

# THE Artful DODGER

MARCH:2008

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 MARCH TO THE FOLLIES!

SORRY, but no time to wax lyrical. Just to say: Book for the Follies, starting with a special preview on Thursday the 13th.

Subs are due! Form below.

A reminder to contributors that I'm now aiming for a first of the month release, so contributions are now due by the 25th.

And at the risk of turning this publication into a Lonely Planet Guide, Ian Craig has just returned from Ethiopia and after the good feedback we got from Jack's trip and David's trip, we're glad to read of such interesting places. But next time we'll try to get back to more 'arty' themes!



### Dates to Remember: An Inconvenient Follies

Week One - 13, 14, 15 March

Week Two - 27, 28, 29 March

Week Three - 3, 4, 5 April

## A JOURNEY TO ETHIOPIA from Ian Craig

For many years I have dreamed of returning to the country of my birth and this year I had the privilege of returning to Ethiopia to reconnect with memories that had faded and grown dim. The occasion was made even more special as I was able to share it with my two older brothers who were also born there and my parents who spent the first 20 years of their working lives as missionaries in what was then the other end of the world (physically and culturally). For my oldest brother and I it had been 40 yrs since we had been back. The five week stay was to be divided between touring the historical north to areas we had never visited previously and the trip south to familiar people and places where we entered the world, went to school, lived and worked. Enough time to absorb all we wanted and a pace that wouldn't mean we would be totally exhausted at the end of the process.

Flying into Addis Ababa was like coming home after a very long time. The sight of the urban sprawl now containing some 3 million people was a lump in the throat moment. The reality of the early morning smog as we stepped out of the modern airport brought me down to earth. Ethiopia follows the Gregorian calendar with 13 months and everywhere are the symbols and decoration to celebrate their Millennium.



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

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Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association Inc 0009153X

# Group reports.

## Pottery



It was good to see so many "old girls" back on Tuesday and Wednesday last. Welcome to Helena who has just joined the Wednesday potters. The U3A workshop has begun with most enthusiastic creations.

The opening of the Finns reserve play centre is on Friday 29th February at 6pm, corner of Thompsons Road and Warrandyte Road. All welcome.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

## Painting



We had a good turn up first day back at Gill's home, a catch up

chat with a cuppa to start, and then settled down to a choice of a flower study or still life, a pleasant day was had by all.

Last Wednesday with the steady fall of rain, found us in the Supper Room with a subject of dolls in a basket or a still life, we had a rewarding day with some interesting works produced.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775 Gill Beddington 9844 1203

## Theatre



### 1. Working Bees

The Follies are in full swing, and many thanks to all those who have helped with on and off stage tasks so far. For those in the cast, please make sure that you can attend one of the set building painting sessions on 1/3 and 8/3 - just 2 hours is

a great help and ensures that all is not left to a few.

### 2. Seeking scripts and directors

We are looking at One Act Play and Sept/Oct productions now, and would love to hear from any potential scripts that we can use. Also - we need directors for these as well. Even if you know of a great script but feel that you unable to direct it, we would love to hear from you.

Readings are planned for soon after the completion of the follies. we are also hoping to do some readings at the post-follies Anzac Weekend.

### 3. Portfolios - please comment.

As reported in the last Dodger, we are hoping to broaden the contributions from company members (and lighten the load on others).

The committee has drafted some role descriptions (see attached document with Committee minutes) for these, and we would like feedback about them. The plan is to take the final draft of this to the AGM (Thursday 10 April), and implement for the 2008-2009 years.

David Tynan 9844 5727 or davidtyn@gmail.com

## Music



Music:

Pat Anderson 9844 3442

Carft:

Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

## Craft



The Craigs before we left Ethiopia in 1967

In Addis Ababa we stayed at the 3 storey mission guesthouse that Dad helped build nearly 60 years ago and our mouths dropped open at how well preserved the old place was and how little it had changed since we left.



We visited Bingham Academy, the boarding school where we started our schooling. Besides the familiar scenes of crimes, tribulations and triumphs, we were able to witness the big changes to facilities, curriculum and student profile. It is a very international and multicultural school with students from embassy staff, various missions and Ethiopian families.

For those of you who think that Ethiopia is a flat dry hot country on the brink of famine I need to let you know that more than half the country is mountainous and temperate. This time of year is the dry season and the temperature averaged 25 c. The road journey north rises to 7500ft with views to travel half way round the world to see.

The first stop in our 10 day northern tour was the town of Lalibela, where King Lalibela's (1100AD) amazing rock churches that have been carved down into the rock. Legend has it that the King with the angels (and assistance of 4,000 people) carved these churches out solid rock. Not sure about the angels but it definitely solid rock. The design is based on Jewish tabernacle with the holy of holies, holy area and a general access area within each church. There are 7 all in one area and were made underground to protect them from destruction during wars with Muslim raiders from the north. The architecture is grand and the engineering astounding. Access and water drainage all managed with the design. To see manuscripts and other items dating back 900 years is awesome. The fact that they are living churches with monks and nuns living spartan experiences in small caves within the complex is also a thing of wonder. We visited a cave



church that is halfway down a cliff face with holy water dripping from the ceiling. Ethiopians are justifiably proud of their religious heritage and can trace it back to the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon.

Next stop was Gondar with its' 15 century castles which display a richness in architecture that reveals the influence of Arabia as well as Axumite traditions, and are said to be the largest concentration of such structures in Africa. Then to Bahir Dar on the shores of lake Tana, Ethiopia's largest (84km long and 64km wide) and a short drive from the Blue Nile Falls named 'Tissisat' or 'smoke of fire'; which describes what many claim to be the most spectacular waterfalls in Northern Africa.



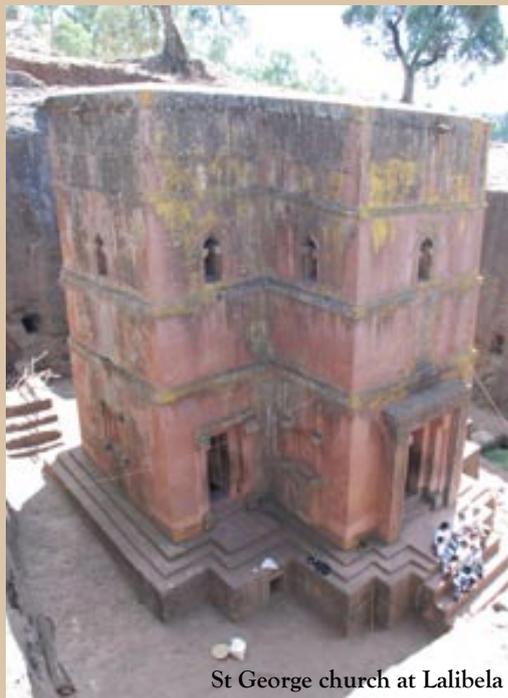
In this the dry season the 45m drop and volume of water make a great spectacle but the wet season pictures were even more spectacular. Then it was back to Addis Ababa - In all it took us ten days to complete this part of the journey.

The second tour took us south and this was planned so that we could visit people and places from previous times. First stop was Lake Langano where we swam in the muddy brown waters (not unlike our Yarra), walked and took pictures of the beautiful and varied bird life. We took all of this for granted when we were young! Our stay in the city of Awasa was highlighted by a visit to the local Compassion project where brother David sponsors a young girl named Emebet. The program is administered by one of the local Ethiopian churches and has nearly 200 children in the program. We were asked to visit the family and treated to lunch in their home. The whole neighborhood got involved.

Heading further south we visited Dilla which was where we lived from 1962 to 1967. The leased land that the mission property was on had been reclaimed by the communist government some 30 yrs ago. Our old house had been lived in up until recently but was now empty and looking a little worse for wear. My mobile had signal, so I rang my US friend from the front of the neighboring house where she grew up. We used to climb the mango tree at the back of her house - it was still there!

Heading west we passed through Soddo and stopped to see the hospital where I was born. The old building was only replaced a few years ago but the Doc's was still there and lived in by hospital workers. The highlight of the southern trip was visiting a town called Chenchu where my parents lived and worked for ten years. At 8000ft above sea level it boasts spectacular views to the low land lakes below (when the weather permits). All three Craig sons were born during this time. My first memory (age 3) was in the backyard when my pet rooster pecked me! Our old house had been converted into a guesthouse so we had the privilege of staying in our old house. Reconnecting with these people was like coming home to family. Poulos, Tusfy and Israel were young

boys when they came looking for work at our house. They are now pillars of the community and to see the amazing things they have done made us all proud. Not only is there a thriving church but significant community development programs. The apples and apple trees from this area are shipped all over the country. They also have a co-operative to make and sell produce from the orchards.



St George church at Lalibela



The Rebecca singer got 8000 people rockin'

Dad and brother Paul were asked to speak at the conference which was being held on the compound. This is a biannual conference which has its origins when Mum and Dad came to this place. Imagine a small stage like we have at Stiggants Reserve with a sloping hill in an area 60m wide and 120m deep, then imagine 8000 people sitting on the ground for two 3.5hr sessions a day for three days in a row. Rebecca was guest singer and when she sang in the local dialect she got the place rockin. Being in the middle of that was an experience I will never forget.

This place continues to have significance for our family - one of David's children rang to tell him he a third grandchild and I had my 50th birthday while we were there. David and I celebrated with a half day trip to Lake Abaya where a short boat trip brought us within 20 metres of a pod of 10 hippos and around 25 crocodiles sunning themselves along the banks of a small island.

A long day on the road saw us back in Addis Ababa with two days to prepare for our return to Australia. Dad kept telling everyone that the time in Chenchu was like being in heaven. I guess that means he had a great time. On the second last night we had a big party at the Habasha Restaurant where we invited people that we had met to celebrate a great trip and my birthday. It was great way to finish the visit with a feast of local food, music, dancing and friends.

I am very proud of Mum and Dad, at 81 they are fit healthy and continue to take all forms of travel in their stride. I am also grateful for their part in making Ethiopia a second home and for making this trip possible. This trip has brought back to life my memories of the places, people and culture of the Ethiopia I love.



Amish

filtering through  
generations  
unknowingly  
what would  
von Gruben or  
Grubb of Midlothian  
have thought of  
AMISH  
in Heathcote  
bark hut design  
simplicity incarnate  
white boards  
exquisitely nailed  
AMISH  
in Australian bush  
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and Daub bark hut

English

apparently George  
Bernard Shaw or  
one of the greats  
said that when  
Shakespeare goes  
to heaven he will  
come back to  
Madras University  
to take a course  
on Shakespeare  
which he is sure  
to fail Indian  
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skills respect for  
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than 'complicated'  
Jean Chapman of  
Taroona Avenue  
Warrandyte book  
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you wait till you  
get to the second  
half of the book  
her delayed present  
for Christmas it's  
so much more  
COMPLEXIOR  
and sure enough  
she was right

WARRANTDYTE: "Wattle and Daub family houses were in Yarra Street opposite the police station, at the top of Webb St. and in Beauty Gully Road." - Jean Chapman

AMISH: Anabaptist Christian denomination founded by Swiss Mennonites, after Menno Simon (1496 - 1561).

GERMANIC PURITANS: (google) "Pella is a small community in north west Victoria established by German settlers in flight from religious persecution in the 1870's."

MORAVIANS: (google) "one of the first Protestant denominations going back to fifteenth century reformer, Joseph Hus, in Bohemia, now the Czech Republic."

VON GRUBEN: (google) Gruben Duke of Brunswick.

SCOTLAND: (google) "John Tyndall Grubb born 1889 in Leith, Midlothian, Scotland.

AUSTRALIA: (google) Benjamin Grubb, born 1877, m. Ada E. Foster 1910, emigrated from NZ to Australia.

MADRAS: name changed to Chennai in the State of Tamil Nadu

KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY: The Guardian Weekly 18-24 January 2008. Essential Reading for the English language teaching community. Learning English: Immersion is a difficult lesson. Five year's into Malaysia's bold initiative to raise English skills in school, the policy is being criticised by political opponents and parents but the Government is holding out for results, Ian MaKinnon reports. By enhancing the English capabilities of students and graduates, Mahathir sought to give Malaysia an advantage in a competitive world. He glance enviously at former colonies Singapore and India, which have made huge strides in the knowledge economy because of their familiarity with English.

SHAKESPEARE: (Google) Tim Supple's Indian dream looks set to astonish the world, a theatrical event like no other, an incredible spectacle, a sensational sell out at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Complete Works Festival in June 2006. Tim Supple arrived in India in 2004 with a wealth of ideas and a wide - open mind. A Midsummer Night's Dream is at His Majesty's Theatre Perth West Australia.

ONOMATOPAEIA: Formation of names or words from sounds that resemble those associated with the object or action to be named, or that seem naturally suggestive of its qualities; word so formed (e.g. cuckoo, sizzle)  
L.L. f. Gk. onomatopoiia word making (onoma -natos name, poiea make) Concise Oxford Dictionary 1976 p. 766

DELL: Small usually wooded hollow or valley (Old English delle) Concise Oxford p.271

PRESENT: DIANA Hodder paperback edition 2007 first published as two books 1960 Book 1 There was a Fair Maid Dwelling and 1962 Book 11 The Unjust Skies by R.F. Delderfield author of A Horseman Riding By and To Serve Them All Our Days

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