

April 2015

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



A rare performance comes to Warrandyte (See story Page 8)

NB: One Act Play auditions in the Hall on Sunday 19th April 4pm & Tuesday 21st April 8.15pm







Contact : Rosemary Climas 9844 2154



Not much news this month as I have been riding the high seas. Thank you to the girls who opened the Studio. It's hard to believe that we are on holiday again.

Second term begins on Tuesday 14th April, and then Wednesday 15th.

Have a great break and return refreshed and inspired.

Contact: Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206



Contact: Jack Stringer 0457 121 477



Hello Theatre lovers,

I am thankful for the support of the community in attending this year's successful Follies. I applaud the hard work of our small team of Directors, actors, musicians, backstage crew, sound, lighting, wardrobe, artistic, set, advertising, writers and sponsors. What we achieved with very little is fantastic, although I am still calling out to the community to assist and to extend their interest as patrons to becoming involved both on and off stage.

Our *One Act Play* season will show June 26 &27 & July 3 & 4. There are 3 good plays on offer. "*Brief Encounter*" by Noel Coward will show November 20,21,27,28 & December 3,4, & 5.

Contact: Darvll Mitchell 0423 088 217

NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA!

"Dance like no one is watching"

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"Penny for your Follies 2015" Review

Once again, we were treated to a superb and hilarious evening of entertainment with Warrandyte Theatre Company's "Penny for your Follies". Such talent exists here in Warrandyte, not only in acting ability but extending to writing, singing and music.

I have been critical in the past of the constraints of sticking too rigidly to a theme, but have to retract that criticism as this year's theme of "Money" was rigidly adhered to with excellent effect, a testament to the talents of directors Adrian Rice and Simone Kiefer.

Of the many highlights, the recurring "A Child's View" sketches featuring realistically young children explaining their views of how the economy works not only had us rolling with laughter, but at times their explanations were spookily true to life. Another recurring theme was the clever "The Bridge" series of short films involving sleuths tracking down the perpetrator of doggy poo in the middle of the bridge and culminating in a spectacular helicopter crash at the bridge roundabout.

In the past, we've had a lookalike John Howard, Paul Keating and HM the Queen. This year introduced a lookalike Jacqui Lambie, but alas noone in the cast can look like Clive Palmer unless wearing a mask!

Richard Pengelley (Musical Director) had us in stitches trying to continue playing his guitar whilst being deliciously seduced. Clichés and mixed metaphors worthy of Joh Bjelke-Petersen abounded thanks to the talents of the scriptwriters. The Oldies Lament, to the tune of 9 to 5, bemoaned the raising of retirement age to 95. "Roar Oar" allowed us all to roar in a well-managed audience-participation number. Great dance numbers included Rap and Hip-Hop.

"Telstra Girl", cleverly written and performed, had us crying with mirth remembering the hours we've spent trying to talk to call-centre robots. The old favourites were there including the long-established tappers and a great finale number by Lisa Upson.

This year was, I think, more musical than in the past and improved greatly by having guitar and percussion in addition to the piano, this providing the equivalent of a small band. Performers in some sketches wore radio mikes, which were used to good effect.

A fun packed, thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Thank you WTC.

David Hogg March 2015.













"Penny for your Follies" photos courtesy of Stephen Reynolds, The Warrandyte Diary.

Pat & Marjorie meet in NZ

At the end of the last central committee meeting, Marjorie announced that she was going off on a cruise. Not having any idea in which direction this cruise would take her, imagine our surprise when one week later, who should we meet but Marjorie herself, together with some friends from the Eltham Probus Club. John & I were on holiday, touring around the North Island of New Zealand, with Warrandyte far from our minds, enjoying a local ferry trip using an Auckland public transport day pass. What a small word it is!



Marjorie's "Big Boat" berthed in Auckland

AGM diary date Monday 18th May @ 8pm

It will soon be that time again, specifically on Monday 18th May at 8pm in the Hall.

If you enjoy being involved in WMI&AA in theatre or pottery pursuits and you want to see your unique facilities continue to thrive, then please consider coming along and being involved in some way.

Theatrical productions can only take place so long as we have a hall and stage, lighting etc, and pottery likewise, needs a venue with specific resources, such as the brand new kiln.

If you want to see the arts continuing to thrive in our community and have ideas for new groups and directions, then this is your opportunity to contribute.

Some stalwarts have run the umbrella organisation for many years but have now left Warrandyte for a sea change, suburbs change or even a city change, and new Warrandyte blood is sorely needed to keep the organisation alive and performing.

We need you, so we look forward to seeing you there.

Don't forget: Monday, 18th May at 8pm in our lovely hall.

A life lived musically - Ann Knox Arnold

On Monday, 23^{rd} March, some members of WMI&AA were at St Stephen's Anglican Church in Warrandyte to share in a Thanksgiving Service for the life of Ann Arnold, who died peacefully earlier this month at the age of 86.

Ann was very much a part of Warrandyte, having attended the unique Koornung School as a border when she was young, and subsequently coming to live here when she was married. Ann was an accomplished pianist and was involved in the Warrandyte Arts Association from its beginnings in 1955/56. She hosted and played at many music nights and encouraged young people to perform at these. Her association with professional musicians enabled her to arrange many celebrity concerts in the Mechanics Institute Hall. These would have been very special in the days when Warrandyte was more of a village, separated from Melbourne.

Ann and her family travelled away from Warrandyte for long periods occasioned by husband Kel's work. They spent several years abroad in places such as Singapore and in the Caribbean. Each time they returned, Ann again became involved with WAA. I am aware of a successful production of "Alice in Wonderland" shortly before John and I knew about and joined WAA in the late 70s and Ann was an enthusiastic participant and director in several subsequent productions, such as "An Australian Bush Christmas" and "Peace and Harmony". Her love of the arts in general and in humanitarian causes brought a visionary perspective to this latter production, although some of her amazing ideas were far too impractical to achieve. Ann would be known to many families in Warrandyte through her teaching of the piano for most of her married life, both at home and with the after-school-music program at Warrandyte Primary School until relatively recently. As a teacher, she was kind and gentle with her pupils, and a great believer in individual personal growth. Phoebe Briggs, a star pupil who subsequently became a repetiteur with the Australian Opera and is now musical director of the Victorian Opera, spoke fondly of Ann at the service. Yvonne Reid also spoke of a wonderful association with the Arnolds, with conversations exploring a wide range of subjects and ideas.

Vale Ann, and thank you for your enormous contribution to music in Warrandyte.



Pat Anderson.

This picture shows Ann in contemplative mood during a rehearsal our 1985 celebration of the lives of Bach and Handel.



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2015 Key Dates: **Entries Close - Monday 25 May.**

Artists advised of selection - Monday 15 June.

Finalists Exhibition Opening - Wednesday 15 July.

Exhibition Closes - Saturday 29 August

Manningham Art Gallery

Manningham City Square 687 Doncaster Road, Doncaster 3108 p. 9840 9367

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Medieval Music and Dancing: a Rare Performance comes to Warrandyte

On Sunday, May 10th, the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute will come alive with music and colour from 14th century Europe in a program entitled, "Dancing to Paradise".

The costumed performers will be the Rippon Lea Dancers and the Early Music Consort of Melbourne. The Consort, formed in 1973, has one of the largest collections of historic instruments in Australia and is sometimes called the 'Music Museum'. The performers are coming at the invitation of Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association.

This will be a rare opportunity to see and hear these performers locally. Both groups perform regularly for a series of concerts staged by Brighton Bay Council and also in Warragul, and this established schedule rarely allows for appearances elsewhere.

The program director, Helga Hill inspected our Hall and commented, "Warrandyte Mechanics Institute seems to have a great acoustic and we look-forward to hearing the 'Medieval Sound' in the venue".

A portative (table) organ, Saracen and Arabian lutes and a Hurdy Gurdy will be among the rare types of musical instrument on display. Of special interest to recorder-players will be a set of instruments based on an original from 1300 that was recently found under a house in Dordrecht in Holland.

But historic instruments will not be the only highlight of the presentation. In a program titled 'Dancing to Paradise', the Rippon Lea Dancers will perform some of the earliest dances known in the Western World.

Most of the dances will come from surviving records in early Christian churches where dancing played an important part in the liturgy, especially at Easter when dances of Death and Resurrection were common.

Dance patterns can still be found in the floor tiles of a number of European cathedrals. There were dances performed around the graves of departed loved-ones, circle dances to represent the angels in eternity and dances that took performers through the gates of heaven.

According to program director, Helga Hill OAM, the combination of medieval sound, movement and costume can amount to a mystical experience.

"This is not just another concert", she commented. "We will be aiming to create an atmosphere and an impression rarely found elsewhere".

For further information about this event at **2.30pm on Sunday, 10th May**, contact Pat Anderson on 9844 3442.

Please be seated on time as the performers will enter through the hall.

Admission will be \$20, \$15 concession, \$40 family.

Tickets will be available at the door, but people are advised to pre-book for this rare event by visiting http://www.trybooking.com/HDKC.