June 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

Hall News

We have a shorter Dodger this month, but quite a few exciting and important bits of news to pass on to members.

Tentative Hall and Pottery Studio re-opening - from Monday July 13

The WMIAA committee has met in June, and high on the agenda was of course consideration of our planned re-opening. It was decided that we would open at the start of term 3 (Monday July 13), subject to government health restrictions. A working party was established to ensure that we do this in a consistent, safe and 'sustainable' manner. This group has met twice, and has developed an agreement for groups and hirers, a sign-in sheet for contact tracing, and procedures for hall and pottery studio use. This working party will meet once more in early July. A copy of the letter of agreement sent to all group leaders and regular hall hirers has been included at the back of this issue.

Annual General Meeting for the WMIAA

The Covid 19-delayed AGM for WMIAA will cover all the usual AGM business as well as defining a special, membership category for our Repair Café Volunteers. We also elect a new committee, and welcome any new volunteers who would like to join us and help out.

When: Monday, 3rd August 8.00pm
Where: Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall, Yarra St

We hope to see some new faces - maybe this is your time to step up!

Working Bee - Saturday July 11

We have some mulch moving, painting and COVID-19 preparations to complete before we reopen on 13/7. Please come along and help us on Saturday July 11 from (10 am - 3 pm). Further enquiries to me at davidtyn@gmail.com.

Fia, our 'new' Hall Caretaker

Fia has completed her 3 month trial, and 'passed' with flying colours. Fia and I met recently to discuss her future role at the hall, and how she was going with the challenges of replacing the amazing Callum. She has agreed to add the cleaning role to her care taking responsibilities, effective from the start of July. You are very welcome Fia - we look forward to all you bring to the role!

Hall roof fixes

After a few tries, we finally appear to have fixed the leaks over the toilets, which has been causing us so much pain with mopping up and paint damage. We need up completely replacing 3 of the roofing sheets. Fingers crossed that that problem at least is over!

David Tynan

Group reports

Rene, a dear friend and member of Warrandyte Pottery Group.

Irene Penelope Fagan nee Bradley
Born 10th June 1918. Passed away 27th December 2019
What a marvel. 101 years old and independent until the end.

Let's celebrate this special lady who was Mum to her three children, Nan to her 8 grandchildren, Nan Nan to her 13 great grandchildren and Rene to us.

Rene was a member of the Wednesday pottery group, for how many years I don't know. I do know that Rene was a friend of our dear Marjory Beecham and family. They first met at the Austin Hospital, then in 1958 Rene was Amanda's Prep teacher and later she was Amanda's brother-in-law's maths teacher at Templestowe High. Their connections and friendship lasted a long time.

When Rene's children went to university Rene decided, at 50, to go back herself for an Arts degree. Afterwards she taught Maths at Templestowe High School and later at Macleod High School where she retired as Senior Mistress.
After retirement Rene travelled extensively with her husband Geoff, took up migrant teaching, played golf until her golfing partners weren't up to it anymore , enjoyed reading and U3A classes in music appreciation and French; and of course her pottery.

Rene loved reading. Her book group friends had been together for about 40 years until their numbers dwindled. She was a member of the Balwyn library, and when she handed in her Driver's Licence at 99 they supplied her with books on a monthly basis.

Rene was vitally interested in everything; her family, her activities, her friends and the daily newspaper. Rene always had a purpose at pottery. She made vases and bowls, small animals and egg cups and brought along her special Apple Cake for morning tea. She would tell us about her wonderful family and what the grandchildren and great grandchildren were doing and ask us about ours.

In 2018 Rene decided to hand in her driver's licence at 99. So instead of Rene driving herself to Warrandyte each week Denys, who lived nearby, would bring Rene to pottery. Denys recalls that our weekly journey to Warrandyte was always entertaining, and interesting. One special conversation Denys recalls was about Rene's trip to Singapore with her daughter Janet and her son in law Don. The trip to Singapore was part of her 100th birthday celebrations. They stayed in an apartment with access to the facilities of a hotel. Rene was treated like a queen and with great respect due to her age. After a week in Singapore they came home to plan her big day. What a big surprise to Rene when on her day she received a beautiful bouquet of fresh orchids from the hotel in Singapore. Such a special lady.

Our 2019 Christmas party this year was held at Jan Schmidt's home in Eltham. Rene came along with her daughter Janet and celebrated with all of us. Rene with her usual enthusiasm chatted to us all and enjoyed walking about in Jan's beautiful garden.

Rene sadly passed away just after Christmas at the age of 101. An amazing lady whose presence won't be forgotten.

Di Phillips

Group reports

Theatre News

I've just been for a brisk walk along the river bank – with my trusty walking/measuring stick. I dodged the family groups that surely must've hired a bus to drive out to Warrandyte. I stopped at the Bakery for a coffee but shunned the unseemly scrum that had gathered and hopped out onto Yarra street. Throwing myself flat against the wall of the Bookshop I jabbed away at a party of Sunday grockles and took refuge in the hall. No one comes here any more, I knew it would be empty and a little bit sad. A hall that is usually full of people generating ideas and activity is a gloomy place on a damp cold morning but, but, but, things could be changing … it depends on Dan and good behaviour.

And you … I have a request – see below … and please get back to me.

We have obtained the rights to perform AR Gurney's charming play "Love Letters."

It is the perfect Lockdown play. The set is minimal as are the actors' movements. Not only that but they are reading their lines. What?! Reading them? How can they get away with that?

The play written in 1989 is a staged reading (it's intended to be read) of the love letters that "Andy" and "Melissa" have written to each other. They began the experiment after Melissa's birthday invitation letter (and subsequent thankyou note) when they were childhood friends and continues through their adult lives with many more letters – moving and meaningful. Though very closely connected they marry separately and lead very different lives but, the letters continue.

This is a delightful and unique piece of work.

Any final decision to perform will be contingent on Vic Gov restrictions to indoor gatherings.
We will ensure we abide by Govt. Covid 19 directives and are developing Covid-19 procedures for all aspects of use of the hall in staging a play and, assure everyone the safety of users is the priority. We hope you will support us.

It is intended the show will run from August 21st to 29th. Our capacity, assuming no further changes to restrictions is 20. **Information regarding booking tickets will be circulated shortly.**

The Request.
Before we commit to a non-refundable payment of royalties (which we can't afford), we are keen to gauge the demand.

Can you please contact me by email to indicate if you would be interested, under current regulations in attending a performance.

Please email: riceadrian11@gmail.com
Put this in the subject line: Love Letters
And simply type Y or N or P(ossible)

And the rest of the year?

We are devising a number of cunning plans which involves seeking plays that are easy to stage with small casts and simple sets. We are optimistic that we could be able to bring "Calendar Girls" out of mothballs for November – but since it has 11 in the cast, this may still be overly optimistic. It is likely that Follies will be postponed to 2021 but, whatever we do, we'll keep you posted.

Adrian Rice

COVID-19 protocol for WMIAA groups

This is the current protocol letter of agreement that will be issued to all groups and hirers that will be using the hall in the near future. It may seem formal, but it is necessary for us to be thorough and vigilant about such matters in the current environment, and comply with all government health advisories.

Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association Inc (A0009153X)

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

The management committee of WMIAA is endeavouring to get all groups and regular hirers back in operation at the hall, bearing in mind the safety of everyone concerned and our obligation to conform with CURRENT government regulations.

The hall and pottery studio will re-open on **13TH JULY** for regular groups and activities, excluding, at this stage, singing groups and those undertaking vigorous exercise.

As the leader of your group, we ask you to agree to the following guidelines and actions:

1. Check that all your group members are aware that they should not attend the session if feeling unwell, have a cough, a temperature or runny nose.
2. Check that everyone has used the hand sanitiser provided at the front entrance.
3. Every time your group is at the hall, collect names of everyone attending on the provided form, with the date and time and get people to print their names clearly.
4. Take a photo of this form at the end of each session and forward by email immediately to Fia Clendinnen at wmiaabookings@gmail.com. This is necessary in case people have to be contacted in the event of an infection.
5. Retain the hard copies of these forms until further notice.
6. Maintain a safe distance between participants, which currently means 4m^2 per person. The maximum number of people allowed at the hall is currently 20. (see markings on the floor for an indication)
7. The kitchen cupboards are locked. There will be no use of crockery and cutlery. Disposable cups are available should anyone need a drink of water.
8. After your session, please do a thorough clean using the provided materials in the foyer :
    - Spray and wipe all surfaces touched, including door handles
    - Dispose of used wipes and gloves in the bin provided in the foyer
    - Phone Fia Clendinnen (0427 952 129) if supplies are getting low.

As government rules change , we will keep you informed and we thank you for your co-operation.

I, (print name) _____ (group leader), understand and accept all the above conditions of use of the hall and pottery studio and agree to make sure

that my group_____ (name of group) complies with them at all times.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

This form must be returned to the Hall Curator, Fia Clendinnen (0427 952 129), before your group may commence using the hall or pottery studio.

23 June 2020

Slow the spread

Slowing the spread of coronavirus

Stay home. Protect our health system. Save lives.

- **WASH** your 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.

- **PHONE** your doctor or the hotline – **1800 675 398** – if you need medical attention. They will tell you what to do.
- **CONTINUE** healthy habits: exercise, drink water, get plenty of sleep.
- **BUY** an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with over 60% alcohol.

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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