

Warrandyte Diary

PRICELESS

No 160, September 1985

Editorial 844 1186, Advertising 844 2820

SEC fails to deliver

Woodpoleus SECii, the care and treatment thereof

WAC, in an effort to create a relaxed atmosphere for the SEC officials at its annual meeting, decided to use a little humour. It did so through the person of one Boris Bandidoot, who provided a slide show on The Treatment of SEC Plant Near God's Assets. Boris has kindly provided the Diary with a print version of the show.

Greg Thorpe, WAC chairman, asked me to put the marsupial view on this important subject. Fortunately, I was unable to elicit the help of a few human friends and make a bit of a presentation. Wombat helped too, but this should not be over-stressed.

The SEC plant is an unusual species that has not been formally studied by botanists. Perhaps early white man brought seed on his boots, or perhaps he merely created suitable conditions. There is no record of this plant in the area before settlement by white man.

The plant is characterised by a tall, straight trunk and a small crown from which shoot strange metallic tendrils.

The SEC plant is said to be a serious threat to the indigenous flora — There is evidence of serious die-back or indigenous plants and encouragement of weeds under the SEC plant canopy.

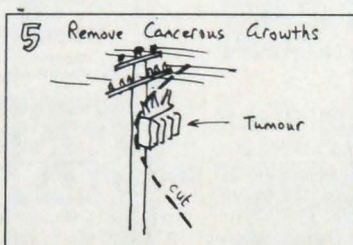
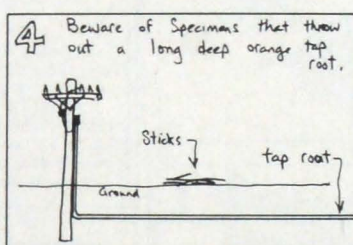
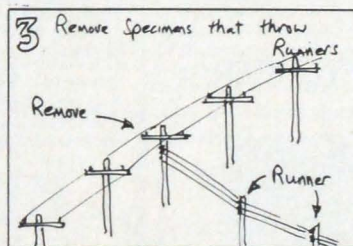
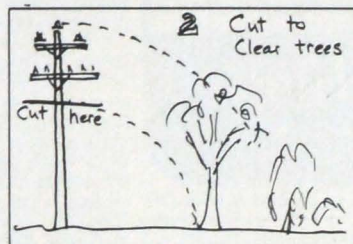
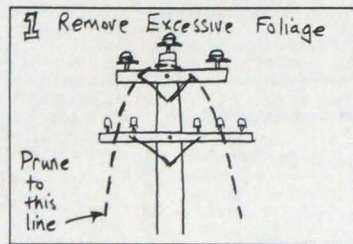
It is said that they can even present a serious fire risk (perhaps they attract lightning). Anyway, there are five simple rules to minimise the risks and danger.

1) *Remove excessive foliage:*
Regular pruning is the rule here (remember, a stitch in times saves nine). Excessive removal is sometimes suggested on the basis that if the lot is removed you won't have to worry about it for a few years. This is not really fair to your fellow creatures: the crowns form a favoured habitat for endangered species *Australopithecus wirupus*;

2) *Prune poles so that if they fall they won't be a danger to anything:*
Do not worry about individuals that might appear to be very good specimens. There are lots of them further out. Better to be safe than sorry.

3) *Search for specimens that throw runners:*
If left, these will take over the whole landscape in a few seasons. Remove the whole specimen. Best to burn these rather than to make a mulch out of them. Poison the stump.

4) *Beware of specimens that throw out a large horizontal root:*
These are a particular danger. It is believed that the root can be parasitic. These roots have been observed up to 200 metres long. The roots are possibly a particular danger to the human population. With a triffid-like determination, they head for the nearest Neanderthal nest where they rise up out of the ground, their multitudinous tendrils enveloping the whole of the nest, clearly in a



carnivorous search for the occupants. Note the sticks on the diagram. Do not remove sticks, a great asset which is often undervalued. Do not pile into a corner. The value of sticks will only be realised only when left to do the job without interference.

5) *Remove cancerous growths:*
Some specimens exhibit a horrid-looking growth on one side of the trunk. Although believed by some to be benign, it is better to be safe than sorry: these should be removed with the utmost care. Treat the trunk with a wound dressing.

A little care and attention and you can live happily and safely alongside this exotic flora.

There is little or no joy in sight for Warrandyte people and groups concerned about fire risks, environmental damage and financial hardship being caused by the SEC.

There has been growing concern in the community about these problems for the past year or so, and in an attempt to establish a basis for mutual understanding and negotiation, the Warrandyte Advisory Committee invited the SEC to send representatives to speak to its recent annual meeting.

The result was nothing short of disastrous. The two officers who attended, Mr Ross Flood, the acting construction engineer for the eastern metropolitan region, and Mr Ian Matthews, the Greensborough assistant district manager, had nothing to offer but the general line that the SEC had a set of rules to follow and that its employees would continue to do so — to the letter.

WAC chairman Greg Thorpe says: "There has been a lot of concern in Warrandyte about how the SEC goes about its work — not that the work is unnecessary or anything like that, but how they do the job."

"We invited the SEC along to see what they had to say about fire-prevention activities, how they affect Warrandyte and the things that flow from that."

"There have been a number of cases specifically and a general perception that something is not right. This is based on a belief that the SEC has got to do its job better."

The problems have arisen because of new SEC responsibilities after the Ash Wednesday fires — this requires more SEC activity in the area than normal.

"No one doubts that there is a great need for this. The question is how they are doing it."

"The perception is that the SEC is heavy-handed, insensitive and interested in looking after its own interests without paying attention to the problems they may be causing to other organisations and individuals."

The main problem areas are: SEC obligations and responsibilities

The SEC was asked to distinguish between its legal obligations and its discretionary powers, such as the allocation of manpower, financial resources and tree-clearing standards in the area of fire risk management.

Underground supplies
WAC says there are two problems here — cost and environmental damage. It says the SEC has wide discretionary powers in this area. It appears that the SEC can

Our way the only way, say officials

force services in need of "significant repair" underground. The financial burden is too heavy for many people in Warrandyte. There is also concern that severe environmental damage can result.

Environmental considerations/fire ecology

Clearing can obviously damage the roadside verge environment, and the loss of big trees can promote the growth of the understorey, increasing the amount of fuel. WAC asks whether botanical assessments have been done to establish the most beneficial timing and techniques of clearing. It also asks whether an environmental rating system be established for particular areas so they can be treated accordingly.

Consultation/resident agreements

WAC wants to know what level of consultation with residents and councils the SEC carries out before starting works, and what is the position with resident agreements to keep trees trimmed to SEC standards.

WAC and Warrandyte Environment League sources and residents who attended the meeting described the presentation by the SEC officials as disturbing in that there seemed to be neither the will or the means to address any of the problems raised.

For example, they refused to acknowledge that any works might have been in breach of the Tree-Clearing Code, which is enshrined in an act of Parliament.

Everything that was being done was justified by the fulfillment of the requirements of the Clearance of Lines Act within the constraints of the resources that the SEC was providing to meet those requirements.

WAC believes a better job can be done by allocating resources more efficiently.

The officials said the SEC had no reason to study the impact of clearing of the overstorey and consequent understorey growth, leading to a different fire risk.

In effect, they were saying that since they had cleared trees away from power lines to prevent fires starting there, they had done their job. There was no consideration of the

Continued page 6

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IN RED & WHITE



It's easy enough for pedestrians to get run over without really trying. But local police say the effort of one young lad takes the cake: he was found lying drunk in the middle of Kangaroo Ground Road recently — ASLEEP. Our local boys in blue offered to drive him home, but he would have none of that so spent the night as a guest of Her Majesty.

den across the bridge and throws its rider into the river. Smokey has lost count of the number of times he has seen people riding horses across during the peak tourist traffic hours on a weekend, only to have the horse frightened by the close traffic. Surely it's not too much trouble to walk them.

One of Smokey's colleagues, an old New Guinea hand, passed on the following story. A young lass was asked in the Mount Hagen magistrate's court what she thought of being raped. She replied: "Em i pillim swit." (It felt good.) It transpired that she had been having an affair with the accused, and the case was dismissed.

We all know that scouts are a worthy, honorable lot, but the mastery of salesmanship demonstrated by one lad last month at the market was quite stunning. Stepping up to a browsing shopper, he took her by the elbow and began steering her towards the scouts' barbecue stall. "Madam," he said. "Your purse looks very heavy, please relieve yourself of some of its weight by buying one of our delicious hamburgers." Stunned by his audacious charm, the lady thanked him for his invitation but squashed his ego by saying: "The answer is no." She does hope his ego is not permanently dented but told Smokey he may as well get used to it — there's a lot of ladies around the place who are imperious to such charm and it's the fault of the fellas, she says.

Smokey Joe

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Stop speeding, say police

Local police are concerned about the number of accidents recently on the roads in and out of Warrandyte.

Sergeant Jim Archbold says local roads are dangerous even in the dry. But in wet weather they are particularly bad, he says.

He wants motorists not to speed,

as this has been the cause of a large proportion of the recent wet-weather accidents.

He also reminds local motorists that the speed limit between Warrandyte and Fitzsimmons Lane, Templestowe, has been reduced from 100 kph to 75 kph.

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Work starts on post office

Work is well under way on the old Warrandyte Post Office, and the Post Office Preservation Group hopes that the community will open up their hearts and their pockets to keep the work going.

Group committee member Judy Macdonald told the Diary that builder Ray Kelsey expects to finish the first stage — \$20,000 worth — in about four weeks.

"Mr Kelsey was originally held up with a delay in timber supply, but has replaced all the damaged stumps and bearers and is about to start reframing. Only structurally unsound timbers will be replaced," she said.

"The first \$20,000 will complete the reframing and provide a new roof, with roofing iron provided at a special price from Lysaght John (Australia) Ltd."

Judy said the Post office group committee had raised \$27,000 in four years, which included a \$5000 grant from Victoria's 150th Committee and \$1000 from the National Estates.

"A further \$30,000 will be needed to complete the building as prices have escalated, and of course fire damage doubled the bill," she said.



Ray Kelsey at work: It's worth it

"The committee has asked Doncaster and Templestowe and Eltham councils to split the \$30,000 balance three ways, with each council contributing \$10,000 and the group stretching themselves to raise a further \$10,000.

"Doncaster and Templestowe Council has already agreed to contribute its \$10,000," she said.

"Further fund-raising is planned, as well as a National Trust-backed appeal, which means that all donations over \$2 will then be tax-deductible.

"A Bradleys Lane family recently donated \$500," Judy said.

"Bristol Decorator Centre in Eltham has pledged the paint, and local service clubs — Lions, Apex and Rotary — have been asked to consider how they can support the project."

When finished, the building will not only look good, but function as an integral part of the township, providing a home for the newly formed Citizens' Advice Bureau in its southern wing.

The CAB will operate during the week, with the Historical Society

using the rear of the building as a display area at the weekends.

The original Post Office chamber will be a reception and information area.

The building will be returned to its 1910-1930 state, during which time little change took place.

Paint and wallpaper samples were saved before the fire, and decisions will be made as to what extent interior authenticity will be taken, as work progresses.

"The community has given us wonderful support," Judy said, "both at the market stall and all of our fund-raising functions. However, this fund-raising stage is crucial to the building once more being a functional as well as visual asset to the township.

"We don't want a frame standing around for another few years, unfinished.

"Sixteen hundred people signed our petition to restore the building on-site, and with that support the committee has run the gauntlet with town planners, council procrastination and the slowly turning wheel of the Road Traffic Authority.

"The preservation group was originally formed with the idea of smartening up a sagging but historic building. Four years later — with a bit of luck — we will be back to square one: what color to paint it!

"We urge anyone considering a donation to make it now to P.O. Box 8, Warrandyte or to the monthly market stall, enabling us to keep the project moving to completion," she said.

The contractor restoring the building, Mr Ray Kelsey, of Ringwood, says the job is one of the most difficult he has had to do.

"I've done repair work before, but nothing quite as hard as this," he says. "It has been built in a couple of stages by different people using different methods, and the fire has made things even more difficult.

"It's been pretty well built in its day, though.

"The place has been here for 100 years or so, so it's worth all the trouble just the same," he says.

Co-op offers cleaner windows on the world

Robert Stewart, a Warrandyte freelance window cleaner, has recently donated his business to the co-op since illness forced him to retire.

This generous gesture is much appreciated as it provides diversity to the Co-op's operations. The men working in the woodyard will also be available to clean your windows now that your winter fires are dying down. Contact 844 2548 or Rae — for orders.

The Co-op want to clarify a point about the woodyard. It is selling redgum, a particularly good, slow-burning fuel, and other wood, by the weighed tonne, which it is legally required to do.

Remember that a weighed tonne brings a lot more wood than a measured tonne, which some suppliers advertise.

★ ★ ★
The evocative images of early Australia with which we have all become familiar through TV are now available locally in Hazel Poulter's book 'Templestowe — A Folk History', available at the Co-op, 176 Yarra Street.

The bush picnics, the handsome young World War I soldier, the family groups, the school children in hats and Saturday afternoons at the Mechanics' Institute are all part of life.

And for anyone who heard Dulcie Crouch at the White House preservation meeting telling of charabanc picnics to Warrandyte in the early 1900s, this book will be a stimulus for recreating a neighbourhood that once was so vivid.

Templestowe — A Folk History by Hazel Poulter, \$9 a copy. For orders, ring 844 2548.

There's room for more dreaming

The WAA Drama Group deserves congratulations for its first production of the Victorian premiere of George Hutchinson's 'No Room For Dreamers', challenging, thought-provoking and amusing play.

The hand of an intelligent and talented director was obvious in this production. Brian Laurence made exciting use of the space — characters tumbled forth above, below, behind and in the midst of the audience. Scenes sprung to life at our elbows and at our feet. Music swelled to haunt from behind. We were swept into the tale by a team of players whose talents were used to the full by director and script.

The play tells the story of the eccentric 'dreamer' and idealist, William Chidley, who at the turn of the century sought to bring Australia to its 'Golden Age' through extraordinary sexual and dietary change.

Roger Kibell offered a fine performance in the challenging role of Chidley. He drew both ridicule and compassion from the audience in his portrayal of this man of passionate zeal and poetic vision.

A team of actors leapt through a series of caricatures and cameo scenes to bring us episodes in the life of Chidley. The audience could only delight in the flexibility and energy of these actors as they played a variety of parts with competence and ease.

REVIEW

Helen Cahill

Excellent teamwork was in evidence in the music and choreographed movement. Simple and effective costume changes brought a visual impact with each scene. Effective use of lighting directed the eye.

There were performances here that would sparkle on any professional stage — Tim Sherwood and Bob Kari as the policemen and the crowd scenes as Chidley sold his 'Answer'.

Commendation of the singers is also in order. Their unaccompanied voices welded into the play to excellent dramatic effect, and Libby Walker's voice and presence in the 'Torment Song' brought a moment of truth before death.

Here was a production in which performances met the challenges of the playwright and in which the audience was both entertained and stimulated to thought.

I hope the success of this production encourages the Drama Group to further ventures into "fringe" theatre.



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Judy is off to the States



Staff and students at Warrandyte High School recently farewelled local girl Judy Dundas, who is about to leave on a 12-month student exchange to the US.

Judy, who has been studying in Year II this year, will be living for the coming year with host parents Mr and Mrs Snyders, in Modesto, California, and will be attending the nearby Downy High School.

This exchange has been arranged through Youth For Understanding, a non-profit exchange organisations that is relatively new in Australia.

Exchanges are being handled from Australia to the US, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and West Germany.

Judy is receiving a farwell gift and the good wishes of Warrandyte High School from principal Kevin Morrish.

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Outer space and touch

Hello, people.

How many of you listen to 3AR, huh? A few years ago there was a serial called 'A Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Universe'. The bit I liked was the destruction of earth by the galactic authorities. The humans on this planet were a bit peeved, but then again, as the man at the galactic municipal engineer's office said, "the plans for the intergalactic bypass had been on exhibition at your solar system's nearest office for a whole year. What better notification could you expect?"

It's nice to see humans get their comeuppance.

Tell you who I'd like to see get his comeuppance — that cheeky little bandicoot Boris. Just because the WAC people liked his slide show he's gone up about three hat sizes. I hear that he's negotiating with Louise Joy to have WAC's welfare committee's name changed to Bandicoot and human resources committee.

What a nice letter from Glen Jameson in the last Diary. The first letter to me to appear in print. Come on, folks, who can help with the mammal survey? Glen, is a swollen-headed bandicoot with the

same as a long-nosed one?

I was waddling past the Harbor Bridge milk bar just before the Nunawading election. Shock. Horror. There in the window was a Mountain Cattlemen anti-national

ROOTS & LEAVES

by
Wombat



parks poster. The lady behind the counter said the cattle didn't hurt the high plains flora. She knew this because a mountain cattleman had told her so. Now I know some cattlemen. The know a lot about cattle

but very little about high plains indigenous flora. I also know some botanists — lots of knowledge about the flora by very little about keeping cattle. I know who to ask if I want to know about cattle and I also know who to ask about high plains flora. It seems that some people aren't as smart as me and have made a very silly mistake. I do hope he election result wasn't based on mistakes as silly as this.

Open letter to councillors of Eltham North Riding and Doncaster and Templestowe Warrandyte Ward.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has come to my notice that many Government authorities send plans for their roadside mischief off to the municipal engineer's department and then claim that the community has been consulted. The community is left like the earthlings in the radio serial. A bit confused and wondering why the good feelings they get from being consulted are so elusive. Councillors, please change the procedures so that the community actually hears about it when it is being consulted. Tell us some of the changes and new procedures and we'll print them in the Diary.

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No joy ride ahead for Hilary Hunt

Hilary Hunt of Osborne Road is a real go-getter — a person full of energy and ideas.

She is also a member of that increasingly scarce breed around town — people who are prepared to make their talents available to the community.

Hilary has just been appointed interim volunteer co-ordinator of the proposed Warrandyte Citizens' Advice Bureau. And she is going to need every idea and every ounce of energy she has to make a success of the job during the six-month setting-up period.

Her appointment is for those six months only, but with an option to extend. Whether she does so will depend on how she copes first-up. "It's a very demanding job", she says. "It will require checking every day, and this will be hard with

young children". Hilary has two sons, Malcolm, 15, and Gregory, six, and a daughter, Meredith, 13. "Nevertheless, it's a very challenging job and I'm looking forward to doing it," she says.

CABs, which are government-financed, are designed to provide people with access to information and public services they might need. They can also provide counselling and advice, depending on the training of the volunteer staff.

"It's all very interesting work and very worthwhile".

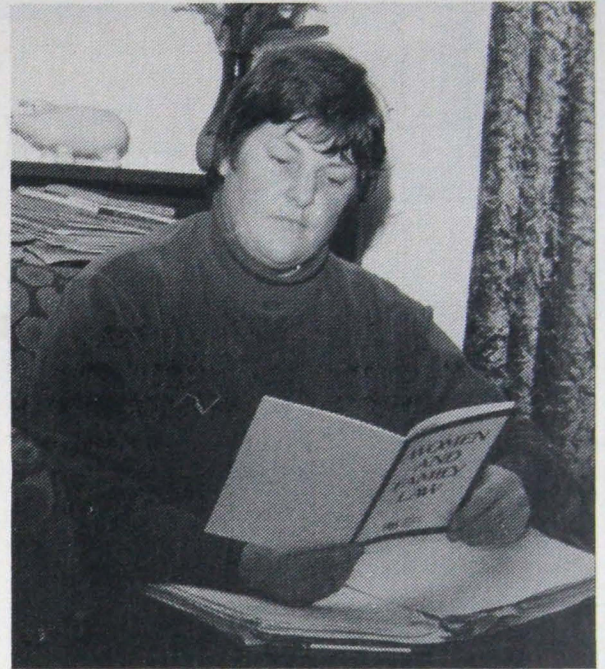
The present volunteers, including Hilary, are on six-months probation, and more are needed to be trained. "At the moment all of us are women, but men are

welcome. The job is particularly suited to retired men. It can give them something worthwhile to do in their spare time", Hilary says.

"We are going to be open (in the old post office, when it is restored) five days a week, and we need two people to run it each day. So you can see that we only just have enough people to start. And that is not taking into account the fact that all people have other commitments and might not be able to work on the occasional day.

"At first we will be offering a basic information and referral service, probably a telephone service, until people get used to us.

"It's a small town and people may be a little shy about coming to see us initially, but we are confident that as time goes on we can fulfill a definite need in the community".



Everything from drugs, to summonses, to granny flats

The next basic training Course organised by the Victorian Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux will be held next month.

Warrandyte people interested in doing the Course and a subsequent Community Information Workers' Course (three hours a week for 17 weeks) should contact Jenny Harkin (844 2663), Hilary Hunt (844 1060) or Noelle Burgess (844 3205) for details.

The basic course is held on three separate days, generally 9 am to 3 pm, over a three-week period at one of the TAFE Colleges.

CAB volunteers are not trained to give

their own advice but to listen, observing strict confidentiality, to any enquiry and match the request appropriately to one of the many services, details of which are recorded in the local CAB.

Owing to the information explosion, CABs are becoming a normal service in every neighbourhood. The Warrandyte bureau is expected to operate from the renovated old post office. In the meantime, volunteers are being trained and are attached to CABs at Doncare, Greensborough and Ringwood for experience.

Examples of requests to a CAB as given in the training courses:

- A teacher from the local high school rings to find if there is any organisation that runs educational programs explaining the consequences of drug addiction. The teacher is interested, in arranging a presentation for his health education class.
- An unemployed 17-year-old wants information about accommodation.
- A middle-aged woman rings to ask about vocational guidance as she wants to return to

work after 20 years of being at home bringing up her children.

- A young man has been charged by the railways for travelling without a ticket. He has been summonsed to appear in court in two months. He wants to know what is likely to happen to him and what he should do.
- A family would like to have the wife's widowed mother to live with them, but their home is too small. However, they have a large backyard and have heard of something called granny flats. Could the CAB give them some information about these?

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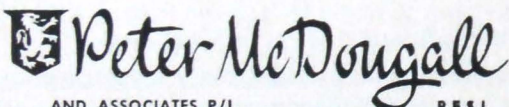
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SEC fails to deli

Continued from page 1

possibility that a fire that had started somewhere else might be made worse because of the greater amount of ground-level fuel.

One person who attended the meeting said the two officers hardly new that this was possible. When it was explained to them, the attitude seemed to be that it then became someone else's responsibility.

The Clearance of the Lines Act requires private power lines that are in need of "significant repair" to be put underground. This can cost between two and three thousand dollars, and there is no method of relieving the burden on those who cannot afford to pay.

The Diary is aware of several cases where extreme hardship has been caused to local people who could not afford to have the work done.

In one case, a woman raising a family on a single mother's pension had been required to put her lines underground. This was only made possible by a group of neighbours carrying out some of the work, such as digging trenches.

The two officers told the meeting that agreements between the SEC and residents to keep trees clear of lines had been declared null and void. Although many of them were merely gentlemen's agreements, some were in writing. The SEC had not thought it necessary to tell anyone that their agreements had been made invalid.

Flood and Mathews also told the meeting that the SEC would not consult residents individually on matters such as tree-clearing because it did not have the resources to do so.

They threw the burden of what the meeting regarded as SEC responsibilities for consultation on to local councils. Although Warrandyte's councils undoubtedly try hard to consult on these matters, they do not have the resources required to do properly. This basically means that the SEC is not consulting anyone affected by its works.

On environmental issues, the SEC was not interested in the idea of being selective about what plant species were trimmed or removed, what species remained, and how trees were trimmed. They would go so far as to

offer to cut down trees that had been ruined by trimming.

Examples were given where 100-year-old trees were mutilated or chopped down. The two officers saw no difference between these significant, single-specimen trees and any old tree or shrub.

WAC's Greg Thorpe says the meeting left a bad taste in many people's mouths. "We worked hard to create a positive attitude. The SEC did not pick up that opportunity.

"It was a matter of 'that's the way it is, there is nothing we can do about it and nothing we want to do about it'.

"To be fair this was not specifically the fault of the two officers who attended. We wanted the SEC to send along policy-makers rather people who implement the policy. We wanted to be able to put our arguments to the policy-makers. It was really a matter for policy-makers to discuss.

"A few of us thought we could make approaches to the organisations to get some idea of why things were going wrong then working with

Historic pantaloons go walkabout

Warrandyte Historical Society is interested in establishing a supply of historical costumes for use during the Warrandyte Festival and occasional historical re-enactments.

The society already has a small collection of colonial-style clothing that local groups and people can borrow (would whoever has a pair of pantaloons please return them), but would like more items.

Anyone willing to donate historical or colonial-style clothing should contact Marian Winton on 844 2971.

Local man Bruce Bence has been researching Warrandyte history and came across a delightful poem among the papers of Ben Logan, the first of the pioneering Logan family who came to the district as a miner in the earliest days of gold (his gold licence is dated March 31 1853).

The poem is about Anderson's Creek Primary School (the original school), and reads:

*If you're in want of instruction
Just come up to our school
Where order and attention is
everywhere the rule
Come up clean and tidy with your
hair so neat and sleek
And strive to be a credit to the
parent of Anderson's Creek.*

*Rise up all your charms children
and get ready for the road
A good supply of learning is a
very easy load
Rise and get you ready with your
book and slate and rule
And jog along contentedly while
coming to your school*

*There's the Russells and
McAuleys from their happy Irish
towns
With Mullings, Hartrick, Husseys
on their way or coming down
All neighbourly and easy with
their book and slate and rule
They jog along contentedly while
coming to their school.*

There's the Mastertons and

*Cargills and the Spears from the
store
With the Elys, Sloans and Logans
and a very many more
All neighbourly and easy with
their books and slate and rule
They jog along contentedly while
coming to their school.*

The poem was hand-written and was enclosed in Ben's work diary when he worked at the Great Southern mine, which he owned with his brother John and a man called David Cargill.

It is not known when it was written or by whom, but many of the names will be familiar to old-timers, and many of their descendants still live in town — there are fourth, fifth and sixth-generation Logans here.

The society held its annual meeting in July, and the following were elected to office: Ted Rotherham, president; Joyce Bellingham, first vice-president; Stan Andrew, second vice-president; Alan Alder, treasurer; Ruby Arnaud, secretary; Judy Green, minutes secretary; Shirley Rotherham, assistant secretary; Jo Laurence, newsletter/publicity, and Jill McKimm, Cliff Green, Joan Ferguson and Marian Winton, committee members.

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them to sort the problems out.
 "After the meeting, no one thinks that is possible. The only approach now seems to be to apply political pressure."
 "Given the nature of applying political pressure, it's not going to be possible to use a consultative method as we wanted."

Uncover a stripper

Warrandyte police are seeking community support for their efforts to catch car thieves who bring vehicles to Warrandyte to strip.

They are particularly interested in hearing from residents who might see cars being towed into the area on trailers.

Sergeant Jim Archbold says about half a dozen cars have been brought into the area in this way in the past month or so.

They are usually taken to tracks off Kangaroo Ground Road, stripped, then dumped.

Police would like residents to phone them if they see anything suspicious.

WAC NOTES

*...prepared by
 Warrandyte
 Advisory
 Committee.*

At our AGM in August, Don McDonald retired from one of the three independent positions on WAC. Don has taken the job of secretary of the Lions Club after a number of years of excellent service with WAC. Many thanks, Don.

Two new faces joined WAC at the AGM. They are Jean Chapman, a tireless worker for many causes, who is taking on yet another task as

an independent representative, and Glen Jameson, from Friends of the Warrandyte State Park, who becomes the new environment representative, covering Warrandyte Environment League, the Friends and the Little Buggas.

At the AGM, chairman Greg Thorpe expressed his view that the WAC system of group representatives is not working as well as it used to. Organisations are using WAC less and less and the original concept of a complementary umbrella role for WAC is not being realised. He foreshadowed a review of the function and role of WAC.

We didn't catch Boris Bandicoot's address so we cannot send a "certificate of attendance" as requested by your cousin Wombat. So, Boris, please accept this as our heartfelt thanks for your presentation at the AGM.

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The Co-op has held a series of parent education lectures at its offices in Yarra Street.

Speakers were local councillor and clinical psychologist Ken McKenzie, who spoke on communications between parents and children; Eileen Woolcott, a family researcher, who spoke on family directions in Australia; Anne McLeod, a pediatric and family health nurse, who spoke on toddlers and play groups; Margaret Howden a psychologist and primary teacher, who spoke on primary school problems and step-families; Stephen Ward, an educational psychologist, who spoke on the Child's position in the family; Meg Hiscock, a social worker, who spoke on self-esteem; and Louise Joy, Co-op Chairwoman and tutor in social work, who spoke on family services in Warrandyte.

(This is an edited text of Ken's speech.)

We must remember that children are young, developing people, initially completely egocentric. One definition of toddlers describes them as "stubborn, ignorant, possessed of little common sense."

They do not automatically understand concepts of justice or the rights of others. Therefore they need to be given sanctions. Piaget, the famous Swiss psychologist (with all his alleged short-comings), emphasised the egocentricity of the child who starts at four and a half

All about coping with kids

to five to see other points of view. How else would children understand so cleverly how to punish and manipulate parents?

In contrast to this generally accepted view, one parent in the group felt that her child at 12 years had some difficulty in understanding other points of view while another parent noted that her two-year-old was responsive to a mother's needs.

The changing pace of the modern world with economic and media pressure makes parenting more difficult today. Years ago some of the problems were the same but not openly acknowledged.

Mothers feared to air their difficulties because of the judgemental environment which prevailed. Also parents and employers were more autocratic.

Nowadays an informed community, which includes children, questions everything. What does a parent do when a child asks "why?" The child has a right to reason but we need to be aware that this may be asked for as a diversion or to seek attention.

We need to give a clear answer and then leave it at that. It is good to answer with an "I" rather than "You" statement. "I am tired, I need to go to sleep now." The child begins to recognise that life is not a one-way street.

He or she will perhaps settle as mother or father needs to rest. The child also learns to wear the consequences of behaviour.

When the child answers "No" all the time, avoid giving commands which reinforce this behaviour, say, by giving attention through

arguing. Children are not prepared to submit to arbitrary rules of adults.

Find areas which the child has pleasure in and where rewards can follow. Reinforce behaviour which suits the family environment. Always criticise the behaviour, not the person.

Anger is very human. We should not need to apologise, as righteous indignation is our right as people. Later go talk through the inappropriateness of the child's behaviour which has led to the anger. The child can then recognise the hurt from someone who loves and feeds as well.

A gift is a spontaneous gesture to a child. It should not be repayment of a debt which is what a child perceives with the words "gimme".

You should not say to a child "if you do this I will give you an icecream". It is better to watch out for good behaviour and reward it with a pat on the head or an icecream.

Encourage decisions and teach choices. If children are fighting they can be given the choice of keeping on fighting, remaining enemies, one giving in or resolving the conflict.

Take the child away from technology in the home. Bush walking and camping at weekends are very important. Try to build a special time such as walking to school or hunting rabbits.

Smacking is useful only in life-threatening situations or as a way of breaking confrontation when all else fails. It is mostly inappropriate. But if you threaten a smacking you should carry it out.

Both parents should be involved in the care of the children, no matter how tired they may be. If a grandparent has different ideas, children should be helped to realise that different behaviour is acceptable in different situations.

Parenting behaviour is acceptable in different situations. Parenting behaviour which feels right and works for us is generally right but we sometimes have unreasonable goals and arrange our houses inappropriately for young children.

Parents need encouragement not criticism in doing what they inwardly feel to be right.

The responsibility of the parents is to diffuse situations caused by death or divorce of a parent. The emotions of anger, sorrow and confusion should be met with honesty and consistency.

It is not productive after a separation to lay blame on the other parent, however much the scapegoating might satisfy us.

We can learn from African tribes where children who do not learn skills cannot survive. Sanctions are imposed so that the consequences of actions are understood.

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Lord of the dance looks back



Bill Glennon: Introduced the jitterbug to Melbourne

Bill Glennon, 72, of Hamilton Road, North Warrandyte, was interested to hear recently that a disco was being held at the hotel.

If he can talk his wife, Lyn, into accompanying him, he just might pop in for a number or two when it reopens — not to have a gawk at the youngsters, mind you, he has a professional interest.

If he can talk his wife, Lyn, into accompanying him, he just might pop in for a number or two — not to have a gawk at the youngsters, mind you, he has a professional interest.

For 35 years Bill ran four of Melbourne's biggest dances, and he still likes to keep in touch with the latest trends.

He's seen disco dancing on television and loves it, but he has some doubts about the lack of live music in most discos. "I'd love to see live music come back," he says. "Live music adds that personal touch to a night on the dance floor. Without it you might as well stay at home and listen to a record."

In Bill's day, from just before the war to 1973, there was no such thing as recorded music at dances. Live bands, often several at a time, were all there was.

Bill, who retired from a Northcote tannery in 1980 after about 50 years in the one place, was originally an amateur wrestler, and a good one at that. In 1933 he won the Victorian Railways featherweight title at a time when it was second only to the state title.

An injury later that year forced him to look elsewhere for a hobby, and he took up ballroom dancing. Within a couple of years he had become a teacher and was giving exhibitions at many of Melbourne's popular dance venues.

Just after the war began, he was offered the right to run the Wednesday and Saturday night dances at Heidelberg Town Hall. The dances were being run by Collingwood football champion Ron Todd and a partner, and Bill paid what was to become the bargain-basement price of 500 pounds to take over.

Five hundred pounds was a small fortune in those days, especially as Heidelberg was considered to be out in the sticks. But under Bill's adept compering, it quickly became one of the most popular nightspots in town.

Heidelberg Council soon realised

that it had a gold mine on its hands, and renegotiated the contract with Bill, who was put on a percentage of the night's takings.

As an indication of the popularity of the dances, Heidelberg set up a special body, the Heidelberg Civic Fund, to use the profits for community work. The fund raised more than one million pounds between 1940 and 1973, when it ceased after the dances were no longer held.

Bill says: "The fund could have made five million pounds without any trouble if they'd let us put the price up. At three shillings per person, we were the cheapest dance in Melbourne. And patrons certainly got their money's worth. We had three halls operating at once with up to four bands a night playing.

And that was without spending a cent on advertising in 35 years. Bill was probably one of the first great PR men of Melbourne, and his tricks are still legend in the entertainment industry.

For example one big drawcard was the number of league footballers who would go to Heidelberg or his other venues — Leggatt's Ballroom, the Zeigfeld Palais and the Melbourne Town Hall. They got in for free.

And nurses. Bill was standing at the door of Heidelberg Town Hall one Saturday night when he saw a group of nurses pooling their money to get at least three or four in. In those days nurses were very poorly paid, so Bill announced that henceforth nurses could get in free as well. As Bill says, it's not hard to imagine the impact that had on the thousands of soldiers in Melbourne at the time.

In fact the dances were so popular that there were problems at Heidelberg and the Zeigfeld Palais, in Glenferrie.

At Heidelberg, the Health Commission was concerned about overcrowding, and set a limit on the number of people who could attend. Bill overcame that by handing out gold lifetime passes to regulars.

The problem was more serious at Glenferrie. Bill had begun the first dance in Melbourne aimed solely at young people, and the modern music and lack of dress regulations were huge drawcards — "can you imagine being able to go to a dance for the first time without having to wear a collar and tie," he asks.

"We introduced the jitterbug to Melbourne at the Zeigfeld, and the problem was that it was an old building and we were on the first floor.

"On the first night we had about 1000 young people there, the band was going full blast, and the place was really jumping.

"All of a sudden one of the doormen came rushing up and said, 'Bill, Bill, for God's sake stop them, the place is going to fall down'.

"I had a look and saw to my horror that the walls were bending backwards and forwards and the floor was bowing up and down. We had to get engineers in to have a look, and we had to set a limit there."

Ironically, Bill's innovative approach to the Zeigfeld was the beginning of the end of ballroom dancing as mass entertainment in Melbourne, and he believes it will never come back.

But to those people in Warrandyte, and Bill says there are more than a few — he was one himself — who did their courting during the "soft lights and sweet music" segment at Heidelberg Town Hall, Bill sends a greeting. He'll see you in his dreams.

South Brigade honors ex-captain, family

Members of South Warrandyte Fire Brigade recently honoured a former captain, Les Dixon, by presenting him with a 20-year-long-service award.

The award was presented by Regional Officer David Owen. Representatives of neighbouring brigades and the Lower Yarra Group also attended.

Les, who served all his 20 years at South Warrandyte, recalled the days when the fire station was but a tiny tin shed with a dirt floor, housing one truck.

The present captain, Kirk Ritchie, also presented the Dixon family with a picnic hamper on behalf of all brigade members.

The brigade recently held its annual meeting, and the following people were elected: captain, Kirk Ritchie; first lieutenant, Ken Reid; second lieutenant, John Haddon; third lieutenant, Wayne Herring; fourth lieutenant, Mark Ritchie; communications officer, Stephen Santamaria; apparatus officer, John Tilly; secretary, Alma Herring and president, Graeme Moulden.

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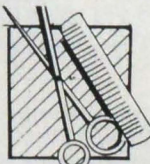
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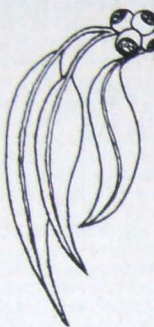


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A Clayton's holiday? David Moore and Di Bullen are holidaying at Eltham for three months. They've moved into an old bluestone house while the owners are away. Di says it's proving inspirational for David's painting, so we are all waiting for the results to put on exhibition.

One reader thinks Smokey is going to be too much trouble donning goggles and snorkel to chop onions. In his single days, David Moss kept his skiing goggles on the window sills — no posing, he just liked to have them conveniently close to avoid tears.

The Geldards are back. At least Maureen and the children are, soon to be followed by Howard, who is finishing off "the job" in Britain. A great time was only marred by the excessive cold of winter. Maureen says it's a bit tough when noses freeze INSIDE the house. Their friends welcome them home.

Stuart Joy and sons David and Tim are back from their six week trip to Britain and Europe. David went to extreme lengths to find out how good an orthopaedic surgeon his uncle in Switzerland is — by

the fifth column...

breaking his leg. Tim wrote home to Louise that he did enjoy their unscheduled train trip to Belgium. "We stopped at a station and got out on the platform", he wrote. Louise and the girls are delighted to have them home again.

The inception of WAD's was announced in this column last month, but who suspected their presence at the WAC AGM. Did the implacable representatives of the SEC realise that dotted throughout the audience were members of this surreptitious feared group quietly plotting revenge? At the end of the meeting a member declared that she couldn't wait to abduct a cherry-picker in Yarra Street and be slowly hoisted upwards in it, bolt-cutters in hand, to ceremoniously cut the high-tension wires. It will be an amazing sight, the glinting of her helmet and tin-foil breastplate (the uniform of this army of Boadiceas)

as the electricity sears through her and she turns on and off like a neon sign. Martyrs to the end.

Mrs Dulcie Griffiths, a stalwart of the Warrandyte Elderly Citizens' Club died recently after a long illness for about 15 years.

Mrs Griffiths, who was a life member of the Club, was 61. She leaves her husband, Allan, and son Allan and daughter Janet. Her death is a blow to Warrandyte's older folk, who for many years enjoyed the annual concerts she organised and took part in. Mrs Griffiths was one of those rare people who, without any formal training, could listen to a song once, then play it on the piano. Her talents were much appreciated by Club members and, many years ago, by friends and family in the Pigeon Bank Lane area who she entertained at night before the advent of television. Mrs Griffiths came to Warrandyte about 35 years ago, and helped build the family home, on the Corner of Pigeon Bank Lane, and Kangaroo Ground Road. Mr and Mrs Griffiths were forced to move out of Warrandyte about a year ago after their house was damaged during a storm.

Why not hire a local trier

Each month we publish the names of two job-seekers. If you need a job done we ask you to hire, as a community service, one of our triers.

Andrea, 24, has experience in newsagency and supermarket work and has worked with state parks. Interested in any work.

Peter, 21, experienced in self-service petrol station and supermarket work, and has done fruit-picking. Will work at any job.

Anyone able to help is asked to contact Jean Chapman on 844 2548 or 844 3326. Another Warrandyte Community Workshop Co-operative Ltd. Project.

Hard v. soft conservation

Warrandyte Environment League will hold its annual general meeting at Pancakes on the Yarra on September 18. There will be a two-course meal preceded by sherry and followed by port and coffee.

The guest speaker will be Dr Peter Rawlinson of Latrobe University's zoology department. He will talk on "hard" versus "soft" ecology. Hard ecology strives for the preservation of nature for its own sake; soft ecology subordinates conservation to human ends. This is likely to lead to a controversial debate, and a very interesting one, so get along and join in.

The constitution of next year's committee will be decided. Several nominations have already been accepted, but more will be welcome for committee membership

Preparing for fires

North Warrandyte Fire Brigade is already planning for the coming fire season.

It recently hosted the first meeting of a new group in the area, the North Warrandyte Fire Prevention Implementation Committee.

The committee is a joint effort of local groups and interested authorities.

The brigade Captain, John Swindley, says the committee was set up to determine the best method of preparing for future fire seasons.

Representatives of Warrandyte Advisory Committee, Warrandyte Environment League, the Shire of Eltham, the Board of Works and the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands are enthusiastic about the concept of integrating the various interests of residents and authorities to ensure better fire prevention, John says.



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Above: The sharpshooter ... prolific Warrandyte goal-getter Ron Wilson lines one up from the forward pocket, watched closely by friend and foe.

Right: The opportunist ... consistent Warrandyte performer Craig Townsend beats the pack to get his kick in.



The Bloods' big night

Warrandyte Football Club will hold their presentation night at Alfred's Homestead on Wednesday, September 25.

This is the club's once-a-year night, a "must" occasion for players, families and supporters and highly recommended even if you're not too familiar with the oval-ball game.

Bookings: Anthony Giles-Peters (844 2573). Door sales available.

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Young Bloods key to '86

Professional dedication needed — president

Warrandyte Football Club will rely largely on upcoming junior talent next season to accelerate the improvement of 1985.

The club will continue to recruit, but believe homegrown young players are the key to their immediate and longer-term success.

The Bloods ended a five-game losing streak by winning their last two matches of the season to finish sixth on the 14-team EDFL second-division ladder.

The competition will toughen next season under proposals to relegate three first-division teams, and downgrade the bottom seven from division two.

"While outside recruiting will certainly not be ignored, we will be relying on local young players to show a professional, dedicated approach to their senior football next season," WFC president Jeff Reddie told the Diary.

"The administration believes that the future of football in this town revolves around the progression of players through the junior ranks.

"If our homegrown talent realises its full potential, our aim to be a finals side next season will be fulfilled."

Mr Reddie paid tribute to the committee which had guided the club through the 1985 season.

"With the exception of secretary Anthony Giles-Peters and Robert Ireland, this was a totally new committee," he said.

WARRANDYTE
Diary
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"Their work, and the recruiting efforts of coach Chris Valerkou have given us an excellent launching pad for 1986."

Mr Reddie said the late-season slump, when Warrandyte had been on course for the finals, began with overconfidence and was brought about by lack of it.

"It started with our game against Norwood, traditional rivals we were overconfident of beating," he said.

"We lost that one and it took us several weeks to regain the confidence we had lost."

Mr Reddie said that through the joint efforts of the Warrandyte football and cricket clubs, exciting facilities at the recreation reserve would be completed by the start of the next football season.

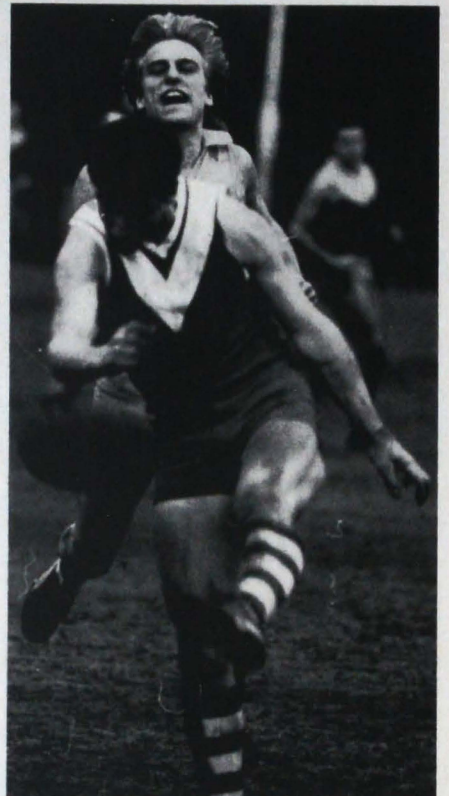
"The two clubs have asked the Warrandyte Sports and Social Club to also be involved in this venture," he said.

"A meeting was convened by Doncaster-Templestowe Council late last month.

"But unfortunately, all attempts by the WFC and the WCC to form a three-way consortium have been rejected by the Sports and Social Club."



It's mine! Warrandyte's Wayne Pattison takes front position and marks despite a belated opposition attempt to punch the ball clear. A boundary umpire watches with detached interest.



Head down, eyes on the ball, Craig Townsend is a picture of concentration and definitely meaning business as he outguns an opponent and boots the Bloods into attack.

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