters and front of house for their assistance behind the scenes and especially the following who gave generously of their time and skills to bring our various productions to life

Karl Heine and Bill Mitchell - set building
Noelene and teams - seeking props
Jock and Caroline - designing sets
Denise - painting them (the sets)
Caroline - sourcing costumes and costume advice
Hazel - Front of House coordination
Callum - for tireless technical work
Alan - for enabling a successful Follies through his provision of original scripts and for posters and programmes
Susan and Collette - for helping us dance better than we thought possible

And that's about it for 2017.
Happy Christmas and New Year to all our members and patrons. See you next year.

Adrian Rice

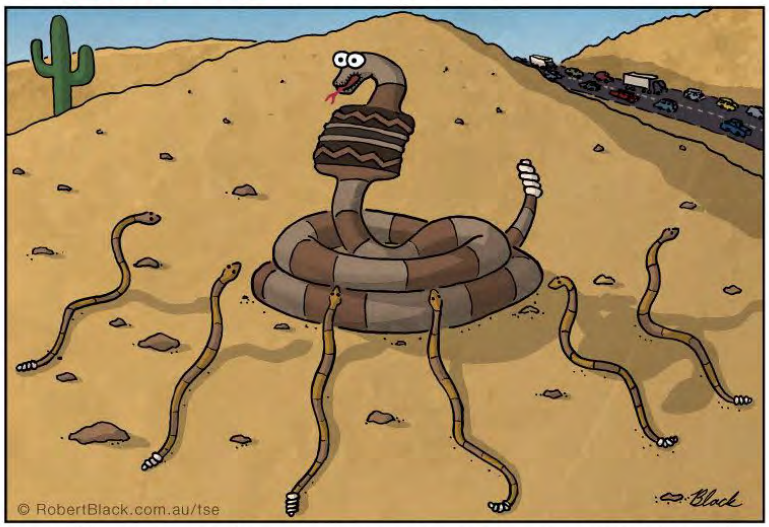
Brief Encounter Memories

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!

For more about the Sharp End, go to

http://www.robertblack.com.au/the-sharp-end



"In life, it's probably a good idea to take the road less travelled…"

SERENADING ADELA

A Street Opera

WANTED
AN UNRULY MOB

Join us to mark the 1917 "serenading" of anti-war activist Adela Pankhurst at Pentridge Gaol. Performers and audience welcome!

3 free performances:
Monday 11 December, Trades Hall
Wednesday 20 December, Brunswick
Sunday 7 January, Pentridge
(Centenary Performance)

Join the **Unruly Mob!** You will play the crowd, learn some easy songs, & join the choir and street band for a short street march.

Unruly Mob rehearsals:
December 3, 10 and 17 (Sunday afternoons)
January 2, 3, and 5 (early evenings).
January 6 (Dress Rehearsal, afternoon/evening)

Register: eepurl.com/b-R8Lj
Email: serenadingadela@gmail.com
Facebook: SerenadingAdela
Phone: 0490 182 041
Web: brunswickcoburganti conscription.wordpress.com

Thanks also to the City of Moreland, Victorian Trades Hall Council and many other supporters

CREATIVE VICTORIA