

July 2016

The

Artful

DODGER

1.*n.* roystering young pickpocket from Charles Dicken's *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 David Tynan on 98445727 or davidtyn@gmail.com



Do you know this woman?

Ok – I'll give you some hints.

- * She loves Leicester City
- * She has worked tirelessly for a number of community organisations around Warrandyte, including the WMIAA
- * She hates drawing attention to herself, but has been a chicken in a panto
- * She is an extraordinary gardner and expert on all things Salvia, and her garden has been a host site for an Open Gardens Victoria event.
- * She was awarded an OAM in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours

Give up? Find out more inside!

Local potter legends speak

A number of WMIAA members recently attended a fascinating presentation about the history of pottery endeavours in Warrandyte, hosted by the Warrandyte Historical Society at the Grand Hotel. The main speakers were our very own Marjorie Beecham and Deborah Halpern. Many hilarious anecdotes spiced up a very entertaining and informative night, after which we retired to the WHS house for a delicious supper.

One day we will have to get Marjorie to commit some of these stories to print - did you know that she has now been doing pottery for more than 70 years?

Both Marjorie and Deb are pictured at right – look how relieved Marjorie looks to have completed her public speaking challenge!



Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association Inc. 0009153X

warrandytehallarts.asn.au

Group reports

Pottery



We had a wonderful luncheon to celebrate Rene (99) and Jan's birthdays. I asked how many girls had ever been to a 99 year old's birthday party. Only one person put up their hand. Congratulations Rene - you are a legend.

Thank you to the Tuesday girls who helped me in the garden and spread the ill-gotten mulch. Sadly we farewelled one of our early potters this week Helen Steele. Helen had been ill for some time. She was a much-loved and respected member of the WAA Potters. The term dates for 3rd term are July 11th to September 16th. A reminder that fees are due on the first day of the term.

Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206

Theatre



It's great to go away for three weeks then return and discover that some terrific One Act Plays have been created while my back was turned

Congratulations to all involved!

I watched the first dress rehearsal and everything is coming together nicely (see pics on last page from the dress rehearsal). Great work also on the set from Karl Heine.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to Callum (Robertson) who agreed to take on a small project to reconfigure our lighting and lighting box and turned into a bigger project. The results of his endeavours will be immediately noticeable in the improved lighting of signage and the front of the hall, improved stage lighting (also due to new floodlights) and a clearer,



smarter easier to use bio box. This is part of what Callum does for a living and we are grateful to have the services of someone so passionate about his work. *Local actors Jon Italiano and Flora Terrens enjoy a salad together. [Photo courtesy of Stephen Reynolds]*

On the other side of the coin, we are again the victims of petty thievery. Having lost a radio microphone earlier in the year to light fingered blaggards, this time they have outdone themselves having got away on their toes with our chest freezer. It was old, scarred and was donated to the WTC and was conceivably of very little dollar value. Someone, somewhere, each time they reach inside for a lump of frozen something must think ... "didn't I do well, those fools down at the Warrandyte Hall are so trusting, they didn't bother to padlock it, chain it to the floor and now it's mine ..." The old freezer is white, square and cold, if you have information ... Crimestoppers can be reached on oh what the heck ... get over it Adrian ... move on But it makes me cross!! OTOH, David has bought a new one so we can all have choc tops for tea. All hail David.

Auditions for 1984 with the Youth Theatre are 3rd and 5th July. We should almost be in early rehearsal mode by the time you read this. Directed by Adrian and assisted by Lawrence – Art and Technical Director. We are looking forward to bringing this to life to be staged in September. If you would like to assist in any way please step forward. We are desperately keen for someone to properly take care of publicity in a cohesive and coordinated and sustainable way.

Adrian Rice 9844 1528

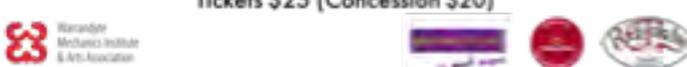
Warrandyte Theatre Company presents



THREE ONE ACT PLAYS

1, 2, 8, 9 JULY
Matinee 2pm 2 July

Mechanics Institute Hall, Cnr Yarra St & Mitchell Ave
Cabaret seating - BYO food and drinks!
Book at www.trybooking.com/LNQQ
Tickets \$25 (Concession \$20)

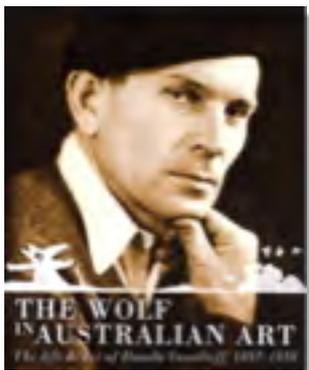




OAP Season 2016

Local talk on Danila Vassilieff

Following the Warrandyte Historical Society's AGM on Sunday July 17, Felicity St John Moore (author of Vassilieff and his Art) & Richard Moore (film director *The Wolf in Australian Art*). They will be talking about Danila Vassilieff



the artist and his time in Warrandyte. Vassilieff came to Warrandyte as foundation art teacher at the innovative Koornong School in 1939 and built his house Stonygrad close by. He was one of the artistic circle in Warrandyte during the 1940s and early 50s. Vassilieff is a notable figure in Australian Art history who has received much greater

recognition in recent times, thanks to the work of Felicity and Richard. This will be an entertaining and interesting talk about a major figure in Warrandyte's history. The presentation will be followed by the usual afternoon tea (please bring a plate) and chat. DVDs and book will be available for purchase.

Date: Sunday 17 July 2016
Time: 2.45 pm
Venue: North Warrandyte Family Centre, 183 Research Road, North Warrandyte 3113

Theatre lighting and sound upgrade

The hall recently had a major lighting upgrade, including the installation of new LED stage lights, and a complete renovation and de-cluttering of the bio-box and AV wiring stuff. We are greatly indebted to Callum



Robertson, a theatre group member (and managing director of Q1 Productions!), who completed the work very professionally, and gave very helpful advice about further improvements we may consider.

Leah needs your support!

The following letter is from young Leah Milburn-Clark, who has starred in a number of WTC productions, both on stage, and as a Follies choreographer. Please consider helping this inspiring young person to further her career in the Arts!



Dear friends, colleagues, and lovers of the arts,

My name is Leah and I am a student at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

My dream is to own and manage my own theatre and produce work that is bold, challenging and breaks the conventions of traditional performance.

As part of my degree I am required to produce three productions over two years and I am about to embark on my second work, a show I have written called 'Happy Days at War'. The show is immersive which means the audience are seated on the stage and the action takes place all around them. The show will stimulate smell and touch in addition to the audio and visual elements of traditional theatre.

My hope is that this production will provide a professional launch pad for my career and likewise for all the young adults involved in the show.

A portion of production costs I hope will be covered by a government grant but I still have to raise \$10,000 to cover venue hire, set build, costume materials and marketing.

Through the Australian Cultural Fund I have launched a fundraising page where anyone can make a tax-deductible donation towards the production. This not-for-profit venture is the realisation of a dream for me and any donation small (or large!) is greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Australian theatre scene, young artists and a new era of theatre – immersive theatre.

Kind regards

Leah Milburn-Clark

If you are able to support Leah, donations can be made at:

<https://australianculturalfund.org.au/projects/>



Hear Shani speak

Shani Alexander is a local artist who has had contact with the central committee about painting initiatives in Warrandyte. She is giving a series of talks about her current exhibition *Hero*, which brings together the complete *Floral Heroes* and *Tree of Life* collections.

There have been a number of presentations already completed, but there are scheduled presentations at 2 pm on Sunday 3rd July and 10th July at Riveresque (142 Yarra Street).



SHANI ALEXANDER

The Sharp End

One of our multi-talented members and WMIAA Web and all things digital guru Robert Black moonlights as a terrific cartoonist - you may have seen his work in other publications, including in the Warrandyte Diary. Robert has generously permitted to publish one of his 'gently twist' cartoons each month - thanks Robert! For more of Robert's cartoons work, go to <http://www.robertblack.com.au/the-sharp-end>

THE SHARP END by Robert Black. It's gently twisted.



"What's for dinner?"
"I thought I'd thaw a puddy tat."

Pat Anderson (OAM)



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Australia Celebrating Australians

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Name: ANDERSON, Patricia McKenzie
Award: [Medal of the Order of Australia](#)
Post-nominal: OAM
Date granted: 13 June 2016
State: Vic
Suburb: North Warrandyte
Postcode: 3113
Country: Australia
Citation: For service to the community of Warrandyte.

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MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Mrs Patricia McKenzie ANDERSON, 98 Bradleys Lane, North Warrandyte Vic 3113
For service to the community of Warrandyte.

Service includes:

Secretary, Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association, since the 1990s and Committee Member, 1970s.

Supporter, Warrandyte Community Association, current.

Supporter, North Warrandyte Fire Brigade, through the Open Garden Scheme, since 2008.

Minute Secretary and Committee Member, Hurstbridge Sow and Grow Garden Club, current and Founding Member, since 2005 and Organiser, gardening and cultural expeditions.

Member, Victorian Salvia Study Group, current.

Member, Salvia Association of Australia, current.

Participated, Open Garden Scheme, Australian Broadcasting Commission, 2012, 2010, 2008.

Volunteer, Information Warrandyte, 2000-2010.

Awards and recognition includes:

Recipient, Sustainable Community Organisation award, Nilumbik Council, 2012.

Recipient, 10 Year Certificate, Information Warrandyte, 2010 and 5 Year Certificate, 2005.

Recipient, Life Membership, Living and Learning Nilumbik, 2001.

Recipient, Life Membership, Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association, 2006.



Order of Australia Citation (Excerpts) for Patricia McKenzie Anderson ('our' Pat!)

Pat Anderson has made a major contribution to Community life in Warrandyte for more than forty years: particularly through the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association; Plants and Gardening Associations; the Country Fire Authority; and other community organisations.

The Arts and the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association (WMI&AA)

Soon after arriving in Australia, in 1970, Pat became a stalwart member of the Astra Choir, becoming an “anchor” member of the choir because of her ability to cope with the difficulty of contemporary music. She subsequently participated in Diamond Valley Singers for a few years where her ability was greatly in demand (she was asked to prepare tapes for those who had difficulty learning with their music). An accomplished pianist, she has played in a trio providing background music for countless fund-raising functions, including flower shows (her playing won the attention of Dame Elizabeth Murdoch at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games Flower Show organised by the Horticultural Society in the Dandenong's), opening of art shows, annual general meetings, retirement functions, funerals, weddings, club and society social gatherings. More recently Pat has taken up the challenge of hand-bell ringing with the group Ringspiration and has participated in many community recitals.

A major and long-standing contribution has been to music in Warrandyte through her membership of the Warrandyte Arts Association. This began when she became coordinator of the Music Group in the 1970's. She organised many community gatherings in private homes and her own home most of all for people of all ages to meet and play and sing. Pat made every effort to encourage group participation, particularly of instrumentalists.

As more and more and more people joined the Music Group, Pat became emboldened to organise various activities for music dance and theatre in the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall. Over the years these have included

- International Music Night, July, 1983 – an informal evening of music, dance and poetry for children and adults encompassing music and costumes from across the world
- Medieval Night 1989 – an evening of music, short medieval plays and Morris dancing
- Bach and Handel night – a huge undertaking depicting the life and work of Bach and Handel with music, visuals and readings, a function for which Pat drew upon the community supported by some of her friends to provide a choir and orchestra to produce the event which was booked out for two nights
- Messiah Nights – these were produced in the lead up to Christmas in three separate years (one of them being 1984) in which the public were invited to come along and sing in the choruses of Handel's Messiah while Pat organised the soloists and orchestra comprising people from the local community supplemented with some contacts known to Pat from her other musical activities.

Pat also participated in various local productions for which she was not responsible including singing in several productions of The Festival Follies, The Sallow Wattle, Music Machine, and in 1983, Peace and Harmony. She has also fulfilled the demanding role of being the pianist for the Festival Follies and also for Dinkum Assorted produced by Phoenix Theatre Company in May 2004.

Pat's activities in community music also include a lot of chamber music playing with a few friends (usually as a trio with violin and cello) for community events as described above. In Warrandyte these have included the Warrandyte Arts Association (many times), Warrandyte Historical Society, Neighbourhood House and The Warrandyte Community Centre.

Pat became an active WMI&AA committee member in the 1970s, soon becoming Secretary and remains so to this day, devoting a huge amount of time and effort to advance the Arts at a high level in Warrandyte. Having barely missed a committee meeting in 40 or so years, she has risen to the challenge of seeing that the local Mechanics Hall (a heritage listed building) is well equipped, well maintained, adequately furnished and properly insured. This has involved a much time fundraising and dealing with administrative and building matters. She has sourced well in excess of \$50,000 for work on the hall.

Pat has also taken a leading role in pursuing several WMI&AA initiatives, the most significant being the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Warrandyte Arts Association, a hugely successful venture attended by countless current and former Warrandytians. She keeps abreast of state-wide Mechanics Institute activities and has often represented WMI&AA at these functions. At the 50th year celebration of the WMI&AA, her commitment was recognised by a Life Membership award.

Pat feels that society should conserve those things that have been important in our history and culture. She recognises that Mechanics Institutes, have played a priceless role in enabling people of modest means to enhance their learning through attending talks and lectures and, when possible, being able to access library facilities. She recognises that the Warrandyte Mechanics Hall is a focal point for local people to meet, stage cultural and community events and socialise. Pat earnestly upholds these values and wants to do her bit to perpetuate the future of the Hall. Coming herself from a home of modest means, she feels that she was very privileged to be able to receive a high- level free education. She feels she wants to put something back into society.

Order of Australia Citation (excerpts) for Patricia McKenzie Anderson (continued)

Plants and Gardening

Pat is a passionate gardener and maintains an extensive collection of plants, especially plants belonging to the botanical family Lamiaceae, particularly the genus *Salvia*. She is very knowledgeable about these plants and Pat must rate an authority on the genus *Salvia* in Australia. She endeavours to keep up with important new scientific contributions, particularly those concerning the phylogeny of this huge genus with its 900 or so members.

Pat's garden is well known in both gardening and botanical circles and she has hosted visits from many clubs and societies, including Friends of the Melbourne Royal Botanic Garden and those of which she is a member. Featuring in the TV series "Gardening Australia" resulted in a series of requests for garden visits, including several from interstate.

Pat subsequently opened her garden to the public on three separate occasions under the ABC Open Gardens Australia scheme – March 2008, 2010 and 2012, to raise funds for the North Warrandyte branch of the Country Fire Authority. These events, supported by the residents in the local Community Fireguard Group, raised about \$37,000 and an additional \$1,000 for the local Mechanics Institute Hall. The events were attended by thousands of visitors and involved the participation of 80-90 volunteers including a wonderful band of musicians whose un-invasive music filtered around the garden and thrilled the visitors. These events not only raised significant sums of money to support local causes but they also engendered a huge amount of camaraderie. Pat's efforts in organising these occasions and in propagating thousands of plants for sale at the events were recognised by Nillumbik Council at the Practically Green Community Organisation Award in 2012 when she was declared the winner of "Sustainable Community Organisation". Pat's efforts in fund raising have also been recognised when she was presented with a special award at the opening of the new North Warrandyte Fire station in October 2010 (see copy attached).

Pat is an active member of several plant and gardening groups:

- Victorian *Salvia* Study Group, an organisation, allied to the Herb Society of Victoria, which is committed to promoting the study and growing of plants belonging to the genus *Salvia*. Pat is a regular contributor to their quarterly publication *Salvia News*. Her articles are regarded as particularly informative and they command a lot of interest and respect.
- *Salvia* Association of Australia – another group that seeks to promote the growing of salvias Pat frequently contributes to their newsletters
- Hurstbridge Sow and Grow Garden Club – Pat is on the committee and acts as minute secretary. Pat, with her knowledge and network of contacts also has the special role of organising gardening and cultural expeditions lasting several days. These have included visits to (1) north-east Victoria centred on Beechworth (2) west Gippsland, centred on the Mirboo district and (3) central Victoria, centred on Castlemaine
- Late Bloomers – a local group that meets monthly at the Mechanics Institute Hall in Warrandyte. Pat has hosted several visits to her own home and organised outings elsewhere
- Australian Native Plants Association – Diamond Valley Branch

Other community activities.

Pat has always supported other community groups when she was able, particularly the Warrandyte Environment League, Warrandyte Community Association and the annual Warrandyte Festival. 'Information Warrandyte' awarded her a Five year certificate in 2005 and Ten year certificate in 2010. In 2001, she was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in the United Nations International Year of Volunteers.

Community Employment

Between 1973-2000, Pat's formal employment in community activities in Nillumbik Shire was acknowledged as outstanding by the CEOs at the time: "In the short time I have been here, I have been impressed with the degree and scope of interaction with the local community generated through the Living and Learning Centres. This impression was reinforced during the recent Governor's visit to your Centre, and the keen interest he displayed in your activities and engagement with local people. The success of the Pantom Hill Living and Learning Centre is in no small part due to your dedication and commitment. This will be very hard to replace, and although I appreciate your reasons for retirement, your enthusiasm and commitment to the organisation you have built up over the 17 years will be sadly missed. I would like to thank you for your support provided to the staff of the Living and Learning Centre"
(Abstract from letter from Rodney Roscholler, CEO Nillumbik Shire Council, 27th July 1983)

"As Programme Co-ordinator at The North Riding Living and Learning Centre you have been instrumental in developing exciting and innovative programmes which address the learning, social and cultural needs of North Riding Residents. Your commitment to the Centre, adult learning, tutors and participants has been exemplary. Please accept this letter as a thank you and reminder of a remarkable effort during your 10 years as a member of staff and Programme co-ordinator to the North Riding Living and Learning Centre"
(Abstract from a letter from Catherine Dale, CEO Nillumbik Shire Council, 4th April 2000).

Warrandyte Music presents

Kavisha

Mazzella



Saturday July 30th 7.30pm

(Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start)

Warrandyte Mechanics Hall

Off Yarra St & Mitchell Ave, Warrandyte

Kavisha Mazzella AM

"A power and presence that's beyond words" Colum Sands

ARIA award winner and songbird Kavisha Mazzella's original songs' lyrical ingredients include humour, poetry, social justice and the spiritual. Combine this prowess with the voice of an angel and you have the experience of a Kavisha concert. Singing in English and Italian, she will take you on an uplifting boundary riding journey of well-crafted stories and songs ringing with echoes of Celtic, Fado and Gypsy influences that will strike a resounding chord within. With 7 solo albums under her belt, she has sung and given vocal workshops at national music festivals and abroad.

Kavisha will be joined by long time collaborator Matthew Arnold on Violin.

Bookings: please call 0401 167 213, warrandytemusic@gmail.com

Tickets: Full \$25, Concess \$15, Child \$10 (under 18)