

Warrandyte Diary

PRICELESS

No 170, July 1986

Editorial and Advertising 844 2820

All out for a duck

By CLIFF GREEN

Like the cartoonist Leunig we have been duck fanciers these many long years.

Perhaps it's because the Buckinghamshire Greens from whom we are descended hail from the beautiful Vale of Aylesbury, whence come the large white ducks of the same name.

However, ducks of various colors and dispositions do seem to have played some part in our lives, one way or another.

Not that we've ever been duck farmers or breeders or anything like that. We have only ever actually owned ducks on one occasion. A pair of them.

It was when we were living up the bush. We acquired them the same way we acquired sundry other farm

creatures. A friendly neighbor gave them to the kids as adorable fluffy ducklings that grew into large and smelly nuisances. Like the lamb.

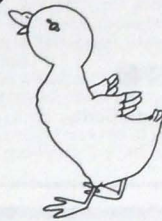
But not like the black rooster. Judy won that at the school's annual picnic. In the Rooster Chase. But that's another story.

Living near the Murray, wild ducks were a permanent feature of our landscape. On the river, on creeks and billabongs.

And not infrequently on our dinner table. As gifts from the same friendly neighbors. Usually out of season.

Which brings me to Duck Opening.

We woke up to our first Duck Opening convinced that World War III had broken out. The close and distant booming of heavy guns and the constant clatter of shrapnel on an iron roof is a scary sound at



three o'clock in the morning.

Actually it was only shotgun pellets falling on the roof and we were all of two miles from the river. But we were slambang opposite the pub!

The battle raged on throughout the morning and the drunks won a resounding victory over the ducks and sundry other waterfowl. As always.

Since coming to Warrandyte we have not had a lot to do with ducks.

Like everyone else we delight in watching the wild duck families spending their days in peaceful sanctuary on the Yarra. That lovely pool below Mrs Hussey's garden in Yarra Street is one of the best places.

A number of years ago, the children next door had a pet duck. They received it as a fluffy yellow ball and it grew into a white Aylesbury of handsome proportions.

A more delightful pet would be hard to find. It ranged freely over three or four neighboring gardens, looking for worms and snails and various other culinary delights.

Reared with cats and dogs it had no fear and was thus free of enemies. Indeed its own dog was its most constant companion. A long-haired corgi bitch of amiable disposition, she had adopted it as a duckling.

Duck's human beings would stand on their sundeck calling "Duck, Duck, Duck!" (it had no other name) and it would respond with a frenzy of quacking that marked its speedy passage through one garden after another.

If it failed to come, the corgi would sniff it out, and grasping the duck gently by the neck with its mouth, drag it back home, yellow legs stuck straight out like so much dead game. The duck didn't resist and was never harmed.

Two years of bliss were finally over when Duck disappeared, never to be seen again. It was only a week before Christmas, so we all know the season of goodwill had had some bearing on Duck's sad fate.

It was only a year or so ago when two younger members of our family came rushing home to announce

Continued Page 6



But where will they live?



Jean Chapman: a vision of what could be

Warrandyte is suffering a housing crisis. We have too few houses to rent for the number of local residents who need them.

Young people and single parents are suffering; so, too, for the first time are the middle class elderly.

Glen Martin, of Peter McDougall's, says the agency has on average 100 houses to rent on its books at any one time but these come up for letting at the rate of only two or three a month.

And those that are available are expensive.

"The rentals here are very high, in my opinion," says Glen. "We see one room letting for \$75 a week, a two-bedroom flat for \$95 ... and that's usually at the back of a house."

"A small house might go for \$110 and you're looking at \$265 a week for a house on an acre."

Glen says a drop in interest rates should help the rental market in Warrandyte. "But it's supply and demand, and we've always got demand ..."

The human resources subcommittee of the Warrandyte Advisory Council has been

Housing faces a crisis

talking about the problem for the past two or three years. Louise Joy and Jean Chapman often daydream of putting their ideas into practice.

Says Jean: "You ought to be able to build a centre, a village, where you have homes or units that can be rented by senior citizens, single parents and young people who want to live on their own."

"It happens to a lot of kids in Warrandyte. They haven't had rows with their parents, they just want to get away. At the moment they have to leave the district if they want to find a place of their own to rent."

"It happens also with old people. They can't look after their house any more but they want to stay in Warrandyte."

Jean says that, ideally, a housing centre

should be a mix of units to buy and units to rent, a mixture that should attract a wide range of age groups. Houses without trimmings, she calls them, that could be put up for \$40,000 to \$45,000.

Louise Joy believes the mix of housing stock in Warrandyte is imbalanced. "We have these giant houses going up and yet there are very few houses for young people or for single-parent families."

Like Jean, Louise is concerned about the plight of what might be called "the middle class elderly". These are people, she says, who might have a modest home on a plot of land worth more. No longer able to care for their home, they sell up and look for a unit, but they can find nothing in Warrandyte.

"The Ministry of Housing was supposed to become more liberal in terms of housing for the middle class elderly," says Louise Joy. "This hasn't happened."

One welcome initiative from the government, however, is the group of one-bedroom units now abuilding on Stiggant Street, just above the Anglican Church.

These Ministry of Housing units are for rent to elderly people with assets of no more

Continued Page 9

Greens resist anschluss

The Rural Shire Action Committee has weighed into the debate about the future of Warrandyte.

The committee — which two or three years ago sought and nearly won the formation of a "Green Wedge" rural shire in the area — has written to Eltham Council putting its views.

Secretary Ron Bailey wants to see the whole of the so-called Green Wedge incorporated within the Shire of Eltham.

"It is also essential for our purpose that North Warrandyte should remain within the Shire of Eltham," he said.

"North Warrandyte was excluded from our rural shire proposals largely on principle, since it was

Don't forget

Warrandyte residents can put their views on local government amalgamation to restructuring supreme Stuart Morris at the WAC annual general meeting on July 23.

outside the Green Wedge Zones. This is, of course, no longer a relevant consideration.

"North Warrandyte differs significantly from its counterpart across the river, despite an obvious degree of dependence on it. It is Green Wedge-oriented, and, we believe, Eltham-oriented. It is of vital im-

portance to us to help establish Eltham as a balanced urban/rural shire," Ron said.

"We will strongly oppose the loss of North Warrandyte from the Shire of Eltham."

"On the other hand we cannot see the slightest benefit to the Shire of Eltham, and considerable disadvantage to the Green Wedge, in the incorporation of South Warrandyte into the Shire of Eltham."

The letter goes on: "The Shire of Eltham is at the crossroads. Will it become more highly urbanised, oriented towards development and growth? Or will it opt for the more difficult and challenging role of custodian of the Green Wedge?"

"It cannot do both."

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 \$2.80 (6 month contract); \$2.60 (12 month contract)
 \$180 per half page
 \$330 per full page

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NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL



IN RED & WHITE



They weren't exactly the Great Train Robbers, the bunch of bumbling baddies that broke into a house in Pigeonbank Lane late last month.

True, they got away with a color television, a coin collection, a silver bracelet and a diamond engagement ring.

But they left behind the proceeds of a previous robbery: three hydraulic jacks, a block and tackle frame and an expensive heavy machinery socket set.

And it's no consolation to the Pigeonbank Laners, but the loot they left behind was worth more than their second swag.

★ ★

This column has been accused of making "snide" remarks about horses and riders. Not so, it cries. According to Smokey's Concise Oxford, snide means "insinuating". Smokey never insinuates when he can roar out. To repeat:

It's only a tiny minority of Warrandyte horsey set but they let their steeds do dirty things on the footpath over the bridge, ride them among the pedestrians down by the bridge shops and scare motorists with their lack of elementary road courtesy. The fact is that horses are out of place and dangerous on the main roads of a modern town such as ours.

That said, have a read of Shirley Rotherham's excellent story on the Wyena Pony Club elsewhere in this edition. It's an example of a hard working and responsible group of people.

★ ★

Twelve-year-old Michelle Close, of Milton Close (no relation), has won a radio/cassette recorder in the Goodfellows children's coloring competition held during the May school holidays.

Stingy Bob Titheridge should

have taken an ad in the Diary to proclaim Michelle's win (congratulations, by the way) but instead imposed on Smokey's goodheartedness.

Sadly, we haven't got Bob or Martin Kyne to kick around any more. They've left for pastures greener. The new owners of Warrandyte are Bernie and Peter Maher.

★ ★

It was just a piece of roadside junk, she said as they drove past, and just the thing for the back yard. She would return tomorrow and load it on the trailer. Ah, but those folks who never resort to public transport don't understand that the Metropolitan Transit Authority people securely anchor to terra firma their bus seats.

★ ★

We'll stop short of calling him bigoted and say merely that Jim Girvan has very clearly defined likes and dislikes. Among the latter, the philosophies of Dr Allan Aylett lead by several lengths. Cruel, then, for his mates at the RSL Social Club to give him a copy of the Aylett biography for his 70th birthday this month. Happy birthday, Girv.

★ ★

Anthony Giles-Peters is by far the shortest football administrator this town has seen. The WFC secretary is long on initiative, however, and subtly suggested we might find space to mention the fact that he's looking for new accommodation. Free ad? Sorry, mate, but these are austere times. Then how about a one-liner: A HOME FOR THE GNOME. He won us on that one and can be contacted on 844 2573 before he's snapped up.

Smokey Joe

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How We Lived



A report 100 years old from the Warrandyte correspondent of the Evelyn Observer

Gathered to his fathers, full of years

July, 1886: Another old and greatly respected resident of ours has passed away, at the ripe old age of 84.

Mr William Masterton was one of our oldest identities. Some 25 years ago he opened up the First Hill, and was very successful, obtaining as much as 80 ozs to the ton of quartz.

Since then, with Mrs Masterton and family, he has resided here. Mr Masterton was a middle-aged man when, in the early times, he emigrated here.

He was a man of wonderful vitality. It is not so very long ago that to walk to Melbourne and back (36 miles) in a day was a common occurrence.

Recently, however, his memory failed him and it was thought best to take him to Melbourne to reside, where he died.

He leaves a widow, middle-aged children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and has been gathered to his fathers full of years.

The "Great Southern" obtained

five and a half ozs from three tons of quartz.

The claim will be stopped pending State assistance from the Government Vote. There is no doubt this is a deserving case and will receive recognition.

A claim has been taken up south, called the "Old Chum", which, I think, will be heard about in a short time.

The machinery for the "Yarra Tunnel" claim is in transit.

I am very much pleased to report

a very payable find in the "Young Colonial" Quartz Mining Company's No. 2 shaft.

Some very rich prospects have been washed; in some instances an ounce of loose gold to the dish, with numerous specimens.

This claim obtained 100 pounds out of the last Mining Grant, but failed to get anything payable whilst in receipt of the Government allowance.

However, the plucky shareholders stuck to work, and there is every probability of their being well rewarded for their patience. They intend crushing shortly.

Mr Scanlon, Inspector of Hotels, visited us last Tuesday and inspected the hotels. Notice will be sent to occupiers of the necessary improvements; which will require to be completed before next Licensing Day, in December next.



Up they go opposite Stiggant's Reserve, a Ministry of Housing project that will provide units for some of Warrandyte's elderly citizens.

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Featuring pots for winter cooking.
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SHIRE OF ELTHAM

RESEARCH-WARRANDYTE ROAD
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Council is currently preparing plans for the reconstruction of the above section of road.

It is proposed that the works will involve the realignment of a section of the road and the provisions of a widened road pavement. To enable residents to be informed of the proposal a public meeting is to be held at the North Warrandyte Community Centre on 30 July 1986 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The meeting will be attended by Councillors and Officers and all interested persons are invited to attend.

Rodney J. Roscholler
Chief Executive Officer

Committee will verge on useful

Eltham Council has a requirement that policies be established for managing roadsides within the shire, so Dr Robertson's study neatly dovetails in.

Dr David Robertson, a researcher with the University of Melbourne's school of environmental planning, has been awarded a special grant to study roadside management.

He intends to centre his three-year project on Eltham.

Dr Robertson will focus on how to integrate fire management, road safety, scenic value and the conservation of plants and animals.

Eltham Council has a requirement that policies be established for managing roadsides within the shire, so Dr Robertson's study neatly dovetails in.

The occasional committee, which will work closely with Dr Robertson and consider and pass on his recommendations, will be drawn from councillors and council officers, members of the CFA, MFB and other statutory bodies and from representatives of the community.

Applications will be advertised soon.

Councillor John Fisher, who will be the North Riding's representative on the committee and its chairman, says: "I am very concerned about the continuing degradation of our roadside vegetation through various causes.

"But I am hopeful that through this committee an effective policy and guidelines will be developed."

Seniors to go treading the boards again

Those performers from the Warrandyte Senior Citizens' Centre are at it again.

On Monday, August 11, the centre's concert party will be putting on a show at the Bulleen and Templestowe Senior Citizens' Centre at the corner of Balmoral Avenue and Manningham Road.

The fun begins at 1 pm, and for the \$2 entrance fee includes afternoon tea. All proceeds will go to the Doncaster and Templestowe Nursing Home and Day Care Centre.

The Warrandytians will be helped by Greek senior citizens, Doncaster senior citizens and the auxiliary from the nursing home.

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Chapel is expanding its vision

The Warrandyte Gospel Chapel is expanding its vision and coming to terms with the many problems of the community, says pastoral worker Ken Davison.

These are, he says, old age and loneliness, young mothers with little children and the teenagers.

"Two of our young men have recently joined forces to assist in running the coffee shop. Thanks to Louise, Leigh and Jackie for the confidence they have placed in us," says Ken.

"Twice last year the chapel hosted a senior citizens luncheon when the maximum number of folks attended. Another afternoon is planned for early August.

"As for the young mums . . . well, just put your head in the door any Tuesday or Thursday morning and see the enjoyment the children and mothers get out of just being together.

"And Monday afternoons is girls club . . . arts, crafts, cooking, games. All girls aged seven to 12 are welcome."

Says Ken Davison: "We believe the Christian message is real and vital for our day. Christianity is love in action. We love to be in action."

HEATHER SPROTT

Lifetime devoted to guiding

Heather Sprott, who died on June 5, began her association with the guide and scout movement when she became a cub leader at Pakenham.

Later, when the family moved to Warrandyte, Heather joined the Local Association for Warrandyte District Guides but it was not long before she and two others decided to work together with the 1st Warrandyte Guide Company.

Heather was a leader in the company for 10 years until 1984. In 1977 she also started the Ranger Guide unit.

Heather had a great love of outdoor activities, so she quickly qualified for her camping licence and lightweight camping certificate. These qualifications enabled her to take large numbers of girls away camping. She taught them survival skills, snow camping, caving, abseiling, sailing and other skills.

She did a great deal to promote joint activities on a state-wide basis with Venturer units. Her Ranger Guide unit worked closely with the Koonung Venturers and she took big groups camping to Queensland

on one occasion and to central Australia another year.

This January she took a group of Ranger Guides to Perth for the Seventh Australian Venture and was planning to be guide-in-charge of another trip to central Australia later in the year.

Service to others was another important part of Heather's life and for many years she organised the annual Red Cross Calling door-knock in Warrandyte and Park Orchards. She worked regularly for other charities including the Cystic Fibrosis Society.

Her skills with audio-visual equipment were shared with others. She made videos of ranger guide activities which were of great benefit to the girls.

Heather was awarded her 10 years' service badge in 1984. On that occasion she said it gave her a "fantastic feeling" to see so many of her ex-guides and Ranger Guides present at the ceremony. She was proud to be part of the guiding movement and was excited about the growth guiding had experienced in Warrandyte.

It was because of her warmth of character and the care and concern

she showed for each individual that these girls had turned out to witness what was a small award for an enormous amount of work.

Heather had a great love for young people and her desire to develop their ingenuity, resourcefulness and self-discipline through the happy, healthy, fun-filled activities associated with guiding made her a much-loved and respected person in Warrandyte and other areas.

She was a wonderful, caring person who was always willing to listen, to give her time to share problems with her friends and other guiding leaders.

On the day of Heather's funeral a guard of honour of more than 70 young people and uniformed guide and scout leaders was a moving tribute to her years of involvement in the movement. Flags were flown at half mast outside the Warrandyte CFA, the scout hall and the Koonung Venturers hall.

Heather leaves a husband, Graham, daughter Michelle, son Darren and daughter-in-law Monika.

JENNIFER CURWOOD
Letter: PAGE 11

Wicker on the verandah

Work will be starting soon on building up the information system in the newly vacated community education office in the community centre.

This means that by the time the Citizens Advice Bureau sets up in the post office, the office should be well stocked.

Eltham Council has agreed to give \$10,000 towards renovating the old post office and Doncaster and Templestowe Council has promised \$14,000. The rooms for the CAB will be the first to be prepared.

The post office front counter will be the CAB reception area. There will also be two small rooms with carpet and wallpaper in 1930s style.

Wicker furniture on the back verandah overlooking the Yarra will make that a pleasant place to relax in.

On one evening each week the bureau will be open with legal and financial counselling by appointment. Plans are underway to hold community information nights on legal issues.

A subcommittee is considering the use of the bureau as a base for preventative health services.

LOUISE JOY

YOUR WEST END SHOPPING GUIDE

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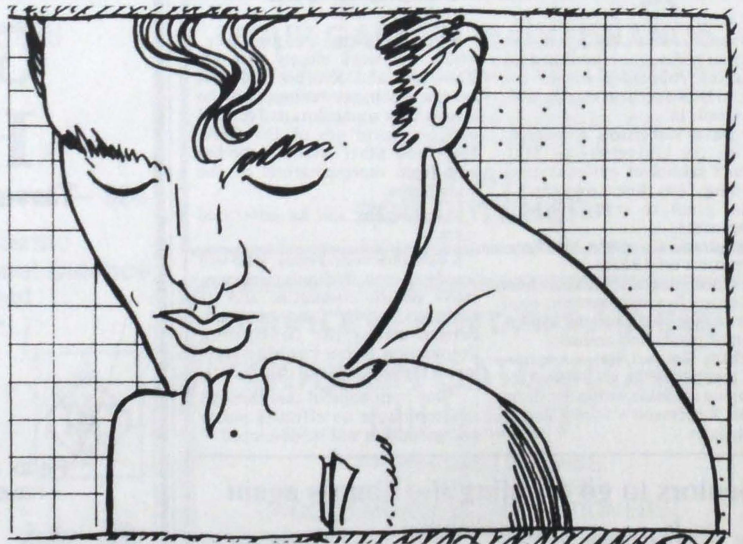
For those who don't have a VCR, Warrandyte Video will hire one out at a small fee which includes the choice of any two tapes.

Warrandyte Video is part of a chain which includes two other successful video shops in the area . . . at Doncaster and Lower Templestowe.

New movies weekly.

Drop in and see us. We're open seven days a week from 10 am to 9 pm.

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Wyena: 25 and galloping on



Shelly Dobson flying along during the flag and barrel race.

The Wyena Pony Club was founded 25 years ago by Constable Jim Pike, an ex mounted policeman who was in charge of Warrandyte Police Station.

The club's first home was at Coleman Park, South Warrandyte. In 1963 it moved to Miss Daisy Hawke's property in Jumping Creek Road which had excellent facilities for cross country riding but limited flat areas.

The club used this area until, in 1966, it was felt that a permanent location for the club should be found. This was very difficult as most available areas were on the sides of hills.

A very definite possibility was in an area behind the Warrandyte Primary School, but this had to be abandoned, and in 1973 an offer by

the Doncaster, Templestowe Council for land back at Coleman Park, under the power lines, was taken up.

A clubhouse was built with a very substantial contribution from Wyena members, and two flat areas levelled for riding and jumping arenas. The club moved in in August 1975.

Since that time the club has put large amounts of money and labor into improving the grounds and now has four flat arenas, but unfortunately, very little cross country space, though a good course has been built on the property of one of the members about a kilometre away from the pony club grounds.

The club consists of up to 90 members aged from 8 to 21 years and caters for all types of riding under the guidance of the Pony Club Association of Victoria. It is run by a voluntary committee of



Members of the club who competed at Werribee Park from left to right. Sharon Pemberton, Lisa McDougall, Shelly Dobson, Jody Galway, Sally Austen, Scott McDougall, and out of sight on the grey pony Paul Duggan. The team coach Anthony LaGrutta is standing with them.

very hard working parents who try to organise an interesting program.

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. The children come from all walks of life with one thing in common: a love of horses and riding. As well as riding the members learn how to recognise ailments in the horse and promote the correct care and feeding.

In April this year a team from Wyena came second in a games day

between 21 clubs in the North Metropolitan Zone and went on to compete in the State Pony Club Games Championships at Werribee Park.

As well as pony club days, Wyena members have also competed successfully in one-day events against other clubs and in gymkhanas and shows.

The pony club movement is a voluntary youth organisation whose aims and objects are to encourage

young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all approved types of sport connected with horses and riding, to provide instruction in horsemanship and riding, and to instil in the members the proper care of their animals.

The movement also aims to promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty, thereby cultivating strength of character and self-discipline.

SHIRLEY ROTHERHAM

YOUR WEST END SHOPPING GUIDE

WARRANDYTE HARDWARE

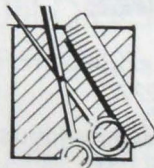
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Our Lil, a living storybook



The McAuleys: can you spot Lil?

by **JENNY WILMOT**

There was a twinkle in her eye and plenty of hearty chuckles as Lil Whitehead recalled meticulously and with spirited delight her youthful days in Warrandyte.

Lil, one of our community's best-known residents, lives in Forbes Street with her two cats Milly and Buffy, and more than a century of memories of Warrandyte imprinted on an astute mind.

When I called she was battling the everyday hassles of lost rubbish bins and letter boxes swallowed by sewerage trenches. But with all the fire of her youth, coupled with a good sense of humor, she took it in her confident stride and then settled back to talk about the past.

Lil and her brother Ralph, who lives with his wife Pat in Tresize Street, are the only survivors of the six children born to Samuel and Eva McAuley (nee Belzer). Their brother Jack died recently.

Lil, the fifth child was born in the building near the present Rivergum Art Gallery 75 years ago, when it was the residence of the local baker.

Her memories span five generations in Warrandyte.

"My father's mother, Catherine Newman, was widowed after having three sons, twins Jack and Samuel (father), and Bill," recalled Lil. Newmans Road in Templestowe, where they owned considerable property for a time, is named after the family.

"My father would walk to school from Templestowe to Warrandyte each day, as did Jack a generation later," she recalled. "Four generations of my family have attended Warrandyte Primary school and my father helped carry the forms up the hill to the new school," she said.



Lil's mother Catherine.

Lil's mother also grew up in the area and her brother was Ron Belzer's father. Ron lives in Russells Road, Warrandyte.

Her parents worked the Newman Road vegetable farm where four children were born, Gertrude, Evelyn, Jack and Bill.

Ralph McAuley was also born in the house beside the old bakery before the family moved to live opposite the original Catholic church in Mitchell Avenue.

Lil was four years old when the family built a new home on the block bordered by Brackenbury, Tresize, Forbes and Yarra Streets, not far from where she is now.

That year she also started school and established a lifelong friend-

ship with another well-known Warrandyte identity, Mary Aumann.

"I always enjoyed the school picnics," she recalled. "I loved outdoor competition and will always remember the Boxing Day Sports. Local grocer Jack Moore always bet on me to win the sack race," she chuckled.

"Some of the best woodchoppers, runners and horseriders in Victoria came to these sports," said Lil. She was one of the best runners in the district in her early teens.

"I remember dashing down the track with dress hitched up and blue satin bloomers to the knees, at one of the footy meetings," she said.

Lil had left school at 13 years to help her mother at home.

"By this time I had Bess, my faithful black horse, who went everywhere with me. She and I were even pulled up for speeding whilst riding bareback 60 years ago," she said.

It was in her teenage years that Lil joined the Social Committee of the Warrandyte Football Club, where she became an honorary club member.

Her brothers Jack and Bill, both keen sportsmen, played for Warrandyte. "Jack was property manager of the club for a while and I would help him carry home all the dirty footy guernseys in a chaff bag and wash them," she said.

There was always plenty of baking and suppers to organise for the club.

Lil married Norm Whitehead, a paint sprayer and motor trimmer. He died some 20 years ago. They had three daughters, Helen, Norma and Diana, now living in McCrae, Cockatoo and Hurstbridge. She is a grandmother.

For the past 30 years she has lived in the green wooden house on the hill.

For many of these years she worked on the Women's Hospital Auxiliary and for retarded children at Monkami, East Ringwood, with Mary Huxtable of Kangaroo Ground Road.

Apart from her rich memories, she also treasures and still plays a 100-year-old piano accordion her father gave to her.

Ralph, a stonemason, and Pat have three children: Suzanne, William and Janine. William is an acclaimed press photographer.

The late Jack McAuley is survived by his wife Dorothy and three children, Elaine, Bruce and Robby.

From Page 1

"a duck stuck in a tree down the Rec Reserve and some kids are chuckin' stones at it".

Kittens stuck in trees, maybe. But a duck? Still, we drove down and took a look.

Sure enough, there it was. A small brown wild duck had one leg wedged in the shattered remnants of a wind-blasted tree trunk well up from the ground, and was hanging head down, weakly flapping its wings.

(Of course, the "stone-chuckin' kids" immediately transformed themselves into eager participants in any proposed rescue bid the moment we arrived.)

What could we do? Climbing the tree was out of the question. What do you do when all creatures great and small are in trouble in Warrandyte? You fetch Derek the vet of course.

So we did. Derek abandoned afternoon surgery and came to lend a hand.

Derek decided we needed further expert assistance so one of the State Park rangers was summoned and duly arrived.

Still no solution. The only way up to where that duck was hanging was via a very long extension ladder. And who has the longest ladders in Warrandyte? You've guessed it. The fire brigade.

Who was going to fetch the fire brigade? Vet, ranger and kids all looked at the simple-minded idealist who had started this wild-fowl chase.

So I went looking for a fire brigade official, senior enough to be able to order out a ladder for a stuck duck.

At the house of the first fireman I was attacked and bitten by a large dog. So much for animal welfare! Besides, the fireman wasn't home.

Then it was decided I'd better go straight to the top. Hang the risk. No, no-one would come with me. They knew what I knew.

Warrandyte's most senior fireman is also Warrandyte's milkman. So he sleeps during the day. So he won't appreciate being woken up for a duck. So he didn't.

But after suggesting that a shotgun would probably prove more useful, he finally opened up the fire station and lent us a ladder.

Send a fire truck for a duck? No way. So we somehow inserted the ladder into Derek's station wagon and drove to the Reserve.

It was the ranger who finally climbed up and unhooked the duck. We decided he was the only one actually covered by workers' compensation.

Derek injected the poor distressed bird with tranquiliser, gently wrapped it up and placed it in a box.

So there we all were — vet, duck, ranger, kids and me — tramping through Derek's waiting room, past all the dogs, cats and canaries that had been waiting all afternoon.

Derek and Kerry Fairley set the duck's leg and did everything else possible. But the trauma had been too great and the duck finally died.

No, the Fairleys didn't have wild duck dinner. Probably because of all the antibiotics and stuff.

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Program is a way of helping

Weekends mean fun times for most children. They enjoy playing with friends, going on outings or perhaps playing a favorite sport. Unfortunately for some children, weekends aren't such fun.

Such is the case for a nine-year-old boy, Marcus is a cheerful little boy with brown hair, big freckles and always a smile on his face. But he often spends his weekends alone without any friends. This is because he goes to a special school and his school friends live too far away to visit on weekends.

Marcus has spina bifida. He was born with this and he is paralysed from the waist down. But this does not stop Marcus from trying to do the things he loves to do — like playing games, going swimming and having friends.

A program known as Interchange would like to help Marcus enjoy his weekends as much as other children do. Interchange is a government-funded program which aims to enrich the lives of disabled children. It does this by finding another family in the community able to have a child like Marcus visit them for one weekend a month. This family then becomes a volunteer host family for the disabled child.

The benefits for a child like Marcus visiting a host family would be many. Not only would his parents have some "free time" but Marcus would have the opportunity to

spend time with another family. He could make new friends and join in the activities and life of the family he visits. One weekend a month would certainly be an exciting one for him.

Unfortunately for Marcus and other children like him living in the Northern Region, he is still waiting for a host family.

Program Co-ordinator Geraldine Fowler says that there is a shortage of host families. "Unfortunately there just aren't enough host families to go around and a lot of children wait many months until they have a family to visit," she said.

To be a host family in the Interchange program you can work full-time or part-time as visits occur only on weekends. People can be married or single, with or without children. All that is necessary is for people to have a love of children and a desire to help a child with special needs.

Marcus thinks it would be lots of fun to have special friends "all of his own" to visit.

If you and your family feel that you would like to become involved in the Interchange program as a host parent and help Marcus or one of the other children in the program, Interchange would like to hear from you.

You can hear more about Interchange by telephoning Geraldine Fowler on 478 9633.

A poem once asked, what is the best technique to discover the vegetative nature of Australia? It proposed on one hand to slowly follow a small creek along its course and thereby become intimate with a small discrete area, or to travel across the vast space of Australia absorbing the variety and change within the landscape.

Both techniques are ultimately necessary for a full understanding, but it is the area of local plants that has captured my imagination. The local plants and plant communities of Warrandyte.

All plants, across the world, are local plants. They each occur in specific habitats and ecological niches, giving peculiarity and identity to every area of natural landscape. Often they are woven into the social fabric and mythology of the local people. Surely Eucalypts are more than a symbol of Australia, they are part of our consciousness. They frame our image of the land in which we live.

There is a great appeal in the local Warrandyte plants. A great variety of leaf shape, foliage texture and flowering. Trees, shrubs, creepers, ground covers, water plants — the full floral show.

Many of these plants have not been used in horticulture to any great degree. This is a pity because these plants together give the Warrandyte bushland its outstanding feature. Awe inspiring natural beauty. A beauty of great subtlety and complexity.

The major swing towards growing Australian native plants has many good reasons behind it. It is a practical way of dealing with our climate and geography. Their hardiness and ability to survive without regular maintenance suits our casual temperament.

Local plants that can stir the imagination

Friends of Warrandyte State Park

by



Mopoke

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park meet the last Sunday of every month (except December and January) at noon whistle time.

Our identity search as a nation quickly becomes chaotic with conflicting opinions on flags and anthems. Perhaps native plants help us to keep our tenuous hold on the land we call Australia.

Amidst these musings, I believe that the local plant can provide many things:

Environment — a simple way to relate to our immediate surrounds.

Learning — because the local flora is restricted to a specific range of plants, it is easier to learn their names and ways.

Rhythm — the local bush is tied to an eternal natural cycle of flowering and seeding, which in turn provides for an inter-related cycle of insects, birds and animals.

Stability — ecological systems are ever-changing, but natural forests provide a certain stability. It is the natural counterpoint to cities.

Harmony — the blend of plants in a natural ecosystem is very restful and peaceful. People who live within a forest community share in the life of the birds, animals and plants.

Many natives from other parts of Australia are problem weeds in the Warrandyte bushlands. Around 450 plants have been identified in the park; 200 of these are garden escapes. Do we destroy a beauty and treasure that can never be repeated or do we retain a magic that is fast disappearing from the earth?

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park meet the last Sunday of every month (except December and January) at noon whistle time.

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(for Frances)

The clock prepares to strike. Women enter these pale, fluorescent corridors knowing they shall leave in two; their predecessors, big and floral, pass like trees on a river bank. This end of sex smells of antiseptic.

It is a dripping on stone. The staff speak softly as if to cushion the bare plank of her pain. He stands beside her clutching his qualification, seven evenings at Birth Class, like a title deed.

It is not a rhythm but a beat, an angry drum sounding a crescendo. The earth blurs and bends and buckles. The wind is a low moan. He is watching from above, a wheeling bird thrown like debris into an empty sky.

A cone becomes a head, wet and mulberry. She heaves like an ocean rushing to a sea wall. It breaks; the purple package suck-slides free, afterbirth following like a guilty accomplice.

The cave subsides, fluid guttering from where she has been forced open. Rising like a mountain, she greets the new-born with delight. It is safe to land, to inspect the life-like doll, to bask in the singing air.

MARTIN FLANAGAN

Children help the disabled

Warrandyte Primary School children have raised \$1000 for the disabled and at the same time learned to count their blessings.

The children were supplied with a sling which they used to keep one arm out of action for five hours. In

this way they found how the disabled learned to cope with tasks most people take for granted.

They handed over a cheque to Mrs Lesley Maxwell, representing the Yooralla Society.

From Page 1

than \$15,000. Some people have already applied for the units. Anyone else wanting to do so can get in touch with the Ministry, 607 Warrigal Road, Jordansville. The telephone number is 568 7655.

Even here there are problems. Says Louise: "One woman wants to take her disabled daughter into a unit with her, and there's some trouble about that."

Moreover, Jean and Louise believe their own half-formed plan has more merit. It would have no restrictions on who would live there and would actively encourage a mix of age and income groups.

"The obvious way to go about it," says Louise, "would be to use the expertise of the service clubs and the churches."

"One resident suggested a site near the cemetery. The site for the proposed supermarket was at one stage considered . . . it's disappointing that this has gone to commercial interests."

"Perhaps it's not too late."

"Clearly, we need a body of residents in the community who will register their interest in such a project."

Picture: PAGE 3

MINI ADS

Diary advertising
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Horror stretch to be realigned

Eltham Council is pressing ahead with its plans for reconstructing the horror stretch of Research Road between Banning Road and Bradleys Lane.

North Warrandyte residents interested in the proposals are invited to a public meeting to be held at the

North Warrandyte Community Centre on July 30.

Basically, the council intends to widen the road along its present alignment to a width of 8.6 metres. The danger bend leading down to Bradleys Lane will be remade into a 50 kph curve.

Two bus bays will be constructed and a guard rail built along the low side of Research Road.

As part of the reconstruction, some land will have to be bought by council.

Advertisement: PAGE 3.

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.

Peter, 16, doing Year 10 at high school, wants a job next year as apprentice carpenter, builder.

Margaret, 21, experienced at typing, clerical work, wants a full time job.

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

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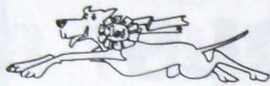
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Some mothers don't have them

Bob Hawke has been exhorting to us to produce good Australian products, and that's exactly what the couples do, and try to do, in Joseph Musaphia's adult comedy "Mothers and Fathers".

Warrandyte Drama Group's July offering is all about the joys and difficulties involved in producing a child the surrogate mother way.

Parenthood is approached differently by different people, and in this play the very act of coming up with a child becomes an art form.

The blustering arrogant solicitor takes upon himself the task of cooperating with

the surrogate mother who has answered the childless couple's advertisement in the local paper.

After four months of embarrassment, giggles, bed, bouncing and sweat, the solicitor and his "courtesan" have not come good with the home-grown product, but the bored but busy other halves have.

How the situation is resolved you'll have to see for yourselves at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall over two weeks in late July and early August.

The season opens with a gala night on Thursday, July 24, complete with sherries, light refreshments and coffee. The opening

night will have normal theatre-style seating arrangements but other nights will be performed cabaret style.

The play will be performed on July 24, the next night (Friday) and Saturday, July 26. The following week will see performances on Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2. A special performance is possible on Thursday, July 31 if any group or groups want to make a block booking.

The performance dates are different to those that appeared in the June Diary.

Block bookings, individual bookings and table bookings can be made by ringing Yvonne Morey on 844 3832.

ROGER KIBELL

Brigade praised for newsletter

The North Warrandyte Rural Fire Brigade has recently been praised by the Country Fire Authority for its efforts in fire prevention and for the production of a newsletter which was distributed to all North Warrandyte residents.

In a letter to the brigade from the acting chairman of the CFA, Mr Neil Marshall, the brigade was commended for its efforts in forming the "North Warrandyte Fire Prevention Implementation Committee" and for producing the

newsletter which gave details of how residents could prepare their houses for the summer season.

In the letter, Mr Marshall said that the CFA regards the committee and the newsletter as a most valuable contribution towards improv-

ing community participation in fire prevention. Furthermore, the CFA wishes to consider the application of this concept in other areas of Victoria.

The brigade's captain, John Swindley, said that the committee was formed in 1985 in an effort to involve the wide range of community groups in the North Warrandyte area in fire prevention planning.

The committee consists of representatives from the North Warrandyte Rural Fire Brigade, the Warrandyte Environment League, the Warrandyte Advisory Committee, the Shire of Eltham, the MMBW and the Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands.

Mr Swindley said that one of the first aims of the committee was to prepare a comprehensive fire prevention plan for the North Warrandyte area. This plan has identified the high risk areas, the strategic fire breaks, safe areas, etc.

Other matters considered include water supply, access to the more remote areas, preservation of environmentally sensitive areas, maintenance of access to the river for water collection, and access along the area's narrow winding roads with fire vehicles.

Another aim of the committee was to prepare a land ownership plan to show who was responsible for specific areas. Mr Swindley said that this has proven to be a cumbersome task as there is a large number of private owners and government departments, eg Shire of Eltham, MMBW Metropolitan Park, Warrandyte State Park, stream reserves under the control of Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands etc.

The brigade has produced a newsletter for the past seven years giving details of brigade activities and general hints on fire-related matters.

"This is the first year that we have concentrated solely on fire prevention planning," Mr Swindley said.

If you would like more information on the brigade or the Implementation Committee, you may contact representatives on either 844 2418 or 844 2707.

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Not everyone feels the lack of facilities

letters

We would like to reply to Bob Millington's comment in the June Diary on the proposal by Eltham Council to take over an amalgamated Warrandyte.

As residents of North Warrandyte we have not experienced any problems by being split between two municipalities, and we are sure we are not the only ones. So we don't think Mr Millington can speak for all Warrandyte residents.

We don't understand the need for a library or a swimming pool in Warrandyte as these are provided only minutes away in Eltham and probably in Doncaster and Templestowe too.

We certainly take full advantage of these services (including the mobile library). Also, Warrandyte already has a perfectly good community centre in Research/Warrandyte Road.

We are a one-car family but we always find the bus service adequate enough to enable us to attend these facilities.

We feel that by bringing these unnecessary things into Warrandyte the "rural feel" will not last. Eltham Council is trying to keep that feel in Warrandyte, whereas Doncaster/Templestowe is not.

We don't want to become just another suburb.

J. & K. Hynes,
Stoney Creek Road

amalgamation? Everyone wants to keep the "rural feel" of North Warrandyte. Would this be facilitated or hindered by amalgamation? The letter does not address these questions.

Anyway, I meant my comment to arouse debate. It appears to have served its purpose.

Welcome sight over there

My family and I are living in Colorado, USA, for 12 months as my husband is on a teacher exchange. How wonderful it's been when my neighbor, in Glynn's Road, posts over the Diary to us. It enables me to keep in touch with Warrandyte activities and it makes that distance between us seem not quite so far.

Thanks Diary. You're a welcome sight in our mail box.

Tricia Sheehan,
2959 Fifth Street,
Boulder, Colorado,
USA 80302
and
56 Glynn's Road

Community loses valuable member

Heather Spratt, well known for her work with community groups, will be sadly missed by the Whitehouse Management Committee. Heather was an energetic, caring member who carried out her job as treasurer for the last two years with a devotion that will be hard to replace.

A sad loss for the community. Our condolences to her family, and may she rest in peace.

Bill Butler,
secretary

Bob Millington replies: Sorry, the Hynes family are right. Not all North Warrandyte residents feel that they have problems being split between two municipalities. And after 17 years of living here on and off I've finally come across them.

All kidding aside, this letter fails to address the crux of my comment which was, how would North Warrandyte get on in an even bigger Eltham? If we get little enough now in the way of facilities, how much less will we get when the rate dollars are stretched further?

Is the Hynes family for or against

Warrandyte Antiques

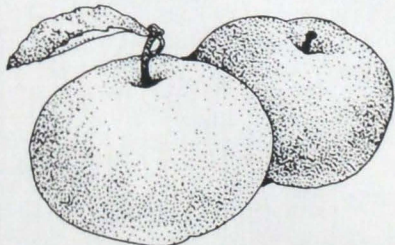
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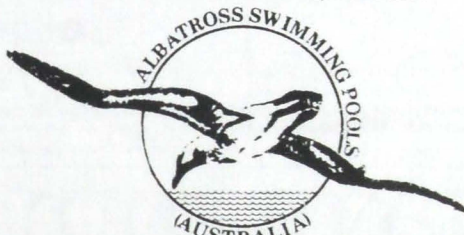


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Bloods bog down – literally

Warrandyte's ambitions of an unbeaten run home into the EDFL finals came to a sticky end in a mudheap at Boronia.

In conditions variously described as "shocking" and "unbelievable", the Bloods went down 6.6 (42) to 1.6 (12) to the competition leaders.

It was the end of a five-game winning streak for Warrandyte.

Such was the state of the ground that despite a fair share of the ball, it took the visitors until late in the final quarter to kick their only goal of the match.

The defeat has not, however,

shaken Warrandyte's resolve to be there at finals time.

"The game taught us that maybe we are not as good against top sides as we thought," said coach Denis Clark.

"The conditions were our downfall. We are a bigger side and if the game had been played here at Warrandyte I think we'd have won.

"We had our chances. We had most of the play in the first half and probably 50 per cent of it in the second. But we couldn't kick goals."

Clark stressed that the setback had nothing to do with lack of endeavour or hard work.

Diary Sports News

"The guys are working bloody hard," he said, "and we are still a finals chance."

Warrandyte's first quarter was long on promise but short on conversion of opportunities. Ruck-rover Tony Sinclair was prominent early and utility player Craig Bretherton was in the thick of it from the outset.

Mick Hassall, deputising for injured captain Robin Golding, was a powerhouse in defence, but it was a mistake in the backline which allowed Boronia in for the only goal of the quarter. Warrandyte contribution for the term was three points.

It was tough, slogging football and although the Bloods were winning the ball as often as the home side, they could make no impression with it.

Colin Bawden and Len Halley were alternating from the interchange bench into the ruck. Bawden was winning most of the hit-outs but in the absence of Gold-

ing, Warrandyte could not capitalise around the packs.

The Bloods managed only two points to 1.2 in the second term and Boronia wrapped it up in the third quarter.

They kicked 3.3 to Warrandyte's solitary behind and the main interest in the final quarter was whether the Bloods were going to be sent home goal-less.

The face-saving major came with only 10 minutes to go. It was Warrandyte's only score for the quarter.

The Bloods' best were Darren Peters, Brad Day, Hassall, Peter Banks, Bretherton and Gerald Walsh.

Cops? They're everywhere these days, aren't they?

The scene was the Grand Hotel bar and the attention of Campbell Curtis was taken by the arrival of Brian Dougherty. A muddled, overalled, galoshered Brian Dougherty, looking anything like the policeman he is.

"See that bloke over there — he's a cop," Campbell furtively told his drinking companion.

"Yeah?"

"Yeah. It pays to know who you're drinking with in this town, you know!"

"Yeah?" said the companion, who just happened to be local footy club stalwart Ian Clark.

Senior Constable Ian Clark, actually.

There will be no excuse for the shivers at Warrandyte Football Club's last home-and-away game, on August 17.

In conjunction with the on-field action — in what could be a make-or-break home encounter with Doncaster — the club will hold a windcheater and tracksuit sale next door at the Whitehouse.

The fundraising event is billed as a "giant sale", but that's a bit of a misnomer. Monica Luttick, the organiser, says all sizes will be catered for.

Skirting the packs

Equality of the sexes has found a place at Warrandyte Football Club. As a result, wives and girlfriends are now allowed to accompany players and officials on the team bus to and from away games.

The sexism situation reared its ugly head when the womenfolk protested about travel arrangements for the recent game at Clayton. The committee averted a potential petticoat revolt by acquiescing.

Any why not?

The choirwork on the trip home had been screaming out for soprano voices. And it has certainly cleaned up the lyrics!

For a long, long while in the game against Boronia it was shades of the Bloods' dark old days: not a goal on the board.

Salvation came at the 20-minute mark of the last quarter in the shape of Darren Peters, the home-grown young champion who's back after a stint with Essendon under-19s.

Peters had been Warrandyte's outstanding player — a performance recognised at the presentations back home later. It was fitting that he should kick the goal that saved us from an acutely-embarrassing scoreline.

The big bloke on the gate at the local footy ground is, if things go according to plan, about to become a shadow of his former self.

Peter Harrison, who doubles as a WFC committeeman, has made the weight-watcher's supreme sacrifice: he has signed the pledge.

The target is to shed 1½ stone and when you're as fond of a beer as Peter is, you really believe Malcolm Fraser's immortal words that life wasn't meant to be easy.

Grounds for delight

The Boronia mudbath this month convinced Warrandyte Football Club that there really is no place like home.

The local ground, once one of the worst wet-weather arenas in the EDFL competition, is now regarded as right up among the best.

A two-year program of drainage and top-dressing by Doncaster and Templestowe City Council has produced a surface generally rated second only to

Ferntree Gully among almost 40 grounds in the league.

"Perhaps we didn't realise it, until we went to Boronia, just how good our ground is," WFC secretary Anthony Giles-Peters told the Diary.

"The council deserves much credit for the immense improvement we've seen here.

"Extra drainage and top-dressings of sandy loam have produced a ground which stands up to the very worst of the weather."

By Gully, they've done it!

Warrandyte Tennis Club produced three premierships from five teams in the grand finals of the Ferntree Gully and Diamond Valley competition.


Winning teams were:

Section 9: Judy Brent, Ruth Ran-

kin, Kae Roulston, Penny Kerkhof, Janet Forde.

Section 14: Anna Brady, Elaine Greatrex, Cheryl Clark, Robyn Chrisfield, Gwenda Ennis.

Section 20: Irene Allen, Kaye Reid, Judy Gray, Jayne Beaumont, Helen Milner.



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