

# THE Artful DODGER

JUNE:2007

1.n. loveable young pickpocket from Lionel Bart's "Oliver!" 2.n. printed handbill full of tidings from the W.M.I.&A.A.. with a closing date for contributions of 17th of every month to Alan Cornell on 9844 4995 or alan@commercialventure.com.au

## AGM

The AGM of WMI&AA was held on 4th June when the various groups presented their reports of the year's activities. Reports were also heard from the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

It was decided to increase the hourly rate for Hall Hire to \$20 per hour from 1st July. Subscriptions were held at current levels.

Elections saw Ken Virtue remain as President, supported by Jack Stringer as Vice President, Pat Anderson as Secretary and Rosemary Climas as Treasurer. David Tynan was welcomed as the Theatre Company's representative. Also rejoining the Committee is Anthony Burgess. Anthony made a huge contribution to both WAA and WMI in the years before the two organisations were amalgamated in 1986, both as President and Treasurer, and it was Anthony who brought about this process after years of negotiating with various bodies, including Council and solicitors. Without this effort and the support of other stalwarts on the committee such as Henry Beecham, it is likely that the Hall would have been bulldozed for development for even more shops!

*Ed: Can I take the chance to thank each of the dedicated Committee members who keep our organisation running so smoothly. The President's and Secretary's reports appears on page 3.*



## Dugi

Within weeks of losing Hans Dulke, the Theatre group lost another of its own to that hateful visitor, cancer.

Dugi Esson was an immensely colourful and much loved character who brightened the stage in many Follies, plays and a memorable panto. Perhaps his greatest contribution was as a prolific Follies writer whose scripts were very funny, always left field, and sometimes out of the field altogether!

Dugi migrated from Glasgow, twice, before making it out to Warrandyte for some good years and some tough ones as he slowly lost his wife Sheila. The Drama group then became an important part of his life, releasing a restorative creativity.

The group was extremely fortunate to share an afternoon with Dugi some few weeks before he died that was as precious to us as I believe it was to him.

He left us with some radical ideas. For instance he read a great deal, and when he'd finished a book he'd give it away! Instead of filling his walls with books he lined the minds of others. Another example. Dugi used to talk to people on public transport. If we all talked to strangers more maybe there wouldn't be so many strangers. And he used to say thankyou. So you can see why we'll miss him. Though not as much as Shirley and his family. Our thoughts are with them.

## Fiddler on the Roof

Diamond Valley Singers and the Eltham Community Orchestra will be performing Fiddler on the Roof at the Warrandyte High School Theatre at 8pm on 6th, 7th, 11th, 13th and 14th of July as well as matinees on 7th, 8th and 14th. Tickets can be arranged by phoning Diane on 9718 2035. For more information, [www.dvsingers.org](http://www.dvsingers.org).

These local productions are an annual even and well worth supporting. The two groups have collaborated since 1985 and in this way have raised over \$80,000 for charity, particularly World Vision and Open House.

### Dates to remember

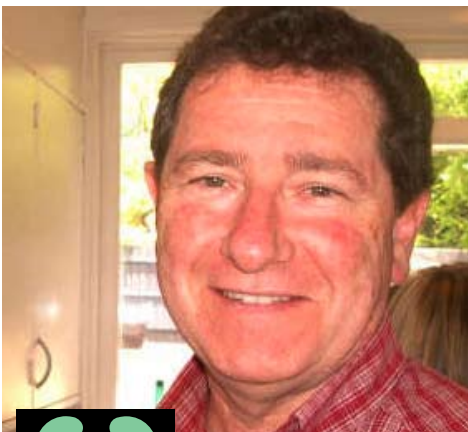
29, 30 June ~ One Act Plays @ the Hall

5 July @ 7:30pm ~ Follies 2008 Writers/Brainstorm Meeting @ the Hall

7 July ~ Music Night @ the Anderson's, 98 Bradley's Lane

6,7,11,13,14 July ~ Fiddler on the Roof @ Warrandyte High

**Subscriptions** If you're still not financial for 2007, there's a form on the back!



# Group reports.

## Pottery



This is a note to remind potters that the end of term is not the end of term or should I say it is the beginning of the next term. Fees will be payable on these days. It has been agreed that we will pot on through the normal school holidays i.e. July 3 & 4, 10 & 11. Mid August there will be a break on August 14 & 15, 21 & 22. It sounds a bit complicated but I am sure my clever ladies will work it out.

COngratulations to Val Philips who received a welcome all clear for her recent health problem.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

## Music



Another pleasant evening took place at the Youngs' on the first Saturday of June and to keep this pattern rolling, the next occasion will be at the Andersons' (98 Bradleys Lane ) on 7th July. If you would like to play music, but prefer to play with someone else as well or if you don't have suitable music, give us a ring as we may be able to find something in our collection.

We are trying to encourage families with children who are learning an instrument to come and be involved. It may be that we will arrange a Sunday afternoon timeslot for this, but please let us know if you are interested.

Off-road parking at the Andersons' is fine. Just drive down, round the turning circle, then park off the drive, between the trees. That way, it's easy to get out to get home without making everyone move at once.

Don't forget to bring a contribution towards supper - oh and please let us know if you are coming

Pat & John Anderson 9844 3442

## Painting



Gill Beddington 9844 1203  
Pailine Cross 9439 1775

## Craft



Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

## Theatre



### One-Act Plays

After an exhaustive rehearsal schedule (including a rehearsal weekend in Bright - see pics) and the usual production dramas, the OAPs are now in full swing with the final Warrandyte performances this weekend. Each of the three excellent plays (and Josh Mitchell's dance piece) seem to share a common theme - passion (lost and found!), and are being very well received. Heartfelt thanks to all who have helped to bring these plays to life. Special congratulations to the following WTC virgins (give them a hand!)



Melanie Tan



Claire Benne



Dan Johnson



Melanie Trembath

We then take the three plays to One-Act Play festivals at Maroondah (14-15 July) and Macedon (21-22 July) - wish us luck!

### September Production (in October) - Lipstick Dreams!

Bill Connolly has offered to direct our September Play, Lipstick Dreams. Set in the Blue Heaven hairdressing salon, Lipstick Dreams is a light-hearted look at the lives of four different women living in a small country town, each with their own dreams, disappointments, and "what ifs". Then one day they decide to take a chance at living their dreams through a talent competition at the local Chinese Restaurant. They let their hair down and have the time of their lives.

Written by Helen O'Connor, Lipstick Dreams is a must see play, full of laughter, tears, fun and songs that will have you dancing in the aisles! Lipstick Dream dates are:

- Reading: Friday 27/7
- Auditions: Thursday 2/8 and Sunday 5/8
- Performances: October 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

### Other news

- Sustainable Follies 2008: Writing Brainstorm Meeting 7:30pm Thursday 5th July at the Hall. ALL WELCOME!
- Hall Projector: We have been getting quotes for the permanent installation of a projector at the hall - more news soon!
- We are planning a Wine & Cheese night in November, and a Yarra Valley Winery Tour in December!
- Brian Laurence has generously passed on his collection of 80 play scripts - they are now part of the WTC library!

## President's report

I am proud to report on another successful year for the WMI&AA, and 2007 showed the full spectrum of the activities of all Groups.

As always, we have all been busy with the tempo of our lives outside of WMI&AA. Again, many Warrandyte volunteers have again given generously of their time and energy to contribute in many important ways to the work of the Association.

We have reached out with the arts both inside and outside of Warrandyte and have tried to cater for all age groups in the community.

My sincere thanks go to my fellow Central Committee members and Group Leaders! I am always mindful of the great positive spirit that each of you brings to our meetings and endeavours, and I want to acknowledge each of you for your hard work.

So thank you, Marjorie Beecham, for continuing to tutor the Pottery Group so professionally! The Pottery Studio has had a couple of maintenance issues, but these should now be resolved and the Potters can continue their work in relative comfort!

The most recent challenge was replacing a 'missing hand' on the pottery sculpture in the memorial garden, a task to be completed with hidden structural welding bits.

Thank you, Pauline Cross, for your continuing leadership of the Painting Group, and for all the planning for regular meetings and exhibitions.

My thanks also go to Adrian Rice for yet another entertaining year of Theatre in our special Hall. Adrian stepped down as Group Leader at the recent Theatre Company AGM in order to provide special ongoing 'creative production guidance', particularly with the all-important annual Festival Follies. This year it was the Forensic Follies, a spoof on all things CSI, and this provided some new members and a virtual 'sell-out' series of performances, which contributed significantly to Association revenues. Adrian's direction, with help of Lynne Counsel, was a huge undertaking which showcased the talents of so many of our local comedic writers.

There is a plan to buy a digital projector for the Hall to assist with the variety of WTC performances.

It has been sad to witness the passing of WTC members Hans Dulke and Dugi Esson, who both lost their battles with cancer recently. Both were great characters and will be sorely missed by all their friends in the Theatre Company. Dugi's special party in the Hall on the Sunday after the Follies was a heart warming and memorable occasion, and highlighted the unique links that can be forged with local community group interaction.

We welcome the new WTC Committee and their new leader, David Tynan.

Pat Anderson's Music Group has had a number of small gatherings in past months, and hopes to ramp up to include more people interested in informal musical expression. Perhaps as winter approaches more members will enjoy a lovely fireside night of music with their family...Pat has been a wonderful Secretary as always, and despite the need for her to travel to the UK on two occasions, she has managed to gain Bendigo Bank sponsorship and to keep the affairs of the Association in good order.

Our Vice President, Jack Stringer, was consistently reliable and especially helpful with Council liaison on the village "talking posts", and also with managing the purchase of two new air conditioners for the main Hall. Jack has also been a solid contributor to Committee meetings and to the Theatre Company, and his wise counsel has been a great assistance to me.

Alan Cornell's work on the "Artful Dodger" monthly newsletter has breathed new life into our regular communications with members. Many have opted for the electronic colour version, which has been lots of fun and extremely well presented. This has been a major contribution to the WMI&AA, which has been widely well received by all members. Very well done, Alan!

The Craft Group have continued to meet and enjoy each other's company whilst being 'crafty', and Rosemary Climas' persistent direction has kept the members busy. Also, in her role as Treasurer, Rosemary kept our accounts in order during the year and made sure we kept up our deposits at the Bendigo Bank and paid for important things like insurance.

2007 saw a Festival Parade entry related to the Forensic Follies which probably startled some small children and animals, but which was an amusing reminder of a very popular Follies. A couple of young Rowans carried our excellent Association banner to make sure the citizens of Warrandyte didn't miss us.

Special thanks to Noel Burgess for continuing help with our mail, and working with Pat and Alan on our monthly Newsletter. Thanks to Louise Joy for her regular poetry & help on the Central Committee despite her busy community schedule.

Our Hall curator, Graeme Breadmore, has been his trademark tower of strength with cleaning and maintenance, as well as a reliable bookings liaison

with our many regular Hall hirers. Much appreciated, Graeme!

Our aspirations for a major environmental renovation of the toilet facilities via a lead through the Victorian Mechanics Institute did not eventuate as planned, hence we will have to revert to Plan B which no doubt will be a more modest upgrade. Whatever happens, we will continue our approach to make the Hall and Pottery Studio as good as they possibly can be within the confines of our time and financial resources.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with members, Group Leaders and the Central Committee in the great work of the WMI&AA.

*Ken Virtue*

## Secretary's Report

2006 saw another year of our associations' artistic pursuits and involvement in the community. These included the regular Theatre productions, Bargain Art Sales, Music Nights, Pottery Workshops and Craft. Marjorie Beecham introduced pottery skills to other groups, including U3A and Manningham Lifestyle Week and Theatre Workshops were offered in the community by Josh Mitchell. Potential growth in our organisation came from Jeremy Loftus Hills' approach to WMI&AA to be the umbrella organisation to host a Film Festival as part of the Warrandyte Festival in 2007 and to apply for funding for associated film making workshops. The highlight for 2006, however, was the 50th Birthday celebration held in May and the corresponding contribution to the Warrandyte Festival Parade.

Ted Cross designed and produced a wonderfully new, colourful banner, made in sections to represent each group, as well as our 50th birthday. This was proudly carried in the Parade ahead of a crowd of thespians clad in assorted costumes and a colourful float organised by Alan and Jack on which all our groups were represented by people pursuing their own art or craft, together with the ebullient Martin Walker, a blast from the past, telling the crowd how good we were and how we had won a Festival Parade award with "A few old people and some straw"!!!

Our 50th birthday celebration in May saw hundreds of people, association members, including some founding members, as well as community members and community representatives enjoying an exhibition of art and craft and displays of memorabilia in a café-style setting, with live music, a memorable one act play, the launch of the wonderful potters' sculpture and the unveiling by Irving Reid of his painting of Charles (Bud) Tingwell. Our celebrations continued into the evening with a programme of highlights representing past Follies and Performances and an address by our founding member, Joan Golding. Our thanks are extended to the many people, too numerous to cite here, that contributed so much to make this such a memorable occasion. Many who attended were heavy hearted, remembering the wonderful contribution made by Jo Laurence over the years and who sadly died only 2 weeks before this celebration.

Improvements to the Hall made in 2006 included a CCT link between the lighting box and "Green Room", the decision to install Air Conditioning in time for the 2007 Follies and of course the Potters' Folly in the garden. Our red and white check table cloths disappeared for some months but miraculously re-appeared.

We were successful in our application to Warrandyte Community Financial Services for sponsorship of the Follies. The \$1,000 received went towards the cost of installing air conditioning. We were also successful to the tune of \$2,000 in applying to Manningham Council for funding as the umbrella group for the Film Festival/Film Workshops. Local MP Danielle Green enthusiastically supported our application through Mechanics Institutes Victoria for funding of a new, environmentally sound toilet block, but this was unfortunately not successful.

During 2006, our Fire and Theft Insurance was switched from the Instrat Group to Jardine Lloyd Thompson, enabling us to have an almost doubled cover for a similar outlay. This brought our cover more in line with the likely replacement cost estimated by Jock Macneish and architect Richard Henry. This also means that all 3 types of insurance - Fire and Theft, Public Liability and Personal Insurance - now come under one insurer.

The other major innovation for 2006 was the "New Look" newsletter, an artistic achievement of Alan Cornell when he took over this role in June. We encourage everyone to write reviews and relevant artistic contributions and hope that this newsletter might be a way of updating a much-needed organisation web site at some stage in the future.

Once more, it has been a pleasure being involved with fellow committee members in the support of artistic endeavour in the community and in the maintenance and improvement of our much loved community hall. Special thanks to everyone who helped to make 2006 a memorable 50th year in the life of WAA (WMI&AA).

*Pat Anderson*

License

Bas was the greatest home handyman  
 mixing pride and yearning  
 he used to say I've never had a  
 License  
 or certificate of any kind  
 uncertificated he welcomed callers to  
 Information Warrantdye with  
 "Come in Cobber"  
 New Zealanders wrote of this  
 their favourite experience  
 in Australia

Bas and Doll  
 New Theatre members  
 left wing readers of everything  
 not needing a  
 License  
 to be sparking original  
 kind or cuddling  
 in the back seat of the talkies

You can always tell an old sailor  
 turned out nice  
 each crease crisp  
 on shirt and pants  
 still puffing away at 78  
 as thin as a stick still  
 cackling I never had a  
 License

3MBS FM 8:50 pm 14-06-2007 George Formby  
 from Lancashire "You don't need a license for that"  
 CD GEORGE FORMBY TURNED OUT NICE  
 www.sanctuaryrecordsgroup.co.uk

Happiness

the very latest trend  
 is to calculate and commodify  
 Happiness

in "Warranvale"  
 Happiness  
 is Sunday roast pork  
 with crackling and gravy  
 jokes ricochet across  
 tables of good company

The essence of  
 Happiness  
 in Warrantdye  
 is a stroll by the  
 Yarra

*The Guardian Weekly 11 - 05 - 2007 Theatre p.32 Review  
 by Lyn Gardner of Simon Beil's adaptation of Ingvar  
 Ambjornsen's novel, already a successful movie.  
 "Happiness is more sex and more pork with gravy."*

*TV Review: Nancy Banks - Smith laments that "sometimes  
 I feel there's a party I'm missing. Statistics everywhere:  
 people having sex 2647 times, eight cars, back and forth to  
 the moon."*

*The Age March 24, 2007 Good Weekend p.46*

*Neuroscientists have declared Matthieu Ricard, Buddhist  
 monk and confidant of the Dalai Lama, the happiest man  
 they have found. Can the Frenchman do anything to cheer  
 up notoriously gloomy journalist Robert Chalmers*

*HAPPINESS A guide to developing life's most important  
 skill by Matthieu Rickard. Atlantic/Penguin 2007*

(Other references deleted for want of space, with apologies.)

Camel

Don't be nasty to the  
 camel  
 or committee  
 both beauteous  
 lumbering creatures  
 surefoot in barren wastes  
 getting there in the end  
 an occasional oasis

Warrantdye  
 Oh Warrantdye Committees  
 sometimes we siLicenseorm out  
 or amalgamate splendidly  
 WMI & AA  
 Warrantdye Mechanics Institute and Arts  
 Association  
 or seed and flower as in  
 Warrantdye Coop to  
 Warrantdye Child Care and  
 Warrantdye Neighbourhood House  
 sometimes we die  
 Warandye Youth Services  
 how sad

*Warrantdye Community Workshop Cooperative Limited  
 M'gers Jean Chapman & Councillor Ken McKenzie 80 -91  
 The Guardian Weekly 11-05-07 p.29*

*Letter from Oman: These horses were designed by committee  
 Philip Skeldon: Camel racing turned out to be a version of  
 synchronised swimming. The idea was that the jockeys would  
 keep them together, then judges would decide which were the  
 best camels according to their obedience, stride and "beauty".*

*This last category seemed odd to those brought up on the  
 phrase, "a camel is a horse designed by a committee".*

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** Cheques payable to **WMI&AA Inc.** Post to **Treasurer, WMI&AA, PO Box 150, Warrantdye 3113.**

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone:.....Email:.....

Family \$25    Adult \$15    Junior \$10   Would you like your newsletter sent by email?    YES    NO



One Act Play rehearsal weekend at Bright