

THE Artful DODGER

MAY:2012

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



AGM

A well-attended Annual General Meeting reviewed the 2011 year, received reports from each of the groups, reviewed the expenditure and Hall renovations, reviewed fees and elected the group pictured to the committee. While we would love to inject some new blood, we are enormously grateful to the work these people have done and continue to do:

Ken Virtue (President)
 Jack Stringer (Vice President & Public Officer)
 Simone Kiefer (Treasurer)
 Pat Anderson (Secretary)
 Noelle Burgess (Asst Secretary)
 Marjorie Beecham (Pottery)
 Pauline Cross (Painting)
 Alan Cornell (Newsletter)
 Robert Black (Website)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, what a year for WMI&AA! It seems like there were milestone events throughout the whole 12 months, plus solid plans in place for 2012.

It is with some feeling that I record our thanks to Vice President Jack Stringer who has been a particularly stalwart support to myself over a wide variety of activities this year. It has been comforting for me to know that Jack has been there at the Hall whenever needed, and his counsel is always worthwhile regarding all matters related to the WMI&AA.

Pat Anderson has had another great year as our Secretary, ensuring that the important details of our Association's work are completed wherever required, Pat's attention to detail is in great demand for insurance and grant applications, and her reliability is very much appreciated.

Our Treasurer, Simone Keifer, has graciously coped with all manner of financial and bookkeeping hurdles, including another period when our funds were very limited, and some juggling of the cheque books was needed. As well as all of that she managed to organise her wedding with David Tynan, and this was a truly memorable and happy event at the Hall.

Our Group Presidents made 2011 another

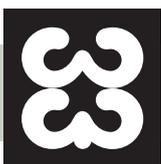
year to remember with their various hard working efforts directed at promoting the Arts within our community, as well as helping to maintain and improve our historic Mechanics Institute Hall.

Marjorie Beecham, Pottery Group President, running both normal and U3A classes, demonstrated her trademark determination and energy, and also welcomed new members to the Pottery Studio.

Lisa Upson had her first year as President of our Warrandyte Theatre Company, with a busy season of Follies, One Act Plays and the spring production. As a result WTC financial contributions to WMI&AA were an important element to operations. Even more awards were received for the 2011 One Act Play season during visits to other theatre companies.

Pauline Cross led the Painting Group for their regular working sessions as well as Art Shows. In addition, Pauline's support for Central Committee activities has been highly regarded as always.

Rosemary Climas (continued page 2)



Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association Inc 0009153X

www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au

Group reports.

Theatre



The Autumn leaves are falling, which means only one thing (well maybe two if you're a footy fan) OAP's! The auditions have happened, the scripts allocated and the show is getting on the road thanks to the tireless work of our wonderful Creative Director, Adrian Rice.

He has also put up his hand to direct one of the plays, along with first time director, Simone Kiefer. The newly formed WYT (Warrantdyte Youth Theatre) will also contribute a play to our OAP season. More about the selection of plays in next month's Dodger.

We had our AGM on April 19th and a big thank you to everyone who turned up to support the committee's work on your behalf. We acknowledged the great work of Noelene Cooper as she signed off as our secretary and we welcomed Tony Clayton as our new committee member. The new look committee is Lisa Upson, Adrian Rice, Simone Kiefer, Naomi Oosting, Louise Phelan, Tony Clayton and Lawrence Phelan as the WYT representative.

Speaking of WYT, the information night two weeks ago was very well attended and we look forward to a vibrant and productive group of young people as they meet for the very first time on Wednesday May 2nd at the Hall. Wednesday, from 7 - 9pm will be their regular time slot with the option to have extra rehearsal times as needed. I was very impressed with their theatre experience and their enthusiasm and would like to thank Lawrence for all his work bringing everyone on board.

Hope to see you all at the OAP's next month. Cheers.

Lisa Upson 9844 1436

Painting



Our Bargain sale is upon us again, Sunday 27th May, in the Mechanics Institute Hall 10am to 4pm. Members works only. Paintings framed, unframed - oils, acrylics, water colours, drawings. All genres. Painters, works to be at the Hall between 9am and 10am. Part proceeds

go to the restoration and upkeep of the Hall. All welcome.

Pauline Cross 94391775

Pottery



We still have had no joy from the council regards parking for the studio. Manda called to see the council parking officer - he was not available. She left a copy of Alan's "Thou shalt not park in town" and my letter to the Editor of the Diary and asked if he could contact her. Congratulations to Alan - I loved your article.

Since we have been forbidden to park on the apron in front of the studio, I have taken particular note. Mostly it remains empty.

It was great to welcome back Jude (after severe fall), Rene after hip replacement, Barbara after sister from UK visit. Second term is in full swing and we have lots of plans for new ideas.

Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206

Craft



Rosemary Climas 9844 2154



continued to organise the Craft Group monthly activities with their regular sessions in the Committee Room.

Supporting these Groups, our three other Central Committee members deserve special mention. Noelle Burgess has worked solidly with other Committee members on mail and Newsletter distribution, and even more Hall gardening with Marjorie. Thanks, Noelle.

My appreciation goes to Robert Black for his ongoing work on the WMI&AA website. This is an area of growing importance for us and we need to keep pace with community standards for information.

Alan Cornell produced The "Dodger", our lovely colourful monthly newsletter, which has been a vital ongoing communication medium, and a much-discussed link for all of us. In addition, Alan's creative work on writing and performing in the 2011 Follies was up to his usual highest standard.

I wish to again sincerely thank our Hall Curator, Graeme Breadmore, for his work with our regular hirers and for his much-needed maintenance and cleaning duties. Graeme has made the use of the Hall a friendly 'village' experience for all concerned.

In conclusion, on behalf of all members, I wish to gratefully acknowledge the wonderful ongoing support provided to us by the Warrantdyte Bendigo Bank and all of our other Theatre Company sponsors. We were thus able to complete a reflooring of the Committee Room, with new foyer stairs and substantial drainage & plumbing works.

I wish to acknowledge the generous and thoughtful donation provided by the Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Foundation. Their \$12,500 was directed towards the construction of a wonderful new stage floor, plus upgraded cyclorama, backstage carpet and storage for front-of-house, props and Hall tables. My personal thanks to Phil Dyer, our builder as well as to helpers, Jack Stringer, David Tynan, Bill Mitchell and Nathan Upson. A special dedication function was held in the Hall with members from both the Lawrence and Mayall families, and a plaque has been placed to honour the memories of Christie & Luke. It was lovely to have the assistance of Phyl Swindley and Bill Connolly with this special project.

I again record our heartfelt thanks to Jock Macneish for his consistent and generous architectural & creative contributions to the WMI&AA.

I look forward to the challenges that face us in 2012. I know that with the work of a solid central committee we will surely continue to be a positive influence in the Warrantdyte community.

Ken Virtue, President, 7 May 2012