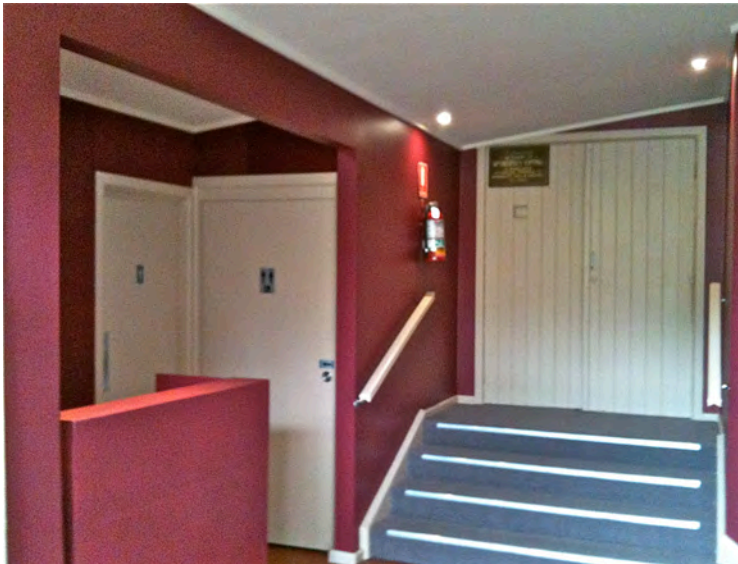


# THE Artful DODGER

**December 2013**

1.n.roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. 2.n. printed handbill full of tidings from the WMI&AA with a closing date for contributions of 25th of each month to Ken Virtue on 0411238377 or [kenjvirtue@gmail.com](mailto:kenjvirtue@gmail.com)



## FOYER UPGRADE

President Jack and VP Ken have completed the foyer upgrade, including repainting and some new wall carpet tiles - all prior to the "The 39 Steps".

The photo shows the smart theatre-style look, & for those interested in such things, the main Dulux wall colour is called "Carmen"

Nice work , lads!

## JOIN US AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY !



All WMI&AA members are welcome at the Hall on Saturday **December 14<sup>th</sup>** at 8pm. **BYO food to share and drinks.**

The deck BBQ will be operational, and no doubt there will be ample festive season jolliness & good cheer for all to enjoy.

**WARRANTYTE**  
MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND  
ARTS ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED



Craft



Contact : Rosemary Climas  
9844 2154



Is anyone able to help us? At the combined exhibition held in the Hall on May 19<sup>th</sup> this year one of our potters sold a bird bath. It sprang a leak so she agreed to replace same. Alas, she has since misplaced the person's contact number and Sheryl would be delighted if she could locate the buyer. Please ring me on 98443206 to discuss.

Thank you to John & Hae Sook who generously supplied pots to be displayed at the Annual U3A Artistic Showcase. They also helped with the setting up and pulling down.

From the Potters to all members of WMI&AA we wish you a great Christmas and an even better New Year.

2014 Term first dates are Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am . New members are always welcome.

**Contact : Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206**



Our Bargain Sale this last week-end was not as successful this turn, with the weather and not many visitors, as there were other various activities in Warrandyte.

Our dear Gillian Beddington passed away this month and she will be sadly missed. Gillian joined WMIAAI Painting Group in 1987 and was a loyal and active member all that time. The Celebration of her life was held at the Uniting Church, with a large gathering of relatives and friends from the community.

**Date to remember** - The 18th December, 12 noon. Our Christmas Luncheon will be at the Warrandyte Retreat, 104-106 Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte.

Melway ref: 35 C2. Please let me know if you are coming.

**Contact : Pauline Cross 94391775**



Hi Ho...it's off to Christmas we go....and then the Follies..:)

Well what a season we have had with the success of The 39 Steps, and what a year! Starting with Fantasy Follies, the One Act Plays (Sisters in Paris, Tuda O Nada, At First Sight), Youth Theatre (The Real Inspector Hound) and the 39ers. A big thank you to all involved from our Sponsors, Producers, Directors, Cast, Crew, Front of House, numerous behind the scenes personnel and our wonderful Committees.

We are already in pre-production for the 2014 season of the Follies (WTF - What The Follies) and after a well deserved break, will be sleeves up, head down, carving out another masterpiece. What a life, but someone has to do it.

Thank you and have a great Christmas break.

**Contact : Daryll Mitchell 0423 088 217**

# The 39 Steps was a smash hit!

(Photographs courtesy of Gareth Dickson and the Warrandyte Diary)



## Theatre review of "The 39 Steps" – by David Hogg, November 2013

I had read John Buchan's spy-thriller book as a child and remembered a large cast, train journeys to Scotland, car journeys, and spotter aircraft. So I was surprised to see such a complex plot about to be performed on the stage, and even more surprised that it comprised a cast of just five people. In fact the play is a stage-version comic melodrama of the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock film which in turn was based on the original Buchan novel.

The main character is Richard Hannay, a James Bond type character on whom the problems of pre-war Britain are bestowed. This part is brilliantly performed by Michael Fenimore Cocks an accomplished actor whose role forms the backbone of the plot around which a myriad of whacky characters, played by the other four, revolve. This formula of an outsider supported by the local company works well here, as it has in the past.

Enter Annabella Schmidt, a sultry German-accented counter-spy performed wonderfully by Felicity Emselle. Curiously and annoyingly throughout the script Hannay seems to have no sexual desire to take advantage of the beauties he encounters. Schmidt explains that spies are outside waiting to murder her. At this point the audience gets the first insight into the amazingly clever visual gags that keep us rocking with hilarity throughout the performance. Each time that Hannay lifts the blind to check whether the spies are outside, two spies in raincoats (Simone Kiefer, David Tynan) rush on stage and pose huddled under a gas lamp, then rush off again as the blind is pulled down. Further hilarity ensues with visual comedy relating to the dagger in Schmidt's back, escape using the uniform of the milkman (Deborah Silva), and the Hitchcockesque discovery of Schmidt's body by the charlady emitting a scream which becomes that of the train whistle.

The train scene at Edinburgh station showcases the talents of Kiefer and Tynan with seemingly seven on stage at the same time all accomplished by split-second timing and change of hats and accents transforming policemen into train guards and passengers into newsboys. Clever visual effects show Hannay jumping from the Forth Bridge and a simple but clever puppet sequence shows his being pursued by police. The crofter's house scene with young wife Margaret (Deborah Silva) gets us used to some broad Scottish accents, followed by Hannay's arrival at the mansion of arch-villain Professor Jordan, cleverly portrayed by David Tynan in true Frank Thring manner. More visual gags followed with a very cleverly constructed door and the sounds of partying coming momentarily from an adjoining room each time this was opened. Again split-second timing succeeds.

The next scene, a little long-winded, has Hannay trying to hide in a political rally, with the audience now hooting in mirth at the antics of Tynan and Kiefer attempting to erect a banner with the string too short. Arrested by the spies masquerading as police, Hannay is handcuffed to Pamela (Felicity Emselle) and driven through Scotland in a car cleverly and spontaneously constructed of chairs, a lectern and a steering wheel. Escaping when some amazing prop-sheep appear blocking the road, they venture overland to a remote inn where Tynan (now female) and Kiefer (now male) are the innkeepers. Kiefer enters playing bagpipes which she (he?) doesn't have, and we all fall about. A clever bedroom scene ensues with Pamela trying to partly disrobe whilst handcuffed to Hannay, who again fails to come up with the obvious seduction. Finally back to London and the nostalgic tune of Startime takes us to the London Palladium where Mister Memory reveals the secrets of the 39 steps for design of the aircraft engine he was about to take back to Germany.

As accomplished directors Adrian Rice and Alan Cornell say, the show was technically complicated with the sound and light operators really being the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> players. Add to this the most ingenious but simple of props, a doorway, two window frames, a too-short banner, puppets, 3 miniature buildings cleverly lit, some strange cut-out sheep and a cleverly moved Edinburgh station sign amongst others.

A fun packed, brilliantly performed evening, and on this night a sell-out crowd. Thank you WTC. Sometimes I wonder why I pay over \$100 to see a professional show in the city, when I can get as much or more enjoyment from a WTC production at home for \$22. I do hope that Hannay finally got his girl.



## **GRANTED WITH GENEROSITY**

WMI&AA has been extremely fortunate recently in receiving various grants towards its operation and facilities. **Manningham Council** has provided \$3,222 from its "Small Grants for Community Groups" program towards the total cost of providing and installing new tab (back of stage) curtains and tracking. This greatly enhanced the recent production of "The 39 Steps", with its complex and rapid scene changes and will be an on-going asset for productions in general. Manningham has also granted a further \$2,541 from its Heritage Restoration Fund towards stage 2 of our external hall painting program. This work will hopefully be undertaken early in 2014.

On top of this success, WMI&AA is also the lucky recipient of \$2,000 from the **Warrandyte Bendigo Bank's** 2013 sponsorship program. This money was ear-marked for a stage follow spot light, again purchased in time for the recent production ( see photo of President Jack above). For years the Theatre Company has been shelling out money to hire such an item for its productions so in the long run this purchase will be a great saving. Also see picture above of the sound desk in the bio box which was recently complemented with the purchase of a new Mac Pro computer with Sound Effects software. This latest sound technology was brilliantly operated in "The 39 Steps" by David Rackham.



### **Painters Group Support Needed**

Pauline Cross , who has been leading the Painters' Group since 1968 will retire next year after fantastic service to WMI&AA. President Jack Stringer would like to plan future leadership of this Group. Please call him on 98443707 if you would like to discuss.

## **SUBS DUE NOW / MEMBERSHIP RULES CHANGE**

Early in 2013 the State government changed the rules for Incorporated Associations and because we're one of those we have to comply.

From the start of next year we will need to have details – including a signature – from all members of the WMI&AA. The good news is we only have to do it once – not every year. As you can see we've included the information form in the DODGER.

Could ALL members please READ THE FORM CAREFULLY, print it out and after filling it in follow the instructions on the bottom. Please write carefully so we know who you are.

Additional forms are available from your Group leader. Please pay your annual subscription ASAP.

# WARRANTYTE MECHANICS INSTITUTE & ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Promoting the arts in Warrandyte  
Maintaining the WMI Hall for the community

PO Box 150 Warrandyte 3113      cnr Yarra St and Mitchell Ave, Warrandyte  
[www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au](http://www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au)  
ARN: A0009153X      ABN: 32001 058 465

## Membership form/subscription renewal

Please complete your details below. This information is collected solely for administrative/contact purposes within the Association as required by the Incorporations Act

NAME(S): Mr  Mrs  Ms  Other  \_\_\_\_\_

AREA OF INTEREST: \_\_\_\_\_  
(eg Theatre, Pottery, Painting, Craft,  
Music, General, Youth Theatre)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive my monthly newsletter in colour by email: YES  NO

MEMBERSHIP TYPE please circle: SINGLE \$25.00 FAMILY \$35.00

I understand that by applying for membership I have read and support the goals of the Association and agree to its rules (these may be viewed on [www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au](http://www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au))

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment to accompany this form either by direct payment to your Group leader OR by post to the above address, (cheques payable to WMI&AA Inc) OR by direct deposit to:  
Bendigo Bank: a/c# 122710262 BSB 633108 and please also annotate this form with your name, that it is a subscription and the transaction number.**