The Artful DODGER
DECEMBER 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pg 2

The Hall is available for bookings again.

Pg 4

Theatre group is glad to see the end of 2020 and good news for 2021

Pg 5

Catch up on the news from the Potters

Pg 6

There are some traditions that 2020 didn't manage to disrupt. Check out the pictures from the EOY BBQ.

Quiz Question?

What do you call a batsman without a helmet? (See Page 7)

The Arts Expo

'... is a great opportunity for us to let the community know what we do, and the value of artistic pursuits generally.'

Adrian Rice, Chair

Flora Terrens, the outgoing 2019 Finska Champion and Simone Kiefer the 2020 Finska Champion See the full Story on Page 4

Chair - Adrian Rice

Hello to our Arts fraternity and best wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas and better than satisfactory new year!

I'd like to thank members of our new committee for their contribution in the short time since inception –during the second lockdown.

I'd particularly like to thank those bearers of specific roles in the Association – Pat, Grant, Ian and Sim and our group leaders – Amanda, Marion and Noelene – "Guardian of membership." The former group has been particularly busy as Grant coaxes us into compliance with Pat's help and Ian wrangles everyone into preparing for the Arts EXPO in February.

Thanks also to Jo for putting together a splendid "Dodger."

We acknowledge our grants from Manningham and look forward to some new equipment and sets. We also acknowledge support of *The Warrandyte Diary* and its editors in regularly featuring our news and activities.

The EXPO – funded by one of the Manningham grants, is a great opportunity for us to let the community know what we do and the value of artistic pursuits generally. It is essential we all get behind the initiative to "set our stall" and begin to think about ongoing sustainability of the Association – particularly it's venues.

Here's looking forward to a positive - I mean continued negative, new year.

Seasons Greetings,

Adrian

A note from the editor

The Arts are bubbling back to life in Warrandyte and the doors of the Hall have been swung open and the dust swept from its corners.

Many thanks to Ian Craig whose design skills put these words and images together.

Enjoy this end of year update and if you have any thoughts or concerns about the *Dodger*, or articles or images you would like included in the next edition, please get in touch. I would love to hear from you.

Until next year, have a beautiful summer of freedom and friends.

Merry Christmas,

Jo

Jo French – *Editor*
E: jofrench40@gmail.com

Grant Purdy, Vice Chair

Many groups have now started sessions and others will start up in January 2021

At the moment the Government's COVID-19 restrictions mean that people using the hall should:

- Maintain a distance of at least 1.5m between themselves.
- Wear a mask - unless the exercise they are doing makes them out of breath.
- Sanitise their hands using the sanitiser provided.
- Enter their name and contact details on the attendance form in the foyer – which group leaders have to put in the post box there, when it is completed.

Do you need a location for your next business or social function?
Are you thinking of starting a class or group and need somewhere local and well equipped?

The historic Warrandyte Mechanic's Hall is available for hire.

The hall is superbly equipped for activities ranging from arts and exercise classes, business, or social functions through to full stage shows.

Our rates are very competitive, and we offer reduced rates for regular hirers and can provide one-off public liability insurance for single events.

Why don't you view the facilities and envisage how this glorious venue will make your event especially memorable or could become the permanent home for your group?

Please call **Fia Clendinnen** on **0427 952 129** if you wish to visit the hall or arrange a hire.

Warrandyte Arts Expo 2021

As part of our way to launching “Get Creative in Warrandyte 2021” the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Arts Association is hosting a weekend of free creative activities and entertainment.

As well as showcasing some of our most creative local talent, we will be offering the opportunity to get involved and try your hand at something creative.
We have booked musical line up including Ella Thompson, The Scrims and Vocal Agents to provide concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon.

Activities will include:

- Getting your hands dirty during Introduction to Pottery at the Studio
- Trying your hand at Beginners Life Drawing Class
- Exercising your vocal chords at an Instant Community Choir performance
- Unleashing your inner actor by taking part in Everyone’s Welcome Play Readings
  or for the more adventurous a Theatre Sports Workshop
- Brushing up your videoing skills learning how to film the Expo.
- Getting your favourite appliance or piece of furniture repaired at the Repair Café

It is a weekend not to be missed, so mark February 19 -21 in your calendar.

This project is supported by Manningham City Council’s Community Grant Program.

As we get closer to the end of the year, we will let everyone in Warrandyte know how they can get involved in what promises to be a weekend of fun and creativity.

If you have any ideas or would like to be involved, please contact Ian Craig on Ian.Craig@outlook.com.au or 0418 317 872

Life Drawing - Marion

We returned for six enthusiastic weeks and after some short poses, we quickly returned to the three-hour long sessions preferred by artists.

We are eagerly anticipating starting again in 2021 on January 15th.

If you are interested in studio life drawing, we have places available.

Call Marion for more information: 0408 395 299

2020 is coming to an end. Well bloody good riddance! Let's hope we can soon look back on the year, confident that we have been successfully jabbed and be getting back to what we all love most – performing in front of live audiences.

At least we didn't waste our time this year. In the first lockdown the committee of the Theatre Co. met regularly to read scripts and we have a few likely shows up our sleeves.

In the second lockdown we moved on and were fortunate to be able to "stage" 3 live online performances – *The Providence of Neighbouring Bodies,* Three One Act Plays and the unique time capsule of a show – *A 2020 Vision*.

We have worked directly with authors of plays – something which is always rewarding. We have worked with 21 actors, many of them new to us - resulting from the collaboration with Ballarat National Theatre for *A 2020 Vision*. Collaborating was new too – something we should consider in the future; it is also rewarding.

The three online plays raised approximately $5000 and, with the almost $10,000 from the call out for support under the banner "Friends of the Hall", we have managed to stay solvent.

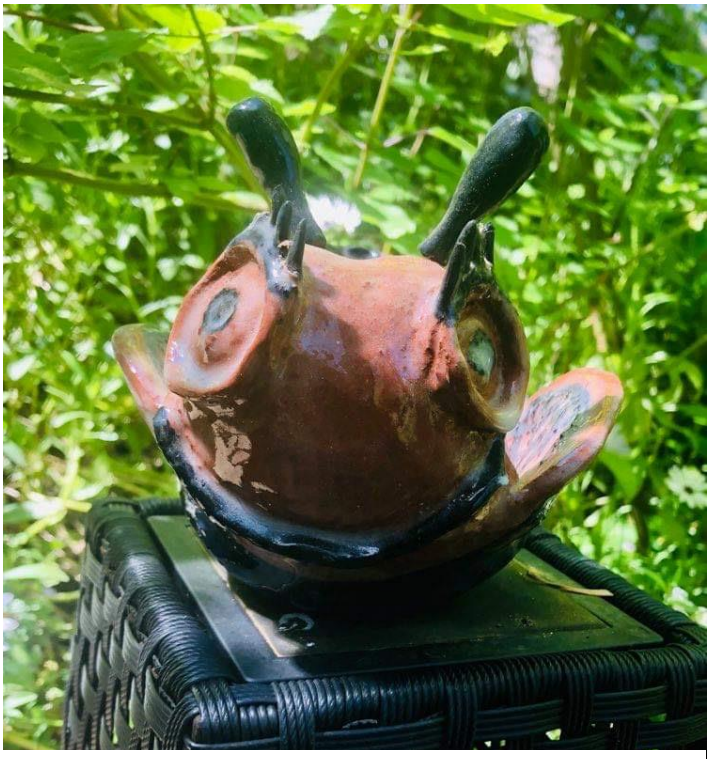
Depending on the progress of the pandemic we expect to be back on stage with *Love Letters* in March and for the other shows: planned for '20 to be staged in June – *Love/Sick*, September – *Calendar Girls* and November/December – *Follies*. Despite growing optimism and hope for a regular 2021, we also imagine there will continue to be some demand for online shows and other innovations.

After all, over the course of our three shows in lockdown we had audience members join us from: NSW, QLD, WA, Regional Victoria and … Scotland, England, Belgium, Poland, Kenya, South Africa and Myanmar – also authors of the plays – from Sydney and New York! How can we not be happy with that?! WTC is also considering staging some shows outdoors – stay tuned.

The youngest member of the audience for A 2020 Vision – Isabelle who started watching from her home in Munich but then fell asleep during Gemma's monologue. Her parents are now wondering if they can get a copy of the video to play regularly at bedtime.

The potters have been making the most of their extra time at home finding the perfect places for their garden creations. Our pets and gardens have been receiving plenty of well appreciated attention but now we are all happy to be back at the Marjorie Beecham Pottery Studio with plenty of new garden projects in mind.

New puppy, Moose, loves Ali's garden, including her pottery totem pole.



Robyn's Garden full of Pets

The chickens were happy that Ali was home more often and giving them plenty of attention.

Drew and the Tech Team go Techno

Drew our resident DJ broadcast live from the WTC stage, with his trusty tech support team of Callum and Adam helping out and making me look "acceptable" behind the decks.

It was techno and it did go out to an international audience.

The actual performance was on December 19th and went from 11pm till 1am.

Obviously it was late - and wasn't everyone's cup of tea, but a good time was had by the audience that did attend and of course the global audience. Well done

The Annual WMIAA end of year BBQ and Finska Championship

On a warm Sunday evening in December something ordinary, real, face to face and positive occurred.
No masks or Zoom or "you're on mute" was heard, just good old-fashioned face-to-face fun and socialising.
Yes folks, something that we have been doing for the last few years and can be officially declared a tradition "happened" like it normally does.
Here are a few snaps of the WMIAA end of year BBQ and its now famous and eagerly anticipated Finska Championship.

Simone Kiefer - 2020 Champion holding the A.Rice Perpetual Trophy
The devastated 2019 Champion – Flora Terrens looks on.

Charlie French-Craig – official Gonger

The Finalists

The Mexican wave

David Tynan came late to the BBQ after playing cricket and receiving a knock on the head from a rising delivery.
Hmmm "Were you wearing a helmet?" – "Next time"