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10 years ago — October 22, 1992

RESIDENTS of Popes Road, Dandenong, threatened to close the street to traffic unless trucks are banned from the residential section of the street.

Despite speed humps being installed along the road, trucks were not slowing down and residents were plagued by continual thumping throughout the night.

Waverley Council sought wider powers to apply a 50km/h speed limit proposed as the urban limit under new state regulations and asked VicRoads to allow an extension of the limit to include local street with traffic

Do you remember?

volumes in excess of 5000 vehicles a day.

25 years ago — October 24, 1977

DANDENONG'S Australia Day International Festival was attacked as "a third-rate circus" in Dandenong Council.

The comment came from Cr Warwick Dilley who said the event was not managed properly, failed to attract people and was not known outside the City of Dandenong.

Construction of a toilet block on Amersham Reserve in Springvale South

would "totally destroy the park" local residents claimed.

They said mothers would be too afraid to let their children play on the reserve because of "undesirables" that would be attracted by the toilets.

50 years ago — October 22, 1952

DANDENONG Council began moves to incorporate into its boundary areas of Berwick and Cranbourne shires, adjacent to the Dandenong municipality.

The Sandown Coursing Club was to hold its last meeting on the old Sandown Park Racecourse before moving to its new course in Lightwood Road late next month.

Fifty years a tunesmith

By Marg Stork

NOT many pianists can claim they have been pounding out tunes for 50 years, but Mel Wangman, 69, certainly can.

Music is Mr Wangman's passion and he is still regularly entertaining patrons at the Dandenong RSL with his repertoire of golden oldies.

He was just 10 when he

began piano lessons, and had to stretch to reach the keyboard.

He was a pianist with the late Aub Garbellini's Swingmasters Band, which delighted thousands of dancers over the years in Dandenong Town Hall, and he was a regular at other Melbourne, regional Victorian and NSW venues.

Mr Wangman has known his share of sorrow as well as happiness. Tragedy struck when he was 10 and his parents died in a house fire.

"I was one of a large family of seven children. I had two brothers and four sisters. Six of the seven children were at home in a place my parents rented in Brunswick when the house went up in flames.

"My siblings and I owe our lives to our sister Ilma, who raised the alarm, and to firefighters of the Brunswick brigade.

"I was adopted by a great aunt and subsequently took her name."

Mr Wangman says he's the only musician in his family, but his late father used to play the piano.

Mel Wangman took to the stage at the age of 11. He played in school concerts at Oakleigh Primary School, and the day he turned 14 began working in Callaghan's butcher shop in Hughesdale.

Mr Wangman was employed later at the Oakleigh Abattoirs then as a sales manager at Dandy Bacon and later in the same capacity at Mayfair's at Flemington. He was also a director of Farmhouse Smallgoods at Warburton.

He married Eda in 1960 and they had two children, Terry, and Leanne.

Mr Wangman, who has lived in Noble Park for 42 years, joined a band at the age of 20.

He has also been closely associated over the years with St Columba's Church in Noble Park — now the Uniting Church — and he is a former church elder.



Born to entertain: Mel Wangman entertains diners at the Dandenong RSL. Picture: Terri-ann Varga

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