

THE *Artful* **DODGER**

February 2016

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

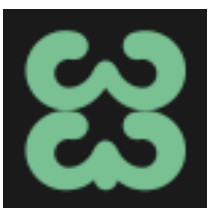


**Congratulations,
Jock Macneish
OAM !**

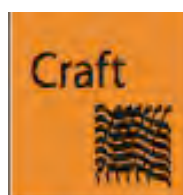
**“Our” Jock was
recently awarded
the prestigious
Order of
Australia Medal.**

(See story page 5)

Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association Inc 0009153X
www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au



WARRANTYTE
MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND
ARTS ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED



**Contact : Rosemary
Climas 9844 2154**



Welcome back to a new and exciting year.

Term dates are February 2nd until April 8th.
Members are reminded that fees are due on 2nd or 3rd February.

Congratulations to Brenda for being the very honoured recipient of the “grey Elephant Award” for 2015.

It may surprise some people to note that our “new” kiln is now a year old. What a happy first year it has had !

Contact: Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206

Vale Keith Wilson 1929 – 2016

Keith died peacefully on 29th January 2016.

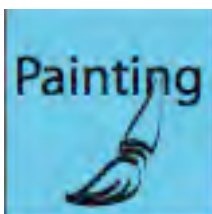
Both Keith and Bobbie were very active members of WMI&AA for many years, Bobbie with the Painting Group and Keith with the Potters. Keith was also a Life Member of WMI&AA.

They were also very involved with with the Tennis Club and the Scouts in Warrandyte. Although having left the district some years ago they remained interested in the Association and generously donated \$500 for the new kiln.

It is always sad to say the last farewell to a lifelong friend. Keith and I attended Sunday school together, oh, so many years ago.

To Bobbie, Lindi and Eliza we send our love and sincerest sympathies, and we thank them for sharing a little of Keith’s very active life with us.

Marjorie Beecham.



Any interested members should contact WMI&AA President David Tynan on 9844 5727.

NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA!

“Dance like no one is watching”

Every Wednesday 7-8 pm in the Hall – Entry \$5



Follies

Well I went away turned my back and when I got home everything was ready to go. Thanks to Lawrence and Richard for getting the auditions up and going. The show is now replete with scripts and songs and we are in a position to make some pruning decisions; an enviable place to be. Sadly we are not especially replete with men, so if any male actors or even ladies who do convincing male impersonations are interested – step forward now!

Dates

Easter complicates things this year and to provide sufficient time for rehearsals we decided the show would open later than usual. March 31st is the opening night and we run Thurs-Sat for 3 weeks finishing on April 16th.

One Act Plays

We will audition for one-act plays immediately after Follies. The plays will run on the last weekend in June and first weekend of July. We have yet to decide which plays we will do and have put the word out for writers to submit their scripts. We are looking for original plays that contain more than 2 actors and are between 20 and 45 minutes. Please pass this on to anyone you know who writes!

Later in the year we will audition for TWYT's September play and for *Brief Encounter*, the latter will be auditioned for around May/June.

Adrian Rice

WTC President

Email aderice@tpg.com.au

Telephone 9844 1528



And if you are interested, this is what we were doing in Burma:

Hazel and I seen here with assorted lecturers and English teachers at Mawlimyine University in Mon state. We have a lot of stories but they are for later!

***“God of Carnage”* Theatrecraft review**

GOD OF CARNAGE by Yasmina Reza

Warrandyte Theatre Company: Directed by David Tynan

Reviewed By : Deborah Fabbro, The Victorian Drama League Inc.

This award-winning play is described as a comedy of manners... without the manners. It is an engaging play which explores human nature with drama, comic moments and out and out hysteria.

Two sets of parents meet to discuss a playground altercation between their respective sons. What starts out as a cordial meeting with everyone being ever so polite soon devolves as discussion turns to debate, turns to accusation, resulting in chaos. Are the parents any better behaved than the children they are raising?

Director David Tynan extracted suitable performances from his cast but, at times, the pace dropped and the momentum waned. Some of the pauses, one presumes for dramatic effect, were overlong and left the audience wondering if the actor was searching for lines.

That said, Naomi Oosting as Veronica and Tony Clayton as her husband Michael, whose home is the venue for this meeting, created a nice dynamic as a couple, and right from the start we sensed that, despite a united front for their son's sake, they spent much of their lives sniping at one another. Oosting captured the surface grace and charm of her character, while Clayton conveyed the Neanderthal behaviour lurking just below the surface of Michael's demeanour.

Anita and Alan, whose son was responsible for the incident in the playground, were played by Slmone Klefer and Adrian Rice. Ms Kiefer portrayed the apologetic, eager-to-please, wife who eventually snaps and she handled the drunken moments appropriately. Adrian Rice played Alan, the corporate lawyer whose detachment to the situation is obvious in his insistence on continually taking calls on his mobile phone.

The technical aspects of the production (including working hair dryer and effective lighting plot) were competently provided, and the handling of 'special effect' in the vomiting scene was impressive, so congratulations to the personnel responsible.

Jock Macneish's set depicted the elegant setting of Veronica and Michael's living room with signature touches of red that were also echoed in each of the characters' costumes. This was a nice device to set the tone of the play.

As I said earlier, I would have liked more pace but Warrandyte still provided an entertaining production as was witnessed by the applause.

I was very impressed with the Q&A session at the end of the performance and commend the cast on the assurance with which they responded to the audience's questions and comments. This showed a strong understanding and connection to the play.

A few words about “our” Jock

R W (Jock) MacNeish is an Architect and Acoustic Consultant, an Author, an Illustrator and Cartoonist, an Inventor, a Specialist in Business Relationship Management, a Presenter and Facilitator and Senior Vice President of the ‘Thoughtware’ Group.

As a man of many talents, he has always completely and unselfishly made himself available to help the community specifically in Warrandyte and more widely in Melbourne.

Jock has been actively involved in local community work since 1969. He is President of the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust, The Warrandyte Youth Arts Award and a trustee of the Warrandyte Lawrence/Mayall Award.

Jock has been awarded Life Membership of the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association for his services to the Arts in the Warrandyte area. He has been actively involved with the Arts Association since the 1970’s and he remains one of our most respected and valuable members.

He has always provided his highly skilled architectural and design services at no cost, and always in his trademark affable and energetic manner.

He has acted as the principal architect for our historic Mechanics Institute Hall building, with various detailed design drawings for ongoing renovations or repairs. This has often required multiple meetings with builders, consulting engineers, Councils and sponsors.

In an artistic sense, he has designed a great number of sets, promotional posters and programs for a wide variety of plays, cabaret shows and pantomimes. The set designs involve various drawings of scene changes, customised for our Hall stage, and require thorough understanding of each production of the sequence and dialogue for every script. All of our past Directors and Producers can attest to the benefits of Jock’s unique and sustained approach to successful local theatre productions.

Further, Jock has also been responsible for the writing of comedy sketches and related cartoon poster drawings for the annual ‘Festival Follies’ shows that have been much admired by audiences and theatre reviewers since 1979.

He has even appeared onstage as an actor, presenter or musician for such shows, as well as a number of community fundraisers.

Jock was a Committee member for the Christie Lawrence & Luke Mayall Foundation that supported local artists and hospitality students in honour of two past members.

It is difficult to think of anyone who has had a greater positive impact on the Arts in our community and we will forever be grateful that Jock Macneish chose to live with his family in Warrandyte!

He is also a Life member of ‘The Warrandyte Diary’ community newspaper.

The first issue of The Diary appeared in December 1970, featuring wonderful cartoons, column headings and other graphics by Jock. The Diary, now in its 43rd year, continues to feature a range of artwork by Jock, much of it in full colour.

*Circle Singing has come to Warrandyte Mechanics Hall, and is running monthly sessions on a Saturday afternoon!
We are excited to build a musical and creative community here, so please feel warmly welcomed to join us.*

CIRCLE SINGING

Inspired by the work of Bobby McFerrin and Rhiannon...

Circle Singing is...

a playful and deep group improvisation practice for creative, musical, and personal development. Primarily vocal and musical, it also extends and weaves in explorations of movement, language and story

CONNECT

CREATE

PLAY

EXPLORE

DISCOVER

We welcome...

voices at any level to engage from where YOU are, while also challenging you to expand and meet your own edge.

Beginners: learn to open your voices and creativity in a safe and supportive space.

Advanced singers: deepen your expressive and improvisational skills.

WARRANDYTE MECHANICS HALL
MONTHLY SATURDAYS IN 2016:

JAN 23

MAR 5

MAY 14

FEB 20

APR 9

JUN 11

2:30-4:30PM..\$15..ALL WELCOME!

Find out more: www.circlesingingmelb.com Contact: kirstymorphett@gmail.com

Looking for some archives...

I had a phone call during the break from Tim Munroe who played Gilbert Bodley in Warrandyte Theatre's production of *'Not Now Darling'* in 1975.

Tim was back in Warrandyte recently, and seeing Robert installing the new sign for auditions for the Follies got him thinking back and wondering if we had any material from this production. It transpires that Tim lost everything in the Black Saturday bushfires. Naturally I set about looking but have drawn a blank.

When we had our 50th birthday celebration in 2006, I did my best to chase up as many records from the past as possible and I have folders of past programs, except there are gaps, and this is one of them.

I've also checked all the photos that were scanned and have come up with nothing referring to this play.

As for videos I am not sure. In 2006, Ken gave me a list of all the videos he had, but they began in the 80s. I have seen reference, in theatre company minutes, to videos being converted to DVDs, so I was wondering if anyone else had video material going back to the mid 1970s, as Tim seemed to think a video was made at the time.

The others in the cast included Sharry McKenzie (now in Canada), Bob Karl (now in NZ), Helen Davidson and Bob Schroeder. Is anyone in contact with any of these people?

Please have a look and let me know if you can find anything. It would mean a lot to Tim.

Thanks
**Pat Anderson - 9844 3442 or
anderson.pat50@yahoo.com.au**

**The Pottery Expo
at Warrandyte**

On the riverbank
opposite the pub Merwoys 23 E11

**Sat 5 and Sun 6 March
2016**

10am -5.30pm

60 of Australia's finest ceramic artists
contemporary hand made ceramics

Guest artists from Perth

www.potteryexpo.com
info@potteryexpo.com
0422942216

MANNINGHAM
This project was supported by
Manningham Council's
Community Grant Program
 Bendigo Bank

Jewellery Making Classes at Montsalvat - 2016

Anyone interested in classes for silver or gold jewellery making can contact Jeanette Dyke by email :

info@jeanettedyke.com

OUR HALL HAS A SHINY NEW FLOOR !

Thanks to Graeme Breadmore for supervising this work



DINOSAUR MURAL at Glenroy Kindergarten

43 four year olds created this mosaic under the guidance of Amanda Sgourakis.

Thanks also to Marjorie for firing the pieces in the new kiln at the Pottery Studio.

