Oct-November 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

Who are these people?

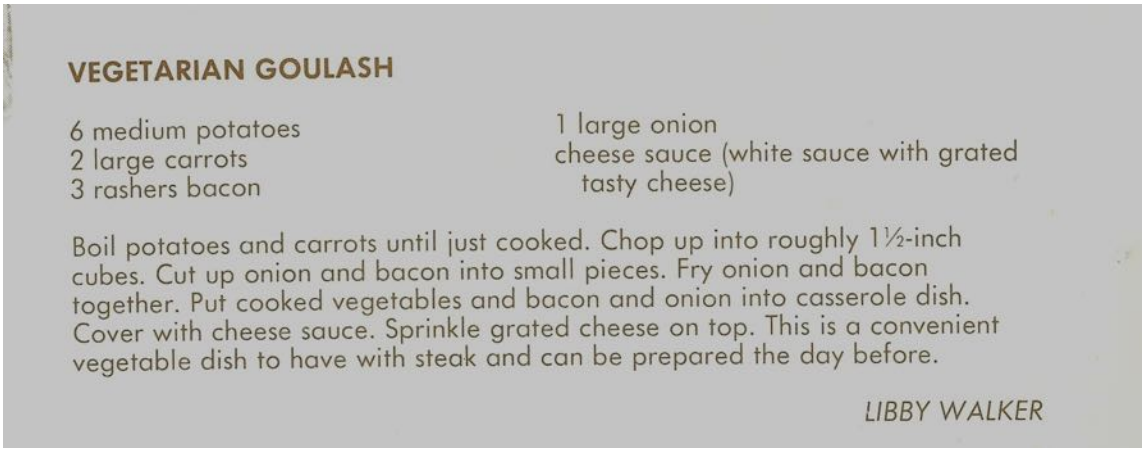
They seem to be singing, but for what? Some faces are familiar, and some are new - but they are all welcome as cast of the Festivillain. There are some missing as well from this photo - you'll just have to wait until you see them all frocked up for our Christmas panto!

For your diary, the dates are: 17, 17, 23, 24, 30 November and 1 December (includes a matinee of December 1).

Its fire season again!

Recipe of the Month

A highlight of this month's recipe is Libby Skeels (then Walker) Vegetarian Goulash, which unashamedly includes bacon, and suggests is an excellent accompaniment to steak. Ahh - they were different times. We look forward to hearing more from Libby - we hear that she is trying a new recipe in which tofu is shaped into the shape of a chicken. For authenticity, we have included the entire page inside.



VEGETARIAN GOULASH

6 medium potatoes
2 large carrots
3 rashers bacon
1 large onion
cheese sauce (white sauce with grated tasty cheese)

Boil potatoes and carrots until just cooked. Chop up into roughly 1½-inch cubes. Cut up onion and bacon into small pieces. Fry onion and bacon together. Put cooked vegetables and bacon and onion into casserole dish. Cover with cheese sauce. Sprinkle grated cheese on top. This is a convenient vegetable dish to have with steak and can be prepared the day before.

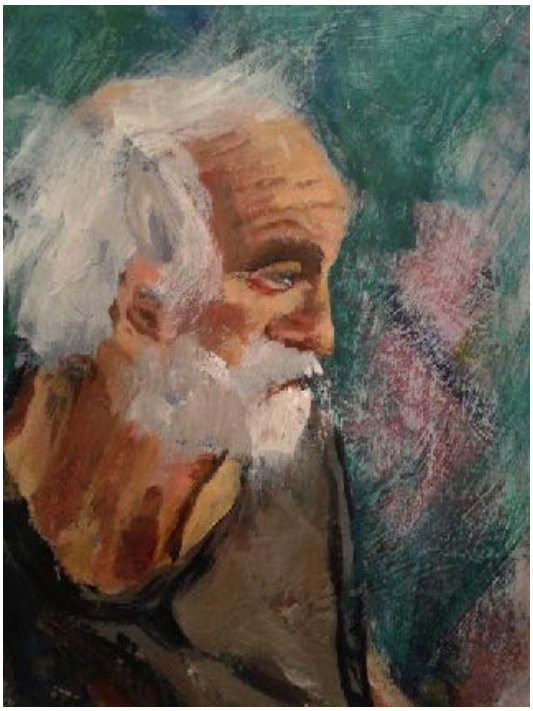
LIBBY WALKER

Group reports

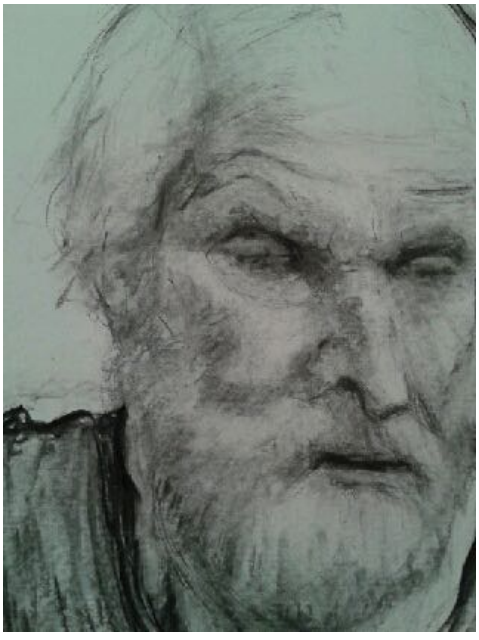
Visual Arts News

This month our regular Friday sessions continued, and we also recently organised and run 2 days (24th & 25th September) of four hour sessions. On Monday, two models were arranged in a a cafe environment. It was great and challenging to have the time testing our abilities with the models together. They came vibrantly dressed with enthusiasm, contributing to the experience. On the the Tuesday session, we maintained the set up (minus models) for an extended still life session. I would have liked more attendees, but perhaps my choice of timing was the downfall, along with school holidays and the different day. Overall it was a positive experience and I shall organise again, but more likely on our regular Friday slot.

The open day on October 7 was a great success. Primarily it was to say 'here we are' and show what we are passionate about. The art produced was of a good quality (always debatable - that's art!) and people came along to talk, see and find out whether it may be for them to join our friendly artists.



Marion Cooper



Group reports

Visual Arts

Heather and Marion H. met on the banks of the Yarra River last week to recommence the outdoor painting. Wendy and Robyn have also returned, so we should be back in action soon. We participated in Marion's open day on Sunday 7th October, and it was well received by those who ventured in.

During a recent trip to Queensland, we visited the Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre, Murwillumbah. Within the gallery the cluttered residence of the late Margaret Olley has been recreated, and a number of her original works were on exhibition. As a long term admirer of this passionate and talented woman I would like to share with you some of my photos. The first three are of the interior of her house and the remainder, some of her works. I love the colours and light.

Rhonda Stewart

Group reports

Pottery News

The Tuesday and Wednesday Pottery groups were well represented at a meeting held on Tuesday 25th September at the Marjory Beecham Pottery Studio.

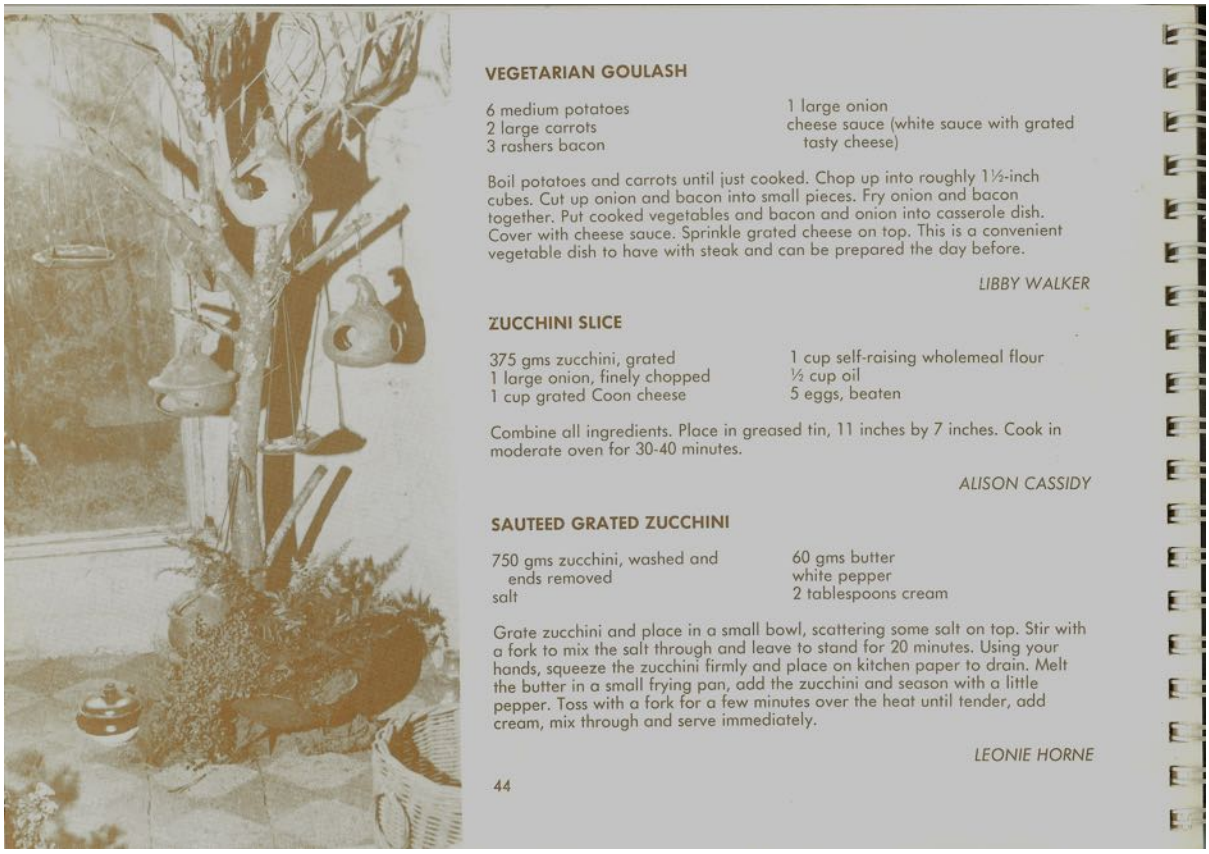
The Tuesday early birds got together under Amanda's guidance to tidy up the garden at the front of the Mechanics Institute before 10.30. Then later over a delicious morning tea 10 members of the two pottery groups discussed what the future needs of the group were. What glazes and clay were needed, what was wanted in the future and who the best supplier was? How do we stop glazes dripping onto the kiln shelves? How do we sort out the issue of firing costs? Do we go by size of item or the weight? It was generally thought that the weight of the item was the best way to decide the cost. Anyone with a set of scales suitable for weighing items especially large items?

To maintain and improve our skills it was suggested that we invite guest tutors to come and help us. Each year some improvement is made to the studio and it was thought that a proper clay sink would benefit the studio. Have you noticed the stack of boxes under the stairs? To move them on it was decided to distribute on consignment boxes of the WAA cookbook 'Other wheys of Warrandyte' to the Bookshop, the Post Office and the Stonehouse. Hopefully they will sell for $3.

A unanimous decision was made for our Christmas Break-Up to be held at Robyn's house on Tuesday 11th December. Thank you Robyn. Bon Voyage was wished to Des heading off to Greece, Denys off to Chile and a welcome back to Jan who had enjoyed the warmer weather in Darwin and Kakadu National Park.

Di Phillips & Amanda Sgourakis

Recipe of the Month



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LIBBY WALKER

ZUCCHINI SLICE

375 gms zucchini, grated
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 cup grated Coon cheese
1 cup self-raising wholemeal flour
½ cup oil
5 eggs, beaten

Combine all ingredients. Place in greased tin, 11 inches by 7 inches. Cook in moderate oven for 30-40 minutes.

ALISON CASSIDY

SAUTEED GRATED ZUCCHINI

750 gms zucchini, washed and ends removed
salt
60 gms butter
white pepper
2 tablespoons cream

Grate zucchini and place in a small bowl, scattering some salt on top. Stir with a fork to mix the salt through and leave to stand for 20 minutes. Using your hands, squeeze the zucchini firmly and place on kitchen paper to drain. Melt the butter in a small frying pan, add the zucchini and season with a little pepper. Toss with a fork for a few minutes over the heat until tender, add cream, mix through and serve immediately.

LEONIE HORNE

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Group reports

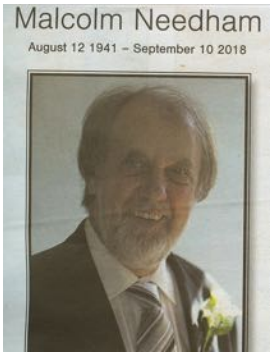
Theatre News

Theatre News

And now we're in full panto rehearsal swing with opening night just 4 weeks away it is good to see that ducks are now approximately in a row. Pretty soon all the beaks will be facing in the same direction and we'll be good to go. Welcome to newcomers: Pat Alcock and Eric Purdie and of the course the rest of the cast: Tori Filis, Alex Holden, Lisa Upson, Michelle Reeves, Ian Craig, Simone Kiefer, Noelene Cooper, Lou Phelan and Grant Purdy.

To return to our previous show, "Vere" for a moment. It is interesting to note that despite fulsome praise of audiences and thunderous applause etc etc, this play by no means suited every one who saw it. No surprises there of course; it's pretty much impossible to please everyone all the time, but comments came from the extremes. From "we were very moved" and "blown away - as good as MTC" (not my words btw) to "didn't work for me" or "a biased and shallow treatment of an important subject."

It would have been really interesting to have conducted a Q & A after this show and discussed the issues and perhaps the role of parody in theatre. But the time has passed and we have to move along. However, it is very good opportunity to continue a discourse with an increasingly engaged community and to this end we shall aim to start a play reading group where we invite and encourage members of the public to take part. Stay tuned.



On a sad note we recognise the passing of an old time member, Malcolm Needham whose obituary appears in this month's Warrandyte Diary. Malcolm appeared on stage at Warrandyte often, particularly in The Follies where his voice was a much needed boost to the male chorus! He also performed a number of solo songs and was always most comfortable when singing duets particularly with Libby in traditional fashion but was also very willing to be flexible and collaborative in appearing in sketches and joining in wherever needed. Our condolences to his wife and children.

Apologies for brevity this month but I just go back from Burma where I went for a haircut.

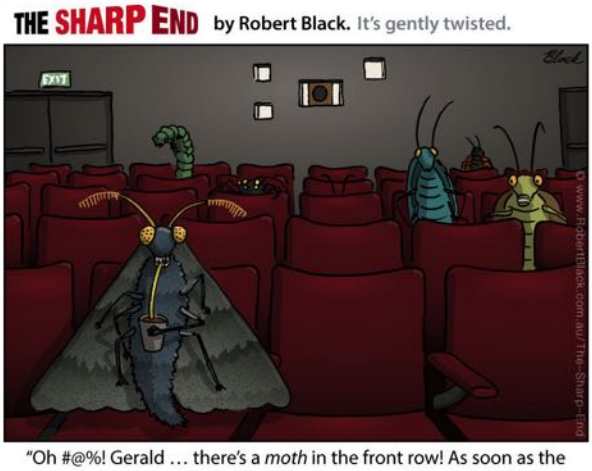
Adrian

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



"Oh #@%! Gerald … there's a *moth* in the front row! As soon as the movie starts, it'll fly up to the projector and block the light."

Vale Malcolm

Dear friend and loved member of the Warrandyte Theatre Company. I have fond memories of sharing a stage with Malcolm in quite a few Follies. He was a lovely, humble man with an extraordinary singing voice and a delightful sense of fun. Very genuine and generous, and a great role model for the rest of us. The following obituary is reproduced from the Warrandyte Diary (October, 2018).

obituary

Formerly of Warrandyte, lately of Port Fairy, Malcolm Needham had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2008 and passed away peacefully at Moyneyana House, where he had been in care for four years.

Malcolm enjoyed his life and always had a ready smile and a cheerful kindly disposition.

He was part of the Warrandyte community where he acted and sang with the theatre group and the Bellbird Singers.

He was blessed with a very fine singing voice and brought a lot of pleasure to those who heard him sing.

His performance at the Spiegeltent, after winning ABC Idol radio competition, was a particular highlight for him.

He had entered and won many talent quests over the years and appeared on *Showcase* with his brother Graham in 1968.

The compere was a man named Gordon Boyd who told the boys his name was actually Needham, which impressed them no end!

In fact Malcolm never forgot this and repeated "Gordon Boyd" for many months while in care, until he no longer spoke.

The staff were quite mystified as to the meaning of this.

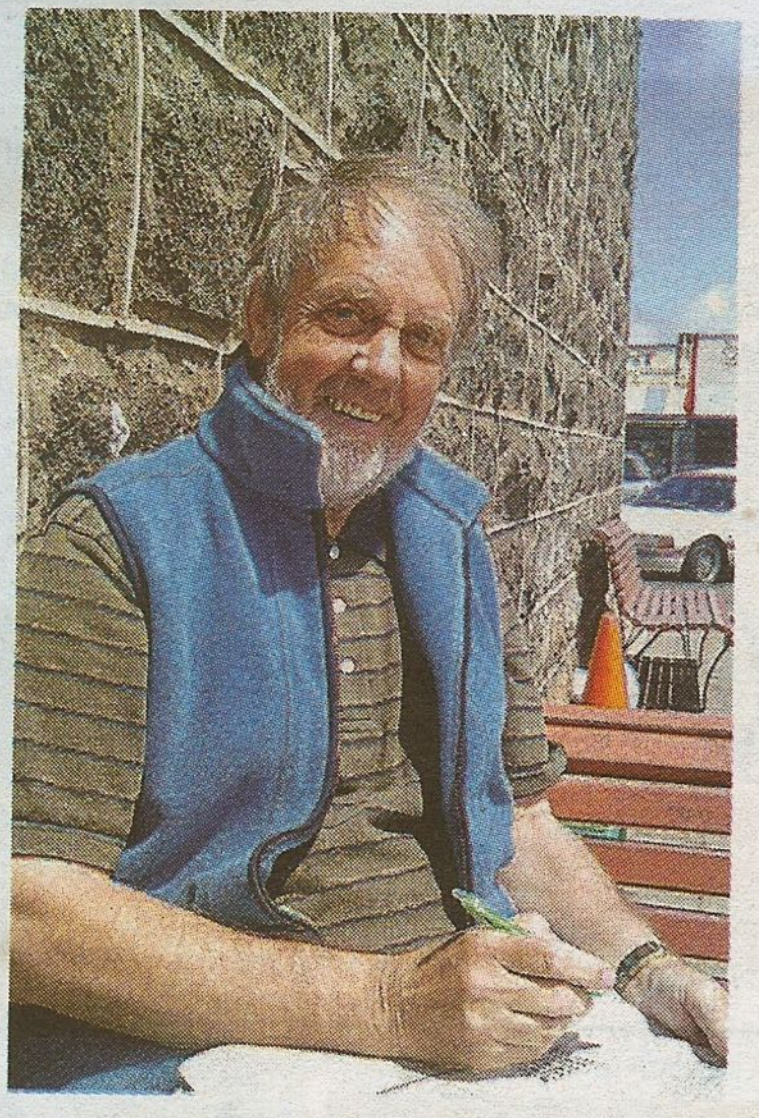
Born in Staffordshire, UK, he excelled at school and migrated to Australia in 1962 where he studied Accountancy while working for an airline.

Here he met his wife, Leonie, who survives him along with their two children, Damien and Melinda, and grandsons Geordie and Julian.

Malcolm led a full and active life, playing hockey, tennis and golf together with his artistic and musical activities which continued in Port Fairy even after Alzheimer's severely affected his memory.

His two golfing mates from Rotary were always astonished at his golfing prowess, although they often had to tell him that he had hit the wrong ball!

He was a man of many talents, who endeared himself to all who knew him, he will be greatly missed.



The Hall in Spring!

The Pottery Hub has been brewing great creativity, yummy morning teas, wonderful chats and a recent working bee in the front garden and end of term meeting between the two pottery teams. It was rather interesting to see pictures in the last Dodger from the archive of 2001 when the front garden and groovy pathway was landscaped.

Alison Beanland has sent in some pictures of the Mechanics Hall at sunset this week , capturing the art and soul of Warrandyte's 'Home of the Arts'.

Alison Beanland

Panto time! - The Festivillain