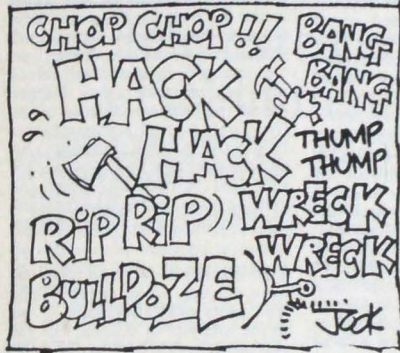
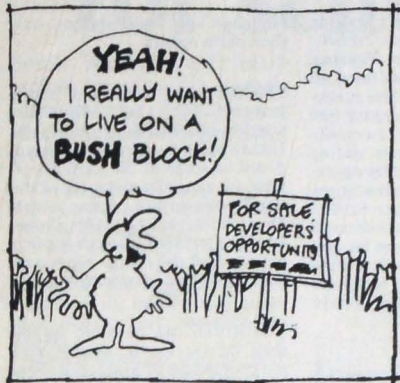


Warrandyte Diary

PRICELESS

No 162 November 1985

Editorial 844 1186, Advertising 844 2820



Doncaster opposes rezoning

Doncaster and Templestowe Council has told the Planning and Environment Ministry that it opposes an application for the rezoning of land along Harris Gully Road from Landscape Interest A to Residential D.

The owner of the land had applied to the Ministry seeking the rezoning, which is also opposed by the Warrandyte Environment League and the Warrandyte Advisory Committee.

Council objected to the application on the following grounds:

- Tindals Road is the appropriate boundary between Landscape Interest A land to the east and Residential D land to the west;
- the proposed rezoning would set a precedent resulting in further rezoning requests;
- the proposed rezoning is contrary to the State Government's Green Wedge policy for non-urban areas, which the council strongly supports;
- the land is not suitable for rezoning to Residential D as the slope of most of the area would prevent sewage, siltage and effluent disposal as required by Residential D zoning and would not preserve the environmental character of the area.

Council said the land had the worst "land capability" rating for residential development in the **Land Resource Data Atlas: Non-urban Areas**, published by the Board of Works and the State Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands in June this year.

Kinder may cut classes

North Warrandyte kindergarten may have to discontinue one of its three groups next year because of State Government finance cuts.

The Government has told the kindergarten that in 1986 it will be subsidised for 10 teacher sessions a week and eight assistant sessions, plus \$2600 operating costs.

The kindergarten received \$3900 last year.

The cuts mean that the kindergarten will be unable to hold one of its three groups unless it can appeal successfully to the Department of Community Services.

The kindergarten has protested, saying the decision is unfair because most

enrolments in the group have been taken and parents notified.

It has already filled 59 places for 1987 and the kindergarten's association feels that this would be extremely short sighted of the department to close the group when it is most needed in the area.

The directress of group three, Mrs Diana Williamson, says: "If we lose the group now, it will not be refunded for the years we need it."

"We need our three groups at North Warrandyte Kindergarten, otherwise the others are going to be terribly overcrowded."

She also says that four-year-olds at this stage need a lot of attention and understanding, and overcrowding will disadvantage the children.

"We are able to offer three sessions per week and we hope to increase it to

four, depending on the availability of the hall next year. In other areas, most third groups can offer only two sessions per week," Mrs Williamson says.

She says her third group caters for the whole of Warrandyte.

In 1983, the association fought hard to keep the group despite government cut-backs of funds.

It was argued that Warrandyte is a special needs area because of its isolation, hilly terrain, lack of footpaths and good playing space.

The North Warrandyte Pre-School Centre houses the Infant Welfare Centre, play groups and kindergarten. It was built by the community.

The kindergarten's plea is also supported by local politicians, local primary schools and the Kindergarten Teachers' Association.

Clubs flush after the rush

Local Apex, Lions and Rotary clubs have certainly struck gold with their Warrandyte gold rush re-enactment.

About 5000 people took part in the activities, despite early rain and muddy conditions, and the clubs made a profit of between \$15,000 and \$20,000, which will go towards a variety of projects.

The day was such a success that the clubs are almost certain to make it an annual event, possibly as part of the Warrandyte Festival.

A Rotary spokesman, Richard Forde, said that about six months' planning went into the event, and that the clubs are delighted with the results.

"There were many, many hours of work put into it," he said. "The logistics of getting all the different groups and individuals co-ordinated was very difficult, but it turned out to be well worth it."

As well as the three service clubs, the three local fire brigades, school councils, the State Emergency Service, the National Parks Service and many, many individuals lent a hand. In all about 300 people were involved.

Residents, local businesses, businessmen living in the area and the National Australia Bank poured about \$11,000 into staging the event, mainly through sponsorships in the highly successful Gold Town Gazette.



A wretched miscreant is punished in the stocks as troopers stand guard.

Mr Forde says that of the four main activity centres, the Fourth Hill Tunnel was the most popular. "We had to stop the tours at one stage," he said. "There were so many people going through that they used up all the oxygen inside."

Not that the other three areas — historical displays and drilling demonstrations at Stiggants Reserve, the tent town on top of Fourth Hill and gold panning at Anderson's Creek — did not attract their fair share of attention.

And stalls throughout the gold rush area selling billy tea and damper did a roaring trade. (The damper was provided by Sunicrust Bakeries, which has never made it before and called in its research department to help.)

Mr Forde says: "It went very, very

well, and although we made a lot of mistakes, we will learn from them and make future days a lot better. The mood of the place is such that we can do it again next year.

"We are thinking about making it part of the Warrandyte Festival, but dry weather could be a problem with so many people visiting the state park.

"We tried to minimise environmental damage by making sure people kept to the existing tracks and keeping them out of the scrub, and I think we succeeded in that," Mr Forde said.

"But it could be a problem in the drier weather around February and March when the Festival is held. Nevertheless we will be discussing the possibility."

CENTRE PAGES: More pictures and reports.

Vicar going west

Warrandyte's Anglican vicar, the Reverend Jeff Berger, is leaving the village at the beginning of December.

Jeff is going to Western Australia where he will work as the regional director of the Australian Board of Missions, an Anglican missionary agency.

Wife Karen, son Simon and daughter Amelia will be settled in a home by the sea outside Perth while Jeff travels around the state.

The Reverend Berger took over as the vicar of St Stephens, Warrandyte, and Emmanuel, Park Orchards in April 1980.

Dorothy Reid writes: Father Jeff has been an active and much-loved parish priest. He has entered fully into the life of the district, co-ordinating religious instruction at the two local primary schools and the high school.

He has actively supported all inter-church affairs and has done much to help foster a deeper understanding of the different churches.

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 \$275 per full page

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DEADLINES: Editorial — January 20. Advertising — January 19

IN RED & WHITE



SMOKEY hears on the grapevine that John McCartin, rover extraordinaire with Warrandyte Football Club for many years, has hung up his boots. The irony of this is that last season was the first injury-free season he can remember, especially for the past couple of years, during which he underwent several operations on his knees. There is a bright side, however. Warrandyte Cricket Club, which has had to wait until well into the cricket season for him to get over his injuries before playing cricket, can probably look to at least a couple of full seasons from him.

exchange has obviously had only short-term results.

SMOKEY has seen some photographs of the Mountain Cattlemen's activities during the Nunawading by-election and is surprised at some of the local people who are allegedly members of this vociferous group. Some would have trouble riding a rocking horse, let alone trekking through the high plains. And the outfits some were wearing looked surprisingly new.

TOURISTS can be more trouble than they're worth, despite what the proprietors of local craft shops may say. A local bloke was taking in the air with his dog one recent Sunday when he heard what sounded like cries for help from the river. Our man, a fireman and well able to offer help in an emergency, charged across the bridge and down to the river, only to find a young bloke, fishing rod in hand, shouting to his dad the news that he had caught his first fish. A pounding heart and gasping lungs tend to take the shine off a pleasant stroll along the river.

The milk of human kindness part 1: Local police report that at least one passing motorist stopped at the scene of the accident in which Toby Thomas died and removed beer and meat from the back of his wrecked truck.

The milk of human kindness part 2: A young local man had been trying to make an important phone call but kept getting crossed lines of the engaged signal. Finally, as a last resort, he asked a woman whose conversation he had broken in on if she would mind hanging up to allow him to make his call. The young man's mother, who had been listening to his attempts, assures Smokey that he made the request in the most polite terms. The woman refused, and said that "You're probably ringing up to buy drugs anyway".

WHICH brings Smokey to the question of Warrandyte's telephone problems yet again. How long is it going to be before the old exchange is replaced. Smokey doubts that anything will happen until someone dies as a result of being unable to ring the fire brigade, the police, or who ever. The recent work on the

YOUR intrepid correspondent has been sipping some cheeky little reds, ports and whites lately . . . all in the interests of charity. His expert palate was needed to decide on the perfect parcel of plonk for a wine bottling to be held soon by the excellent Village School over in North Croydon.

Suffice it to say that he succeeded. Loyal readers can sample his taste (they don't have to go to the bottling) and help a worthy cause by ordering some of this inexpensive brew from Maureen Fink on 725 9169.

Smokey Joe

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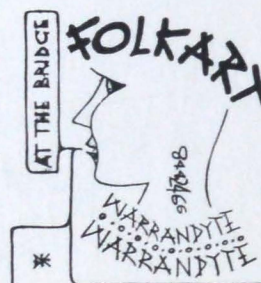
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Hot water idea wins for school

South Warrandyte Primary School has won the Eastern Metropolitan Region prize for the Schools Environment Awards Project.

The awards were run in conjunction with Victoria's 150th anniversary celebrations.

South Warrandyte's project was to design a solar energy hot water system for the community house and make the garden area at the rear productive for canteen lunches.

It has also fostered the concept of the school becoming far more

energy-conscious. One idea that has resulted from this is to provide blinds in the northern wing, removing the need for electric fans on hot days.

The award was worth \$2950, which will be used to put the project into practice.

Five children deserve special mention for their efforts in preparing the project submissions: Gavin McLean, Jenny Grove, Melissa Bedford, Gareth Fuller and Kelly Reynolds.

The award was presented by the Conservation Minister, Joan Kirner, at the Waverley Civic Centre last month.

Child care centre is a UN in miniature

We're a mixed mob in Warrandyte, as a scan of the records of the Warrandyte Community Child Care Centre shows.

Eilish Cooke has found that 39 families using the centre have both parents born in Australia; a further 14 families have a parent born overseas.

The countries they come from are Britain, New Zealand, Latvia, Belgium, Thailand, Germany, Yugoslavia, Canada, Phillipines, Papua New Guinea, North Borneo and Malaysia.

The centre says that since it received Commonwealth financing in June it has had an increasing demand for full-time places. To keep

faith with present users the centre retained a high proportion of places for part-timers and casuals.

From next year, a high priority will be given to full-time requests.

Bookings are now being taken for 1986. A refundable fee of \$50 must accompany the application which can be got from the centre by ringing 844 1205.

The centre recently received a gift of \$300 from the Warrandyte Community Market. This will be spent on equipment for the children.

And the centre wants local scouts to know that the 15 chairs they donated are much more comfortable than the old ones and the children are enjoying them.

Toby Thomas killed in crash

Warrandyte's Toby Thomas died in an accident at Kangaroo Ground last month. He was 47.

Toby had been driving to the market at St Andrews on the morning of October 12 when his meat van skidded in gravel just before the Kangaroo Ground store.

He and another person in the van, Colin Fredericks, were killed.

The accompanying article is an edited version of the eulogy delivered at Toby's funeral by long-time friend Ken Beruldsen.

Toby Thomas was unique.

He was one of those rare, colorful, easy-going and unforgettable characters who made his presence felt wherever he went.

From Kinglake to Carlton Toby knew everyone and everyone knew Toby. He was known as Tobias, TNT, Truthful Toby, and, of course, the Meatman.

He was tough, aggressive, independent and at some stage managed to get on the wrong side of everyone he met. And yet he was a friend to all, because everyone knew that beneath that bold exterior he was caring, kind, and always willing to help others.

Whenever there was a charitable organisation in need, a sporting club function or a community fund-raising activity, Toby was there giving his time, his energy and his money.

He was the great raffle ticket salesman although one often wondered where the proceeds were going.

He was a competitor. I remember one day when he ate 31 raw eggs just to win a \$2 bet. He would always take up the challenge and never give in.

He was a sportsman. He played cricket and football. He played for Warrandyte, Panton Hill, Templestowe and probably half a

dozen more clubs, and although he didn't always see eye to eye with the committees, he was respected and welcomed at them all. He was a pool player and a hustler. He was very good, and he didn't mind letting you know about it.

He had an unrivalled propensity for attracting trouble, but he had an even more remarkable ability to get out of it.

He was a jack of all trades and master of several.

He was good company and he loved to laugh.

He was also a man who suffered tragedy and setback many times in his life, but he had the strength of character to bounce back and face life with a smile. He would never let adversity get the better of him. He had courage.

He was the eternal optimist.

He was a ray of sunshine, and wherever he went he brightened people's lives. Whenever Toby arrived we knew without doubt that something interesting would happen. It invariably did.

So now the Meatman has gone.

He will be sadly missed.

And perhaps today when we mourn the passing of a friend we might reflect on those admirable qualities that Toby possessed and in so doing feel proud to have known him.

Will someone do time for this crime?



Warrandyte police are looking for the owner of this clock, which they seized in a recent raid in Wattle Glen. The clock, believed to have been stolen, is French, about 100 years old, and worth up to \$1000. Senior Constable John Rowe is not part of the package.

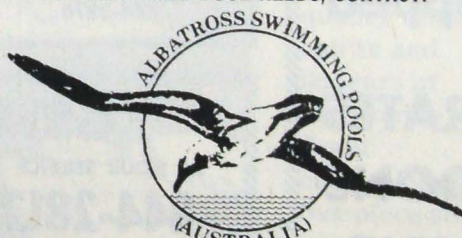


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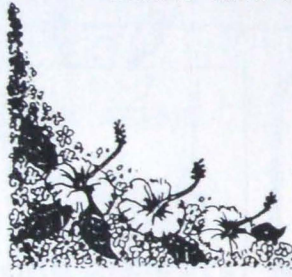
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Council plan identifies fire risk areas

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Doncaster and Templestowe Council has developed a fire prevention plan for Warrandyte in conjunction with the CFA, the SEC, the Board of Works, the Forests Commission and the National Parks service.

It has identified the fire risk areas of Warrandyte and developed a plan for co-ordinated clearing of both private and public property.

It says the worst areas are the Pound Bend Reserve, Whipstick Gully, Gold Memorial Road/Anderson's Creek, the Metropoli-



tan Park (Naughton Avenue-Pound Road) and timber and mining reserves administered by the National Parks Service.

Most of the Warrandyte area of the city has been given a high-moderate fire hazard rating.

The plan covers several areas of fire prevention:

Safe areas — Places of special interest or communities that must be protected, such as townships, camping areas and schools.

Buffer zones — Tracts of cleared land or land where fuel has been reduced between high fire risk areas and safe areas.

Linear firebreaks — A means of retarding the advance of a fire, forming a control line where fire-fighters may directly attack a fire and a means of minimising the occurrence or initial spread of a fire.

Fire access roads — Roads providing access to high fire risk areas, providing a link between main roads and escape routes for people living in out-of-the-way places.

Water supply points — Creeks and rivers, tanks or dams and mains.

Fire hazard removal — Reduction of fuel on properties, reserves and roadside verges every year.

Public land — Unoccupied crown land, state forests, national parks, and other land that is the responsibility of government departments or public authorities.

The council says the Shire of Eltham's fire prevention plan is of paramount importance to Warrandyte because of the large areas of bush in the shire and the tendency of fires to start there and be blown by north winds towards Warrandyte.

It says there are no safe areas in Warrandyte next to a hazardous area, but that Warrandyte township itself requires protection by a buffer zone in the Shire of Eltham. It says other areas where people congregate, such as schools and sports grounds, are surrounded by housing estates, which with proper removal of fire hazards provide adequate protection.

There are no high fire risk areas identified in the plan.

The plan says the development of linear firebreaks in the city is impossible, but that the river and the main roads can be used instead.

On fire access roads, the plan says regular maintenance is required in the Fourth Hill, Jumping Creek/Johannsons Lane and Gold Memorial Road areas. The existing access roads are adequate, it says.

Water supplies, both mains and tanks and dams, are sufficient, the plan says.

Yearly removal of fire hazards from all properties, public and private, and the clearing of roadside verges is the most important part of the plan.

It sets the following standards:

- Building blocks of up to one acre — All grass and undergrowth such as tea-tree, black-thorn and noxious weeds to be slashed or burned so that the remaining growth is not higher than 10 centimetres. The naturestrips of these properties are also to be cleared.
- Bigger properties — A boundary firebreak is to be slashed or burned, at the discretion of council's fire prevention officer, to a

minimum width of 20 metres. Remaining growth is to be less than 10 centimetres high.

Council's fire prevention officer is to liaise with the Shire of Eltham's equivalent officer to ensure that adequate buffer zones and linear firebreaks are provided north of Warrandyte.

All linear firebreaks and SEC and Board of Works tracks and easements are to be cleared before the end of December and fire access roads are to be inspected early in October and necessary maintenance completed by the end of December.

Fire hydrants should be marked and the surrounding area cleared by the end of November by council and the Board of Works.

The plan says the fire prevention officer should inspect all private properties during October and direct property owners to carry out necessary clearing by mid-January.

Council should clear roadside verges by slashing or burning by mid-January and the end of December respectively.



The National Parks Service should burn off the areas it is responsible for in consultation with the CFA and council properties to the east of Mullum Creek, which are natural bushland, should be cleared of smaller dead trees, noxious weeds and other non-native vegetation in consultation with the CFA, the council and the Warrandyte Environment League.

The council fire prevention officer, Warrandyte resident Bob Cox, said in a recent report to council that it had been a successful year in Warrandyte concerning fire prevention, and complimented the local brigades.



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WAC changes shape

Warrandyte, once a close-knit community able to solve its problems with a minimum of fuss and to the satisfaction of all, is fast becoming dangerously fragmented, according to outgoing Warrandyte Advisory Committee chairman Greg Thorpe.

The problem, highlighted by the recent restructuring of WAC, is one of people, he says, and their inability to devote time and energy to the community.

"This is part of a wider trend throughout Australia," he says. "People are becoming more conservative and are concentrating more and more on work and the home."

"This is basically a result of economic pressures and stress at home — financial or personal."

The result in Warrandyte is that WAC, set up in 1979 to co-ordinate decision-making on issues affecting Warrandyte and to liaise between the community and local government and the State Government, is finding it hard to get enough people to operate effectively.

"WAC was finding that it was not working as well as it was," Mr Thorpe says. "In part that's due to the fact that the initial thrill within the community in getting the organisation running back in 1979 had worn off."

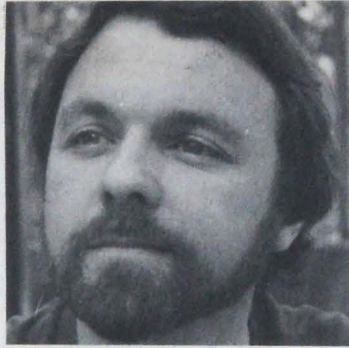
"But in general, many community organisations are going through this change at the moment."

"In the early 1980s everyone knew what WAC was and were enthusiastic about it, helped along by some early successes on a couple of issues. There was a strong community awareness."

"Warrandyte has gone from that to a fairly conservative, isolationist society — a general, wider trend."

WAC is now down to the interested few, and most other community groups are in the same position.

This has caused WAC to cut its cloth to suit. Where once it had enough people with



Greg Thorpe: "People . . . are concentrating more and more on work and the home."

wider community interests at heart to conduct extensive discussions on various matters and how they inter-relate and affect the community as a whole, it has devised a system whereby wide discussion and debate takes place only if it is regarded as essential.

It now has three sub-committees: human resources, community centre and physical resources. The convenors of these sub-committees act as WAC chairman/chairwoman for four months of the year.

Mr Thorpe says: "What we basically had under the old system was a formal requirement that each member had to personally vet each issue and present their views at a full meeting."

"Another factor that was causing problems was that because of time limits set on us for decisions, we often had to call a special full meeting on just one issue. This was also stretching our limited resources."

"What we are doing now is requiring a sub-committee to formulate a draft response on an issue — as it was before — and that response can become official WAC policy after being vetted by the other convenors,

who are now allowed to use their discretion to refer a decision to their sub-committee or whether they themselves will speak on behalf of their sub-committee.

"The benefit is that we don't have to get all people involved in a decision together. It puts the load on the convenors, who are generally the people most interested in the issue anyway."

The convenors are the key to the system. They comprise a small core group of people who are going to be interested in everything that is happening in the community and how all the different parts of the jigsaw fit together.

Their sub-committee members are people who like to concentrate their energies into a small area of concern, for example cricket, elderly citizens, the state park, or whatever concerns the group they represent on WAC.

Mr Thorpe says the new system is designed to overcome a shortage of people who have the wider community interest at heart.

"Because of various pressures, people are quite rightly concentrating their efforts on their areas of individual interest."

"WAC is there to bring all these individual interest areas together and develop policies in a general sense — to co-ordinate all opinions for the benefit of the community. WAC is not there to interfere in an individual organisation's affairs."

"Warrandyte is losing because individual organisations cannot spare people to go to WAC and help formulate general policies."

To help overcome this, WAC has given its convenors wide powers to seek guidance from non-WAC people — from experts in various fields who will be asked to join a sub-committee's discussions on specific issues.

Mr Thorpe says: "The community is becoming more and more fragmented and groups themselves are becoming more and more isolated."

"We believe the new system will be able to cope with this and allow WAC to continue to play a vital role for the good of the whole community."

Hire a 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.

Allan, 16, has experience at a wreckers and working on cars. He would like a job with an auto-electrician or mechanic.

Vikki, 16, would like a hairdressing apprenticeship.

Anyone able to assist is asked to contact Jean Chapman, on 844 2548 or 844 3326.

Another Warrandyte Community Workshop Co-operative Ltd project.

Changes at coffee shop

Carolanne Crowe, who was manager of the Warrandyte Co-operative's coffee shop for six months, has resigned because of ill health. She was much loved by all and will be greatly missed.

Jackie Law and Leigh Podporin, local women who are experienced in the field, have taken on the coffee shop on a job-sharing basis.

The Co-operative has approval to employ an extra worker on Friday and Saturday nights for five hours at \$6 per hour. Anyone interested should apply to Jean Chapman on 844 2548. This position could also be job-shared.

Dancing firemen

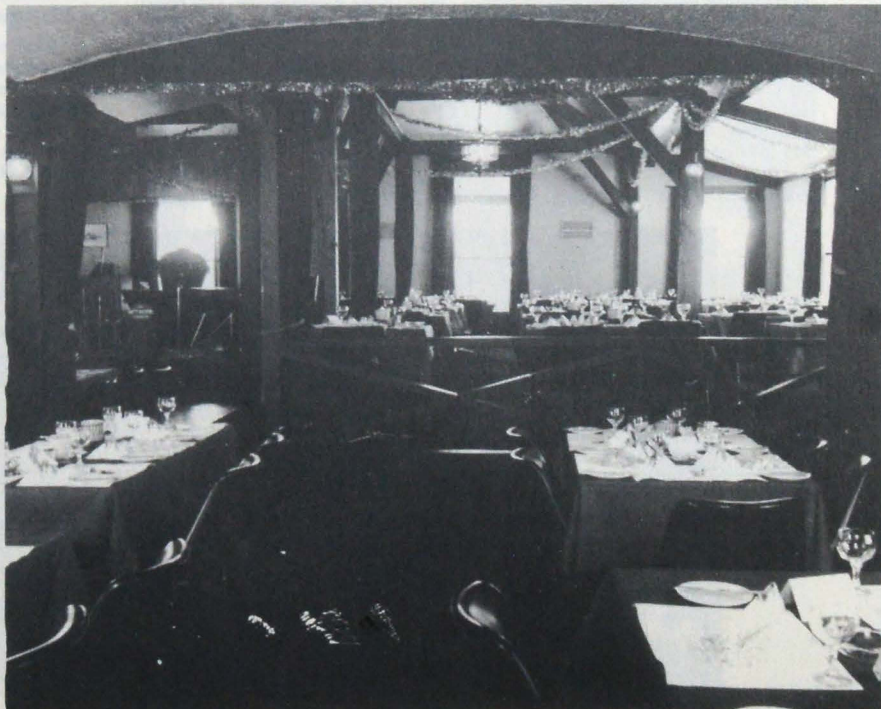
Members of the South Warrandyte fire brigade raised money for their new station recently with a bush dance in the South Warrandyte hall.

The brigade wants to thank the companies and individuals who gave prizes for the evening.

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And the rush is on again

by MARILYN MOORE



Cooking tastes better over an open fire.



Jack Gilbert of North Warrandyte shows visitors to Anderson's Creek.

THE enthusiasm of gold seekers remains undaunted by time. During the 1985 Gold Rush, panners seeking the elusive glitter crowded the banks of Anderson's Creek. Their reproduction gold licences, acquired at Stiggants Reserve, also allowed them to inspect the diggings and Geraghty's Tunnel on Fourth Hill.

A number of the panners were in luck, partly owing to the previous night's addition of some alluvial gold to the creek bed. Perhaps if the overnight rain had not swollen Anderson's Creek so heavily even more might have been recovered. Miners in cravats and moleskins using the equipment of the 1880s worked the diggings and open cuts. Refreshments were taken at various halts along the way, where huge blackened pots hung simmering over camp fires.

There was more to sup at the tent town on the summit of Fourth Hill

as well as displays of blacksmith's wares, pottery, spinning, and a range of historical memorabilia. Past the last tent a rough-hewn corral contained the troopers' restless steeds.

A special treat for wildflower watchers was the abundance of wax-lip orchids along the pathways. Unfortunately many people were disappointed at missing the tour of Geraghty's mine . . . hopefully they realise that the tunnel can be explored at any time with a good torch.

The richest strikes of the day however didn't come from the gold pan. Lucky Warrandyte residents won six of the seven raffle prizes (no, it wasn't rigged!). Congratulations to Ruth Chandler of Hamilton Road (first prize, Ford Laser) and Bev Ludbrook (second prize, video cassette recorder) in the main raffle, and, in the gold

licence lucky draw, to the Utt family of Webb Street (\$1000), Dorothy Waller of Research Road (\$400), Adam Beardall of Yarra Street (\$300), Ehab Hamman of Clayton South (\$200) and Ron Kay of Tills Drive (\$100).

Another Warrandyte resident shared the feeling of many when he counted himself lucky just to have discovered some of the attractions of our State Park. The gentleman, who I don't think would mind being identified as Don McDonald from Apex, admitted to having lived in Warrandyte for 25 years but "not knowing all that was there!"


From all points of view, the Gold Rush seems to have been an enormous success. It was organised jointly by the Rotary, Apex and Lions service clubs, and preliminary estimates indicate that some \$15,000-\$20,000 was raised for charity.



And the cheque is handed over.



There were few women at the diggings.



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Warrandyte mothers and children enjoy Heather McLaughlin's music session.

Music . . . with a purpose

Music is one way of enjoying a wet Melbourne day with children.

Some mothers and their children from the North Warrandyte Kindergarten had the right idea when they asked Ms Heather McLaughlin, the president of Parents for Music, in Victoria, to attend.

Ms McLaughlin didn't take long to start the group singing, clapping hands, skipping, running, hopping, and playing games.

The session was organised by the kindergarten's social committee.

Ms McLaughlin says: "Parents for Music is a way for the whole family to learn new games and songs. It improves children's social development and brings families to a common level."

She adds that the program also helps children with musical skills. Parents for Music has been operating for a year.

Its 200 members consist of parents, children, teachers and people within the community who are interested in furthering music education through enjoyable music experiences for people of all ages.

Ms McLaughlin says they aim to make music more accessible through playing an instrument, listening to music, joining in a dance, or singing a round with a group of people.

Ms McLaughlin lives at Research and has received a BA in Music at Sydney University.

She has taught music at all levels but she says her main interest has

been with pre-schoolers and family music activities.

She says she went to Hungary and Austria to study the Kodaly and Orff teaching methods.

Ms McLaughlin says the Kodaly system bases everything on singing, whereas the Orff combines music and movement and the uses of musical instruments such as xylophones.

She adds that she teaches both systems to pre-schoolers.

Ms McLaughlin says she hopes Parents for Music will become part of community activities in Warrandyte.

At the moment, they meet every third Friday evening at Eltham.

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IN BRIEF

Thieves are active

Housebreakings continue to plague local police. More than \$16,000 worth of cash and goods has been stolen in the past month or so.

The biggest haul was at Park Orchards, where one family lost \$12,000 in cash, jewellery and electrical goods.

In other robberies, thieves escaped with a variety of goods, mostly televisions and video cassette recorders.

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Shirley McCartin and her family wish to thank all their friends and local people who offered them comfort and support following the recent death of John McCartin senior. The Diary offers its condolences to Shirley, sons John, Shane, Dale, Glen and Joel and daughters Lynne and Francene. Mr McCartin, who had been ill for many years, was an active supporter of local under-age sport, and had been team manager of Warrandyte's under-15 and under-17 football teams.

the fifth column...



The news is blue from Jonathon and Karen Rogers of Everard Drive. William James Hugh arrived safely this month. Jonathon is reported to be in a satisfactory condition, and mother and son are thriving.

Warrandyte farewelled one of its most colourful characters last month. Sonia Menara has moved to Sydney to take up a new life. She assures us that returns to Warrandyte will be frequent and, coincidentally, around the times of WAA drama group production times.

Jacki and Simon Law have returned from a wonderful trip to China and Hong Kong. If ever a couple deserved a break it was the Laws. Now it's back to the treadmill for both of them.

Anyone who knows Duncan Frost, doting dad of the delicious little Tom, would say he's a gentle fellow, not given to extremes of emotion. Recently, however, he was literally foaming at the mouth. It seems that young Tom had been found chewing his way through a cake of soap. Duncan checked with a neighbor about the possible harm

and, on being reassured that the potential damage was minimal, decided to take the taste test too. Really. The last thing this town needs is another soapy.

Former Warrandyte resident Julie Pickett is seriously ill in Queensland, where she moved with her husband Mark and children Chelsianne, Luke and Penni. Julie has a long battle ahead of her but is showing amazing strength and determination. Keep her in your thoughts.

North Warrandyte Film Society finished the year with a screening of 'A Passage To India' instead of the advertised program. The film, wine and cheese were thoroughly enjoyed by the small number in attendance. After operating for 11 years, the society is in grave danger of folding up due to declining membership and too much work falling on Annette's shoulders. Thanks Annette for a job well done.

Not all news travels fast in Warrandyte. Two hours after the gold rush raffle was drawn, one woman was heard asking who won it. On hearing that Ruth Chandler was the lucky lady, she said, "That's funny... I've been working alongside her all afternoon and she hasn't mentioned it." Followed by a quick dash to tell Ruth the good news!

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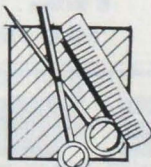
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The new WAC is settling down to business well, and welcomes Peter Murphy to its ranks as service representative. The service rep liaises with the service clubs and the fire brigade. It is an important role and one that Peter will fulfil most ably.

In the past month the main WAC activity has been to finalise the new committee room booking arrangements. Henceforth all bookings should be made via the Co-op and the key to the committee room will be available from Jean Chapman during office hours.

WAC is delighted that its links with the Co-op are being strengthened.

In line with council requirements, a fee of \$7 per session will be charged to all users, either for day or night use. This fee is negotiable

for non income-earning groups. Just ask Jean.

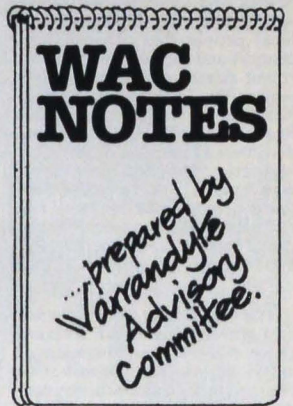
This income will be used to have the room cleaned regularly and to improve facilities.

WAC is seeking financial assistance from the Doncaster and Templestowe and Eltham Councils to upgrade the chairs and meeting table. Rotary will be installing a sink and cupboards. Tea and coffee-making facilities will soon be available.

The community centre sub-committee is now moving into the area of long-term planning for a new community centre. To this end, Anthony Burgess, chairman of the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute, addressed WAC, outlining the reasons for the coming incorporation into one group of WMI and the Warrandyte Arts Association in February.

WMI and WAC have agreed in principle to join forces to explore the possibility of an integrated community centre development with arts and culture centred in the WMI and human services on the community centre site. Comments and suggestions to WAC are welcome from any member of the community.

There are some people who are naturally community service addicts. Each new project is a new "fix". Their families are always trying to bring them into line. There are many other people in the community who can polish a small jewel of service. They may be put off by the hyper-energetic, aggressive or passive, exact or diffuse, loud or quiet, there is a place for many different people to be part of the Warrandyte community.



The importance of being Stane Brae

There is a brushy-tailed possum who lives in the Flagstaff Gardens and is an absolute derelict. Living among other fallen beings, this possum has a nest in one of the shrubs there.

It is not a nest such as its ancestors built, secreted out of sight, but placed in obvious view of the public so that they may offer scraps of left-over lunch. Despite the problems of obesity and stomach ulcers, it's an easy life. So much for playing possum.

There is an SEC pole outside my home that collects carcasses of ringtail possums. Within days of a withered, shrunken skeleton finally falling to the earth after months of warning other ring-tails away, another fresh-faced kid cooks on the wires. It is an unfortunate fact but their tails are longer than their memories.

Such are the two ways in which we affect native fauna; there are thousands of others. Some of the ways tread on felt-like feline feet to hunt out smaller creatures. Delinquent packs of canines sav-

age wallabies and koalas. How casual we are towards this careless slaughter.

The areas around our homes have been so altered that they can no longer support the variety of animals that they once did. The animals that embroider the Australian legend with color and richness are refugees in their own forests. They must take the slow boat to an Asian zoo for appreciation and confirmation as sacred living things.

The Stane Brae Estate, which local people hope will become part of the Warrandyte State Park, is an oasis of survival in our story of destruction.

There lives a healthy breeding mob of eastern grey kangaroos and swamp wallabies, the closest known living to Melbourne.

Wedgetail eagles have a nest in a giant yellow box there. The majesty of these birds in flight is obvious to anyone lucky enough to have witnessed them. All this within sight of the tall buildings of Melbourne.

Tuans, or brush-tailed phascogales, also live in Stane Brae. From their pointed conical face to their tail, which is a bottlebrush of long, shiny black hair, they are 40 centimetres long. With great agility and speed they can travel through a forest, leaping from treetrunk to treetrunk.

Their favorite plant community is messmate/stringybark or red stringybark, redbox, yellowbox or long-leafbox. They are associated with spreading wattle or black wattle. Destroy the habitat and you destroy the animal.

Tuans are the rear guard of a withdrawing community. You can almost feel the true forests, cradle of our evolution, slipping through our fingers and being lost forever.

On a spotlight walk we caught five little sugar gliders in our beam atop a dead tree. They cuddled up to each other as they surveyed us before gliding off into the forest night.

It was a scene which could only be described as magic,

something which is fast disappearing from our lives.

Meanwhile, millionaires jostle each other to buy Australian art, much of which was painted around Heidelberg, Box Hill and Templestowe.

The places that inspired the artists are busy streets; their visions of Australia are cracked and dried and locked in bank vaults. The true spirit of our land withers under a "for sale" sign. It is a sign of our true poverty.

According to detailed government reports Stane Brae has been rated as botanically highly significant and zoologically locally significant. In 1980 it was recommended that it should be a botanical reserve.

Today it faces subdivision, and our heritage is to be evicted with nowhere to go. Few humans will remember how magic it all was.

Who will speak up for them now?

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IN BRIEF

Such is fete

The annual fete of the Warrandyte Uniting Church will be held in the church grounds — opposite the oval — on Saturday, November 23.

Stalls will sell goods including plants, pottery, recycled clothes, books, fruit and vegetables, cakes and pies.

For children there will be a lucky dip, games and a teddy bear competition. Father Christmas will arrive at 11 am.

Carols

Carols by Candlelight will take place at Stiggants Reserve on Sunday, December 15, at 8 pm. Candles will be provided but bring a rug.

This is an inter-church activity. Those attending will have the opportunity to make a donation to the Christmas Bowl appeal.

Letter

Wonderful

May I use your columns to express my appreciation of the WAA Bach and Handel night. Wonderful stuff. More please, WAA.

Richard Schumann

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**Of dim, horses
and rivers**

**ROOTS &
LEAVES**

**by
Wombat**



Hello James Reynolds at the City of Doncaster and Templestowe Parks and Gardens Department.

My scolding of the community for not responding to your call for help over two years ago has elicited a tentative response. We might be on to something here, little Jim.

Perhaps some of our well-wishing indigenous horticulturalists will make material available to the council for the planting of the roundabout.

It's good to see more people going into and becoming aware of our state parks.

It seems strange to me that some people have to pretend that they are back in the gold rush days to motivate themselves to get out there though, but so be it.

Some participants in the recent pretend rush were alarmed to see a woman shouting at a truck driver and jumping in front of him to try to halt his progress. Maybe it was all part of the show.

I heard some concerns expressed that the gold rush crowds might have damaged the park. But Glen Jameson, of Friends of the Warrandyte State Park, reports his preliminary investigations indicate that this is not so.

But how about the service clubs organising a working bee to help the Friends one Sunday just to make sure they're in credit.

In protecting our environment we have to use every means at our disposal. One is to continually call on planning authorities to uphold standards laid down in the ordinances.

Unfortunately, when this means IS used, it can come to be seen as an end rather than a means.

When local environment groups object to rezoning that would down-grade the perceived worth of the land, is their concern the loss of the land to the area allocated to a particular zone or is it that the environment might be degraded?

When the owner of land used for grazing horses applies for rezoning for residential purposes, why do we say no?

The horses are contributing much more fecal matter to the river than humans with septic tanks. The wind-borne pasture grass seed from the horse paddock is a much greater danger to the surrounding ecology than anything emanating from indigenous gardens around suitable home sites.

Let's think a bit before we say no to revised land use.

I suggest special housing provisions for land on which all viable introduced plants are removed and indigenous flora is restored up to a specified standard.

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Dyke bats in the horrors

Hat-trick of defeats, but we pick up a new Broome

Warrandyte's cricket season started with three consecutive defeats.

And club officials blame a state of mind rather than a lack of talent. The senior eleven could not muster 60 runs in either of their first two innings after the season's opening fixture had been washed out.

The Dykes were dismissed for 56 against Ainslie Park and those who wrote off the debacle as just one of those days were forced to think again in the second game, against St Andrews. This time, Warrandyte were bundled out for 53.

They fared a little better against North Ringwood, but their score of 126 was again a major disappointment. The bowlers made a real game of it, but North Ringwood won by scrambling to 9/132.

A Warrandyte Cricket Club spokesman said the bowlers had been performing creditably, but the batsmen appeared "shell-shocked" by the absence of last season's captain-coach John Salter, who has returned to District cricket.

"Apart from Salter, we have had virtually the same batting line-up as last season," the spokesman said.

"But our fellows seemed to adopt the attitude that they couldn't make runs without John being there to set the example. They simply lacked confidence.

"Certainly, John's loss is significant. He led by example during his stint at Warrandyte and he was a prolific run-getter last season. But we have never been a one-man band."

The good news for Warrandyte is

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the acquisition of international campaigner Ian Broome, who has been recruited from District club Collingwood.

Broome has played four seasons of country cricket in England. He has opened the bowling for Collingwood for the past four seasons and is a handy down-the-order batsman.

Apart from spearheading the Warrandyte attack, he will coach the juniors and pass on the benefits of his considerable top-level experience.

Broome's arrival fills a gap left by the retirement of Graeme Lloyd, the team's top wicket-taker these past few seasons. He will be supported by young quick bowler Matthew Feather, whom club officials regard as a potential champion.

The success story of the season so far as been the women's eleven, who easily won their first two matches and were well placed for a comfortable victory in the third.

They have been set a magnificent example by all-rounder Jenny McLaws.

Jenny made 50 and took 5/15 in each innings against Doncaster and followed up with 28 not out, 24 and 4/21 against Waverley.

She was unconquered on 31 at the end of the first day's play against Monash.



Two of the young players on whom Warrandyte is depending, David Sloan, above and below, and Chris Snaidero, bottom.



The stars abound at South

On a numbers basis, South Warrandyte Primary School rates, athletically, with the very best.

South Warrandyte has only 150 pupils — and five of them represented the Eastern Region at the Victorian primary schools championships at Olympic Park earlier this month.

They are Bradley Burns (shot put), Elizabeth Corrado (discus), Meagan Delbridge (triple jump and 200 metres), Kim Furzer (long jump) and Jenelle Hurley (200 metres).

Jenelle is a 12-year-old, Kim 11 and the others 10.

The school is justifiably proud of its achievement and gives full credit to trainer-coach Sue Cole, one of the parents.

South Warrandyte outclassed four other schools in the Warrandyte District sports. It scored 182 points to finish 26 in front of Heatherdale, Yarra Road was third, on 123, followed by Wonga Park and St Anne's, with 82 and 81 respectively.

The sports day produced the inevitable aftermath — an assigned essay next week. Among the comments:

• "I was happy to win. I got five firsts and a second" — Bradley.

• "Our relay slaughtered the other teams. We were winners by miles" — Norton Cameron, Michael Bradley.

• "Our Grade 5 extension ball team did a great job despite Melissa's slip. We thrashed them . . . I remember sitting under plastic while it poured" — Belinda.

• "I had six wins but winning the relay pleased me" — Meagan.

CRICKET DETAILS

FIRSTS

Warrandyte 56 lost to Ainslie Park 5/91
Warrandyte 53 and 5/97 (Chapman 31, Walshe 20) lost to St Andrews 9/219 (White 4/48)
Warrandyte 126 (Chapman 29, Jungwirth 25, Dorning 22) v. North Ringwood 0/18

SECONDS

Warrandyte 9/79 lost to Ainslie Park 7/94 (Jungwirth 3/29)
Warrandyte 8/141 (McCarthy 65, Taylor 41) d. St Andrews 121 (O'Brien 4/32, Snaidero 3/24)
Warrandyte 2/18 v. North Ringwood 122 (Snaidero 5/31, Stockley 3/26)

THIRDS

Warrandyte 7/141 (Day 59, King 30, Creber 27) d. Ainslie Park 115 (King 4/23, Grant 3/18)
Warrandyte 9/86 (King 26, Day 21 n.o.) lost to St Andrews 9/203 (King 6/62)
Warrandyte 97 (McCartin 40) v. North Ringwood 6/139 (Harris 4/35)

FOURTHS

Warrandyte 109 (Blair 24, Hughes 22, Baker 20 n.o.) d. Ainslie Park 88 (Le Guier 3/3, Bradley 4/31)
Warrandyte 163 and 2/26 (Blair 32, Bradley 30, Walker 32, Cameron 20) d. St Andrews 162 (Blair 4/47)
Warrandyte 233 (Walker 92, Cameron 38, Bradley 41) v. North Ringwood

FIFTHS

Warrandyte 109 (De Strang 27, Frawley 24) d. Ainslie Park 70 (Medson 5/18, Leonard 3/34)
Warrandyte 53 and 3/100 (Dorning 45 n.o., Roberts 40 n.o.) lost to St Andrews 9/219 (Beasley 3/51, Roberts 3/35)
Warrandyte 0/17 v. Mt Evelyn 152

SIXTHS

Warrandyte 46 lost to Heathmont 129
Warrandyte 81 and 4/186 (Clothier 32, Gathercole 21 and 70, Owen 57) lost to Mooroolbark 8/148 (Owen 4/46)
Warrandyte 110 (McKenzie 32, Owen 22) v. Templeton

WOMEN

Warrandyte 1/111 (McLaws 50, Chapman 32 n.o.) d. Doncaster 34 and 7/42 (McLaws 5/15 and 5/15, McGhee 3/13)
Warrandyte 1/51 and 1/62 (McLaws 28 n.o. and 24) d. Waverley 39 and 62 (McGhee 5/12 and 5/30, McLaws 4/21)
Warrandyte 3/65 (McLaws 31 n.o.) v. Monash 95 (Chapman 6/14, McGhee 3/27)

UNDER-16(1)

Warrandyte 9/50 d. Wantirna South 43 (Humphreys 5/27, Reid 4/15)
Warrandyte v. Norwood 6/179 (Vitiritti 3/62)

UNDER-16(3)

Warrandyte 58 lost to Wantirna 6/80
Warrandyte 5/75 (Bardwell 24, Hurley 20) d. Ainslie Park 5/57
Warrandyte 74 (Yoannidis 26 n.o.) v. Johnson Park 3/36 (Yoannidis 3/19)

UNDER-14(1)

Warrandyte 47 (Weatherly 27 n.o.) lost to Croydon North 5/58
Warrandyte 75 d. Mooroolbark 3/44
Warrandyte 2/8 v. Norwood 109 (Spencer 4/13, McKenzie 3/18)

UNDER-14(3)

Warrandyte 51 lost to Wantirna 104
Warrandyte 39 and 8/56 lost to Olinda 116
Warrandyte 61 v. South Ringwood 1/8

UNDER-12(1)

Warrandyte 3/88 (Comrie 36 n.o., Valentine 21) d. Croydon North 2/64
Warrandyte 89 (Comrie 25 n.o.) d. Lilydale 61
Warrandyte 0/15 v. Bayswater Park 104 (Hughes 3/21)

UNDER-12(3)

Warrandyte 61 lost to Montrose 95
Warrandyte 5/72 lost to Chirnside Park 5/111
Warrandyte 0/28 v. Croydon 128

UNDER-12(4)

Warrandyte 51 lost to South Croydon 84
Warrandyte 62 (Polaznik 23 n.o., Quiltrough 21 n.o.) lost to Boronia 85
Warrandyte 95 (Hose 27) v. Ringwood 1/14

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