

THE WARRANDYTE diary

NUMBER 3

MARCH 1, 1971

FREE

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

* PAINTING * POTTERY * SCULPTURE
* MUSIC * DRAMA

A 'MINI-FESTIVAL' HITS TOWN!

DRAMA PROGRAM

- March 1: Play reading "Allergy" produced by Claude Herring in W.M.I. Hall.
- March 18, 20, 26, April 1, 3: "Goodnight Mrs. Puffin".
- April 13: Poetry reading, including original work by local poets.
- May: Theatre night, to be arranged.
- June: Three one-act plays by new producers — Mairi Barkei, Doug McManus, Jock Macneish under the direction of Bruce Kerr.
- July: Theatre night, to be arranged.

The Warrandyte Arts Association will stage a mini-festival this month in the Mechanics' Institute Hall.

The festival will incorporate painting, pottery, sculpture, music and drama.

It will be one of the association's biggest undertakings for some time and members are working flat out to ensure its success.

Highlight will be a comedy in three acts — "Goodnight Mrs Puffin."

Performances will be held on Thursday, March 18, Saturday, March 20, Friday, March 26, Thursday, April 1 and Saturday, April 3.

"Goodnight Mrs Puffin" was first produced in London in 1961. The starring role of Ameila Puffin was played by Irene Handl, for whom the play was written.

From London, "Mrs Puffin" and Irene Handl went to Broadway and to Australia in 1964.

Gordon Picton-Devine produced the second performance in Victoria with an amateur group in 1967 and met with great success.

Now Warrandyte has the chance to see this first-class comedy.

The painting, pottery and sculpture arranged by Marj. Beecham, the organ recital by John Rodda, and the play, are examples of the work being undertaken by the various member groups of the Warrandyte Arts Association.

Other groups include children's painting, dancing

Village Calendar

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

MARCH

- 1st—WAA Drama Group Play Reading.
- 2nd—"Mardi Gras" Demonstration, School Canteen, 10.30 a.m.
- 3rd—Youth Club General Committee Meeting.
- 4th—Elderly Citizens' Club Afternoon.
- 5th—ALP Branch Meeting, Club Night, Youth Club.
- 9th—Kraft Foods Demonstration, Scout Hall, 1.30 p.m. Warrandyte Fire Brigade Meeting.
- 10th—WPS School Committee Meeting.
- 11th—Elderly Citizens' Club Afternoon.
- 12th—Club Night, Youth Club.
- 15th—Majellan Club Discussion Afternoon.
- 16th—Scout Group Annual General Meeting.
- 17th—WPS Mothers' Club Meeting, Red Cross Meeting, Park Orchards.
- 18th—Elderly Citizens' Club Afternoon. Scouts Ladies Auxiliary Meeting. WAA Play: "Goodnight Mrs. Puffin".
- 19th—Club Night, Youth Club.
- 20th—WPS Mothers' Club Street Stall. WAA Play—"Goodnight Mrs Puffin".
- 21st—Red Cross Calling.
- 25th—Elderly Citizens' Club Afternoon.
- 26th—Club Night, Youth Club. WAA Play: "Goodnight Mrs. Puffin".

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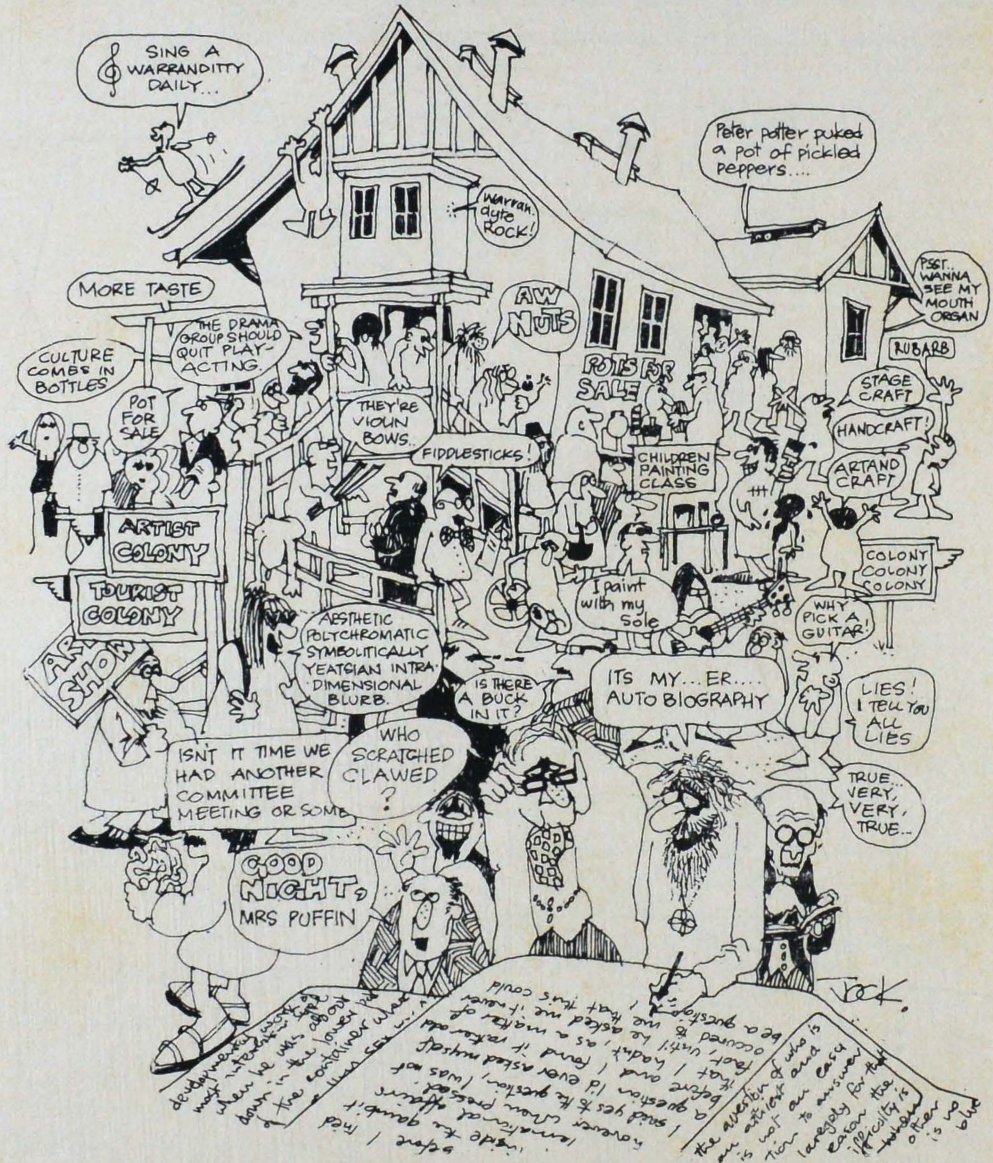
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CONTINUED ON

PAGE 3

Jock's Warrandyte Arts.



'First-Class Comedy'

RED CROSS DISAPPOINTED

Members are urgently being sought in Warrandyte to join the Red Cross.

Mrs. Jean Hutchens, regional field officer for the Australian Red Cross Society, has been working in the Park Orchards and Warrandyte areas in the past few weeks seeking new members.

The response was gratifying in Park Orchards but disappointing in Warrandyte.

A meeting was held in Feb. 17 at the Park Orchards home of Mrs. E. M. Cossey when new members were introduced.

Anyone interested in assisting with Red Cross Calling on Sunday, March 21 should contact Mrs. Cossey (870 2274).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

and drama classes, adult music, poetry and writing.

Admittance charges for "Goodnight Mrs Puffin" will be \$1.25 for adults and 50c for children.

Cast for the play is: Ethel Fordyce (Muffy Enrenburg), Jacqueline Fordyce (Helen Davidson), Pamela Fordyce (Carol Sinclair), Nicholas Fordyce (Jock Macneish), Annie (Liane Gough), Ameila Puffin (Joan Golding), Henry Fordyce (Anthony Burgess), Stephen

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Parker (Norm McGowan), Victor Parker (Doug McManus), Doug Rogers (Clive Rowe).

The drama group of the Arts Association was formed 15 years ago.

General secretary of the association, Ann Dickson (844 3076) is interested to hear from people wishing to join any of the groups.

• Details of WAA groups are published on page 5.

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Our water: Who was responsible?

Sir,

No story of Warrandyte can be complete without a record of how water service came to be provided.

Many attempts were made to provide reticulated water from the Yarra to the homes of Warrandyte.

I was concerned in one vigorous attempt, but all efforts failed for reasons which are most obscure.

Then in August, 1957, Mr. A. P. Withers stood for the Warrandyte Riding of the Shire Council of Doncaster and Templestowe on the platform "Water for Warrandyte".

He was elected with a large majority over a sitting

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

councillor who claimed that water for Warrandyte was a dream of the distant future.

Mr. Withers immediately struck problems and some strenuous fights ensued.

I was Shire President in the 1957/8 year and I gave Cr. Withers my unqualified support and so helped to ease his burden.

Even so, without his drive and determination our efforts would have failed.

However, he was successful in having the Warrandyte Waterworks Trust brought into being, supported by funds provided by the State Rivers & Waters Commission.

The Trust commenced operations in 1959 and Cr. Withers was the Chairman until he resigned from the Council in 1961.

By 1961 the reservoir had been constructed and the water pipes laid and by early 1962 water was supplied throughout the Waterworks area.

Since then there have been two disastrous fires around Warrandyte but because of the water supply there was almost no damage in the reticulated area.

In the circumstances, would we not expect that some token of the appreciation of the residents would be offered to Mr. Withers?

The M. & M.B.W. agreed to take over the system and incorporate it in the Board's area as from January, 1971.

At its close, the Commissioners of the Trust erected two memorial fountains and on plaques it was recorded that the Trust supplied water from 1962 to 1970.

I cannot imagine how the Commissioners could have failed to take this golden opportunity to do honour to the person who was responsible for the Trust coming into existence.

However, the memorial fountains will be in their situations for a very long time and the citizens of Warrandyte who have benefited so greatly from the efforts of one man should see to it that the name of A. P. Withers is perpetuated on a special plaque on each fountain.

W. J. (BILL) BETTON.

**ROMAN
CATHOLIC**

**the churches
the ++**

A catholic priest is now resident in the area.

He is Fr. James McMahon of the Missionary Order of the Sacred Heart.

This is only the second time that a resident priest has been appointed to serve the Park Orchards-Warrandyte parish.

Fr. McMahon is living at Knees Road, Park Orchards, telephone 870-0509.

Mass is celebrated each Sunday at St. Gerard's, Warrandyte, at 7.30 and 10.30 a.m., and at St. Ann's, Park Orchards, at 9.00 a.m.

The Majellan Club, a catholic group for young

mothers, meets on the third Monday afternoon in each month.

The next club gathering will be on Monday, March 15th, at Joan Smyth's home in Park Orchards, and will feature a discussion on family planning led by Fr. Frank Richards.

Majellan is a service club and membership is not limited to catholics.

It exists primarily to help people with young children.

Further information can be had from the President, Rae Cook (870 9843) or the Secretary, Bernadette Harris (844 3986).



We've had lots of nice comments about "WD". At least some of the glory should go to our willing and unpaid staff: artists Jock Macneish and Geoff Coles, photographer Wim Kerkhof, columnist Briarly Martin, and our new sub-editor, Peter Lovett.

* * *

And of course Harry Hudson, who has given us permission to reprint his very popular "Warrandyte Story".

* * *

Our printers, Bernie and Bill Barnes of Willprint deserve a mention for dedication and interest far beyond the call of commercial duty.

* * *

Then there's our advertisers, who've taken the plunge with us and made it all possible.

* * *

The kids of the youth club have folded and collated each issue and tramped the lanes and highways, up hill and down poking "WD" into letterboxes, hollow logs and petrol drums, under stones, through gates, and into all the other unlikely places that pass for mail receivers in bushy old Warrandyte.

* * *

But we're still looking for an advertising manager. Someone with a phone, a little time during the working week, and a yen to sell.

LABOR TALK

The proposed reconstruction of the Victorian branch of the A.L.P. will be discussed at a meeting of the Warrandyte branch of the A.L.P. on Friday, March 8 at 8 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Hans van Gemert. The meeting will be held at the home of Mr. C. Bentley, Aton St., off Kangaroo Ground Road.

arts
association

Wide range of groups

The Warrandyte Arts Association is a familiar organisation to most of us.

But how many realise the breadth and diversity of its activities?

The Association was formed in 1956 with the overall aim of promoting any and all forms of the arts for both adults and children.

It endeavours to do this by instrumental and choral concerts, plays, musical comedies, dance recitals, painting, sculpture and pottery exhibitions open to both association members and the general public.

These public functions are backed up by lectures, classes, discussion groups, play and poetry readings and music nights in private homes all conducted by the various groups, which, as a whole, make up the association.

The Art Group is the largest group in the association and is loosely subdivided into painting, pottery and sculpture groups.

The 70 active potters have their own studio adjacent to the Potters Cottage and conduct classes regularly.

The sculpture group, consisting of 10 people, also meets at the studio each week, whilst the painting group has approximately 40 members and also conducts classes for children on Saturday mornings.

The Dance Group was formed as a unit of the Drama Group and to date is a young people's activity.

The Drama Group was the original group and has functioned since the inception of WAA in 1956.

There are 35-40 members interested in acting, stage lighting, sound, make-up

scenery design and all the other facets of amateur theatricals.

Four major productions are staged each year and the group also conducts classes in production and mime and movement and play readings.

A children's class has recently been formed.

The Music Group conducts "celebrity" concerts and also holds regular monthly record nights as well as informal music evenings.

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Squatters and

In 1843 James Anderson's Creek area had reduced his holding at Werribee.

A survey of the Anderson's Creek area had reduced his holding there to only 390 acres.

In 1855, Anderson was convicted and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for cattle-stealing. During this period — in 1857 — he was one of 15 convicts charged with the murder of one John Price at the Williamstown hulks. He was the only one acquitted, after a trial lasting three weeks.

Nothing more is known of James Anderson, but Anderson's Creek — now Warrandyte — stands as a memorial to a man who apparently had more than his share of misfortune.

In 1845, the Anderson Creek run was taken over by Major Charles Newman, formerly an officer in the 51st Native Bengal Infantry. His property extended from Anderson's Creek to Finn's Hotel, Templestowe.

Resigning his commission in the East India Service on September 1st, 1834, Newman came to Tasmania in order to obtain a Government land grant. Governor Gipps refused his applications in 1837 and 1839 on the grounds that he had failed to lodge his application within the specified time. Major Newman then took out a squatting licence

and later built his famous homestead "Pontville" at Templestowe.

The house remained intact until about 1950, and was one of the last of many built in the 1840's with 14 inch walls, for protection against convicts and aboriginals. Major Newman was once forced to ford the Yarra with a bushranger pointing a gun at his head.

About a mile to the east of Anderson's Creek was the property of James Dawson, who with G. W. Selby and a Mr. Mitchell as partners, opened the Warrandyte Station in 1843 at the foot of what is now known as Pigtail Hill.

It would appear that the surrounding hills were known as the Warrandyte Ranges, prior to the founding of Warrandyte Station.

In 1856 this property became known as "Thompson's Pre-emptive Right", and still later, "Elliot Freehold".

G. W. Selby was the father of Artemus Selby, a well-known figure in early Melbourne banking.

James Dawson was born at Bonnington, near Linlithgow, Scotland, and came to Melbourne in May, 1840. In 1844 he purchased a 30,000 acre property on the banks of the Moyne River, Port Fairy. Losing this property under the Duffy Land Act of 1862, he retired to live at Camperdown.

His book "Australian Aboriginals", published by

George Robertson in 1881, is still regarded as one of the foremost authoritative works on the subject.

Under the original survey of 1841, 1,103 acres were reserved at Pound Bend for aboriginals — who were placed under the care of the Presbyterian Church — and 397 acres for a township. No houses then existed on the site, but there were a number of wattlebark strippers working in adjoining areas.

Warrandyte was at least on the survey map prior to Louis Michel's gold-seeking expedition in 1851.

The second half of 1851 brought to light one gold-bearing area after another throughout Victoria.

Anderson's Creek, on June 30, won the prize by a narrow margin; but there was Clunes on July 1; Buninyong, August 8; Ballarat, August 25; Alexander, September 1; and Bendigo, December 8.

In fact, between 1851 and 1880, one-third of the world's gold production was found in Victoria.

When bad weather heartened the prospectors at Anderson's Creek, leaving it deserted towards the end 1851, and enormous deposits of payable gold were found at Ballarat, it was not surprising that Lieut. Governor La Trobe, writing to the Secretary of State for Colonies, on November 15, should state:



THE WARRANDYTE STORY

by
HARRY HUDSON

"... Counter attractions of other fields and the flooded state of the Yarra have caused a complete, but probably only temporary, abandonment of Anderson's Creek goldfield."

As was mentioned earlier, three gold commissioners stayed on at Anderson's Creek — so someone had faith in the field. This allied to the publishing, in 1854, of the Legislative Council's decision in favour of Louis Michel's claim and payment to him of £1,000, set the final seal of success on Victoria's first goldfield.

Due to the publicity accorded the Committee's decision, miners were induced to return to Anderson's Creek towards the end of 1854.

Diggers...

At the beginning of 1855, Warrandyte really got going.

Two stores had been established, and true to goldfield tradition, the commercial flags of Mr. Trice and Mr. Theis were flying gaily over their tents; Theis' store going by the high-sounding name of "Diamond Accommodation Store."

On February 24, John Pascoe Fawkner and the Premier, Mr. J. O'Shanassy, toured the field to investigate miners' grievances following the nation-shaking incidents of Eureka Stockade at Ballarat. The population of Anderson's Creek at this time was estimated at between 700 and 800.

William Westgarth, who accompanied these two gentlemen on their tour, has written a most enlightening and enlivening account of the new settlement.

Westgarth records that the road out from Melbourne was cut at the sides with an occasional slight attempt at levelling.

He described Templestowe as a village containing a hotel, a blacksmith, a few houses with gardens, and indulging in the rather "un-farmlike practice of trees growing in the midst of the ploughed fields".

Three or four miles from Templestowe they came upon a well turned-up valley

which had been quite recently deserted.

Following the descent of the valley, which had been badly disfigured by bush-fire, they came upon the digging population, who were scattered over about a mile of the river's length.

The search for gold was on a different plan from anything Mr. Westgarth had previously seen.

Trials in treating auriferous materials from the valley above had not been completed owing to the lack of water — Anderson's Creek had probably dried up during the long hot summer.

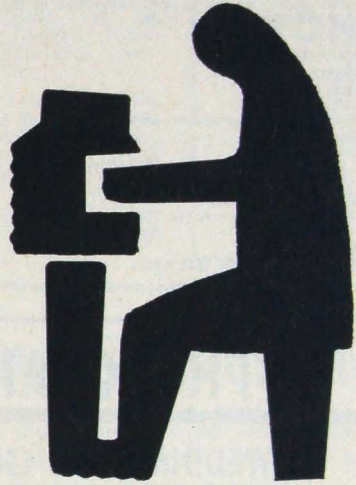
The miners had moved directly into the bed of the Yarra, and were obtaining gold by spanning the river with coffer dams. That is, by driving piles close together so as to form a square in the river, and then bailing out the water, in order to "puddle" the mud and scrape the rock formation of the bottom.

The holdings were most precarious, as a rise of one foot in the Yarra would probably have washed them all away.

Everyone seemed very quiet and there were several stores quite well stocked.

However, rewards appeared poor; one party spoke of 20 ozs. of gold a week among four of them, but as there was no commissioner on the field they had no licence fees to pay.

• CONTINUED
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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.

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Secretary:
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Briarly Martin's Corner...

Hooray for our public hall.

If by any chance it was demolished, the very ones who have never patronised it would raise the biggest outcry.

I wonder how many can remember the original hall?

The poor old thing was tottering on its pins when finally condemned.

I can recall the days when it would rock under the impact of the Royal Irish, a popular finale to the weekly dance, and a girl was lucky to keep her feet in that mad whirl.

* * *

Formal dress was something unknown and our young fellows turned up in their football singlets, and retired to the lobby between dances, from which vantage point they would pick out their partners for the next dance.

When the music struck up cigarettes were carefully placed behind ears and the wild scramble was on.

Popular method of signifying the young man's choice was to grab the girl by the hair.

* * *

But the night was never complete until one certain little lady had fallen down, giving a tremendous display of checked drawers; for which, of course, we all waited.

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.

Story of a cheque which acquired quite an international flavour by the time it reached Warrandyte.

Globe trotting son sent his mother a cheque for US\$60 from Switzerland.

He was then en route for Nigeria.

Cheque made out for the Calcutta branch of a Chicago bank.

Banked in Warrandyte for credit to his mother, whose own bank does not have a branch here.

Bank officials were slightly flummoxed, but she got it.

scouts

Working plans for the improvement of their hall and grounds will be discussed at the annual general meeting of the 1st Warrandyte Scout Group.

The meeting will be held in the Scout Hall at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16. Parents are urged to come along.

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

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THREE SIDES NEXT YEAR



Warrandyte Cricket Club is certain to field another senior side next season.

This season the club had only one senior side and a junior (under-16) side.

Recently the seniors had 19 players available.

Several promising players among the juniors will be too old for under-16 cricket next season.

Club officials are anxious to hold these boys. It is felt a side nominated in "D" grade next year will help absorb these lads instead of

them going to play with other nearby clubs.

At least six boys will not be eligible for the juniors next season.

"We have got to cater for these lads, most of whom have been playing cricket together since they were at Warrandyte State School," one official said this week.

It is felt that with two senior sides, competition for a place in the firsts will be much keener.

The under-16 side ended the season on a bright note. Poor fielding and four

dropped catches let the side down against Nunawading after being in a winning position.

However, the side made amends the following week by defeating Vermont. Scores: Warrandyte 3/100 dec. (K. Ferris 32, M. Lovett 21, M. Bensch 18 n.o.) def. Vermont 41 (J. Blair 4/12, G. Smith 3/18) and 1/49.

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**Library to be built
during 1971**

Warrandyte Primary School's long-awaited library will be erected this year.

This is the feature of a report made to "WD" by a spokesman for the school committee, Dr. Tony Hurdle.

"The start of the school year has brought some changes in our staff room," Dr. Hurdle begins.

He goes on to extend a warm welcome to the new principal, Mr. L. Mares, as well as to Mr. D. Tinkler, Mr. G. Siddle, Mrs. K. Fraser, Mrs. A. Lush, Mrs. H. McConnell and Miss S. Hartley.

The school now has 16 teachers and 439 pupils, something quite unthinkable in 1875, when the original stone building was erected.

**school
rooms**

This year will see the erection of a library near the Forbes Street fence. The building will be architect-designed and contain teaching areas as well as being a centre for recreation and reference books. Much work has gone into this project and it is gratifying to report that building tenders should be invited within the next month.

An important source of money for the library has been the mothers' club which raised \$1,250 in 1970.

After 12 years of using the staff room the mothers' club now serves lunches twice weekly from their own canteen, built last year. The sale of lunches provided \$500 in 1970.

The school committee has in hand a project to develop the site in Forbes Street to its maximum usefulness. At present a large part of the

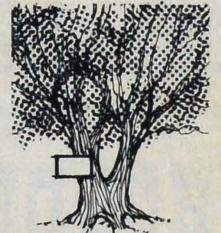
5-acre site is not used because of the steepness of the hillside and the difficulty of supervising play. As new classrooms and pupils appear, however, more land has to be made available and a series of improvements is planned over the next few years.

A natural play area in the top right-hand corner of the grounds containing various types of climbing equipment, an extension to the upper part of the gravel playground and several suggestions for clearing part of the pine plantation are all under consideration.



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CLUB IS ACHIEVING ITS AIMS



President Mr. Ken McKenzie said last week that the youth club is meeting a real need in the community.

"In its first year," Mr. McKenzie said, "the club has achieved the original aims it had set itself:

- Finding of temporary club premises.
- Raising initial operating finance.
- Recruitment and training of youth leaders.
- Commencement of activities for the young people of Warrandyte."

These remarks were made during the president's opening address at the Warrandyte Youth Club's annual general meeting.

"We are now moving into the club's second stage of development," Mr. McKenzie continued, "but we will only be successful if we have the full support of the parents and the community at large."

KUTTA MAHAL RE-OPENING

Anne and Harry Hudson's Kutta Mahal Gallery of Fine Art is re-opening shortly.

The gallery is situated in Castle Road, about 300 yards along Kangaroo Ground Road from the bridge.

The phone number is 844 3415.

HOW TO GET YOUR "DIARY"

"Warrandyte Diary" is letter-boxed throughout the Warrandyte and North Warrandyte areas.

Copies can be obtained free from McDonald's newsagency, Selby Store and general stores in Park Orchards, Warranwood, Wonga Park and Kangaroo Ground.

Special mention was made of the sterling pioneer work done by Joan Ragg during the club's early months, tragically cut short by serious illness.

The most exciting news of the evening was the presentation, by Cr. Ken Buxton, of sketch plans for the proposed Warrandyte Community Centre.

The meeting learned that whilst the council will provide an external shell, it will be up to the youth club and the other organisations participating to furnish and equip their areas.

Club member Doug Stead reported on the formation of a working committee for the founding of a Keystone Club, catering for young people in the 16 to 21 age group.

A suitable meeting place is being urgently sought to enable this club to get under way.

Committee elected for the forthcoming year is: Ken McKenzie (president), Ron Harris (secretary), Lindsay Thatcher (treasurer) and committee members Pat Ley, Catherine Young, Julia Scheffler, Stan Andrew, Cliff Green, Philip Raftery, Stuart Robinson, George Vlek.

The meeting resolved that due to the club's increasing financial needs, club fees will be as follows in 1971: Annual subscription — \$1 per child, with a maximum of \$2.50 per family; nightly attendance fee — 20 cents; adult subscribers — 50 cents per annum.



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.

JOHN RYAN

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