June 2018

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

No doubt about the quality of Doubt

Reschelle O'Connor, Chris O'Neill and Lisa Upson as Sister James, Father Flynn and Sister Aloysius.

Gloria Rono as Mrs Mueller and Lisa Upson as Sister Aloysius

Last chance to book your tickets!

Warrandyte Theatre Company presents

with kind permission of George Lane Agent and Creative Artists Agency

DOUBT

John Patrick Shanley

Directed by Susan Rundle

June 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 14th 15th, 16th at 8pm
Matinee June 9th at 2pm

Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall, corner of Mitchell Ave and Yarra St.

BOOKINGS: https://www.trybooking.com/VDZO

Sad farewell to Graeme – the day has now arrived

The end of May marks the end of a long and valuable contribution by the hall caretaker, Graeme Breadmore, who will finish up his role as hall caretaker, a position he has held for the last sixteen years. He will be moving to Daylesford permanently to begin a new chapter in his life.

Graeme has quietly and efficiently managed the hall buildings, and developed and maintained relationships with those individuals and groups that have hired the hall for their various artistic, sporting or recreational pursuits. Graeme's personal qualities made him a pleasure to deal with, and his calm demeanour and solution-focussed approach meant enhanced the reputation of the WMIAA in the community. It speaks volumes that we now need to replace Graeme with two people, so that the responsibilities of care taking and cleaning can be done. The committee looks forward to celebrating and thanking him for his major contribution at a special dinner at a date to be announced shortly.

Any hall hiring or routine hall management matters will now be coordinated by the new hall caretaker, Callum Robertson. His contact number is 0423 593 559.

Group reports

Visual Arts News

The plein air painting group is a bit quiet at the moment, but life-drawing is still having good attendance. Am very pleased with positive response of regular numbers. Still-life enjoys the enthusiasm of a few but an excellent time to improve & chat of exhibitions etc. A shoutout to anyone interested in sitting for us. (clothes on) Looking to get a portrait session going over school holidays. Contact Marion 0408395299

Marion Cooper

Group reports

Pottery News

The Tuesday potters were very happy to welcome back Ali, jet lagged and tired following a trip to Spain as a guest for a very special wedding and beautiful holiday.

Robyn has been combining her attention to detail with her love for her grandchildren in her latest major project. It's been great to hear Robyn share stories about each child as she has created her statuettes. Robyn's understanding of each child's likes, dislikes and favourite colours are reflected in her representations.

Next week Rene Fagan will be celebrating her 100th birthday! Happy birthday to Rene and congratulations on such a terrific milestone.

The Wednesday potters will be hosting a celebratory lunch at the Marjorie Beecham Pottery Studio on Wednesday, 13th June at noon.

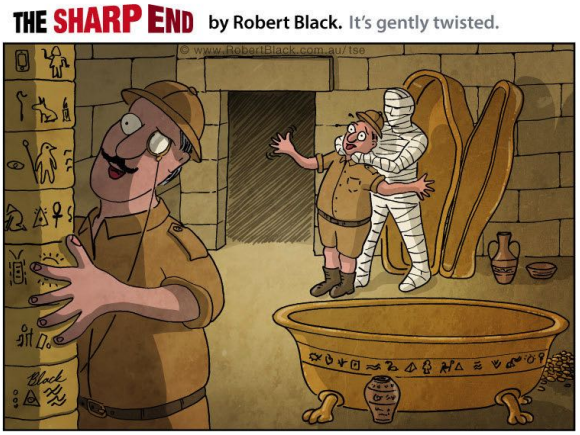
Brenda Koochew

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



"There's nothing here to worry about … *All-who-enter-will-feel* — no, it must be 'fill' — *will-fill-The-Mummy's-Bath.* Amazing!"

Group reports

Theatre News

Doubt

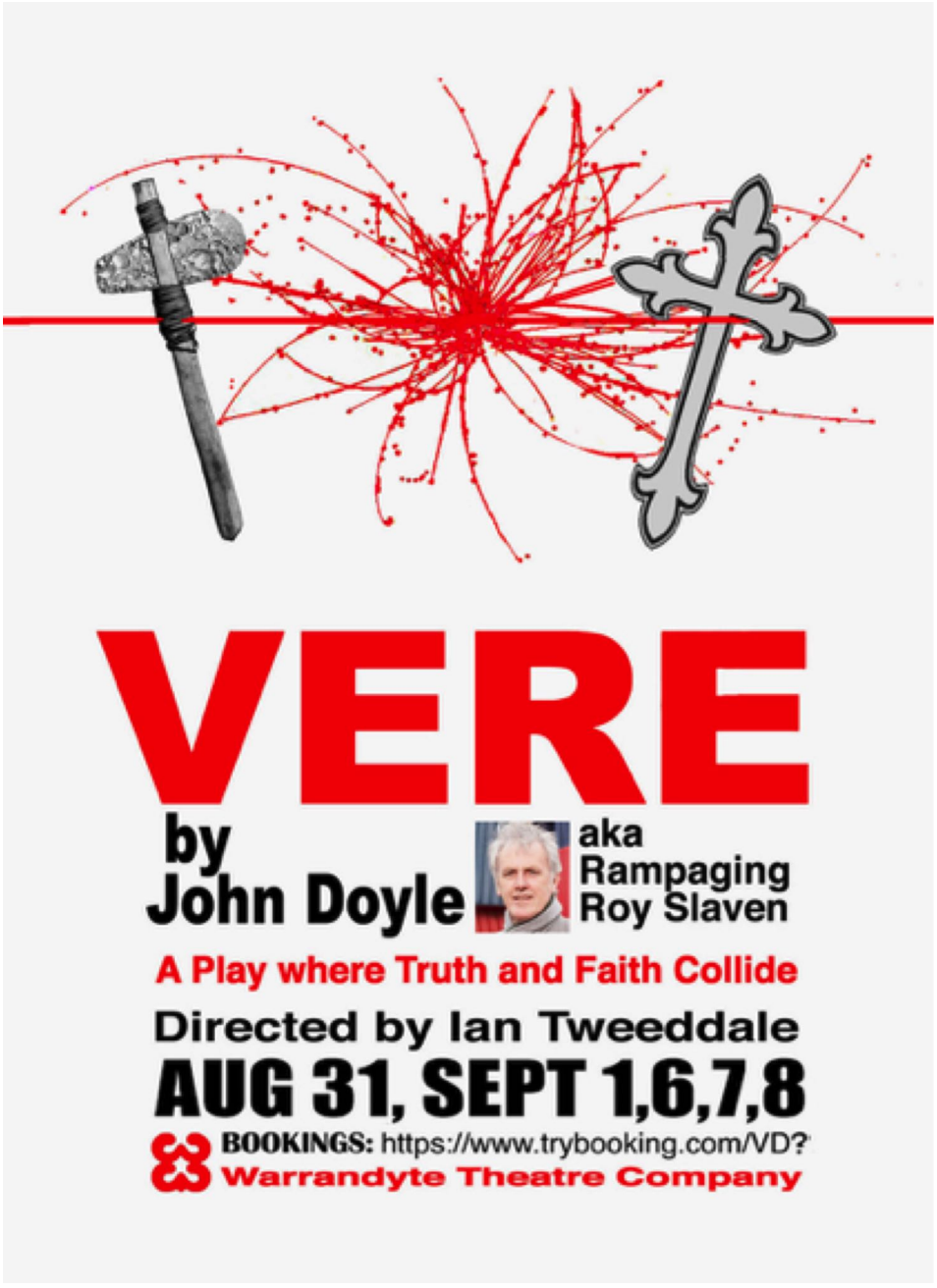
Without doubt, "Doubt" is a fine piece of theatre with great performances from the four actors. Our opening two nights saw ok audiences but we expect more. A pity the coming weekend clashes with the long weekend but what better way to spend part of it than supporting your local theatre group? The final three performances of the show are 14,15,16 of June and there are no other excuses for not buying a ticket or two.

Vere

Then along comes "VERE" which means faith or sometimes translated as truth. Try Googling this and you are led down a track where French aristocratic names are discussed, which isn't especially helpful.

Suffice to say that there really haven't been many young boys named Vere though John Doyle uncovered one on his journey around Australia with environmentalist Tim Flannery. We are glad he did because that chance meeting, in the Blue mountains coupled with caring for his ailing father motivated him to write this his second play.

Below is version 4 of the flyer for the play. It is strictly limited edition and a WIP but it gives us a good indication of conflict between science and religion. The scrambled configuration in the centre is a representation of The Higg's Bosun an elementary particle in the standard model of physics! That's enough about Vere for now but make sure you pop the dates in your diary – it's a terrific play with much of Doyle's comedy shining through a dark subject.



Here is version 4 of the flyer for the play. It is limited edition and WIP but it gives us a good indication of conflict between science and religion. The scrambled configuration in the centre is a representation of The Higg's Bosun an elementary particle in the standard model of physics! The central figure of the play is a lecturer of physics.

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Adrian

Letter from the MI-VIC president

This is an edited extract of a letter sent to the WMIAA recently - interesting background to broader issues about the history and current issues surrounding the life of mechanic's institutes in Victoria. It appears we may be able to attract financial support in the future for our fruitful endeavours!

Sometimes we overlook the obvious and it is obvious to me that the Mechanics Institutes, Athenaeums and Schools of Arts that have survived and prospered are those that have benefited from an endowment from those that have gone before. Sometimes it has been in the form of income generating premises, other times the good fortune to have an income generating asset or property left to them.

On those rare occasions that a endowment fund has been set up for an institute results have been mixed due to:

1: Insufficient size to support the costs of managing the endowment fund
2. Inexperience which has tended towards conservative low yield investments such as term deposits
3. Incompetence, excessive distributions and even theft.

At the MIV we have been reflecting on how to kick start a Mechanics Institutes Movement Wide Endowment Fund that would reward our members own fundraising efforts.

Those Institutes that can demonstrate independence and a legal continuity from their foundation to the present day are of particular interest. Unfortunately not all our members can as they have been handed over or taken over by the Department of Lands or the local council and sadly are now really just outposts of government occupying an historic building left by the Mechanics Institutes Movement.

It is not that we don't value these members, we do, and we plan to put a scheme in place for them in due course.

However my immediate interest is those that can demonstrate this legal continuity and independence of operation (even if they occupy a building on Crown Land).

I read your history with interest and it does look like the relevant connection could be there.

So what does this mean.

I am currently working with a philanthropic organisation that sees Mechanics Institutes founding values as largely their values. They have expressed an interest in building relationships with a sample group of our Members that meet the above criteria and are looking at how they might make annual donations to them in some way connected to our Member's own fundraising efforts.

The idea is to set the ball rolling at the bottom end of this range and then as our Members own complimentary fundraising efforts build up graduate up through the scale. Ultimately the ceiling would for all extents and purposes be limited by your own ambition although it might take a decade or two to grow to exceed six figures annually.

Being a philanthropic organisation itself this organisation is in a position to solicit donations from its own donor base and the idea is that if we can develop a suite of projects being supported via this relationship with a group of Mechanics Institutes they can appeal to donors who rather like the idea of historic, independent, self funded local initiatives continuing to fulfil those original goals of "dissemination of scientific and literary information, useful knowledge and rational recreation" and are prepared to put their money behind the whole movement.

If this is of interest I would be interested to have a bit more background on your organisation as it is currently constituted, its officers and organisation structure.

Once I have had a chance to digest any further information your committee may be prepared to send me perhaps I could meet with your committee or Board of Directors and present the project in greater detail.

Regards
Robert Kingston
President, Mechanics Institutes of Victoria Inc

Our next production - Vere

VERE

by John Doyle

aka Rampaging Roy Slaven

A Play where Truth and Faith Collide

Directed by Ian Tweeddale

AUG 31, SEPT 1,6,7,8

BOOKINGS: https://www.trybooking.com/VD?

Warrandyte Theatre Company