July 2018

# The Artful DODGER

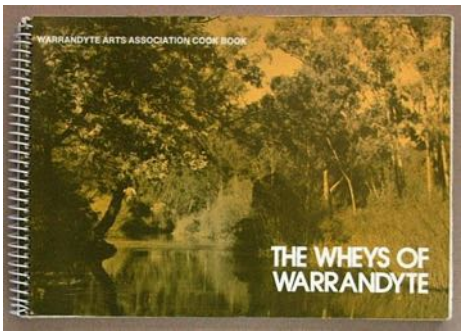
**1.***n.* roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dicken's *Oliver Twist.* **2.***n.* Printed handbill full of tidings from the W.M.I&A.A. with a closing date for contributions of 25th of each month to David Tynan on 98445727 or davidtyn@gmail.com

## Rene turns 100!

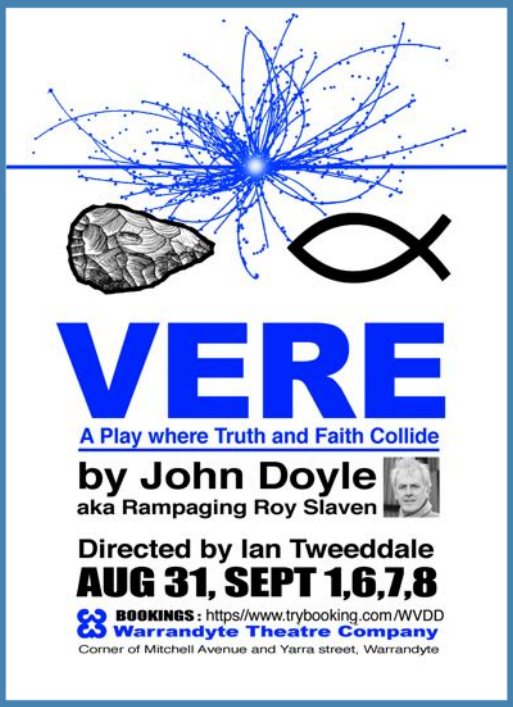
The highlight of the month is clearly the special 100th birthday celebrations for long-tie potter Rene Fagan. What a dynamic and alive spirit she is! See inside for more details about this event, and the big-wigs that lined up to congratulate her. Well played Rene!

## Recipe of the month

In a new initiative, and to celebrate the WMIAA's history of producing high quality cookbooks, the Dodger hopes to in the future include a monthly recipe from members. To make this as useful as possible, please make the dish up, photograph it, and send the recipe with notes to the editor at davidtyn@gmail.com. Amanda Sgourakis has volunteered to submit something for August, but feel free to send something in when you have made your masterpiece!




## Don't forget to book your tickets!




## Are you handy?

Have you heard of the *Repair Cafe* movement?The WMIAA is investigating establishing a monthly *Repair Cafe* at the hall on A Sunday morning. The aim is to create a community of fixers from garment mending, bike repairs, appliance fixing to attempt to reduce the amount of wastage that occurs when items are binned prematurely. This initiative also combines with the principles of Men's Sheds, in that it aims to bring together older men and women who have skills to share and stories to tell. It also fits well the broader original aims of Mechanics Institutes. Watch this space for more details! If you are interested in knowing more about this, take a look at https://repaircafe.org/en/

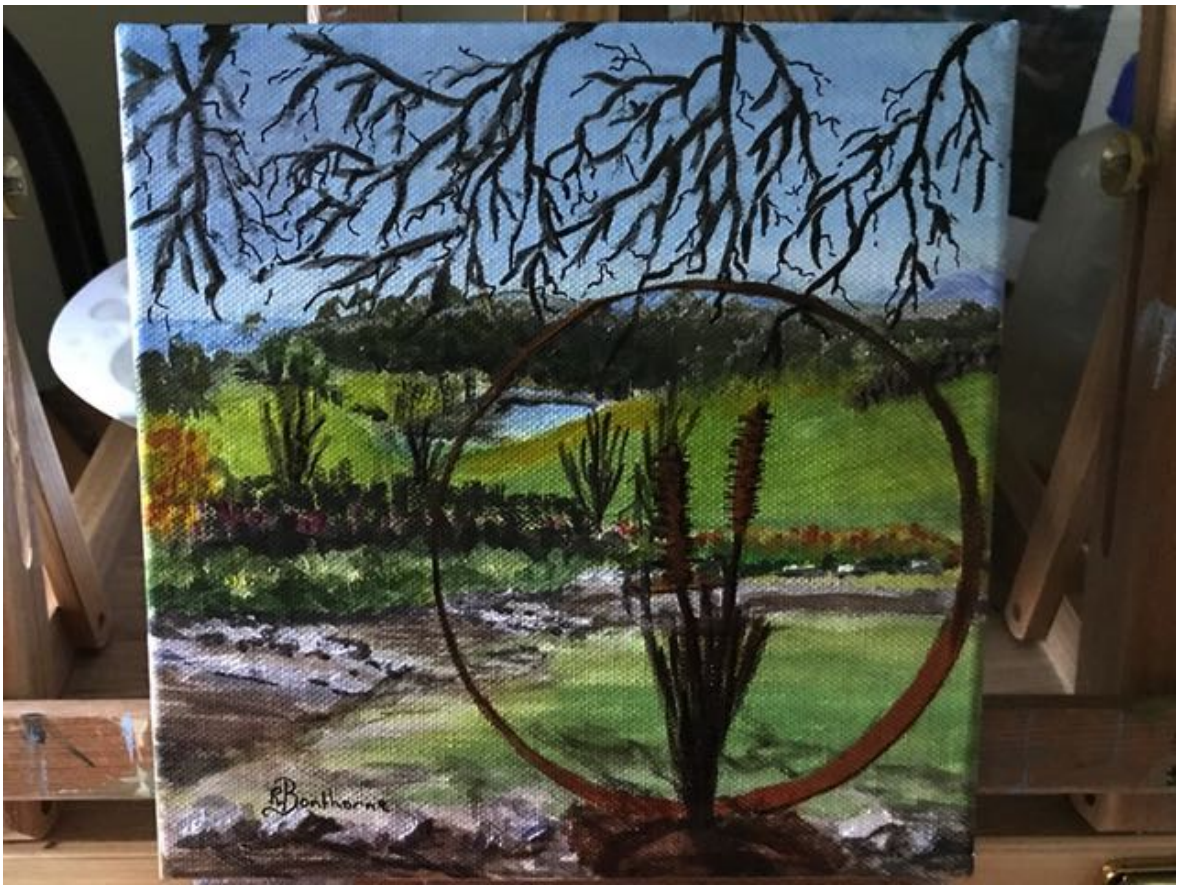
Repair Café

# Group reports

## Visual Arts News

The outdoor painters aren't painting 'en plane air' at this time as you may have noticed it is very cool at the moment. Also many of us are travelling, and it looks as though we will resume our regular Friday mornings in September. This does not mean we are not painting independently. When I returned from my recent trip to Rome, Greece, Malta, and others recently, I received this lovely piece from the talented Robyn Bonthorne. It is a painting of Warrandyte viewed from a Tindals Road property looking out along the valley and features a wonderful piece of outdoor art. Robyn has kindly donated this picture to the owner as a thank you for allowing us on the property.

**Rhonda Stewart**

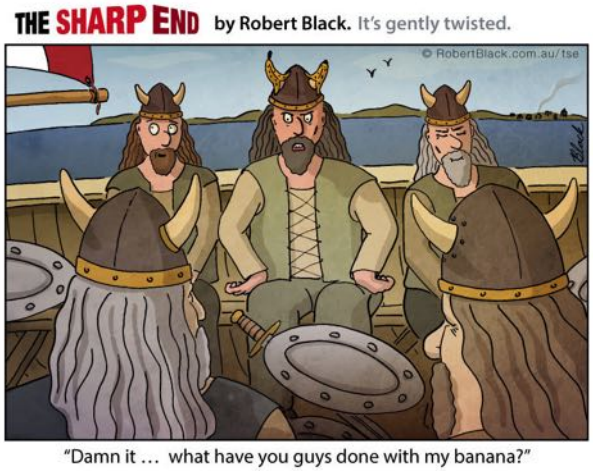


# The Sharp End

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




"Damn it … what have you guys done with my banana?"

# Group reports

## Pottery News

The studio was buzzing with activity on June 13th, not the usual sounds of pottery making, but with the excitement of a celebration. Not the usual birthday celebration – this was different.

Rene Fagan and Jan Smidt were having their birthdays celebrated, but the difference was that Rene was 100 years old and naturally to focus was on her.

The Wednesday group potters celebrated the occasion together with Amanda, Ali, Cheryl and Robyn from the Tuesday group. Together the studio was decorated with balloons, banners and streamers. The tables, with blue and white tablecloths were laden with food and flowers.

Rene brought along her congratulatory messages from the Queen, the Governor-General Peter Cosgrove, Malcolm Turnbull and Josh Frydenberg.

The congratulatory message from the Prime Minister had the words of "Advance Australia Fair" printed on it. This brought about a spontaneous signing of the anthem.

Rene genuinely enjoyed her party and thanked everyone for a memorable day, and Denys for bringing her along each week since giving up her driver's licence last years. Everyone loves Rene for her positive cheerful nature. What a marvel still making pots and little creatures. Happy Birthday Rene!

**Dianne Phillips**

# Group reports

## Theatre News

I'll try but jet lag and more importantly watching football is playing the havoc with my both of my body clocks anal log and digitals and thoughts processing is muddling to say least of all and not wishing to leave anything out, here is a report of sort.

**One Act Plays**

"A Little Box of Oblivion" and "Albert" which we staged in March were performed at the Macedon Ranges OAP festival. Thanks to Louise and George in getting their teams together again to represent WTC. There were nominations and awards too.

* Adjudicators Award for ALBOO
* Youth Encouragement Award – nominations: Jaz Harwood, Luisa Romeo, Tori Filis. Winner – Tori. This was first time on stage so a well deserved award.
* "Albert" was very well received by the audience and enjoyed by the Adjudicator. Megan Johns was nominated for Best Female Lead.
* "A Little Box of Oblivion" together with "Smitten" and will be performing at Gemco OAP festival on 21st and 22nd July.

**Next production**

"Vere" by John Doyle aka Rampaging Roy Slaven of this "Sporting Life" and "The Dream"
We are in rehearsal, set building will start soon and the questions on everyone's lips is … will there be more wallpapering? Here's the cast.

| | |
|---|---|
| Adrian Rice | VERE |
| Lochie Laffin Vines | MIKE/MICHAEL |
| Don Nicholson | SIMON/SCOTT |
| Andrea Tappe | KATE/KATHERINE |
| Britnie Johnston | GINA/GIANNA |
| Tony Clayton | RALPH/ROGER |
| Simone Kiefer | MARISSA/MELISSA |

If that looks a bit confusing, it's intentional!! Each actor bar one plays two roles, one in each half of the play. It'll become obvious when you have been and seen the show, so I'll say no more …. Except to welcome to the Warrandyte stage our newcomers: Lochie, Don, Andrea and Britnie, and of course Ian Tweeddale our director. It's great to be able to have new faces and we will appreciate their contributions.

Wait! Almost forgot … Mrs Rice and I visited sunny, sweaty, road melting England where I was happy to drink beer at correct temperatures but Hazel had to forgo ice as the pub ran out! But among other things in Lancashire we visited the heritage railway museum in Carnforth scene of filming of part of "Brief Encounter" in 1945. As luck would have it, we were close by at a wedding and later spent a couple of hours in Carnforth. Being the smart Alec, I strolled into the station buffet and delivered a line from the play/film … "I say are those bath buns fresh."
Now the manager of the café hadn't oriented his chef adequately and said chef was serving at the time. Unfamiliar with the film, the look on his face and general body language at the slur on his buns was a picture, well it would've been but I was too busy back-tracking to take photos. I thought he was going to vault the counter and "nut" me. Luckily the manager was alert, had heard the exchange and stopped what could have turned into a tricky encounter! We chatted with the volunteers who run the place and I gave them a copy of our program from last year's show. They were unaware of there being a stage play, were very interested and wondering if they could display it somewhere!

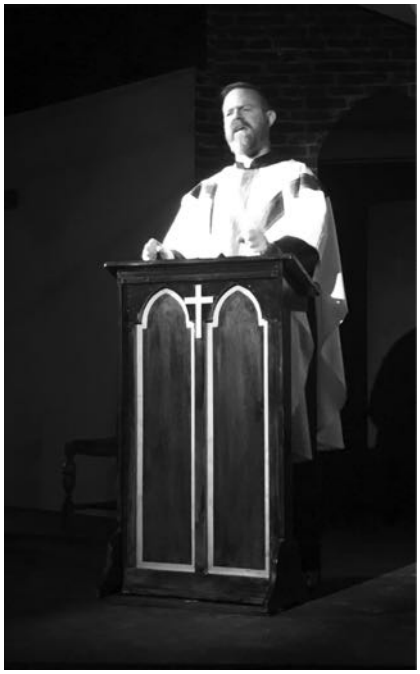
*Here we are pretending to be Gabby and Sean or Trevor and Celia …*

**Adrian**

# Doubt VDL Review

## DOUBT

**by John Patrick Shanley**
**Warrandyte Theatre Company**
**Directed by Susan Rundle**
**Reviewed by David Collins – June 14, 2018**



Written by John Patrick Shanley (who also wrote and directed the 2008 film adaptation starring Meryl Streep and the late Philip Seymour Hoffman), *Doubt* is a difficult script made into a compelling production by director Susan Rundle and her cast.

Since there is no main curtain, there is plenty of opportunity to study how things are laid out on stage. Jock Macneish has designed a clever, open set that, like the characters' qualities and flaws, doesn't stay within the lines. Besides symmetrical brickwork lining the sides and rear centre of the stage, the rest of the set is overly plain. Rather than seeming unfinished, the white walls instead highlight the brick and rows of wall spikes on top, which in turn accentuates the deeper battle at the heart of the play: To Sister Aloysius, these familiar walls are a defence in her desperate stand against progression; for Sister James and Father Flynn, they are a dogmatic and regressive structure that should be relaxed if they are to better engage the community.

It is not often I get fooled by sound design, but credit is due to Susan and Drew Edwards for building sound effects that had me thinking for a second that an unruly group of larrikins had formed outside the theatre.

Chris O'Neill did a great job in the role of Father Flynn. While he tended to act from his elbows a little too much, there is a case to be made that a man of the cloth shouldn't get too big with his physicality, even in times of extreme stress. His dawning realisation as to Sister Aloysius' real motives in calling an unexpected meeting with him and Sister James was lovely to watch.

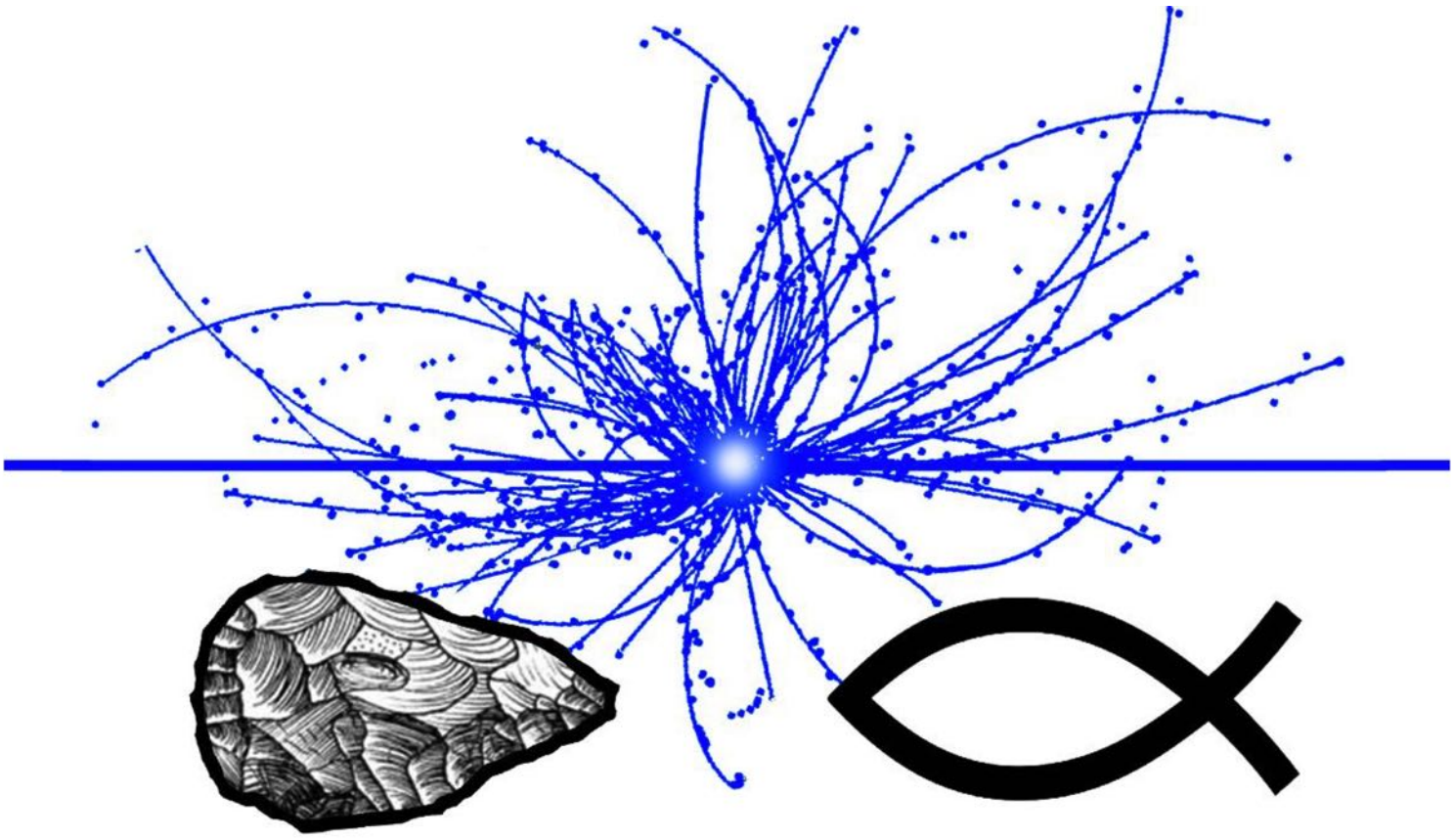
Gloria Rono played Mrs Muller in what is her Australian community theatre debut. And what a debut! Gloria didn't so much dip her toe into acting with this role as she put the whole leg in. Admittedly, there was an opportunity lost to put more weight on her uttering "Then let him have him," but overall her performance was splendid to watch.

It is not an easy feat to keep a frown the right way round for the duration, but Lisa Upson gave a committed and wonderful performance as Sister Aloysius. Occasionally, there were moments where vocally she would get stuck in her percussive, clipped delivery and threatened to sound more like Mae West than Meryl, but for the most part her stern, driven demeanour stayed the course.

Reschelle O'Connor did beautiful work in the role of Sister James. Her scenes with Lisa—whether reluctantly kowtowing to Sister Aloysius, later standing up to her, or a final stunning moment of compassion—were fantastic, and a delicate scene with Father Flynn in the garden also finely done.

Exploring a topic sadly more in the zeitgeist than ever, Doubt was an excellent show by Warrandyte Theatre Company.

# Our next production - Vere



# VERE

## A Play where Truth and Faith Collide

## by John Doyle
**aka Rampaging Roy Slaven**

## Directed by Ian Tweeddale

# AUG 31, SEPT 1,6,7,8

**BOOKINGS :** https//www.trybooking.com/WVDD

**Warrandyte Theatre Company**

Corner of Mitchell Avenue and Yarra street, Warrandyte

# From the archives

WMI & AA has been a fortunate recipient of assistance from Mechanics Institute Victoria with digitising our archival records. This has been the answer to our prayers. Scanning all this stuff ourselves was just too daunting a task, but now we are well on the way to backing up everything we have and consolidating it all in one place (as well as in the cloud).

While we have been saved hours of time, I have spent many more sorting everything into files and folders to slot in with our existing digital records. Along the way, I have dipped in to several documents and have enjoyed reminiscing over several memorable events.

1991: After the walls were ripped out

One in particular, was the very special "black tie" concert we had in the hall in 1989 at the culmination of, what I remembered as being the culmination of the hall's major renovation. This all took place under the brilliant and energetic leadership of Doug Macrae, following the amalgamation of WMI & WAA into our current incorporated association. We borrowed $36,000 – a considerable sum at the time – and just got on with it. Firstly the hall was re-stumped (professionally), whereupon half the plaster fell off the walls. This was duly stripped out, together with assorted faunal nesting materials, at a massive working bee.

1991: Doug, who master-minded the Hall restoration

We then inserted insulation before the walls were re-lined (again professionally). Then followed weeks of working bees to paint the inside and outside of the hall. The kitchen was fixed up and the wardrobe built and, last but not least, a new piano was purchased.

In fact, after reading through old newsletters, the piano must have been bought a couple of years before we pulled the inside walls down. The special music event was presumably a special fund raiser in anticipation of the big renovation. At the time, the music group was active and we were fortunate to have a number of very able musicians involved.

# From the archives (continued)

At the end of the evening, before the champagne was uncorked, there was a final presentation. Ken Virtue, made a short speech to dedicate the bio box staircase (built by Don Macrae to replace the ladder) to Marjorie Beecham (you will see the small plaque to this effect).

In the following newsletter in September 1989, Marjorie wrote the following words, and, reflecting on her funeral, celebration of life and final send off last December, I can't help but think how apt they were.

OH WHAT A WONDERFUL STAIRCASE!

Congratulations to Don, The Master Staircase Manufacturer. Perfect job. Thankyou for the plaque. Never before have I had a staircase named for me Come to think of it, I guess not many mere mortals have. One cannot help think they could be the first nine steps to the great pottery studio in th sky. If so, what a wonderful launching - champagne, beautiful music and excellent company.

Marjorie Beecham,
Concierge de Staircase Extraordinaire.

**Pat Anderson**

# Rhonda and the Art of Travel

*Rhonda, our Visual Arts Group Leader, recently travelled overseas, and snapped these gorgeous sculptures.*
These samples of modern sculptures were spotted in the main square of Valletta, Malta and I thought they were worth a viewing. Each one has words of wisdom attached.

*A bird in the hand is better than many in the air.*

*A Prickly pear sweetens with time.*

*Everyone looks at everything differently. Although a friend did make the comment "Good job of mustering."*

# Marney is back!

*Some folks will remember Marney McQueen, a fabulous talent who did a show some years back at the hall, and conducted a workshop for the WTC. Well she's back, and if you missed her last time, don't miss her again! I think tickets will sell pretty fast, so please consider!*

## Saturday, October 6 at 7pm
## Warrandyte Sporting Group Clubrooms

**Marney McQueen** comes to town to give one of her fabulous cabaret performances. Marney might introduce us to ***Karen the security guard, Rosa, Russia's favourite waxing queen*** or ***Raelene the Bali mum***. Hopefully, we will also enjoy her amazing singing talents.

**This fabulous evening will also include a three course meal, coffee and your first drink. Seating will be at tables of 10. Tickets can be booked at www.warrandytesports.com.au for $105 per person.**