

# Warrandyte Diary

PRICELESS

No. 167, May 1986

Editorial and Advertising 844 2820

## The step may be ragged, the pride is intact

The drone of the pipes comes first, then the tap of the drums. And slowly over the ridge in the road they appear.

The young, the old and the young, in that order. First the pipers and drummers of the City of Box Hill Pipe Band, mostly in their teens or just a touch older. At the rear the future of our town... the scouts, guides, brownies and cubs.

In between them march the reason for this day, no more than two dozen or so men and women, mostly grey-haired, pushed along by the autumn wind.

All halt at the roundabout. The kids

from the back spring up the slope; the veterans walk it carefully to join their fellow villagers waiting in a hollow square around a flag-draped table.

To the right, around the memorial column of Warrandyte stone, are four sappers from the 7th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers. They stand with their heads bowed, their rifles reversed and upside down.

"God save the Queen", sings the throng, then "Advance Australia Fair", then the hymn we knew as the "Recessional" but which is on the program as

"Lest We Forget".

Ken McKenzie steps to the microphone to read passages from the Old and New Testaments. It's the second reading which mentions turning swords into plowshares.

The Reverend Stan Fishley, vicar of the Uniting Church, gives the address. It has to do with the nature of forgiveness.

"Oh God our help in ages past," we sing, along with its unfamiliar third verse: "Time like an ever rolling stream bears all its sons away. They fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day."

Ken McKenzie, RSL branch president

Neil Pearson and MLA Lou Hill step forward and place their wreaths on the plinth of the monument. The wind of a moment blows them down. Ken replaces them.

We stand for one minute's silence, lift our heads and intone "Lest We Forget". Then a piper and drummer step forward. He pipes the beautiful lament "Fingal's Weeping" and she brushes at her black-shrouded drum.

"Last Post" is sounded on a scratched tape recording, followed by "Reveille", the bugle call that promises a new day.

Continued middle pages



April 25, 1986: the village honors its own.

## Goodbye snap, crackle, pop

### Telephones to be upgraded at last

Warrandyte's antiquated and outdated telephone service is at last to be upgraded, at a cost of \$650,000.

The manager of Telecom's Box Hill district, Ron Nelson, announced this month that new "high technology" equipment will be installed at the Warrandyte exchange.

At first the updated equipment will be installed on only 256 telephone services. This will be expanded in July, and by Christmas the changeover should be complete.

The Research exchange will be upgraded in April next year.

Telecom is setting aside \$350,000 for this job.

Ron Nelson says the computer-controlled exchanges should do away with the snap, crackle and pop that has bedevilled telephone conversations in the district.

As well, Warrandyte will finally join the ISD network.

As part of the project Telecom will spend \$60,000 improving the cable network linking Warrandyte subscribers to the exchange.

The Liberal MHR for Casey, Bob Halverson, has followed up the work of his predecessor, Labor's Pete Steedman, in campaigning for an improvement to the area's telephone services.

In a speech to the House of Representatives last November, Mr Halverson said he had been contacted by people who were "literally living in fear" because they had no confidence in getting through on their lifeline, their telephone.

He said: "A motorist whose car had broken down in a remote area of the electorate tried without success to call the RACV and instead was answered each time by a fitness centre in Balwyn.

"He then tried calling his wife to get her to ring the RACV on his behalf but succeeded only in contacting a recorded message which told him that his own number did not exist."

Ted Rotherham, president of the Warrandyte Historical Society, says that Warrandyte has been linked by telephone to the outside world since 1900.

The first line was a single strand that ran from Kangaroo Ground — then the centre of the district — to the village's first subscriber, the Warrandyte Hotel.

As late as 1926 this was very much a hit-and-miss service. In that year the Warrandyte Hotel caught fire but no one could summon help: the exchange had closed down. The pub was destroyed.

### Artists works will aid post office project

Many of Melbourne's most sought-after artists will exhibit their works in Warrandyte in June.

A large selection of works of art, including oils, water colours, the exquisite jewellery of Simon Baigent, tapestry by Cecile Ford and the pottery of leading potters, will be exhibited and sold on Friday night, June 13, from 8 pm, and Saturday June 14, 10 am to 4 pm at the Mechanics Institute Hall in Yarra Street.

The artists, some 50 in total, including such names as Brian Armstrong, David Taylor, David Moore, Margot Knox and Ron Reynolds, are taking part in an exhibition organised by the Post

Office Preservation Group to raise funds to complete restoration work on the historic building.

It is the second such exhibition the group has organised. The first resulted in sales of more than \$6000 in one night.

The Friday night opening has a \$5 per head admission fee, which includes wine and cheese. Saturday's admission of 50 cents is to cover the catalogue.

Parsons Plant Nursery, 33 Research Road, Warrandyte, is providing plants which will also be for sale.

Inquiries: Marg Hannah 817 2999; Priscilla Troedel 844 2761.

### Stuff that Diary box

The Diary repeats its standing invitation for contributors.

This month has again been enlivened by a touch of poetry. More would be appreciated.

Also gratefully received will be news reports, sports stories, short stories, memories, gossip for Smokey Joe, vignettes, photographs, cartoons and drawings.

So, let's see the Diary box under the elm stuffed full.

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# THE WARRANDYTE DIARY

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\$2.50 per column centimetre (casual rate)  
 \$2.35 (6 month contract); \$2.20 (12 month contract)  
 \$150 per half page  
 \$275 per full page

New advertisements will be charged as above, plus 33% to cover typesetting costs, then revert to the set charge. Changing advertisements will be surcharged the 33%. Preferred position advertisements will be surcharged at the rates of: Page 1, 100%; Page 3 and Back Page, 30%; Pages 2 and 5, 20%. Other preferred positions, 10%. Mini-ads will be charged at \$2 for four lines (20 to 25 words) plus 75c for each extra line. If illustrations are required they must be supplied. A charge of \$10 will apply to illustrations that have to be re-photographed. Outstanding accounts of 60 days and over will be charged 5% on the outstanding account.

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 EDITORIAL: Bob Millington (844 2820).  
 ADVERTISING: Trish Millington (844 2820).



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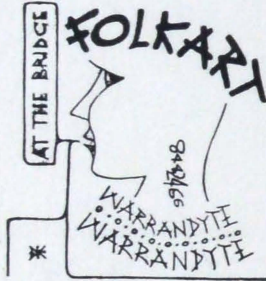
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# IN RED & WHITE



No names on this one but you should be able to spot him around town: his face is still a bright red.

Our boy hired a trailer to dump some rubbish, performed the deed, then returned to his home in Kangaroo Ground Road. The only trouble was that the trailer was no longer attached to the car.

Smokey understands that it took some painstaking backsearching all the way to Eltham tip to locate the forlorn trailer.

Smokey loves the bloke but can merely observe that Mark Davis's capacity for catering rivals that of MCG tucker-servers ordering 100,000 pies for a Melbourne — St Kilda game.

Mr Davis recently threw a surprise party for wife Olive's birthday (Smokey doesn't kiss and tell but

can report that the year ended in an 0).

Suffice it to say that Smokey and neighbors were dining off sausage rolls, chicken wings and cheeses for a week afterwards. And that's after half a hundred people popped in.

Smokey has nothing but praise for the WAA's production of 'Dimboola', having sneaked in one Saturday night, gargled a few and got into the feeling of the thing.

The flying fingers of Cliff Green have produced a fine review, which discerning readers will find elsewhere in this newspaper. Smokey must, however, add his two bob's worth.

Terry Bramham, as Daryl "Dangles" Dunn, is the epitome of the best man at a country wedding, groping the bridesmaid and bringing the conversation down to basics. Terry's reading of the telegrams was spot on.

And a special mention to Don Gibbons, as the groom's uncle Horrie McAdam, the back slapping, beer spilling yob every wedding reception should have. Smokey dips his lid to him.

'Dimboola' reminded Smokey that playwrights can bear a grudge. Jack Hibberd gave the name Leonardo Radish to the priggish reporter who stumbles in on the wedding. Strange that the 'Age' theatre critic should be Len Radic.

**Smokey Joe**

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# When Petrov stayed in our town

In a backyard in Webb Street, in a little building that he calls his cubby house, Cliff Green has just finished writing about one of the most confused yet epic stories to happen in Australia this century.

Some time after July, viewers throughout Australia will be watching a four-hour mini-series dealing with the defection of Vladimir and Evdokia Petrov, the Soviet spies who came in from the cold.

The defection, and the subsequent royal commission, made headline news for months back in the middle 50s. A new generation knows little about the affair. That will be rectified.

"He was a complex man, no doubt about that," says Cliff in discussing the main protagonist. "He was born of Siberian peasant stock; he'd been a sailor. He was Rabelasian, a man who loved life.

"ASIO had been waiting for someone like him to come along and they got on to him pretty quickly, within weeks.

"They knew he was a KGB man. After all, there he was, third secretary at the Soviet embassy — just one jump up from a clerk — and yet he was obviously a man of influence; he had privileges.

"I became quite fascinated with the man and his times."

Cliff immersed himself in his research. Spending days reading newspaper accounts of the defection brought back to him the polarised attitudes of those times.

"I'd walk out of the La Trobe Library at an evening, stand still and breathe in the fresh air. I'd feel as if I'd left the paranoia behind.

"I'm not one who longs for 'the good old days'. We're far more open and free as a society than we were then."

Cliff and co-writer Mac Gudgeon got help from an unexpected source.

"We'd almost finished the script when Mrs Petrov — Evdokia Petrova — got in touch with the producers. She had heard of what we were doing. She came along and helped fill in several gaps."

Evdokia Petrova lives in secu-



Vladimir Petrov: a man who loved life.

lion; Vladimir Petrov lies ailing in a Melbourne nursing home; most of the great actors in the drama, Evatt and Menzies included, are dead.

Some of the minor characters survive, however. And Cliff, Gudgeon and the script's original researcher, Robert Manne, saw a bit player blossom into an understated understudy.

"Her codename was Nina and she still may be alive somewhere, although we'd probably be breaking the Official Secrets Act if we speculated on what she was doing now.

"We believe she was a Russian girl captured by the Germans. She survived the concentration camps and was approached by the White Russians in Paris after the war.

"It appears Nina went to Austra-

lia as a White Russian agent and worked her way into the Soviet embassy. At some stage ASIO probably started using her, too."

Nina and that strange East European doctor-cum-violinist Michael Bialoguski are vital factors in the Petrov's defection.

The writers discovered that the Swedish Embassy in Canberra, through its intelligence agents, had been as interested in the Petrovs as anyone.

"The Petrovs had worked in the Soviet Embassy in Stockholm, a neutral capital, during the war and the Swedes were keen to find out what they had been sending back to Moscow and who their contacts were.

"So after the defection ASIO let Swedish intelligence question them. In return the Swedes must have given ASIO something. That's the kind of world intelligence is.

"Oh, by the way, here's the local angle: after the defection, ASIO hid the Petrovs in a 'safe' house in the Warrandyte area."

Cliff tells the tale in his little A-frame office. A new word processor sits in front of him. He is laboring to learn its intricacies, trying to master the Wordstar software program and worrying just a little about RSI.

On a shelf behind him are bronze and silver-plated trophies and letters of commendation. Included are Awgie awards for his scripts and screenplays. 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' and 'Power Without Glory' are perhaps the best known.

A common or garden ladder leads up to the paper-strewn loft and it's a fair bet that a copy of everything that Cliff has ever written is stored there.

He began as a teacher, making up

plays for his pupils, and on spec submitted a batch of them to the ABC. ABC radio passed them on to ABC television, ABC television passed on its regards . . . and a career started.

Cliff worked for three years with Crawford Productions and remem-

bers feeling that his world had ended the day he walked out their door to go freelancing.

"But it hadn't. I went to Sydney and had a commission within two weeks.

"In lots of ways I've been lucky. I started working for the ABC just as Oscar Whitbread was setting up the Drama One Unit there and I was in at the start of the Australian film revival."

Mr Green has evidently forgotten the adage: talent breeds its own luck.



Cliff Green: "I'd feel as if I'd left the paranoia behind."

## Eighty need care after school: We need action

The organisers of the after-school care program at Warrandyte Primary estimate that the parents of more than 80 children would use the service.

The estimate was arrived at after tabulating the questionnaires sent out and returned at the end of 1985. And people are still asking about the service at the co-op and at district schools.

The short answer is that the after-school care program has not got off the ground as yet. Not that the organisers haven't been trying.

In December they sent off their submission to the Department of Community Services with copies to all our local state and federal MPs.

They followed that up with letters to Caroline Hogg, the state Minister for Community Services, and to Don Grimes, her federal counterpart.

The politicians have said nice things about the quality of the submission and, yes, they agree that Warrandyte needs such a service.

But the organisers have been told there are "funding restraints". In

### COMMENT

Bob Millington

the meantime the submission sits in Canberra awaiting a decision.

Many working parents would prefer to have their children looked after in the home but the Labor Exchange, run by the co-op, is finding it difficult to arrange for supervisors.

We tend to think of Warrandyte as one of the more affluent suburbs, and to some extent it is. But there are pockets of poverty. We have more than our share of single parents; we have many homes where both parents must work to survive.

A reasonably priced, well-run after-school care program would bring peace of mind to parents.

And, when you think of it, we could get it started for roughly the price of half a dozen of those imported dinner sets the pollies are planning to sup off in our new billion-dollar Parliament House.



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# And the bride wore white

Heartiest congratulations are in order to everyone connected with a recent wedding of unique local interest.

The ceremony took place late last month at St Mary's, Pantan Hill, where Fr Patrick O'Shea (Jim Dickson) celebrated nuptial mass for the marriage of Maureen Delany (Kellie Randall) to Morris McAdam (Darryl Cousins).

Maureen ('Reen) is the only daughter of Mr Darcy Delany (Roger Kibell) and his wife April (Helen Bennett) of Flat Creek Road, Pantan Hill, and Morris (Morrie) the only son of Mr Angus McAdam (Gus McLaren) and his good lady Florence (Carol Cole) of Kangaroo Ground.

Both families are formerly of Dimboola, and the happy couple have enjoyed an intimate relationship since early schooldays.

The bride was fortunate in having the experienced advice and assistance of her charming bridesmaid Shirl (Sue Dyring) and the groom was staunchly supported by his best man Daryl (Dangles) Dunn (Terry Bramham).

Little Astrid McAdam (Colleen Keating), a niece to the groom, captivated all in her role as flowergirl, a duty she performed with pert and precocious aplomb.

A large gathering of family, friends and other local persons filled the Warrandyte Mechanics' Institute Hall for a splendid reception later, the occasion made even more

## REVIEW

enjoyable by the mellifluous melodies rendered by Lionel Driftwood and The Pile Drivers (Stuart Robinson, Jenny Burdett, Ian Daws and Matthew Volk), Dimboola's original combo.

The beautifully decorated tables groaned under the fulsome and festive fare provided, as usual, by the ladies of the Warrandyte CWA.

The bride's obvious natural charms were further enhanced by a white empire line gown in delustrated satin and guipure lace, featuring elbow-length veil and a long train.

The bridesmaid looked luscious in a mini-length mauve chiffon sheath with matching shoes and bag, and flowergirl Astrid drew all eyes to her pink hailspot muslin frock with trimmings to match her floral offering.

All bouquets and floral arrangements were by Potpourri of Warrandyte, as usual.

Mrs Darkie Delaney, mother of the bride, graced a fetching matronly ensemble of forest green brocade with matching handbag. The groom's mother, Mrs Knocker McAdam, wore a sweet little floral frock in cream and brown tonings and a luscious silver fox fur. She topped herself off with a most delicious piece of millinery confection from Myer of Melbourne.

Also noted among the ladies present were Mrs Horace (Mavis) McAdam (Margaret Volk) in a long-tiered blue-grey frock and co-ordinates and Miss Agatha McAdam (Sharry McKenzie), utterly smart and sophisticated in a

matching blue ensemble and close-fitting cloche.

Chosen couturiers were Fran Batrouney Boutique of North Warrandyte and the Warrandyte Opportunity Shop.

Fr O'Shea, master of ceremonies, rose to the occasion, managing to keep his hand firmly on all the details, and took as the theme for his toast the Gospel According to Bill Collins.

Given that the groom's side of the family represents the bulk of the district's Presbyterian congregation, the proceedings could be regarded as an ecumenical triumph. The respective male parents cemented their friendship in a round of fisticuffs, followed by a long interlude of libidinous liquidity.

Mr Dangles Dunn, the best man, performed the telegraphic honors. Messages of congratulation and good wishes came from as far afield as Manangatang, and sustained applause greeted an eloquent missive of heartfelt encouragement to the couple from Dr Jack Hibberd, well-known Dimboola author and allergy specialist.

A special tribute, however, must



A tender moment at the reception as the bride and groom are roasted, sorry, toasted.

be reserved for Mr Horace McAdam (Don Gibbons), uncle of the groom and father of the flowergirl, who entertained the guests with sundry vocal items throughout the evening, ably assisted by Lionel Driftwood and his consort. His well-known version of 'Red Sails In The Sunset' was received with particular enthusiasm.

The only stain on the occasion was the uncalled for and uninvited presence of the district's most unsavory persons, two young male limbs known locally as "Bayonet" (Antony Giles-Peters) and "Mutton Gun" (David Mitchell). These intoxicated creatures spent their time engaging in insulting innuendo, invective and interjection.

Had the town's policeman not been absent (apparently supervising a public game of chance at South Warrandyte) these two seedy characters would have been quickly ejected.

It is rumored that the said Mutton was responsible for more than his own unpleasantness. Informed sources insist he actually directed the bouts of mayhem that punctuated an otherwise estimable evening.

Also among the uninvited was one Leonardo Radish (Greg Johnson), representing our reptilian contemporary, the 'Doncaster News', who disgraced himself by addressing the gathering in an intemperate outburst of puerile platitudes.

At the conclusion of the wedding breakfast the newest Mrs McAdam and her husband kissed goodbye to friends and family and to the strains of *Auld Lang Syne* departed for a honeymoon interstate.

Lionel Driftwood and The Pile Drivers then went uptempo and the serious dancing began. A good time was had by all.

TERESA GREEN

## YOUR WEST END SHOPPING GUIDE

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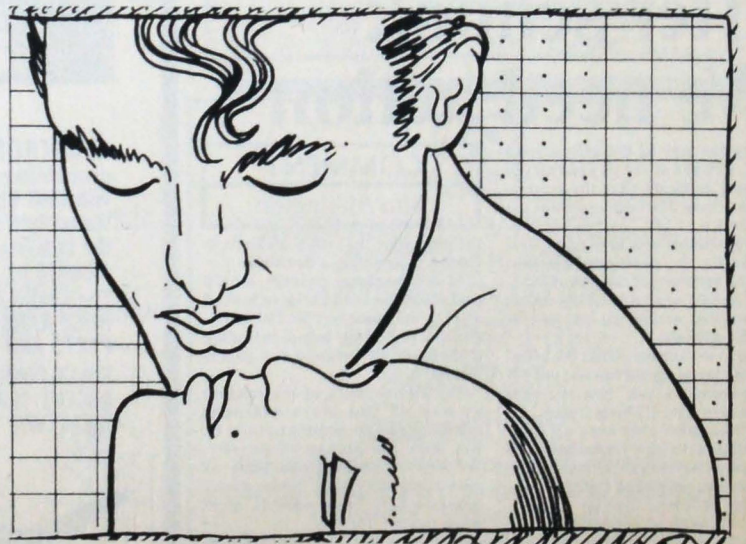
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For those who don't have a VCR, Warrandyte Video will hire one out at a small fee which includes the choice of any two tapes.

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And as a special we're offering blank TDK E180 tapes at only \$9.50.

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## Well, who'd want one of those hanging on a wall?

It was a day 40-odd years ago when George Leigh dropped in on the cottage of an artist friend up Kangaroo Ground Road.

But the friend was absent. In his place stood another artist, an acquaintance of George's, who was busy slapping paint on canvas.

"I've got to do it quickly," he told George. "It's some new French stuff and it dries like a shot. By the way, do you fancy having one of those?"

George Leigh glanced at the colourful canvases in the corner. "No thanks," he told Syd Nolan, and thereby failed to become the owner of one of the famous (and valuable) Ned Kelly series.

George told the story against himself in an address to the Warrandyte branch of the ALP held in April at the home of local MP Lou Hill.

He was invited along to tell the branch a bit about itself, having been one of the founders back in the late 1930s.

George came to Warrandyte about that time. He had started as a journalist in Newcastle, promoted himself to shearer at one stage and was down in Melbourne working on *The Argus*.

There were local battles to be

fought. Environmentalists hadn't been given the handle in those days. They were merely 'concerned citizens' who enjoyed the style in which they were living.

George and Bob Walker mobilised public opinion and successfully fought proposals to develop the riverbank.

And wider campaigns. Warrandyte in those days was a small part of big state and federal electorates. George Leigh would electioneer for Labor candidates, speaking to dairy farmers one day then driving 50 miles the next to give his spiel to some small township.

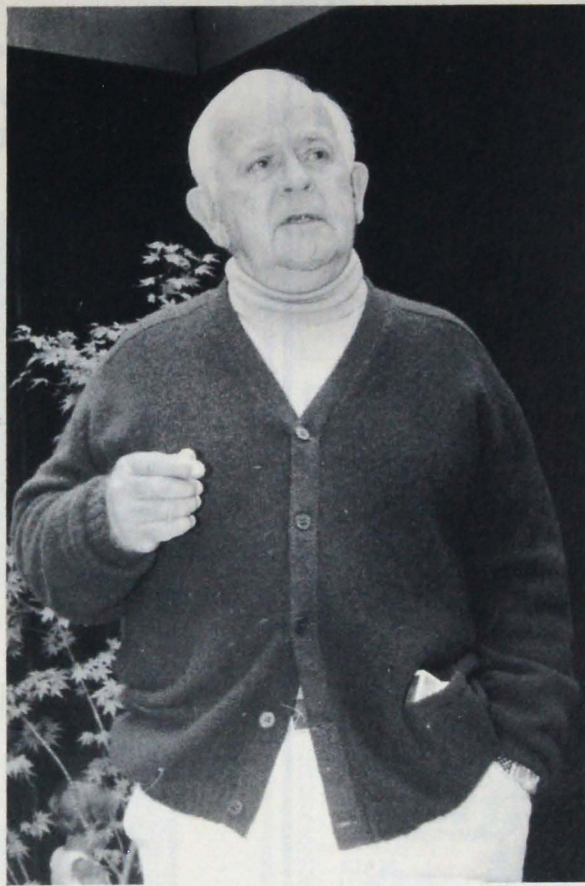
It was a different Warrandyte. Only parts of the village had electricity, everyone relied on tank water and transport was rough and ready.

"One of the Hawks sisters was walking home from Ringwood — she'd missed the late bus — one night when she heard footsteps behind her.

"A man came up alongside of her. 'It's a warm night,' he said. 'Is it?' replied Miss Hawks. 'Then this ought to cool you down'.

"And she turned around and kicked him where it hurt."

George Leigh left Warrandyte in 1955 but never forgot the cause: at the age of 73 he works as an assistant to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Tom Edmunds.



George Leigh: causes to be fought.

## Why not 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.

Kerry, 17 years old, wants an interesting full-time job. Anne would like clerical or secretarial work full-time.

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

Another Warrandyte Community Workshop Co-operative Ltd. Project.

## Can't see good for the trees

The Uniting Church is becoming a little worried about the trees that surround it.

No, the congregation doesn't want to chop them down; worshippers are merely concerned that some would-be churchgoers may not be aware the church is there.

Services are held each Sunday at 10.15 am, preceded by Sunday school at 9 am, catering for three-year-olds up to 15 year-olds.

Three youth groups cover the ages of 10 to early 20s. Bible studies are regularly held and the church organises a range of social activities.

Anyone with inquiries should ring Stan Fishley (844 3476) or Marion Renn (844 3641).

## Toy library swaps hours

The times they are a'changing at the Warrandyte Toy Library.

From Thursday, May 29 — the beginning of second term — the library's opening hours will be from 9.30 am to 11 am.

The library will have three people on duty to cope with what it expects to be an increased load of work.

Two members of the toy library committee met the Warrandyte Advisory Committee in April to discuss a possible change of venue for the library.

The room at the back of the Co-op was proposed, subject to it being refurbished.

## MINI ADS

### HOME PETCARE

While you take off on business or simply take a break, your pets and home can be taken care of by a qualified animal technician. Call Michele on 844 1098 for details.

## YOUR WEST END SHOPPING GUIDE

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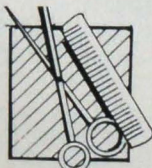
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*The step may be ragged, the pride is intact*



A piper and drummer play the lament.  
At attention stand Stan Fishley, Neil Pearson, Ken McKenzie and Lou Hill.

From Page 1

Hats are redonned and we climb the hill to the hall.

There tea and beer await us, and cheese and biscuits and sandwiches. Familiar faces or those we see once a month or only once a year, on this day.

On the west wall are the honor boards. The First World War panel holds names known in the district 50 years before the boys marched to the troop ships at Port Melbourne.

Husseys and Houghtons and Sloans bob up. Alongside others are a little italic K. And so seriously did citizens take their obligations then that at the foot of the board is space for those who tried to enlist but were rejected.

The Second World War tablet is much smaller. It records that 169 men and 20 women of our district went forth to do battle, that seven of them didn't come back and that seven were decorated.

The beer flows, the pipe band comes in to play and to dance for us, the kids become restless and we leave.

Down by the memorial, down by the little white markers that signify the dead of Warrandyte, someone has placed by each the printed program of the morning's service. They sit with little bunches of flowers. It's as if V. Saligari, R. Scott and the rest have taken part in the proceedings with us. And, by any thoughtful account, they have.

At the bottom of the hill the clouds burst and we scurry for cover.

Is it Fingal weeping? If it is they are tears of pride, gratitude and respect.

BOB MILLINGTON

Poem

**ANZAC DAY**

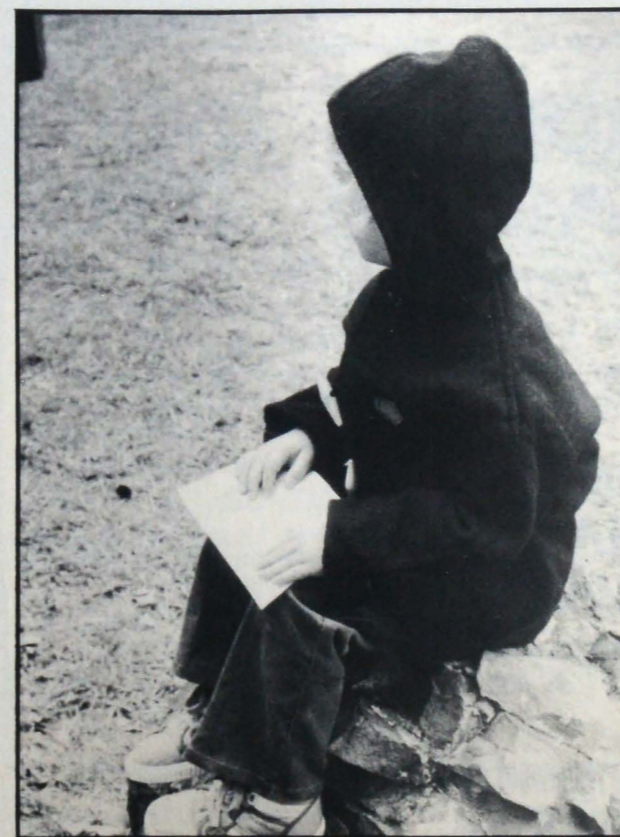
I dropped down with the guns at Nadzab,  
Showed Harry Chauval how to sit a horse,  
Got Tom Blamey his baton,  
Should have been shot with the Breaker,  
Should have shot through at Singapore,  
Started the Gallipoli swy school,  
Told Monash his tactics would do,  
Shared a dog watch with Collins,  
Flew abeam of Mickey Martin,  
Kept my humor at Vung Tau.  
\*\*\*\*\*

I went on your behalf.  
Remember me?

FRANK CHIVELL



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## EDDY HOUGHTON

# A link with old Warrandyte

Another link with Warrandyte's horse and buggy days has been broken. On April 6, after a short illness, Eddy Houghton died, aged 80.

Edwin George Houghton was born in Warrandyte in February 1906. Although he moved from the district after his return from World War II, he retained an interest in the area for the rest of his life, looking after his vegetable garden in Tresize Street and visiting his mates, especially his old schoolmate and lifelong friend Jack McAuley.

He also returned three days a week to help his son Eric at the Coffee Bean Restaurant. The Coffee Bean was originally built by Jack Sloan in 1892 and has known many changes in names and owners since then. It has recently changed hands yet again and is now called Pancakes On The Yarra.

Eddy Houghton came from a family long associated with Warrandyte. His great aunt, Ruth Russell (nee Houghton), came to Warrandyte in 1855 and his grandfather, Harry Houghton, followed in 1861.

One cold night in 1866 a young man arrived at the Russell home and was given a meal and a bed for the night. Early next morning he persuaded Harry Houghton to row him across the river. Later that morning he shot and killed Henry Hurst at Hurstbridge, before being captured. The young man was Robert Burke, a notorious bush-ranger.

Harry Houghton, Eddy's grandfather, operated a mining punt and

worked on the coffer dam at the rear of the old post office with his brother Stephen.

Eddy was the eldest of ten children born to Herbert Houghton and his wife Mary. As was common with families in those days, every member worked hard to enable the family to survive. Eddy and his brothers often worked long hours before and after school.

When the gold ran out, Eddy's father became a wood merchant, and all the Houghton boys became expert axemen. Eddy was driving a horse and cart, delivering loads of wood to bakeries in Kew and beyond, before he was even tall enough to fasten on the horses' nosebags.

He attended school at Warrandyte, leaving at 14 to work in orchards and gardens around Doncaster and Templestowe. When Eddy's uncle Will Houghton returned from World War I, he took up the land now known as Wagner's Flat as a soldier settler. Young Eddy helped clear the land and plant an orchard. This property passed to the Wagners in 1934, just in time for the December flood to wash away the crops that were awaiting harvest.

Will Houghton married a nurse he met while recovering from wounds in an English hospital and brought his bride Olive home to Warrandyte after the war. Sister Olive Houghton is remembered with affection for her help and kindness to the generations of young mothers who brought their children to Warrandyte's first baby health centre. It was situated in a stone building which stood next to the chemist's shop in Yarra Street.

Houghton Road is named in her honor.

Eddy was about 14 when he played his first game of football for Warrandyte. There was only one team in Warrandyte and he often played against men more than twice his age. He developed into a fine footballer, and according to his old team mate John Hutchinson, was the backbone of the side for many years, often playing ruck for the entire game. His marking ability earned him the nickname "Aerial Eddy".

He ultimately became captain of the team, won the best and fairest and was later elected president of the club. Eddy Houghton and Charlie Hemsworth were the Warrandyte club's first life members. As well as playing football, Eddy was a cricketer and a middle distance runner. He also served on the hall committee of the Mechanics' Institute and was master of ceremonies at the local dances for many years.

At 17, Eddy was driving the local baker's cart, delivering bread throughout the Warrandyte area. Later he drove a delivery truck for Jim Schubert and Charlie Hemsworth, before taking a job at the Standard Brickworks at Box Hill as a laborer. Apart from the war years, when he joined the Army and saw service in Darwin and the Pacific islands, Eddy spent the rest of his working life at the brickworks, ultimately rising to the position of manager.

Eddy Houghton met his future wife, Olive Pridmore, at the War-

randyte dances. In the early twenties, a number of girls from Thornbury and Northcote caught the train to Heidelberg, then travelled to Warrandyte by horse-drawn coach, where they stayed at Charlie Hemsworth's place. Many of them married local boys. Eddy and Olive had four children: Murray, Eric, Aline and Laurice.

Eddy was the last survivor of the original officers of the Warrandyte Rural Fire Brigade. He was elected lieutenant when the brigade was formed at a meeting early in 1938. Like most Warrandyte residents of those days, he learned the art of firefighting at an early age. With nothing more than branches torn from trees, they sometimes had to fight for days on end as fires regularly threatened the area, right through the hot dry summer months.

When first formed, the brigade had no truck of its own and when a fire broke out they borrowed any vehicle that was available and filled water containers by buckets from the river or from the nearest stand-pipe — which was situated at Ringwood! Eddy and Olive lost their own home and most of their possessions in the 1939 fires. They went to live in the bookshop owned by John Pridmore, which then stood at 81 Yarra Street.

Eddy Houghton's death came at the end of a long and eventful life, a life that survived floods, fires, depression, war and the death of his wife Olive. His own tough upbringing helped him to face each of these tragedies and to rise above them. We will not see the like of his generation again.

BRUCE BENCE

## Hey mum, red gum, by gum!

The Warrandyte Community Workshop Co-operative Woodyard is back in business for winter 1986. All the equipment has been moved down to the old mud-brick making site behind the Co-op office at 176 Yarra Street.

Tim Bury and Peter van Foort are hard at work delivering wood orders. A shelter is being erected so that work can continue on rainy days.

The woodyard was moved from Masonic Avenue because the council bought the land for the Child Care Centre.

The Co-op board of directors and their families were up very early two Sunday mornings shifting gear, packing bags of kindling and dismantling and re-erecting the shed for the new operation down in Yarra Street.

The Co-op wood is red-gum from Echuca, selling at the same price as last year — \$85 a tonne. Packaged wood is \$3 for 10 kilogram bag — good for barbecues, and bags of kindling are \$3. There is still a small amount of local mixed wood available at \$55 a tonne.

Wood may be ordered by ringing 844 2548 or 844 3326, or calling in at the Co-op office.

## Two into one will go

A special general meeting of the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute has agreed to a merger with the Warrandyte Arts Association.

As reported in the Diary, the merger will strengthen the new body and allow it to incorporate under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

Officials of the new group expect that the legal formalities will be completed in four to five weeks.

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# Artists get a special deal at ERA



Warrandyte photographer Phil Benjamin and partners Andree Gersbeck of Upper Ferntree Gully and Dale Lynch of Blackburn are operating their own photographic business at the ERA school in Donvale.

They have set up their own studio and workshop in the new Eastern Region Community Centre for Arts and Crafts.

Tenants — who pay no rent — are fully responsible for their area. They can conduct their own independent adult craft courses in the studio.

In return, the school asks them to give two to three hours of their week to teaching ERA students.

Phil, a resident of Osborne Rd., Andree and Dale are doing com-

mercial work as well as art-based photography and plan to run day and evening classes on basic camera and darkroom techniques.

Another Warrandyte resident, sculptor Diane Haskings, also has set up her own workshop at ERA. Diane sees her studio as a place to exchange ideas and share in the creative atmosphere with fellow artists.

Diane's work has been exhibited at the National Gallery, Demise Gallery in North Melbourne, Chisholm Institute, Melbourne University and the North Melbourne Meat Market.

She is also on the arts advisory committee of Doncaster and Templestowe Council.

There are still vacancies for studios to be set up for textile and screen printing, weaving, pottery, woodwork and leatherwork. Areas

are also available for music, drama and movement tuition and practice.

There is also a gazebo style, two-storey gallery area in natural bush which could be suitable for a consortium of artists or as a showplace for promising artists' work.

The ERA School has taken this step under the direction of Peter Gough, its new principal, for several reasons:

- There is much valuable working space being wasted at the school;
- Community artists will enhance the working environment of ERA students; and
- The move is seen as a total education process, that is, by merging the community with the school and establishing an extended community, all will benefit.

For information about studio space at ERA, ring 842 2182.

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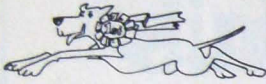
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**DIARY ADVERTISING GETS RESULTS**

**Child care centre wins two grants**

It has been a successful year since the parents took over the running of the Warrandyte Community Child Care Centre.

Two important grants have been approved by the Federal Government. A sum of \$5200 has enabled the centre to update all its equipment, from tables, chairs and toys to top-rate outdoor gear.

A second sum of \$14,000 from the Capital Grant Fund will be used to improve existing facilities, such as a verandah, a new kitchen and a coat of paint inside and out.

The centre's committee of management has thanked the staff for the care they have given the children over the year.

The centre caters for children from eight months to six years and would like to emphasise after-school care.

It needs people who can stand in as relief child care attendants. Those interested should ring Leonie Thomas on 844 1205.

There are still a few places available. The management points out that it will always try to accommodate the needs of the community.

**IN BRIEF**

**Sole parents on the move**

The Sole Parent Support Group based on the Co-op is quietly getting on with the job.

Nancy O'Dea and Jean Chapman have bought a motormower and a brushcutter which are available for hire. The cost is \$1 a time.

Nancy O'Dea will be on duty at the Co-op from 10 am to noon on Mondays, getting together an information kit for sole parents and contacting people in the neighborhood.

She will be able to answer queries on 844 2529.

The next meeting of the Sole Parent Support Group will be at 2 pm on June 8 at the Co-op in Yarra Street.

**Seniors give pokies a nudge**

Those young people at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club have been having a busy time of late.

Forty-five members gave the pokies a nudge recently. They went by bus to Albury, had a barbecue at the Morris Winery then hit the machines.

The centre's concert group went along to the Carinya nursing home at Box Hill to entertain the residents.

Members of the centre have been celebrating the arrival of Sylvia and Jack Garone's first great-grandchild. Great-grandma, great-grandpa and little Sharni are doing well.

May, 1886: According to the Argus, the long delayed agreement between the Government and Messrs Faram and Thomas for deviating the water from the Yarra at the Pound Bend tunnel for irrigation and motive power has been settled, and the Crown Law Officers are busy drafting the agreement so there is every probability of the survey being commenced at once.

The Dyke and the Young Colonial companies are doing good work.

I hear the Old Union Reef at Diamond Creek is to be started again, application having been made under the Private Property Act for portion of Orme's and Phipps' ground.

A lecture was delivered by Mr Sadlier, our respected lay reader, on Tuesday evening last week (subject "The White Tie"), in aid of the fund for renovating the church.

The church was comfortably filled with an appreciative and atten-

**How They Lived**

Life in our village 100 years ago, as seen by the Anderson's Creek correspondent of the Evelyn Observer

tive audience, and the choir rendered several anthems and sacred songs in first-class style.

Mr Wm. Hutchinson, J.P., occupied the chair, and in a few well-chosen remarks introduced the lecturer. Mr Sadlier, in opening, stated that he had noted the dilapidated state of the building and that the draughts were very bad. He wanted drafts of another description that evening.

The collection later amounted to two pounds seven shillings and sixpence.

**Ta, CWA. It was a privilege**

Towards the end of April and early May, many of you will have noticed all the cars parked outside the Mechanics Institute Hall. Indeed many will have been honored guests at the various wedding celebrations held there.

It seems only fitting that we ask the Diary to acknowledge the stupendous efforts of the Dimboola Country Women's Association, who catered so capably and enthusiastically at these illustrious functions. Special mention must be

**letters**

made of the manner in which the hall was metamorphosed into a patriotic paradise of green and gold... a theme challengingly carried through to the meal itself, from soup to dessert.

One could wax lyrical ad infinitum, expounding the virtues and talents of this dedicated band. Suffice it to say that Warrandyte was privileged to have enjoyed the services of the Dimboola CWA, even for a brief period.

Jenny Harkin

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## Calling all those amateur sleuths

There's a mystery here.

The woman serenely reading a book (or is she going over her accounts?) is Mrs Lewis — first name unknown — whose family owned 'Kembla', on Tills Drive, at the turn of the century.

A few years ago the Warrandyte Historical Society produced for the Community Centre a four-foot by three-foot reproduction of this photograph.

The society found the photo missing when members went looking for it to use in the society's present display at the local museum, 'A Salute to Warrandyte's Women'.

The photo is too valuable to lose. Anyone knowing where Mrs Lewis now abides should ring Shirley Rotherham on 844 2438.

There will be no recriminations or nastiness: the society merely wants

the photo back and will ask no questions.

**FOOTNOTE:** The Warrandyte Historical Society wants to add to its collection a copy of Dr Mary Thornton's book 'Matilda Waltzes With The Pommies'. The book is out of print. Does anyone have a copy to donate? A good Samaritan could contact Ruby Arnaud on 844 3358.

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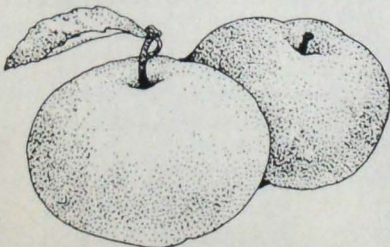
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# Up there, Sinclair?

## No, he's too good for the firsts

Ye gods and little fishes! Who is that man?

Which man?  
Him there, up at full-forward. The bloke who just jumped on the back of that Basin idiot, missed the power lines, and brought down that screamer.

I missed it.  
There he goes again.  
Sorry, I was opening my can.  
By the lord Harry Gordon! He ran backwards for 30 metres, gave the hip and shoulder, then launched himself vertically for the mark. And he's kicked it.

You don't say.  
Great god in the morning! Now he's beaten three Basin yobboes for the ball, twisted

past four more, fallen on his back and kicked another over his head.

Could be any 18 in the Warrandyte Football Club seconds who could do that.

What on earth are you drinking? Give me that! Good grief! He's done it again. He marked five metres outside the centre



square then booted it straight down the hey-diddle-diddle.

I was rolling a smoke. Must have been Sheriff. He's all right at times.

Listen chum. Put down that tube, finish up that smoke. Who is that bloke out there? Longish black hair, runs faster than a Russian nuclear power plant operator, built like a brick comfort station.

Oh, him. Tony Sinclair. Waverley boy. Played three games for the Swans in Sydney. Nice kid.

Nice kid! He's sensational. Wait until they shift him to the firsts.

The firsts? But the seconds are chugging along so well . . .

# Bloods on credit side again



Warrandyte are back on long-range target for a place in the Eastern Districts Football League finals.

The Bloods rebounded from consecutive defeats for a seven-goal away victory over The Basin to restore their season's record to the credit side of the ledger.

It meant they had won three, lost two — the sort of ratio which must be at least maintained for a finals berth in the tough second-division competition.

There had been a viable excuse for Warrandyte's defeat by Boronia the previous week. Injuries to key players had seriously upset the balance of the side.

Back near full strength against The Basin, they handled the muddy conditions better than the home side, produced a match-winning second quarter and were never in danger thereafter.

It was never going to be an attractive game of football. The conditions eliminated marking skills and it was immediately obvious that the four premierships points would go to the team able to direct traffic from ground level.

That turned out, after an even first quarter, to be the Bloods. They were first to develop a run-on game, first to develop system from the scramble.

The result was a succession of Warrandyte forward thrusts and a five-goal lead at half-time.

The Bloods had strength in many divisions. John Major and Brad Day were superb in the backline, Matthew Elliott was winning clear-

ly on his wing, Peter Banks was dominating a very sloppy centre and Craig Townsend was roving astutely.

The Basin responded to a half-time talking-to by coming back hard early in the third term, but Warrandyte's defence stood firm. Major and Day continued to dominate and ruck-rover Robin Golding was in everything.

Having withstood the challenge, Warrandyte applied pressure of their own and held a six-goal lead at the last change.

There was little between the sides in the final term, but Warrandyte continued to play team football and extended the lead to 43 points at the siren.

Final scores were 16.13 to 9.12. The Bloods' best were Major, Golding, Townsend, Elliott, Craig Purcell and Day.

Warrandyte Football Club president Jeff Reddie described it as a pleasing win in difficult conditions.

"We know we must win at least half our games to qualify for the finals," Mr Reddie said, "so we are on target at the moment."

"We are playing very reasonable football, but there is room for improvement."

"Coach Denis Clark has already produced improvement in the players' performances and this will continue to show out."

# White tops Dytes' trophy list

First-eleven captain Robert White has been adjudged Warrandyte Cricket Club champion for 1985-86.

White, one of the few senior players to consistently make runs in a generally disappointing season, was awarded the Jack McAuley Trophy at the club's presentation night.

He also won the senior batting award.

"Robert is a very worthy winner," a club official told the Diary.

"He batted very consistently while those about him failed. The seniors didn't win many games, but it's fair to say that Robert won two or three of them off his own bat."

The senior bowling trophy went to Ian Broome and the captain's award to Gerald Walshe. Young wicketkeeper Russell Dorning, who was promoted from the seconds to replace Bruce Kline, won the fielding trophy.

Alan King, who dominated the third-eleven awards, won the Daryl Valentine Trophy for the club's best all-rounder, and Jenny McLaws capped a great season by winning the Allan Chapman Memorial Award for the top performer in the women's team.

Outstanding prospect Jason Kline was a dual winner, taking the captain's award in the second

cleven and the batting trophy in the under-16 (1) side.

Jason captained the under-16s to their pennant.

### Trophy winners:

**SENIORS**  
Firsts: R. White (batting), I. Broome (bowling), G. Walshe (captain's award), R. Dorning (fielding).  
Seconds: M. McCarthy, S. Peake, J. Kline, A. Sturesteps.  
Thirds: A. King (batting and bowling), M. Day, A. Snaidero.

Fourths: L. Walker, R. Wilson, B. Baker, J. Scicluna.  
Fifths: G. Roberts (batting and bowling), D. Comrie, C. Blackburn.  
Sixths: K. Clothier, C. Fernando, L. Brown, S. Fowles.  
Club champion (Jack McAuley Trophy): R. White.  
Best all-rounder (Daryl Valentine Trophy): A. King.  
Best woman (Allan Chapman Memorial Award): J. McLaws.

### JUNIORS

Under-16 (1): J. Kline (batting), D. Humphreys (bowling), D. Bradley (fielding).

Under-16 (2): A. Yoannidis (batting), N. Croft (bowling). No fielding trophy awarded because this division was regarded as a team effort.

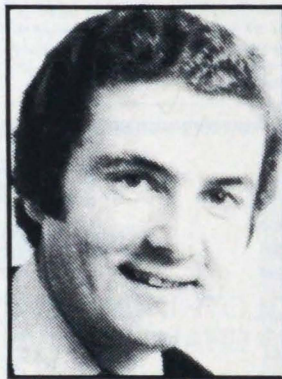
Under-14 (1): S. Bell, P. White, I. McKenzie.

Under-14 (2): C. Wilks, M. Warry, M. Ellis.

Under-12 (1): D. Comrie, A. Hughes, I. Provan.

Under-12 (2): A. Bellinger, D. Chalters, P. Neehait.

Under-12 (3): A. Felts, L. Nasser, R. Fitzherbert.



Robert White

## How things have changed

It wasn't all that long ago that Warrandyte Football Club battled each Saturday to fill their junior teams. Forfeits were all too common — but now the boot is on the other foot.

The young Bloods are still struggling a little for a regular game . . . because other clubs have serious shortages of juniors.

"We are doing our very best to ensure that all the kids get a game each week," junior co-ordinator John Read told the Diary. "We want the parents to understand that

it is the other clubs who are forfeiting and sometimes costing our players a run."

Mr Read said the under-10s were still looking for players but all other junior teams comfortably made up the numbers.

Parents of prospective under-10 players can contact Mr Read on 844 2180.

An indication of the strength in the junior ranks is that seven members of the under-16 side were selected for the recent Yarra Valley State schools competition.

## Lights out!

Warrandyte's footballers were left in the dark this month — literally.

A Tuesday night training session had to be called off because a fusebox fire at the pavilion the previous night had cut all power, including the floodlighting.

The fire broke out while the football club's social committee was meeting in the pavilion. Committeemen had it out by the time the brigade arrived.

## Local RSL rakes it in

The Warrandyte RSL Sub-Branch has become a fund-raising pacesetter.

On a membership numbers basis, Warrandyte subscribes more than any other sub-branch area in Victoria to the RSL Anzac and Poppy Day appeals.

And that's official. Last year's Poppy Day effort was a record for the local sub-

branch and this year's Anzac appeal is well ahead of the preceding result, with more postal donations still to come.

"Needless to say, we're proud to be part of such a generous community," sub-branch secretary Lyn Mitchell told the Diary.

"We say a very sincere thank-you to all contributors."

## Footy club's fashionable night

Warrandyte Football Club will hold a fashion parade at Alfred's Home-stead on Wednesday, July 9.

The fashions will be from Chantik and Sports Image and a hot and

cold smorgasbord is included in the \$15-a-head ticket price.

Tickets are available from Royce Beasley (844 3231) and Frank Harris (844 3013).



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