March 2020

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

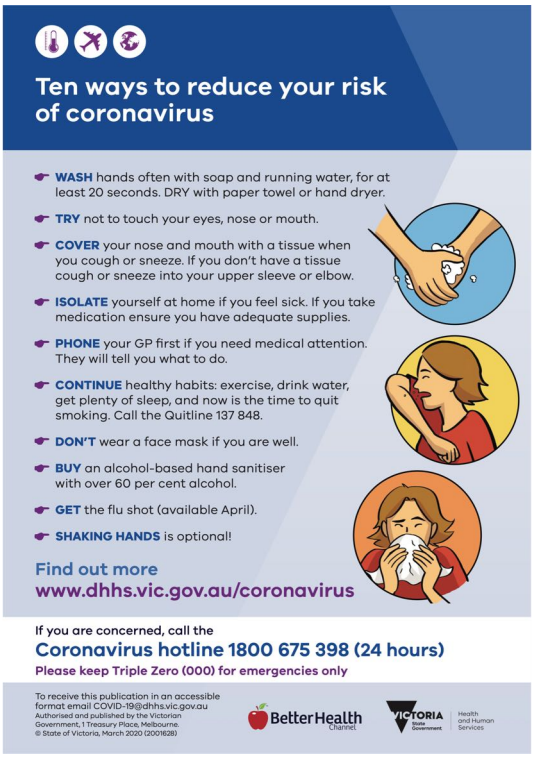
Coronavirus planning

All community groups are affected by current restrictions and social distancing required to slow the spread of the coronavirus. For the WMIAA, we have already postponed the production of Calendar Girls, and erected many signs around the hall providing clear advice about ways to minimise transmission. We have also ensured that the toilets have enough soap, disposal hand towels. This will help groups and external hirers to educate members and hall users about precautionary steps. Please note that at the time of publication we have not been able to secure any alcohol-based hand sanitisers, and it will be helpful if you can bring some to the hall for your groups use.

At this stage, we are NOT planning to close the hall for community use, but we may need to review this if any new directives or advice arrives from government health authorities.

Please read the document shown right (there is a larger version later this issue), and try to follow all the procedures to ensure that we are all as free from the virus as possible. Take care.

David Tynan



Farewell Callum, hello and welcome Fia!

Fia Clendinnen has officially started as our new caretaker, and I asked her to give us a little introduction - welcome Fia!

Fifty years ago I used to walk down to the Mechanics Institute on a Saturday morning to attend Children's Creative Dance classes with Yvonne Reid (yes, it really was so long ago, my little ones). Somehow, as well as teaching dance, Yvonne cajoled and bullied us into putting on a performance of Peter Sculthorpe's Sun Music Ballet, a wildly ambitious project for a bunch of Warrandyte kids. The show, at the end of the year, was a knock-out success, our parents and even ourselves were stunned.

That was the first and last time I was on the dark side of the stage curtain. Over the years (many, many years, my little ones) I have walked through the doors of the Mechanics Institute to attend birthday parties, funerals, public meetings, film screenings, plays and the occasional Skyhooks concert.

For fifteen years I worked as the bookkeeper at Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, on the other side of Brackenbury Street. But my position, to use some Orwellian gobbledygook, was restructured, and I found myself without a job. Somehow the stars and sun aligned and I now find myself caretaker of this creaky and venerable institution. I have my own key. All the mystery is still here.

Group reports

Pottery News

The potters returned to the studio this term with enthusiasm. We welcome Corrie and Lockie to the Tuesday group. We are very lucky to have Doug and Jan Smidt come to the rescue of the Folly, the sculpture at the hall , it had to me pulled apart and moved . Callum cleverly and patiently dismantled it before Christmas. Now , it needs to be cleaned and put back together, a jigsaw puzzle.
Thanks to Doug's expertise it is slowly coming back together.

Amanda Sgourakis

Group reports

Visual Arts News

Same as always, good models, creating great poses in a wonderful environment. Come join our casual sessions. The intimate Still life group has decided to concentrate on plants. We are garden lovers & thought it appropriate we test our skills on something we love. And of late been reading up on Ellis Rowan & Marianne North. Two woman 1870 to early 1900s who had exceptional experiences in their quest to paint the worlds flora. Very inspiring.

Marion Cooper

Group reports

Theatre News

With Adrian away, here is a potted compilation from David & friends.

Calendar Girls postponed
As they say in Yorkshire as well as many other places … bugger!

In the light of the global kerfuffle we decided to postpone the performances of "Calendar Girls." Advice from COVID-19 hotline suggested a crowded hall was most definitely a place where a virus might quickly spread and, given that there is so much uncertainty and fear in the community, it was an "easy" difficult decision.

We held a conference of cast and crew on the deck of the hall – in the open air you understand and we have elected to postpone until the first two weekends of October 1st – 10th; details to follow. Of course those dates are nominal and it now means that we will need to rearrange our seasons 2 and 3 to accommodate Calendar Girls. Given the CG was almost ready to stage and that the cast will be available it is obvious we should prioritise staging the show. Cast and crew have now cleared out their gear and costumes – what an anti-climax!

It's been something of a double "bugger" for us. With the large cast, known play and coinciding with festival time, ticket sales were extraordinarily strong and we were expecting a sell-out show. Sales had reached 94% of capacity a week before opening – unprecedented and so we will need to make sure there are clear expenditure priorities established for later this year and do everything we can to attract everyone back again.

As the virus situation unfolds, we may have to make more related decisions. We'll be sure to keep you posted and we look forward to your continued support.

Meanwhile here are three Calendar Girls, renamed "The Glum Girls" taking their cozzies home.

Adrian Rice

Wayfarers World Music Choir

A big shout out to David, Adrian, Callum and all the WMIAA team for supporting my little choir and for making me feel such a part of this delightful community! Over the past eighteen months of making music together, WWMC has developed in skill and great friendships! Small in numbers though we be, we have created a very joyful and caring community of singers. This term we have been working on a Hebrew song Do Di Li, Kavisha Mazella's powerful Nigra Sum, and a very impressive American folk song Bring Me Little Water Sylvie, that incorporates body percussion in compliment to a four part melody! We also do songs from Africa, the Torres Straight Islands, Aotearoa (NZ), England, Aus contemp., France, and many more!

In our evening routine, there is the opportunity to improvise rhythmically and melodically in a held and safe environment; the chance to learn different body percussion, have fun singing in canon (rounds), and of course learning three/four part melodies of music from all over the world!

We are looking for at least five new members and would welcome more with open arms! Bring a friend and pay 2 for the price of 1 (initial session). For more information contact Kia Moon 0401047736/kiaheymoon@hotmail.com.

Myanmar Repair Cafe

Adrian thought you might appreciate the photos below taken near Inle lake in Shan state, Myanmar.

The first place is a small café and muddled goods shop on our cycle route around the lake. Just at the top of the only hill out of town it our custom to stop for a cuppa and piece of cake. What we hadn't realised is that it also doubles as a motorbike mechanic's workshop. So you can sip your coffee and learn how to disassemble a Honda and pick up a coconut.

The second photo was taken at Nampan a thriving market town on the shores of the lake. I watched this bloke mending a pair of shoes … he was actually stitching the laces back together! Along came another customer with a broken bic ciggy lighter. He must've been desperate. The mender dropped the less urgent shoe repair and swiftly fixed the broken lighter. I think he fixes everything.

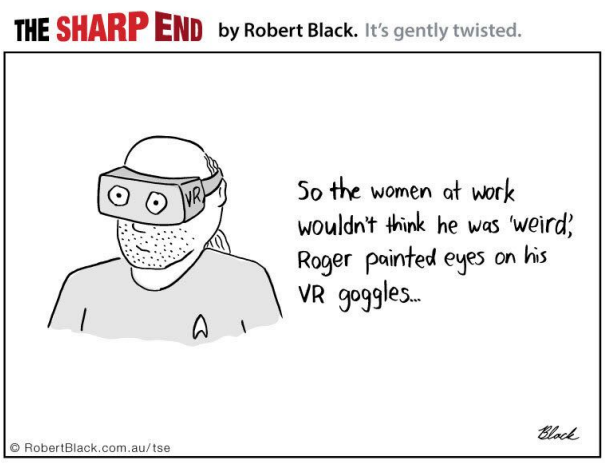
Now, I reckon our menders are doing a great job at the hall but do we need to fly in some of these Myanmar fixers in to take things to another level?

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



WMIAA Bushfire Relief Concert

Here is David Hogg's Review of our Bushfire Concert fundraiser

Bushfire Concert thrills – and raises funds for bushfire relief

By DAVID HOGG

THE ONLY disappointed people from this concert will be the hundreds who tried to obtain tickets too late, because this fantastic event was a sell-out within the first few days.

Following a chance suggestion from Francesca Carl to President of Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association (WMIAA),David Tynan, that they should do something to help with the terrible Victorian bushfire disaster, they took matters in hand, called in the local talent, advertised the concert with two shows only on February 29, and it was fully sold out within three days, raising $6,435.09 in the process.

And what an evening it was.

It is quite mind-boggling to realise that we have such a wealth and variety of high-class talent on our doorstep.

Jock Macneish, dressed in his finest, was our emcee for the evening and capably introduced 12 stunning acts.

Chocolate Lilies, an acapella choir of more than 40 dulcet tones entertained us with three pieces which they performed with great enthusiasm — their concluding piece being a rousing South African gospel number accompanied by two very capable bongo drummers.

John Milburn had us laughing our heads off with his reprise of an old *Follies* sketch in which he explained the story of Little Red Riding Hood in questionable German.

Francesca Carl, an accomplished harpist, soothed us with a clever harp piece before being joined by Michelle Reeves with a wide and sultry voice range to sing *Memories* from *Cats*.

Michelle was then joined on stage by Jack Stringer on bass guitar to sing a more raunchy number.

Favourites Simone Kiefer and Noelene Cooper then had us falling around with mirth as they came in as two cows and, accompanied by Jack Stringer on piano, gave us their rendition of *Will You Still Milk Me Tomorrow?*

Legendary performer of folk songs, Graham Dodsworth, then amazed us with his effortless flowing finger-picking guitar skills, sang his great variation of *Waltzing Matilda* and had us singing along to the haunting *Live Another Day*.

After an interval, The Jamesons, Heather and Glenn, had us whooping along to *Rawhide* and followed this with a couple of other cowboy songs.

The Wazukers, a very colourful and brightly dressed ukulele and string group strummed out some great numbers including *I Wish I Could Shimmy* and *These Boots Are Made For Walkin'*, and invited us to play our own kazoos if we happened to have brought one along.

The Twanky Sisters (aka Grant Purdy and Noelene Cooper) accompanied by Jack Stringer on piano reprised the Pot and Kettle song from the *Festivillain* and had us singing along about the times "we need a latte and a muffin".

The Vocal Agents, a six-piece acapella vocal group, enthralled us with their amazing vocal voice range and repertoire from jazz to soul and reggae, and for me their rendition of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* was possibly the highlight of the evening; but how could anyone pick a winner from this amazing night?

Our beloved Alan Cornell wrapped up the evening and had us in hysterics with reruns of his legendary *Follies* sketches including *Tony Abbott is from Mars, Julia from Venus* from 2012 and concluding with the classic *Beg Your Pardon Mrs Martin There's A Chicken In Your Garden* which had the entire audience doing chicken impersonations.

A fantastic evening; every act a gem.

Congratulations to WMIAA, director David Tynan, producer Grant Purdy, the performers who gave so generously of their time, all others involved and particularly those who attended or contributed to raise this money which will go directly to the victims of the bushfires.

Watch out for the next production of the WMIAA, *Calendar Girls*.

Directed by Susan Rundle, it is a wonderful, hilarious story about ordinary people coming together and creating something extraordinary to raise money for a sofa.

Calendar Girls opens Festival weekend, March 20, and runs until April 4.

Tickets are selling fast for this one too, with some performances already close to sold out — so get in quickly to avoid disappointment.

WMIAA Bushfire Relief Concert

Thank you to all the many people involved, performers and off stage helpers. Thank you in particular to Grant, who did much of the organising of the event and logistics. We have raised $6500 in ticket sales and donations, and this has now been deposited in the Victorian Bushfire Relief fund. Sorry - some of the pictures are a bit fuzzy - we almost forgot to take any pictures we were so busy!

Ten things ...

Ten ways to reduce your risk of coronavirus

- **WASH** hands often with soap and running water, for at least 20 seconds. DRY with paper towel or hand dryer.
- **TRY** not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- **COVER** your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- **ISOLATE** yourself at home if you feel sick. If you take medication ensure you have adequate supplies.
- **PHONE** your GP first if you need medical attention. They will tell you what to do.
- **CONTINUE** healthy habits: exercise, drink water, get plenty of sleep, and now is the time to quit smoking. Call the Quitline 137 848.
- **DON'T** wear a face mask if you are well.
- **BUY** an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with over 60 per cent alcohol.
- **GET** the flu shot (available April).
- **SHAKING HANDS** is optional!

Find out more
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

If you are concerned, call the
Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours)
Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only

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BetterHealth Channel

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