

## A BIRD IN THE HAND - from Connie

.....was certainly worth Two in the Bush on Wednesday night at the School when Meg Pitcher Productions made its debut!

"A Bird in the Hand" by Derek Benfield - a light, airy comedy with some beautiful lines, was performed as a free movement study by NATS and the fact that the cast held scripts in their hands in no way detracted from the enjoyment of the audience.

Sylvia Winton walks back in after leaving her husband only twenty-four hours before, upsetting his and pal Harry's plans to return to blissful bachelorhood with girls, parties and booze. Not only Sylvia but her secretary, owl-eyed Miss Ferguson, too! It's rather too late to cancel Harry's arrangements - but the best laid plans of mice and men.....

Dollie-birds of assorted ages fill the flat merely to underline the rapid approach of middle-age to the two erstwhile rakes. Sylvia is amused at her husband's efforts and patiently awaits his capitulation to the inevitable security of his matrimonial ties.

Roy Shaw (Harry Tyler) - Confidence and experience showed in a very relaxed and polished reading - a perfect foil for Ian Roberts (Max Winton) who competently worried his way through the entire performance. Very good team work (and great ad libbing!).

Samantha Browne (Sylvia Tyler) looking made for the part, was so much more relaxed with light comedy. A very convincing character and a delightful performance.

The two young ladies Peggy (Andrea Trachsel) and Bloody-Mary-no-I'm-Sue (Gillian Connolly) did a good job. Very nice to see young Gill taking an interest and for a first timer she did very well, giggles and all. Andrea has to be commended for reading in ever-improving English. Their interplay could have been more developed but experience will promote this,

The two not-so-young 'ladies' owned the audience from the minute they entered. Jean Vincent (barely recognisable as Frances) excelled herself. Jean has the makings of a fine character actress - with a real flare for comedy. Beautifully played down - a very good performance. Ellen Tanner (Helen) nicely delivered lines with a wilting wistfulness. Very good performance. Lovely team work.

Perch (George Plant) the exuberance expected from George appeared to be missing, but a good performance with some nice moments.

George Stevens (Dave South) needed more definition between the irate father and the ingratiating employee. Nevertheless, a good performance.

The production was well handled, although the script could have been edited to sharpen the reading. The 'bare essentials' set was most effective and the lighting (which is very rudimentary at the School) helped the image.

As I seem to always be repeating - if what you are doing on stage is being done well, the audience will readily forgive any lack of facilities. They are the final judges (again repeating) and I think Meg has notched up an excellent first production.

Congratulations!

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## FROM JAPAN

We have a request from a 19-year old Japanese girl who would like to exchange letters with someone on Norfolk Island. Her name is Mickiko Watanave and her address is 10-15 Meigi-Machi, 1-Chome, Ube City, Yamaguchi, 755, Japan.

## VALE

Another Norfolk identity, Gilbert Edwin Snell, known as either Eddie or Narta, died at the Norfolk Island Hospital on Wednesday morning, 30th September.

Second eldest of a family of 5 sons and 4 daughters of the late Isaac and Mary Alice Snell, Eddie was born on Norfolk Island on 25th March, 1905.

For many years he worked at the Cable Station here, then with the whaling industry (in fact, at one time was in a boat which was turned over by a whale). After whaling ceased he worked his farm and worked on the jetty and in the lighters until an accident two years ago prevented further work with the ships.

He married Kathleen (nee Allen) at Chapel on 7th December 1939. They had no children but in all the years of their marriage depended each upon the other, going everywhere together. Fishing was a favourite past-time for them and whenever it was good fishing weather we would see Eddie and Kathie in their little car, their Moo-oo hats ready for the sun and the bamboo rods waving in the air from the car, on their way to wherever the sea was best.

They were both staunch members of the Church of England and in their earlier days, worked hard for it.

When Kathie died last February, Eddie seemed to lose his zest for life and his health deteriorated very rapidly. He went twice to Sydney for treatment during the year and had been hospitalised here for the last few months.

One of the old-time courteous, softly and kindly spoken Norfolk gentlemen, Eddie Snell leaves another gap in the fast diminishing numbers of what, we who know Norfolk, would call 'the real Norfolker'.

To Eddie's remaining family, his sisters Celia Yaeman and Jessie Heinz and brother George (Joarty, in New Zealand), their families, other relatives and friends we convey our sincere sympathies in their sad loss.