

THE *Artful* DODGER

FEBRUARY: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

ARTY NEW YEAR WISHES TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!

WELCOME TO '08. And already it's nearly February! Which gives me the opportunity to realign the timing of the Dodger's publication - traditionally we've timed contributions for the middle of the month, but if we push that back a week it makes sense to get each issue out at the start of each month. So, contributors, you now have till the 25th to get your group reports, notices, reviews, poems, short stories, travelogues, births, deaths and marriages - any contributions from any of you on anything of interest to our group would be very welcome. Make it a new year's resolution to pitch in!

Activities for each of the groups are about to start again. Follies rehearsals get under way on the 29th January and Potters and Painters start on 6 February.

Jack's report on Uzbekistan was well-received last issue and this month we're pleased to be able to share David Tynan's experiences from Tanzania.

The other thing that comes with the New Year is subs time! Please attend to it promptly using the form below. Here's to a creative year ahead!

SPIRIT OF TANZANIA
from David Tynan

Greetings from Tanzania!

This is summary of my whirlwind trip to Tanzania (5-16 Nov, 2007), ostensibly to deliver 300 advanced mathematics calculators (donated from Victorian schools) and train maths teachers and senior school students in their use. The Edmund Rice Foundation in Australia partially funded my trip, for which I am most grateful - it was a truly eye-opening experience!

My African geography is pretty weak, but Tanzania is in an area referred to as 'East Africa' and has some shared pre/colonial/post-colonial history with some surrounding countries such as Kenya and Uganda. However it is a very poor country, ranked by the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) human development index (HDI) listings, which arranges countries according to their overall level of human development, as 156th out of a total of 174 nations. The HDI factors in things like life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate, school enrolment ratio, and GDP per capita, and is indicative of a country's general social and economic well-being. In summary, the country is one of the poorest and least developed in the world.

Anyhow, my stay takes me to a couple of northern border towns near Mt Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Moshi. Unfortunately I took perhaps the longest flying time (about 21 hrs) to get here (Melbourne - Dubai - Dar es Salaam - Kiliminajro - Arusha).

(cont'd page 3)



Dates to Remember:
Wed 29 Jan - *Follies Rehearsals*
Tues 5 Feb
& Wed 6 Feb - *Potters start*
Wed 6 Feb - *Painters start*

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Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association Inc 0009153X

Group reports.

Pottery



Happy New year!

Our first days back to great creativity and congeniality are Tuesday February 5th and Wednesday 6th. Potters are reminded that fees are due on this day. I know you will have lots of new ideas and I am looking forward to a

wonderful year.

Thankyou to the Tuesday girls who so willingly gave time to help Manda with the mosaic for Finns Reserve. I am looking forward to seeing the finished work in all its splendour late in February. I shall keep you posted as to the date.

Marj Beecham 9844 3206

Painting



Hope you all had a pleasant and restful break, and all the best for this coming year.

We will meet again on February 6th, at 10.30am at the River Bridge if the weather is good. If it is very hot or raining we will meet at Gill Beddington's home.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775 Gill Beddington 9844 1203

Music



Our music nights seemed to fall in a heap towards the latter part of 2007. Should we continue? Is our format too outdated? Please ring me to discuss your ideas. I know that Owen and Katrina are fired up for 2008 now that Owen has finished his course and Katrina has her grand piano, but what about the rest of

you? Do you know other people who might be interested? Can you think of ways to promote our activities?

John and I will be fully occupied with other matters until the end of March. Our garden will be open as part of the ABC Open Garden Scheme over the Labour Day Weekend. We have worked hard all year making additions and alterations. It is a garden full of tough perennials, mainly salvias, of which there are some 300 species and cultivars, as well as natives and a huge vegetable patch. We will have loads of plants for sale, many of which are unobtainable through the general retail nurseries. All funds raised will be donated to the N. Warrandyte CFA. The dates are Saturday March 8th, Sunday March 9th and Monday March 10th, from 10am to 4.30pm and the address is 98 Bradleys Lane.

Sometime after that will be vintage in the Ovens Valley. Then we can start to think about other things, like music. However, I would be keen to hear from any of you with your comments, ideas etc. Meanwhile, Happy New Year to all of you.

Oh, one more thing. Many of you will remember Andrew Boyle from his regular attendance at music nights. Andrew is now playing with a Cuban band - Carlitos' Way. They are playing as part of the free program in the gardens, in the Fitzroy Gardens on Sunday Feb 3rd from 730 - 930. If you are doing nothing, why not go along to hear this exciting band!

Pat Anderson 9844 3442

Theatre



1. Christmas Party – Death by Karaoke!

The Christmas party was a great success, and the added excitement of our Karaoke machine made the event even more enjoyable. The night was brilliantly compered by Cr John So in full regalia. We discovered some new singing talent, and some excellent endeavour as well. As the night progressed, most present found the courage/alcohol to give it a crack. Special thanks to Ian Craig for organising the machine, and to Simone and Noelene for helping decorate the hall for the occasion. Although the Theatre group was well represented, it was great that a couple of people from the other groups could also attend – hoping for more of you next year! In summary, a light hearted and fitting way to finish the year.

2. An Inconvenient Follies

The start of the new year usually heralds the gathering of troops for the Follies season – but due to advanced planning, we have already had auditions pre-Christmas (nearly 30 strong cast at last count, and many great newcomers!), and a higher proportion of scripts are completed. Many skits are already cast! A hearty thanks to directors Darren, Howard and to Adrian for coordinating script development during 2007. Thanks also should go to those who have written skits and songs – it's a great help.

Please remember the following dates for your diary!

- First rehearsal: Tuesday 29/1 in the hall.
- Tech Rehearsal: Sun 9/3 1pm (Act 1) and Mon 10/3 1pm (Act 2)
- Dress Rehearsal: Tue 11/3 7 pm
- Performances: 13-15 Mar, 27-29 Mar, 3-5 Apr
- Refresher Rehearsal: Tue 25/3 7 pm

See youse all there!

3. Roles & Portfolios – please help!

The WTC committee has big plans for 2008. We are about to launch a subscription system to build up and communicate regularly with all those who enjoy attending our productions. We would also like to trial the appointment of people to coordinating 'portfolios' on an annual basis. They would be responsible for

- developing expertise in their portfolio
- identifying people to help with each production in their portfolio
- training others as needed
- go to production meetings

To kick this off, we would like to enlist volunteers for the 2008 coordination of the following portfolios.

- Set Design
- Publicity/Programs/Tickets
- Subscriptions & Communication
- Costumes
- Front of House
- Backstage
- Social Activity

Please contact me for more details.

David Tynan 9844 5727 or davidtyn@gmail.com

Craft



Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

Sprint of Tanzania (cont'd)

My first taste of the less-regulated approach to life in Tanzanian was an exciting late-night road trip from the airport. It is not unusual for drivers to overtake on the verge of the opposite side of the roads. Road rage is not really an issue - not many drivers seem constrained by road rules. Things are even more exciting at night as there are very few street lights, meaning that you see pedestrians, bike riders, donkeys and cart pullers just before you might hit them.

According to the volunteer teachers with whom I stayed, power and water usually alternate in failing here. Hydro-electricity is the main power source, but unsurprisingly is dependent on regular rains. So outside of the wet season, both power and water regularly fail. Luckily I shower infrequently. Went to bed in the regulation mosquito-net - thankfully my insect friends had waited up for me. At least there weren't any large flying insects ... oops wrong again.

My main work whilst here was at the Edmund Rice Sinon College - a Catholic co-ed secondary school for about 1000 students, more than half of whom board in hostels around or adjacent to the College property. The students are fed in part by a working farm (they have their own maize silo!). The first batch of A-level (Year 12) students sit for final exams in Feb 2008.



Boarding is a snug experience - 12 students often fit in a room of bunks the size of a large bedroom. A common meal consists of some combination of maize, and beans ... and salt. Boarding costs about \$100/yr - which is a lot of money. But it does mean students have a relatively stable environment in which to study - including power, fresh water, and a lot less walking each day to get to/from school. Two hundred of the students have scholarships, which means that someone from overseas pays their fees, accommodation and books. The school even has a donated set of push-bikes allocated to day students who would otherwise walk more than 10 km to school each day. As I later discovered - Sinon is in fact one of the better, and better resourced schools in Tanzania. Many of these resources have been obtained from Australia, due in no small way to the amazing efforts of principal Br. Frank O'Shea and the Christian Brothers.

Volunteers come for 1, 3, 12 months or even longer, and take on many roles in the school - some are teachers, some youth leaders - but they end up doing whatever is needed. Most have forsaken financial rewards - the pay is subsistence only - but of course there are many other rewards. We had dinner one night with the volunteers in town, and heard more about the life of a volunteers. Unfortunately one of them got mugged in front of me, so that was a bit edgy. I had to get money out of an ATM, but I was helped by the presence of two security guards with machine guns - of course I tipped them.

Tanzania has a national curriculum, adapted from the UK GCSE (A & O-Level) curriculum. O-Level (years 7-10) class sizes were about 40 students, whereas A-level classes were a little smaller (15 to 25 students). University places are very limited, and the A-Level course seems well designed to exclude all but the very able students who can overcome many obstacles to exam success (eg access to adequate resources, study conditions). The students I encountered in class were success stories already - they had passed O-level, and were progressing towards their A-level exams.

I don't think I have been in classrooms where students were so keen to learn, and so well behaved. I needed very little tricks to get their attention, but a few more to get them to speak. Luckily I know how to make mistakes - they found that funny.



There was one free day, so I elected to join a Masai Village Tour. Its fair to say the brochure for this full day tour understates the experience. After 3 dulla-dulla (a 12 seat bus used for commuting around town) rides and a few km walking, we arrived at a Masai Hills region. Dulla-dullas are a great experience - it is both possible and common to fit 34 people in (or nearly in) a 12 seat bus - heaven

help if you had personal space issues. I felt if I farted I could easily get away with it. However, given the road quality, crazy driving and general disrespect for road rules, there are frequent fatalities - last week a teacher at the school lost his brother in a dulla-dulla accident in which 17 were killed and 15 badly injured - the semi-trailer driver was fine.

Jeremy, our Masai guide, was a wonderful young man who hopes to raise enough from his guide work to do a business studies course. Days later we saw him in a suit. It still amuses me to remember how he would be talking about village life, and then his mobile phone would ring. During a traditional Masai men's courtship dance, another man stopped mid-dance to answer his phone. Mobile phones are everywhere - almost all pre-paid since not many have credit cards or postal addresses.

In the village, I let the kids have a go of the digital camera - here's a sample of their work. The Masai diet is amazing - mainly meat and milk! They do look amazingly fit and healthy from what I could see.



We then travelled to a Masai market - not really for tourists, and fascinating. Livestock, fruit and vegetables, traditional clothes and jewellery and homewares, and a slaughter house.

It is difficult to put into words the feeling of being an obvious and naive minority in a sea of people who constantly stare at you - add to this my lack of Swahili and inexperience in the culture, and I was quite intimidated in the early days here - no other way to describe the experience. Acclimatising takes a little while I guess - by the end of the trip I felt a bit calmer about this. This is probably a common experience for travellers.

On the next day we went to the markets, but past at least 20 touts who were sure we wanted to buy things. Luckily, we were armed with some great comeback lines - the only one of which I remembered was 'assante sana' (thank you very much) while saying no with my head movement. But smiling helped as well, as did lifting the hand gently and waving - brilliant.

On one of my final days, I went to do some teacher training at Moshi, a nearby town. It was here that I got the most stark picture of the challenges of school education in Tanzania. For the first hour of the PD, teachers from each school represented. Some teachers work in schools without desks, power and/or fresh water. A few schools had maths book to student ratios of 1:20 or worse. I think it might be possible to get some second-hand maths and science books and scientific calculators from Victorian schools - many of these are just sitting around in cupboards or libraries unused - it seems obscene. That's next years job ...

(This is a cut-down version of my trip diary. If interested in knowing more, go to <http://web.mac.com/davidtyr/Tanzania07/>)



M & E

M & E
just when
there's not much
of it around
renovate like
home decoration
M & E
morals & ethics
reach for your
wallet skeptical
venerable Social
Work Professor
cocking his eye
inclined to say
better to suck
an M & M
and take in
a game of
Quidditch

MORAL: Jane Austen *Persuasion* "He certainly knew what was right, nor could she fix on any one article of MORAL duty evidently transgressed; but yet she would have been afraid to answer for his conduct."
(*Everyman* 1992 p.160 written 1815 - 1816)

The *Guardian Weekly* 23.11.07 p.25 "the actor Susan Sarandon told British journalist Jonathan Dimbleby last year she would like to find somebody who really has a MORAL bottom line, be they man or woman."
Is America Ready for Hilary? Suzane Goldenberg

RENOVATE: The *Guardian Weekly* 08.06.07 p.5 "Italian President Giorgio Napolitano urged party leaders to display higher moral standards and rigour to renovate politics. Low moral standards spark credibility crisis"
Jean-Jacques Bozonnet *Le Monde*

QUIDDITCH: recommended by Jean Chapman *Taroona Avenue Warrandyte* to try made-up game from the Harry Potter books that requires flying around on a broom and a little flying magic ball. J.K.Rowling, author of Harry Potter series, a heptalogy of fantasy novels. Hogwarts library on the official Scholastic site (Google)

SOCIAL WORK PROFESSOR: Len Tierney (remembered comment from student days)

Perfume

I've discovered
home brand pre
wash stain remover
makes a delicate
PERFUME
that's nice what
is it refill \$1.98
over the years
I've had Dior
Diorling Red Door
nice bedside bottle
decorations of
PERFUME
once was never
again gruesome
novel of Suskind
PERFUME
and film thereof
better wafting
down Warrandyte
valleys of wattle
gum & cherry plum
preferring not
bush fire smoke
PERFUME

SMOKE: the word PERFUME derives from the Latin "per fumium", meaning "through smoke"; the fragrant SMOKE of incense believed to carry prayers aloft. (Google)
Smoke of Warrandyte bush fires: see Bruce Bence FIRE Warrandyte Historical Society

NOVEL: Nine perfume novels (Google)
GRUESOME: Patrick Suskind's first novel PERFUME, originally published as DAS

PARFUM in German, horrific story of a murderer, suspense novel, set in eighteenth century France, literary historical cross - genre novel, immediately became an international best seller, sold more than 15 million copies. (Google)

DELICATE: perfume cosmetic contains Thienopyridine compound added (Google)

FILM: PERFUME *The Story of a Murderer* (2006) captivating, entertaining film cost about \$65 million to make. Film is a completely different art and requires the freedom to develop its own language. When you get a film / novel such as PERFUME /smell or CHOCOLAT/ taste, the book is always going to outstrip the novel (Google)

Silence

Non functioning computer
charger induces email
SILENCE
no subtlety there
unlike psychiatrist's
SILENCE
enraging WW1 shell
shocked convalescents
helpful to introverts
gracious from Coriolanus
stalemate or convenient
telling more than loquacity
SILENCE
while driving or reproaching
lapsing into
groaning to remember
imperious impressive
SILENCE
descending on a
Warrandyte valley
for eventide reading
utterly majestically
dread sudden feared
deepened stubborn
remain thick walls of
John Cage
SILENCE

Unfortunately, space does not permit inclusion of the exhaustive notes provided with this piece! - Ed.

Make a New Year's resolution.

Get your Dodger by email!

Get it sooner, in colour, complete with 'extras'. And save Evie's ailing hands from folding and stapling and posting. Email me at alan@commercialventure.com.au

"A peasant will stand on the top of a hill for a very long time with his mouth open before a roast duck will fly in" proverb.

(Rumour has it that the peasants will soon be back in full voice.)

