

THE Artful DODGER

FEBRUARY:2012

1.n. roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dickens' *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 Alan Cornell on 98444995 or alan@commercialventure.com.au



THE FINAL STAGE

If you go down to the Hall today you're in for a big surprise.

In the last couple of months, Phil Dyer and his trusty full-time apprentice Ken Virtue, with help from Jack Stringer, Bill Mitchell, David Tynan and Nathan Upson, have been flat strap pulling up, knocking down, carting away, laying, erecting and all sorts of other constructive terms.

The main task has been the long overdue replacement of the stage floor. The balance of the Luke Mayall and Christie Lawrence Memorial Fund, some \$12,000, was generously donated by the trustees to our Association for the project, and a suitable plaque of acknowledgement is being made. Most of our members will remember Christie as one of the Theatre Company's favourite performers. Christie and her boyfriend Luke were tragically killed in a freak accident in 1998. How wonderful it will be to hear an echo of Christie Lawrence when we go on the new stage in the future.

The work itself took around 120 hours over four weeks. First, some of the stumps under the stage which had subsided were lifted and packed. The existing timber flooring was levelled and machine sanded. Then came the laying of the special 'Weathertex' flooring, with lots of glue, over 2,000 screws and bucket loads of Dulux flat black paint!

The cyclorama was replaced, repainted and new carpet laid between the stage and the supper room.

The space under the stage was cleared and a heating duct repositioned to allow the trestles to be stored on two specially constructed trolleys - a measure expected to save a small fortune in chiropractic fees. Shelving has been installed in the trestles' previous storage area for 'Front of House' supplies. The lighting and piano cupboards have in turn been cleaned up, and the storage cupboard at the front of the Hall just inside the doors has benefitted from new shelves and a super-Stringer-storage-system. In all, six cubic metres of rubbish was removed from the Hall which was very cathartic for those with hyper-tidiness-tendencies.

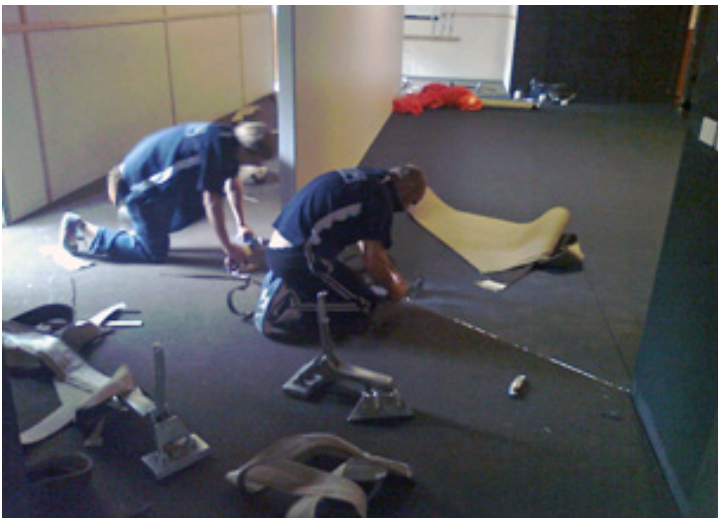
Backstage work lighting was significantly improved, along with tidying up of overhead timbers.

A new screened area attached to the rear of the Pottery studio has also been established for dry storage of stage rostra and other bulky items.

All in all a massive but magnificent work. Our thanks to all who laboured so long and so well.

SUBS DUE!

2012 subs are now due. The first increase in I don't know how long sees the fees go from \$15 to \$20, or \$30 for families. Potters, painters and crafties generally pay promptly through their co-ordinators, but the rest of us sometimes need reminding. If you still get a hard copy "Dodger" there'll be a red dot on the address label until you're paid up (or till I catch up with your payment). Why not do it now? Thanks.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wed 8 Feb - Painters start

Tues 7 Feb & Wed 8 Feb - Potters start

Thurs 22 March - Follies starts



Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association Inc 0009153X

www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au

Group reports.

Theatre



Happy New Year all! 2012 is already in full swing with Follies auditions completed and rehearsals already on the go. We have a great cast including several new recruits and some old (I mean experienced) regulars. The alien theme has inspired some terrific scripts and

there is music galore courtesy of Jack and some creative cast members. John and Daryll have been kept very busy casting skits and honing skills. The new stage looks fantastic! Thanks to Ken, Jack, Phil, David, Bill and Nate. We can't wait to tread the boards. Check out the web site at www.warrandytehallarts.as.au for all the details and how to book your table for a wonderful night of laughter, song and dance.

The Youth Theatre is still in the organizational stage and we hope to have sorted everything out soon. Keep an eye out for the next Dodger for all the information. I know Larry Phelan has lined up quite a few interested future thespians, so if you have teenagers or know teenagers over the age of 14 who would be interested in being a part of this exciting new venture, either in front of the stage or behind it, please let them know and we'll keep you posted.

Hope to see you all at The Follies. Cheers.

Lisa Upson 9844 1436

Painting



All the best to you for 2012 with lots of successful painting. Hope you had a pleasant Christmas and New Year break.

We will be gathering down along the river below the Warrandyte bridge for our first get together on Wednesday 8th February around

10.30am. Subscriptions are due now, \$20 annually. Look forward to catching up.

Pauline Cross 94391775

Craft



Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

Pottery



Welcome to 2012. Another year lies before us. With lots of happiness and creativity. So many things to make and enjoy.

We have had a few casualties during the holidays. Jan's mother Jean had a fall and is in the Austin Hospital. Kersten has had a knee

operation - is home and recovering well - and Rene has booked a hip replacement for 20th of February. Every good wish to Jean, Kersten and Rene, may you all recover very quickly.

Congratulations to Melissa. She has a new job at the Alexandra Hospital. And to Denys, who was the lucky winner of the "Seated Elephant Award" at the Christmas Luncheon. She assures me there are no divorce papers pending.

Thankyou to Ceri and Denys for helping to clean the statues. Very hot, dirty job.

Term dates are Tues Feb 7th and Wed 8th to Wed March 28th. Fees are due on first day of term.

Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206

CONCERT FOR MALAWI

Sunday Feb 12th at 2pm, Diamond Creek Uniting Church, Cnr Wensley St & Main Hurstbridge Rd, Tickets \$15 and \$10 concession at door.

An afternoon of beautiful music from Ian Lowe, pianist, and singers Lesley Walton, Judith O'Shea, David Cox and Lucas Wilson-Richter.

Education is the answer to poverty. Every cent will be used by the Elizabeth School in Zomba, Malawi. This school is run by good friends of Ian Lowe and is giving its pupils a real chance. To continue this, it is in need of on-going support. This concert is the eighth in a series which helps to provide this support.

Contact Diane Morgan 9718 2035



2012 SUBSCRIPTIONS (January - December)

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



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