

# Village Calendar

Turn to inside pages for further details of these coming events.

## FEBRUARY

- 4th — Elderly Citizens' Committee Meeting.
- 5th — Club Night, Youth Club.
- 9th — Football Club Annual General Meeting.
- 11th — Elderly Citizens' Club Afternoon.
- 12th — Club Night, Youth Club.
- 17th — Youth Club Annual General Meeting.
- 18th — Elderly Citizens' Club Afternoon.
- 19th — Club Night, Youth Club.
- 25th — Elderly Citizens' Club Afternoon.
- 26th — Club Night, Youth Club.

Mechanics' Institute

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# THE WARRANDYTE diary

NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 1, 1971

FREE

Circulating throughout Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Warranwood, Wonga Park and Kangaroo Ground.

## OPEN LETTER TO ALL RESIDENTS:

# WARRANDYTE HALL: IT'S YOURS

**If you live within a two mile radius of the Warrandyte post office you are automatically a member of the Warrandyte Mechanics' Institute.**

As such you are a part owner of the Warrandyte Hall, and the committee of the W.M.I. addresses this open letter to you, explaining the activities of the institute and the current state of the hall.

Perhaps the idea of a "Mechanics' Institute" is quaintly archaic, with its 19th century aims of establishing

buildings to foster adult education and recreation.

*However, much of this concept is still true.*

Although the educational role of the institute may not be so important in the 1970's, recreation facilities are still a very real and increasingly more important need in the community.

Some of the activities for which the hall caters are childrens' dancing and painting classes, art exhibitions, music and drama performances, and as a meeting place for local clubs and organisations.

CONTINUED ON  
PAGE 3

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Cash donations. — Already a public appeal has been opened and members have donated over \$100.
- Use the hall. — If you are a member of a club or other organisation, please consider the hall for regular meeting or social functions. The Secretary is able to give you details of the moderate hiring rates and the facilities available.
- Support functions in the hall. Attend performances and exhibitions of the Warrandyte Arts Association Drama, Music and Art Groups and other entertainments.
- The committee is planning some popular family entertainments, when present work in the hall is completed, for the sole purpose of raising money for the hall.

*President of the Mechanics Institute is Mr. E. Domeyer (844 3523). The Secretary is Mrs. Ann Dickson (844-3076).*





# GRAND HOTEL

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# HALL HAS SERVED

Warrandyte's public hall glistens in its new coat of paint. It has to be maintained and improved by its owners — the residents of Warrandyte. (Photo by PHOTOLAND).

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

On a more utilitarian note, the hall is used as a polling station for government and municipal elections and has given valuable service as a relief centre during bush fire emergencies.

The hall is available for hire to any person or group and, for hirers resident in the district, special concession rates apply.

For many years the hall has catered well for community interests, but advancing age and rising costs of

maintenance have brought a deterioration in the fabric of the building, making it unattractive to all but regular users and bringing about a consequent loss of income.

During the last 12 months, this situation came to an alarming stage when the building was threatened with closure for failing to comply with certain Department of Health requirements.

However, the committee of management, finding no other suitable venues in the district to house the activities usually accommodated in the hall and believing that such activities are vital to our community life, decided that the hall must remain open.

To accomplish this, major structural repairs and general refurbishing work have been undertaken: the building has been repainted inside and out, rotten timbers in the foundations and floor structure have been

replaced, plumbing overhauled and hot water provided to the supper room.

Other improvements already undertaken or proposed include new window and stage curtains, more adequate heating and improved seating in the main hall.

Somehow, all these improvements must be paid for.

CONT. PAGE 10

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## THE WARRANDYTE DIARY

Published monthly as a combined fund-raising and service project by the General Committee of the Warrandyte Community Youth Club.

President:  
KEN MCKENZIE  
David Street, Warrandyte.

Secretary:  
RON HARRIS  
Harris Gully Road, Warrandyte (844 3110).

Treasurer:  
LINDSAY THATCHER  
Sloan's Road, North Warrandyte (844 3851).

Senior Youth Leader:  
GEORGE VLEK  
Valias Street, North Warrandyte.

Editor:  
CLIFF GREEN  
Webb Street, Warrandyte (844 2096).

Has anyone thought about removing those totally redundant "No Parking" signs in the main street?.

They make it just that more difficult to fit cars along the full length of the footpath.

\* \* \*

Warrandyte has the best parking system in Australia. Based on the principle "first in, last out."

\* \* \*

*Sign in Bradbury's Lane: "Horse manure, 50c a bag."*

\* \* \*

Which reminds me of the time when Warrandyte's ancient and original horse drawn nightcart was crossing the ancient and original bridge. The cart's suspension became completely independent and the cart's contents began moving in a surging tide of human endeavour towards an adjacent shop, then the wine saloon.

\* \* \*

The ancient and original nocturnal contractor was quietly shovelling his cargo back where it belonged when the ancient and original female wine saloon keeper appeared on her first floor balcony and fiercely turned a hose on the lot.

\* \* \*

*Which shows that pollution of the Yarra is not an entirely new phenomenon.*

\* \* \*

We rashly stated in our first issue that *WD* is "Warrandyte's first news-



paper". Which meant that two days after publication I was handed a copy of *The Warrandyte Newsletter* Vol. 1, No. 2, April 18th, 1951.

\* \* \*

Among local news was a reprint from an unstated source, purporting to describe a visit by "the Duke" (Duke of what is never explained) to lay "the corner stone" sometime during "the 30's".

\* \* \*

This report continued: "Strains of *God Save the King* mingled with *The Red Flag* (Depression days, remember) floated out through the door (of the Grand) on the spilt liquor, and assured everyone who was unable to force their way in that His Grace was thoroughly enjoying himself."

Those were the days.

\* \* \*

And New Year's Eve in Warrandyte isn't like it used to be. Most of the populace would stroll, hand in hand, from the Grand to the bridge, and at midnight the air would be rent by explosions from charges set by an old resident (of French origins) in every shaft and tunnel for miles.

\* \* \*

*Which is rather more original than scrawling the date on bus shelters.*





**FIRE CALLS:** 844 3587 844 3288 844 3233  
844 3454.

**FIRE RESTRICTIONS:** Usually in force from December until April. During this period **NO FIRE MAY BE LIT IN THE OPEN** except in a properly constructed fire place or an approved incinerator with a properly fitted lid located in an area cleared at ground level to a radius of 10 feet and 25 feet above.

Residents are asked not to light these fires before 6 p.m. as the Fire Spotter will call out the Brigade unless he can quickly determine the cause.

**TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS: NO FIRE OF ANY SORT, INCLUDING CAMP COOKING APPLIANCES, MAY BE LIT IN THE OPEN ON DAYS OF TOTAL FIRE BAN.**

**EVACUATION:** Any persons requiring help in evacuation (i.e. elderly citizens and invalids) should send name, address and details to the Brigade, P.O. Box 295 Warrandyte for the information to be passed on to the Civil Defence Service.

**SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN:** Details of evacuation procedures by the Civil Defence Service are obtainable from the School and Kindergarten.

**TEST SIGNAL:** The main siren will be sounded for 5 seconds at noon each Sunday.

**FIRE PRECAUTIONS:** Officers of the Brigade will be pleased to advise on fire precautions, particularly in the case of new residents who are cordially invited to contact the Brigade in this regard.

**CASUAL VOLUNTEERS:** Residents who assist with fire fighting during an emergency should report to an officer and place themselves under his control. Apart from avoiding confusion at the fire scene, this is necessary should substantiation of a claim for injuries be required.

**REGISTERED MEMBERS:** Active Members should enquire from the Secretary whether they are registered with C.F.A. in order to receive protection under the Authority's Workers Compensation cover.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Enquire from the Secretary, Warrandyte Rural Fire Brigade (Jim Bucknall, 844 3604).

**'Put the C.F.A. Out of Business.'** This is the slogan currently in use to bring home the message of fire prevention and as a continuing objective during the summer months.

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# The Diggings

A "black - bearded and bewhiskered demon" by the name of Mr. Ginger became Victoria's first goldfield storekeeper at Anderson's Creek on July 1, 1851.

This woodcutter whose appearance belied his name, was apparently a most enterprising individual. He opened a store, served hot and cold joints with home-made bread at an open-air cafe and erected commodious huts for horses. A much surer way of acquiring gold than digging for it.

Gold had been discovered a few days earlier by Louis Michel, a Melbourne hotel keeper.

Ginger had met Michel's party a month earlier. Mistaking them for run-away sailors, he had advised them to make for Brighton where a certain market-gardener would give them employment.

At a meeting that night, it was agreed to allot ten yards of creek to each man as his claim, so that all should have an equal

chance of success. Australia's first Miner's Rights were thus established at Anderson's Creek.

When Commissioner Fenwick returned to the field on August 14, licences were issued at 30/- each. Although Michel, after consultation with the diggers suggested 10/-, Fenwick was adamant in his demand for 30/-. There was nothing else for it but to pay up or get out.

Rain interfered with work on the field during this period, causing the prospectors to lose heart. The weather picture has not changed much, as we who live here know.

So it was not surprising that the flooded goldfield should be all but abandoned before the end of the year. Even the enterprising Mr. Ginger cleared off to Mount Alexander. However, two men and three gold Commissioners stayed on, which was fair proof that some-one had faith in the field.

In all, 386 miners visited the field between August and December.

The spiritual side was not forgotten during the scramble for gold. The Rev. J. H. Gregory and Rev. Cheyne held divine services in the tents of Michel and Habberlin. So in some ways Warrandyte got off to a good start.

Although Michel received the reward of £200 and later, in 1854, £1,000 from the Legislative Council, he

gleaned very little on the actual goldfield, and had his tent and belongings destroyed by fire.

Louis J. Michel, the father of Warrandyte, was of French descent, his ancestors having migrated to Surrey, England, some time prior to the French Revolution.

In 1839, in company with his uncle, he landed in Melbourne at the age of 14 years, where he began life in the colony as an assistant to a Collins street grocer.

He must have lived rather frugally and saved his money, for, on October 21, 1844, he married a Miss Alicia Ball in old St. James' Cathedral, and shortly afterwards became proprietor of the Rainbow Hotel, Swanston Street. Later he took over the Ship Inn, Williamstown — one of Victoria's earliest hotels.

Retiring from the hotel business in 1881, he became Rates Collector for the Melbourne City Council.

Towards the end of the century Michel was a wealthy property owner in



## THE WARRANTYTE STORY

by  
HARRY HUDSON

and around Melbourne — a "solid citizen". He lost heavily in the Land Boom during the eighties, but managed to live comfortably at Lygon Street, Carlton, until his death on September 21, 1904.

So passed Louis Michel, the founder of Victoria's first goldfield at Anderson's Creek — later to be known as Warrandyte.

On November 9, 1935, a commemorative cairn was unveiled by the late W. Everard, M.L.A., bearing the words, "Gold found here, January, 1851, by Louis Michel and Party. Rewarded by Government as discoverer of the first goldfield in Victoria."

Mechanics' Institute

# HALL

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# First White Men

Warrandyte, only 18 road miles from Melbourne — or 112 miles by the twisting convolutions of the Yarra River, has retained the charm and old world qualities which have made it one of the city's nearer beauty spots.

In the hurly-burly of modern life it is still the retreat of artists, writers, craftsmen and craftswomen who need quiet to think and work.

Like most mining towns there was roistering jollity during its boom days. Then came the slump, causing a settling into "sleepy hollow".

Now many city workers have made their homes here, gradually creating a Warrandyte of permanence, a community with a sense of civic pride — even though they are modern bush-dwellers.

Except for stories and legends in abundance, almost nothing remains of the old days. Fire, flood and the hand of man have destroyed old buildings and most things historical.

The water-wheels have

gone. The wooden bridge, which spanned the Yarra on its high trestle legs for 80 years, has been replaced by a modern concrete structure.

All this is regretted, but in the scheme of things it is inevitable if Warrandyte is to survive.

The bush-clad cliffs bordering the Yarra, the wooded hills, the distant mountain vistas and the massed wattle-blossom in spring — we hope that these will never go.

It was back in February, 1836, that the first exploration party, led by J. T. Gellibrand, came to the area now known as Warrandyte.

Among the party was Richard Buckley — "the wild white man" — who had lived for years with the blacks around Port Phillip Bay. Having relearned his native tongue, he was invaluable as interpreter and "go-between" on Gellibrand's goodwill tour among the aboriginal tribes of Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula.

Returning to the west of Port Phillip, along the bank of the Salt Water River through Ballan to Sugarloaf Mountain, the party came upon a fast-flowing stream ten miles to the south-east, which they named Plenty River.

Continuing in an easterly direction across the Plenty they hoped to find the upper

reaches of the Yarra Yarra River.

After following a high ridge — more than likely what is now the Research Road from Eltham to Warrandyte — they crossed what now must be Stony Creek, although it was pretty boggy then, to make camp on the hill now known as Huntingford's Hill. The party then returned to Batman's settlement at Port Phillip, a distance of about 17 miles.

When James Anderson, in 1839, took up a selection to the east of the Yarra River, on the banks of the creek which has since borne his name, it seems fairly certain there were no other white settlers in the area. His nearest neighbour was John Bell, dairying at Research about 6 miles distant.

Anderson, who sprang from a well-known Tasmanian family — his father was one of the original free settlers on Norfolk Island until it was requisitioned as a penal settlement in 1809 — came to Melbourne in 1838. For a time he worked as messenger at the Bank of Australasia until he decided to spend £10 on a squatting licence, and unwittingly became the founder of Warrandyte.

A widower without a family, Anderson was one of the few Port Phillip settlers to drive stock overland from Sydney. His

station homestead, surrounded by gum trees and wattles, consisted of slab huts with earthen floors, in which he slept. He always took meals with his hired men, however.

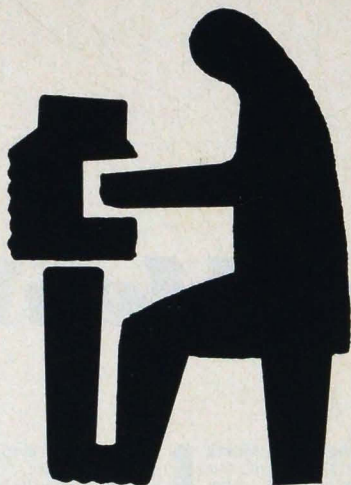
Of even more than passing interest to Australians is the fact that Anderson engaged Samuel Furphy and his wife on their arrival from Scotland, March, 31, 1841. Mrs. Furphy, only 21 years of age, was the first white woman to live and work among ticket-of-leave men, in a locality around the upper Yarra, where uncivilised blacks were numerous.

Warrandyte can take some small credit from the fact that the Furphys were the parents of Joseph Furphy — the celebrated "Tom Collins" who wrote *Such Is Life*. Although Joseph was not born until 1843 at Yering, we like to think of the courageous young Scots woman at Anderson's Creek going about her tasks with the smell of wood-smoke and wattle in her nostrils, and the blue sky casting purple shadows along the creek. A courageous and worthy mother for a great Australian writer.

Next issue:

**"PASTORAL PROPERTIES"**






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# Briarly Martin's Corner...

1971 — and youth is at the helm. Jolly good luck to it. We oldies need these young people, who not only promote their own ideas but give thought to the welfare of those a bit older.

*Not that we are without ideas. It's a question of "get-togetherness"; working it out between us all.*

\* \* \*

Something we should be proud of. We belong to "little ol' Warrandyte", a place with long tradition, a home of "odd bods" who have set their seal on it as a unique place to live in.

Somebody once said, "Warrandyte is not just a place to live in, it's a way of life."

So it is, and let us all work for its continuance as that kind of place.

\* \* \*

*We must find out from the proper authorities what means we can adopt to stop crazy drivers from treating our main street as a speedway.*

*As sure as heaven there will be a fatality if we cannot curb these speed maniacs, and they are not our own local drivers.*

*Our main street was never constructed to cope with the traffic explosion of today, so it falls on us to somehow stem the tide of tragedy.*

\* \* \*

Whatever happened to all of us that we could not even send one word to one

BRIARLY MARTIN conducts her provocative column each month in *Warrandyte Diary*. You can contact her with news, gossip, comment or outraged denial at 844 3914.

of our finest Drama Group producers, on her leaving Warrandyte?

The usual cry has been that "nobody ever sees Jeannie White, and that most of the newer residents did not even know who she was."

So what?

We never forget to tell people that gold was discovered here about 120 years ago, but Jeannie's high standard of production for W.A.A. took the stage more recently than that!

But that's life, of course. Still, I do feel that it was a pretty bad show that this grand little producer should have folded her tent and silently stolen away.

\* \* \*

*Incidentally, I have many fine photographs done by that master photographer, Hans Hasenplug (who still circulates among us at times). If any of you are interested I will be only too happy to show them to you.*

\* \* \*

We are sad to know that Ian and Thelma Ewing are leaving us. We hate to lose good citizens, and they will be sadly missed.

Thelma, as treasurer of our local branch of the Red Cross, proved herself an untiring worker, and deserves our deepest thanks and regard.

We wish them good luck and happiness in their new surroundings in Tasmania.

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## Football Club . . .

Talking football in  
the middle of summer!

*Why?*

Because the annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Football Club will be held in the Warrandyte Hall on Tuesday, February 9th, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

*Last season the club enjoyed its fair measure of success. However, we can do much better.*

On the supporters' side of the fence we are going through a slump.

Sure, we have our stal-

warts, but "new blood" is sadly lacking.

*In other words, to be really successful the club needs the support of the people of Warrandyte.*

In 1971 the club will be fielding two senior teams in the Eastern Districts Football League. So, if you are a player, football fanatic, interested supporter or parent of a junior player or intending player, come to the annual meeting on February 9th.

Applications are invited for the position of playing coach for the 1st XVIII, 1971 season. Applications, including details of age, playing experience, etc., should be addressed to Mr. D. Mitchell, Secretary W.F.C., Research Road, Warrandyte.

## Letter to Editor

SIR:

Congratulations to you and your colleagues on the initial issue of *Warrandyte Diary*. It's fine; thank you for it. May it enjoy a long and vigorous life!

The reprinting of *The Warrandyte Story* will delight the many people who are not fortunate enough to possess copies of the original booklet. Our treasured copy has often been gazed at wistfully by visitors.

I've already sent *WD* to friends in other parts of Australia and overseas who have come to know Warrandyte through my letters and I expect to receive in reply requests to "please send me the next issue."

With thanks again and best wishes,

(Mrs.) ELAINE  
BRUCE,

(Ringwood Road).

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"The need for a youth club in Warrandyte has been amply demonstrated over the past year."

*This statement was made by Mr. Ron Harris, secretary of the Warrandyte Community Youth Club, in an appeal to subscribers, parents and supporters to attend the club's annual general meeting to be held this month.*

"The large number of children who attend the club's activities each week and the enthusiasm of the older teenagers who spon-

taneously formed their own senior section, is evidence of the necessity of the club's continued life," M. Harris continued.

"However, the club is in desperate need of finance, leaders and its own permanent home.

"The youth leaders who have come forward to help us are doing an excellent job.

*"They are keen, enthusiastic and responsible young people; but we need many more like them.*

"The club's facilities are totally inadequate for the job it is trying to do.

"Urgent help from the community — from the people of Warrandyte and from the municipal councils is necessary if the club is to survive," Mr. Harris concluded.

The annual general meeting of the club will be held at Warrandyte Hall, on Wednesday, February 17th, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

*Subscribers, parents and*

*supporters are urged to attend.*

To end a very successful first year of operation of the W.C.Y.C. the senior group\* decided to hold a dance as their break-up function.

This was organised by some senior members and the leaders of the club and held at the Mechanic's Institute Hall on Saturday, December 5th.

It was well attended by the young people of Warrandyte who voted the night a success.

Several activities for a break-up function were suggested to the Junior Group who voted enthusiastically in favour of bowling.

This was held at the Ringwood Lanes on Sunday, December 13th, and an enjoyable time was had by both the children and ladies.

Everyone then returned to the W.C.Y.C. for soft drinks, ice creams and potato chips which rapidly disappeared.

## HALL APPEAL

Cont. from page 3

The City of Doncaster and Templestowe has made a very generous donation of \$1400, which will cover half of the major reconstruction work but we must continue to raise more money so that other work already undertaken can be paid for, improved facilities provided to make the hall more comfortable and attractive and regular maintenance carried out to keep the building in good repair.

We ask you to remember that this building is wholly owned by the community; it is not a council or government responsibility and receives no financial subsidy.

The hall must be maintained by us.

*Copy for the next issue of "The Warrandyte Diary" closes on Thursday, February 18th.*

## POST IT IN THE TREE!



*You can post your Warrandyte Diary news items and advertisements in the old tree in Yarra Street, opposite McDonald's News agency.*

*Is your club or organisation represented in this issue of WARRANDYTE DIARY? The Editor will be pleased to hear from you.*

Mechanics' Institute

# HALL

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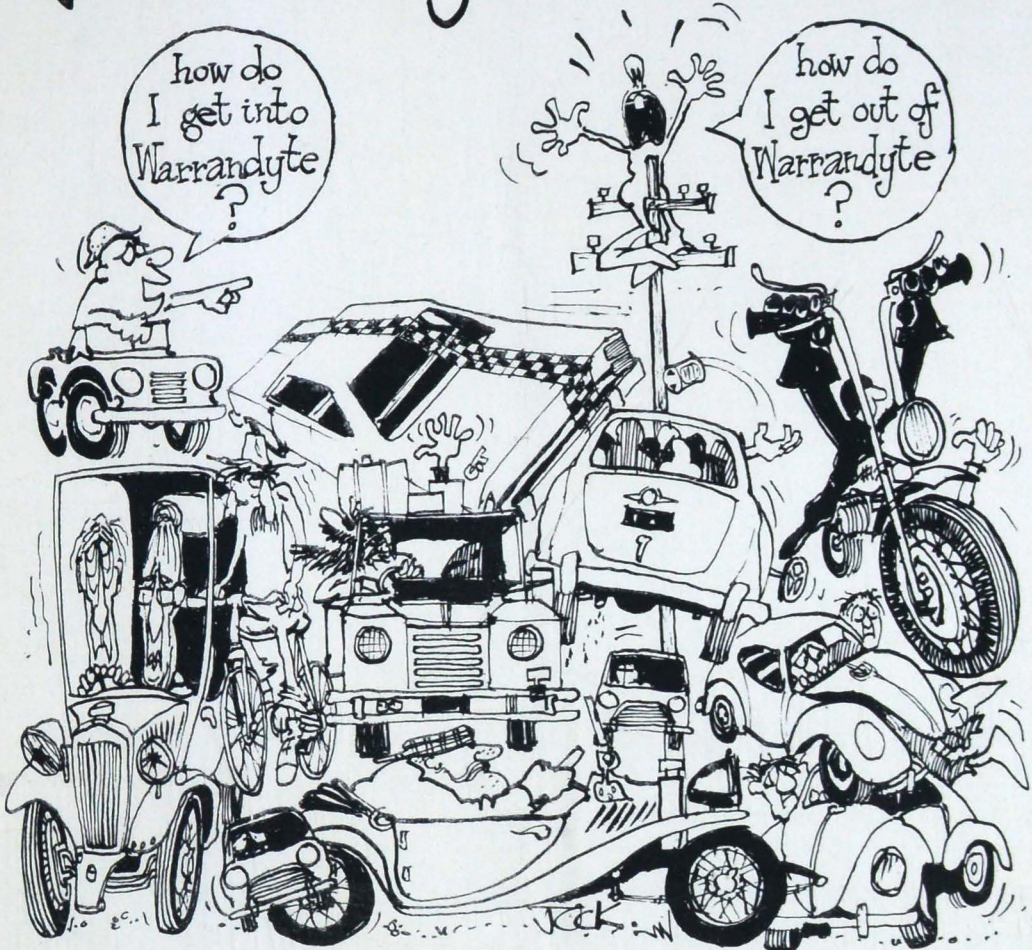
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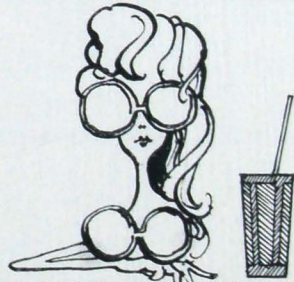


# Jack's Warrandyte.....on wheels!



**Mc**

**NALDS MILK BAR YARRA STREET**





# elderly citizens

Warrandyte Elderly Citizens' Club celebrated its 8th birthday with a party in the Church of England Hall, Stiggant Street, on Thursday, November 26th, 1970.

*About 70 members attended what proved to be a very enjoyable afternoon.*

Entertainment was provided by the club's own concert party and some surprisingly good items were presented.

The President (Mr. Bert Lording) performed the ceremony of cutting the

cake which had been made by Mrs. Jessie Laphorne and beautifully decorated by Mrs. Bowden.

The club's annual Christmas Luncheon was held at Alfreds Homestead.

The guests included The Mayor and Mayoress (Cr. Buxton and Mrs. Buxton), Cr. and Mrs. Viv Rush, Cr. and Mrs. Alec Edwards, Miss Sybil Irving of the Council on the Ageing, members of the clergy and local business people.

Mr. Lording welcomed all present and remarked on the steady growth of the club, membership of which has risen to 110.

Cr. Rush responded on behalf of the visitors. He commended the members on the spirit of comradeship and considered Warrandyte the happiest and friendliest club he had ever visited.

*Miss Sybil Irving spoke of the work of The Council On The Ageing and congratulated the club on the great progress they had made since her last visit.*

The Mayor outlined the

council's role in municipal welfare, drawing attention to the fact that in an area as large as that covered by the City Of Doncaster and Templestowe finance was a major problem. However council was doing all it could to meet the needs of the people.

As regards Warrandyte, council had arranged with the Lands Department for a grant of 3½ acres of land on the corner of Harris Gully Road and Melbourne Road on which it was proposed to erect a community complex encompassing the Elderly Citizens, the Warrandyte Arts Association and the Youth Club.

He presented a tentative plan of the type of structure envisaged, explaining that such a plan was, at this stage, purely a suggestion on which to work and was mainly an indication of a type of structure suitable to the size and shape of the land available.

However, until such time as the transfer of title was available to council, little concrete planning could be done. However we could rest assured that council would give its full support to the project.

Three prizes were distributed to people wearing party caps bearing lucky numbers.

The first, a box of groceries donated by Mr. and Mrs. Webb of the 4 Square Store, was won by Mrs. Jenkins.

The second, a hamper donated by Mr. Medley, went to Mrs. Cooper and two bottles of wine, donated by Mrs. Docking, were taken out by Mrs. Jessie Laphorne.

The secretary (Bob Watson) moved a vote of thanks to Alfred and Linda of Alfreds Homestead for donating all the liquid re-

freshments consumed by those present, to Chef Rudy for preparing a really sumptuous spread and last but not least the waitresses for their kindness and courtesy to all present, especially the more elderly, who received service far beyond the call of duty.

Congratulations also went to "Granny" Storer who at 97 and a bit is the club's oldest member.

In all it was a very successful and most enjoyable gathering.

A house party was held at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Black, Leiber St., on Wednesday, January 13th.

Thirty-three guests attended the afternoon; sherry was served to guests on arrival.

Mrs Kit Sergeant conducted community singing and some very fine solo items were given by Mr. and Mrs. Nordsberg, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Alf Stevenson, Mr. Joe Hartley and Mrs. Powell.

A lucky door prize was won by Mrs. Brenda Court, prizes were also awarded winners of a "beetle" game.

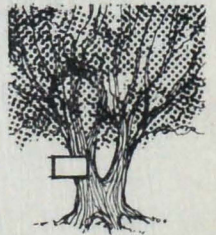
*The afternoon concluded with afternoon tea being served. It was a very pleasant afternoon, another of the many pleasures available to club members and friends.*

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WARRANDYTE

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