

## Portland CEMA Inc. - Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts

### Newsletter - July 2005

#### President's Report

All member Groups are advised that they should have their Annual General Meetings, to elect office bearers before the CEMA AGM which will be held on THURSDAY, 21st July at 7.30 pm at the CEMA Arts Centre. All members are invited to the AGM, attendance is a great way for you to show your support for the organisation and to say thanks to those who have served on executive for the past year. Members are asked to bring supper to share at the conclusion of the meeting.

As outgoing President, I want to also express my disappointment with groups who have not been represented at executive and who never bother to submit apologies or newsletter reports. I also want to express thanks and admiration to those who not only hold their own groups together, but who attend executive meetings on the third Thursday of each month.

It is the responsibility of the Group Convenors to read a report of activities for the year 2004-2005 and submit a copy of the report to the secretary at the AGM. It is the responsibility of the Group Treasurers to compile a financial statement for the year and hand to the CEMA Executive Treasurer at the AGM. It is the responsibility of every member to ensure that the organisation continues to function in a businesslike manner.

All executive positions will be declared vacant. Many of our current executive travel huge distances to attend meetings on your behalf and I personally want to thank them for the outstanding contribution. It would be terrific to have some more "Portland" representation on the executive.

Shortly after the July AGM, we will be holding an information night for all group convenors and treasurers. The legal responsibilities, and membership obligations need to be understood thoroughly.

Warren Mars continues to do a terrific job publishing the newsletter each month, and maintaining our website. He shouldn't have to chase people for contributions. At your group AGM's consider nominating a publicity person, to attend to your newsletter entries, and someone to liaise with Warren on your website information.

Congratulations to the Theatre Group on presenting 3 fun nights of entertainment "Shenanigans Wake". We hope Portland audiences learn to book early in future!

On the 20th July 1945, it was decided to start a Portland Branch of the Council for Encouragement of Music and the Arts. Ten days later the first meeting was held, and the

rest, as they say is history.

Our 60th Birthday Celebrations need support from CEMA members past and present. Please support us by purchasing tickets for the George Dreyfus concerts, on July 30th. If you can't attend, consider purchasing a ticket for a friend, or donating a ticket for a school child.

In the intermission of the evening session, the official naming of the CEMA GALLERY, will take place. Members are asked to provide supper for the after show birthday supper.

See you all 21st July for the AGM and 30th July for the 60th Birthday celebrations.

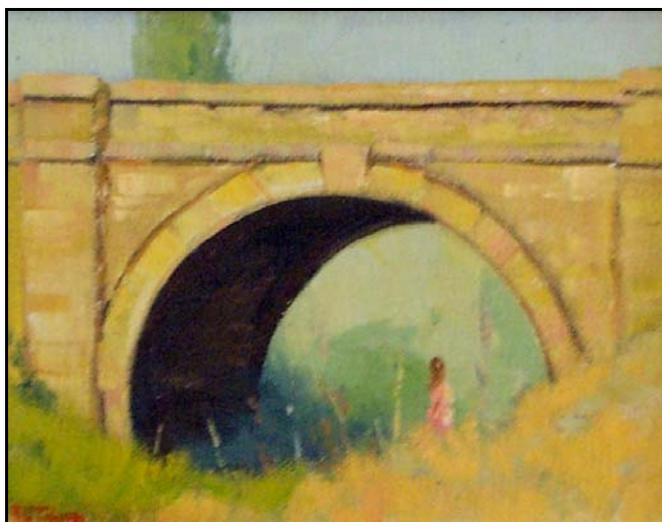
Jan Colliver (President)

#### Membership Secretary's Report

CEMA Membership remains stable at around 200 for 2004-05, a very commendable effort and testament to the organisation's past and present members over the previous sixty years. We look forward to a great celebration on Saturday, 30th July with full houses for both performances.

Memberships will be up for renewal after the AGM on July 21st. At the June executive meeting concern was expressed that some new members find group membership and CEMA membership confusing. It would be appreciated if more Group Convenors collected both memberships and any suggestions for improvement would be welcome.

Bill & Bev Martin (Membership Secretaries)



Daniel Gibbings-Johns - Bridge at Beechworth  
from his exhibition at the Arts Company

## THE ARTS COMPANY

A successful exhibition of the paintings of Daniel Gibbings-Johns was recently held in the Argyle Gallery. Thanks to everyone who helped with the organization and hanging of the exhibition, and with the opening.

In July the Argyle Gallery west wall exhibition will be a photographic project display by Environment Victoria titled 'Glenelg Your River'. Exhibition opening on Friday, July 8th from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm.

It is ten years since the premises at 19/21 Julia St which house The Arts Company were refurbished, so plans are being made for the next painting, which we hope will be soon.

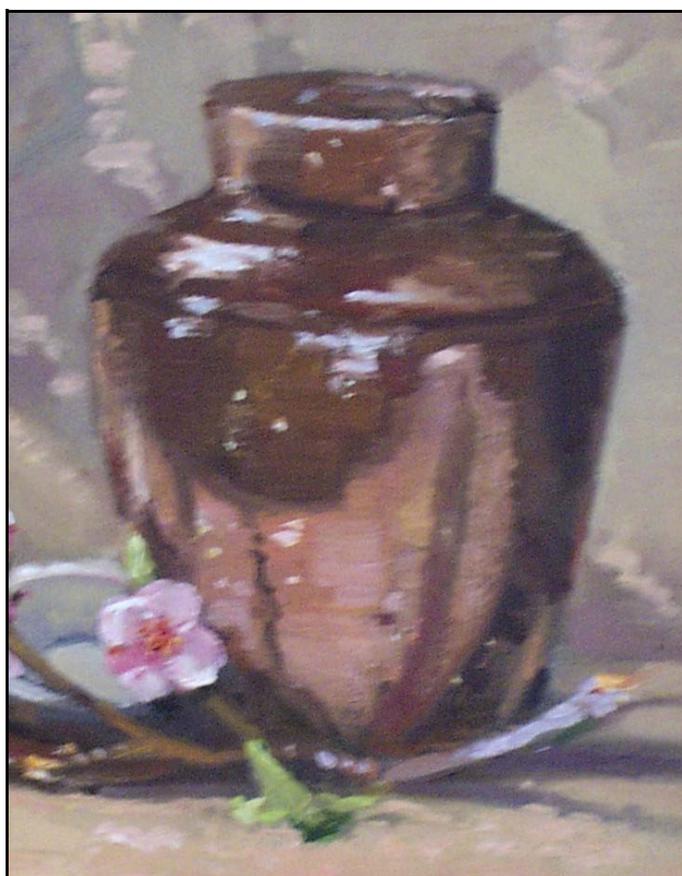
Some committee members met recently with heritage architect Mr. Timothy Hubbard to discuss choice of colours and other issues relating to preservation.

The Arts Company and resident groups are proud to be the occupants of these significant community owned heritage buildings, and to co-operate with the Glenelg Shire in their care.

Next Arts Company Committee meeting, 5.30 pm Wednesday, 13th July at The Arts Company.

CEMA AGM, Thursday 21st July 7.30 pm at Portland Arts Centre.

Berice Jones (Chair)



Daniel Gibbings-Johns - Vase & Flowers

## Historical Society

The Historical Society AGM will be held on Thursday, July 7th at 2.30 pm in the CEMA Arts Centre. Guest Speaker Gregor McGregor will talk about Heywood's Wood, Wine and Roses Festival.

The current display in History House is "Headgear for Girls".

Betty Vivian (President)

## PIONEER QUILTERS

The next meeting of the Pioneer Quilters will be on Monday, 11th July at 10 am at the Arts Company in Julia Street. This will be our Annual General Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Over the last month, the quilters have been running a raffle, the prize being a beautiful quilt made by the group.

Some of the members participated in a paper bag challenge. The paper bag consisted of three coordinating pieces of fabric, string, embroidery cotton and 6 buttons and these had to be used to create an item. The completed challenges can be brought to the next meeting.

Next sit 'n sew day is Monday, 25th July at 10 am.

New members are always welcome to visit our meetings.

Happy Quilting!

Chris Parker (Secretary)

## Poetry Reading Group

Owing to bookings at the Portland Arts Centre (formerly the CEMA Arts Centre), the group will meet one week later this month, ie on Sunday the 26th of June.

Members are also reminded that the Poetry Group AGM will be held at 2 pm, Sunday, July 17. Our usual reading of poetry will follow.

There is always room for poetry lovers to come along and listen, learn and enjoy.

Dawn Turner (Convenor)

# Theatre Group

Another success for the Theatre Group!

We have just performed our first two shows of 'Shenanigans Wake' by Daryl Peebles, a play about life, death and Jameson's whiskey! Both shows were flooded with hysterical laughter and audience participation. Amidst sobbing cries from the widow, sexual advances from the organ player, and uncontrolled outbursts from the drunken priest, the play continued with the audience getting rowdier with each punch line.

On the opening night, the cast were only a little nervous, after months of rehearsing and advertising, we just wanted to perform! And perform we did, creating an undoubtable Irish atmosphere for the audience. In this play of song and laughter, it's hard to believe that we were at a wake, and the one character that seemed to be grieving the loss, the poor widow Shenanigan, only created more giggles.

On the second night, with the drunken owner of the Forcett Inn, Mr Paddy Vulgarly passed out on a table in the audience; the laughter was even louder than on the first night. Every little line that contained any hint of comedy, the audience would wet themselves. Perhaps as a result of some alcohol in their systems, perhaps because of what they had heard about the previous show, or perhaps just perhaps, because the theatre group churns out some of Portland's best performers. Whatever the reason, the audience absolutely loved the show and were full of complements at the shows end.

Everyone who contributed to the production; actors, musicians, set builders and costume designers all did extremely well and gave up many hours a week, to make sure that it all went to plan. But when it comes to putting time and effort into this play, Doug Elford is at the top of the list. Our wonderful director turned up half an hour early to every rehearsal and made sure that we understood fully what we were doing and how we would be doing it. He helped us make the transition from the CEMA Arts Centre into Sandilands Restaurant. And, even on the opening night, he could not sit back and enjoy; running around, organizing the seating, the set and stressing enough for all of us. Hopefully after tonight he'll be able to sleep easy.

Tonight is our final show and it has been prophesised to be the best. We are completely sold out and have the honour of performing in front of the writer himself Mr Daryl Peebles. The Tasmanian playwright and comedian has been flown over, complements of the Theatre Group. He will attend tonight's show and join us in celebrating our success afterwards, perhaps over a Jameson's or two.

Our sincere gratitude goes out to Sandilands for their beautiful meals and hospitality. To the Portland Observer for their support and their beautiful colour page spread. And most of all, to everyone who came to see us and helped us celebrate the life and death of Seamus Shenanigan.

Thank you Portland!

Jess Knight

# FILM GROUP

BURN (aka QUEIMADA) 1968

A NFVLS FILM

An epic drama about a mid 19th century slave uprising on a fictitious Caribbean Island. Brando plays a British agent provocateur who instigates a revolt by the native population against their colonial masters and then cynically crushes it. Few films backed by a major American distributor have had at their centre an exploration of revolutionary politics. Here it is focussed upon the workings and nature of imperialism as a world order and the moral necessity of revolution for the oppressed. It is therefore not surprising that the uneasy distributors re-edited the film (if not too damagingly) and then virtually dumped it.



Plus  
BILLY THE SKIER

The short and happy Norwegian adventures of Mr Billington

CEMA Arts Centre  
Saturday, 9th July at 7.30 pm

Entry to the film by donation.  
Enjoy the supper.

Allen Jones (Secretary)

## Book Discussion Group

This month we are reading: "The Mystery of a Hansom Cab" by Fergus Hume. First published in 1886, this vivid and brilliantly plotted murder thriller, set in the charming and deadly streets of marvellous Melbourne, has sold hundreds of thousands of copies around the world.

More than a century later, "The Mystery of a Hansom Cab" has lost none of its page-turning power. This new edition introduced by Simon Caterson, reproduces for the first time, the text of the original Australian printing.

Next meeting: Wednesday July 6th at 1:30 pm.

\*\* Please note change of venue to meeting room at the CEMA Arts Centre.

Lyn Smith (Convenor)

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### **RAGA DOLLS SALON ORCHESTRA**

Concert #2 in the 2005 Take Note Concert Series.

Raga Dolls, a small scale professional orchestra, perform a dazzling mix of Viennese Operetta, Gypsy Mazurkas, Argentinean Tango and popular classics of the early 1900's.

8.00 pm, Saturday, 16 July  
CEMA Arts Centre

Adult \$20 Concession \$15 Student \$10 Family \$52

### **LINE OF BLOOD The Myall Creek Massacre 1838 Our Shared History**

by Morley Grainger,  
a recent Churchill fellow.

Morley uses a variety of artistic skills to explore important social issues relevant to both Australian history and culture.

"LINE OF BLOOD" is a series of fourteen framed screen-printed images and text on calico, exploring a significant event in our recent history.

6 June to 8 July  
CEMA Arts Centre