

Warrandyte Diary

PRICELESS

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Editorial and Advertising 844 2820

The riots of spring . . . or tut, tut willow

When April with her showers . . .

Don't give me that Chaucer cobbler, chum of my childhood. The seasons are different here south of the land of the Pom, or have you forgotten since you went on that Women's Weekly Fabulous 17-Day Discovery Tour of Salford?

I only meant . . .

I know what you meant. You meant that given September the One has come and departed, bringing with it the start of spring and all that appertaining to it, then yours truly should not be wearing a face as long as an H.R. Nicholls Society hit list.

Well . . .

Well you may ask. You remember that rotten willow in the back garden? The one protected by the ordinance which says that any

tree you want to obliterate has a right to appeal to council and if you touch a twig of it your toes will be cut off by a bunch of greenie thugs?

Yes I do. We used to sit on the tankstand and try to knock it over with empty stubbies. You reckoned we could claim it was an act of God.

Yeah, well God acted the other day. I was out there trying to pick up the bits of broken brown glass when I heard this creaking and groaning and the whole mongrel suddenly did the 90-degree change from vertical to horizontal.

You mean . . .?

It crashed like Ranald's fitness centres.

And you were . . .?

Overjoyed. Then I realised I had to get rid

of the evidence. The council snoopers can come any time of the night or day, you know. "An act of God, sir?" they'd say. "Forensic evidence shows brown shards of glass embedded in the bark. We have reason to believe that this poor tree was battered with a blunt instrument, or instruments, until it succumbed. Would you mind accompanying us down to the nursery?"

So?

So I rang the brother-in-law. Keep it in the family, I thought. He's the one who has just bought the giant, warm-your-house-for-centuries-for-5-cents-an-hour wood how's-your-father. Chum of my marriage, I said, have I got the deal for you! Just bring your chainsaw, and a winter's woes will be as nothing.

You were safe.

As safe as a holiday loading! He said he'd like to help me but he'd rather box or red-gum. For that matter he'd take teak, jarrah or mahogany before he'd chop up a willow and feed it to his furnace. The wood, he said, was a cow to burn. He was right. I've tried turps, metho and petrol and the charred evidence just sits there.

The thought occurs to me, in fact I'm sure of it, that the gum gestapo worry only about native trees. I think you'll survive, old pal.

You really think so? Drink up then, and buy us a case of stubbies.

Why?

Well, you remember that silver birch that blocks the view of the pub . . .?

Cain kills unity move



Plans for the union of the two halves of Warrandyte appear to be dead, killed by the State Government's retreat from its policy of amalgamating local councils.

The Premier, Mr Cain, announced early in September that he was giving up the policy of compulsory amalgamations. Instead he announced a number of incentives to make voluntary amalgamation more attractive.

The Premier did not say it in so many words, but his decision was prompted by widespread opposition to the boundary shake-ups by many ratepayers, particularly in the country.

That was not the case in Warrandyte. The Warrandyte Advisory Committee meeting showed that many people wanted the north and the south united under one council.

Although no official announcement has been made, people to whom the Diary spoke agreed that amalgamation was now dead.

Said Councillor John Fisher of Eltham: "I'm sorry it's fallen through . . . And it has fallen through, in my opinion. There's no way that Doncaster would agree now to giving up its bit of Warrandyte."

"Even though we put a lot of ef-

Village to remain divided

fort into it, it's not wasted. We learned a lot about the shire and this will be of use. The Local Government Commission gathered a lot of material and we would like to get our hands on it and put it to good use."

John, an early supporter of the "one Warrandyte" scheme, believes the amalgamation discussions which brought together Eltham and Doncaster/Tempelstowe councillors made everyone realise they had to work together to help the area.

"As a community we are getting on well. I just don't think that communities are dependent on which municipality they fall under."

Jan Liddicut chaired the WAC annual general meeting. Stuart Morris, chairman of the Local Government Commission, told that meeting that Warrandyte seemed to have a case to be united. A straw poll taken at the meeting indicated support for amalgamation under Eltham Shire.

Jan said: "From the Warrandyte community's point of view the decision to abandon the restructuring program means that the status quo remains, but so does the issue of whether we should be administered by one council."

"I feel there was one positive spin-off for Warrandyte in that the work done by WAC in hosting a public meeting on the issue drew both councils out publicly and appeared to assist good working relations between them."

"I personally feel it is disgraceful that so much public money and personal time by many people around the state has been wasted. We simply can't afford such a waste," said Jan.

How much money? John Fisher estimates the Local Government Commission has cost the Shire of Eltham \$50,000-plus, mainly in council officers' time. "But we won't know if it has been wasted until we get to see the information that was gathered."

John thinks Eltham Council will still be interested in trying a bit of horse trading with neighboring municipalities. "We think we'll attempt to carry out minor restructuring to get Hurstbridge into Eltham (from the Shire of Diamond Valley) and the Bend of Islands from Lilydale."

"It seems a pity that Warrandyte will miss out."

Gate will go on tunnel

Garraty's Mine, or Fourth Hill Tunnel, will soon be gated and padlocked to keep out the general public.

In letters to last month's edition of the Diary, local residents Ian Gedge and Karen Tippett raised the fear that the tunnel mouth would be shut; Warrandyte State Park rangers have confirmed it.

Percy Pulham, who has just been appointed to supervise operations in the eastern part of the Melbourne region, said the actions of an irresponsible few had led to the decision to control access to the mine.

"People are going into the mine at night and picking away at it. We've found evidence of new workings there. They are also lighting fires and leaving rubbish," said Percy.

"I was in there one morning recently. Someone the night before had had a fire in there. They started it with metho and then dragged in green branches and threw them on. It's a wonder they didn't choke."

Percy said rangers had also caught people climbing the tunnel's vertical airshaft.

"Imagine someone falling back

down that shaft," he said. "They could be killed or crippled. We're not even too sure what the legal position would be in that case."

When the gates are fitted — and that should be soon — people will still be able to visit the tunnel, but only with the permission of the rangers.

"We would have to have organised tours," said Percy. "They go on now with school groups, scout groups and the like. It's a pity this has to happen, but we must stop the vandalism."

Continued page 11

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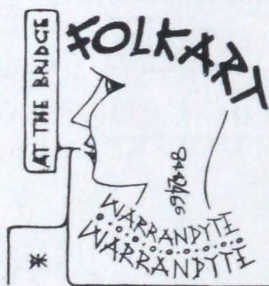
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IN RED & WHITE



Full marks for initiative — if not for punctual attention to long-term homework — go to David Faulkner, of Anderson's Creek Primary. David went straight to the source (or very close to it) for background information on Sun cartoonist Jeff Hooke, his choice of subject for a class project on artists. He phoned the Herald-Sun one day last month and was put on to a staff man who was impressed by the sincerity and politeness of the caller. So impressed that he went to the trouble of hooking (pardon pun please) the Jeff Hooke file out of the reference library and dictating per phone the required material. What amused the H-S bloke was that the call came at eight in the morning of the last day of the school term and the completed assignment had to be handed in at nine!

He assumes young David is able to write very quickly.

We suspect Warrandyte might have been a wild old town in times past.

Smokey was in the historical society's museum one Sunday a few weeks ago. A group of elderly folk, some of them obviously former residents, were reading that display they've got in there of old Lilac Time Ball tickets, Saturday night dance posters and other local high jinks memorabilia.

"We had a real good time in those days, yer know," someone said. Nudge-nudge, wink-wink.

"We really kicked over the traces. So-and-so got off with So-and-so, and So-and-so was always looking for a bit of the old so-and-so. And then there was So-and-so..."

So? And so what's changed?

God bless their knowledge-seeking little minds, said Smokey when he saw the lads and lasses swarm into the Golden Gate store like a plague of summer flies and grab the last available copies of the Diary. But then they tore out Page 8 and rushed over to the Warrandyte Health Food Store to reclaim their frozen yoghurt, as provided for in the ad. Smokey always says it pays to advertise in the Diary.

Advert in our then local paper, The Evelyn Observer, October 20, 1893: "A.H. WOODHEAD — Wheelwright, Coachbuilder and Undertaker."

The arrival (at the uncivilised hour of 2.30 am) on September 2 of Simon Anthony Lovett completed a rare treble. It just happened to be the birthday of his dad, Michael, and his paternal grandfather, Les Stabb, of Corowa, NSW. Did we say treble? Make that quadrilla. Michael's cousin and great mate — David (Bunter) McLean, of North Warrandyte — was born on September 2, too.

And while we're on about multiples, we must right an oversight by belatedly reporting on the birth in June of Simon's cousin, Travis Reynolds Southall, of Betton Crescent. First child of Jenny and

Harry. Travis and Simon are the second and third grandkids of former local identities Pat and Peter Lovett, now of Portarlington. All boys so far — and if Pete has his way they'll all play for Geelong.

What do you have to do to be a Person around this town?

Bruce Bence, mate of Smokey's and oftime contributor to these columns, tells us that although he has lived here since 1950 (when he married a local girl whose Warrandyte pedigree goes back to 1853), been a member of six local organisations and held office in three of them, fought numerous fires and even seen the occasional flood, he is still identified as "Wilma's husband".

But there's worse to come. His family has now all grown up and got married and last month he was introduced to someone as "Mandy's father-in-law"!

Keith Shields, of Pound Road, says he's going to quit smoking one day but is no tearing hurry. He'll think about it... over a cigarette or two. Keith is dinkum enough about kicking the habit to have acquired a prescribed course of tablets which his doc says will turn him off for life. And which Keith has carried, unopened, in his back pocket for the past eight months.

Smokey Joe

Lilac Time Ball — revisited

Warrandyte Historical Society will step back into the good old days to mark its 10th anniversary on Saturday October 18 when it revives old Warrandyte's Lilac Time Ball.

The Lilac Time Balls were a very important annual social event from the 1930s up to the late 1950s and a fundraiser for various causes. There are still some "girls" around who made their official debut at a Lilac Time Ball.

Traditionally, the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute would be decorated with lilac blossom from local gardens, so the Historical Society is urgently seeking prospective donors. If you can help please ring Ruby Arnaud on 844 3358.

With the guidance of Joyce Bellingham, daughter of one of the original organisers, the ball will be run in the traditional way, so brush up your knowledge of pride of erins, alberts, tangoettes, waltzes, etc. and dig out clothes appropriate.

Tickets cost \$25 per double or \$16 per double for veteran Lilac Time ballgoers who can prove they were there. (We hear there are quite a few still around who are eagerly awaiting this event.) Ring Ruby to book.

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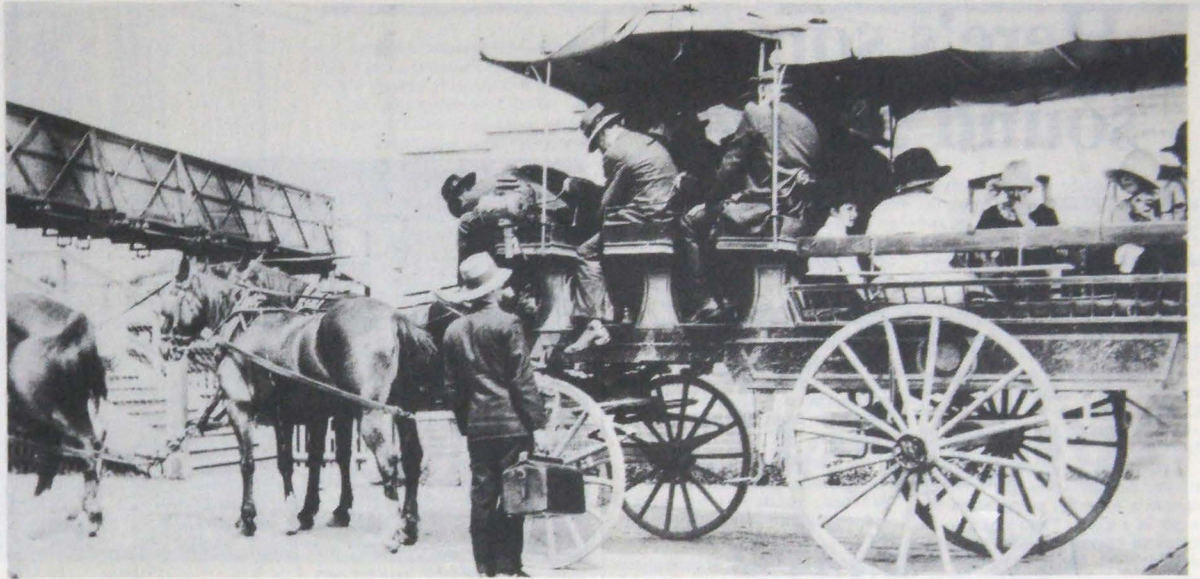
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How We Lived



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



Bill Hussey's drag loads passengers for Warrandyte at Ringwood railway station, 1925.

September, 1886: A good deal of discussion is going on relating to the changing of the daily mail.

The Templestowe people wish a coach to run from Heidelberg through them to us.

Most of us, however, think that a daily coach from Ringwood would be more convenient, especially if the time was made to suit railway communication.

However, I suppose nothing will be definitely settled for some time.

The whole of the plant has arrived on the claim of the Yarra Tunnel Quartz Company, and in about five weeks pumping should commence.

Warrandyte's first public transport connection from the city — 130 years ago next month — failed to arrive.

Mr Alfred Ford, a Melbourne livery stable owner, announced that his horse-drawn service to Warrandyte would begin on 8 October 1856.

The township was decorated and

everyone waited all day to welcome the first regular coach. Finally the footsore passengers tramped into view. the coach was bogged in Mullum Mullum Creek!

But the crossing was improved and Mr Ford's thrice-weekly service became an established feature of local life.

With the building of the suburban rail network, horse coaches ran

from Ringwood and Heidelberg stations.

Agitation for a railway to Warrandyte began with the formation of the Upper Yarra Railway League in 1869. The local correspondent of the Evelyn Observer was still pressing for a rail link 20 years later:

"Scores and scores of wealthy gentlemen are waiting for an easy

transit to build houses for themselves and families. There is little doubt that this will be a large, healthy, flourishing place."

In 1913, Withers and Son began the first Melbourne to Warrandyte motor bus service. This firm continued to operate until 1962, when as the Warrandyte Transport Service Pty Ltd, they sold out to the Tramways Board.

Going home... an articulated tale

By CLIFF GREEN

The first of September, the first day of spring, the first run of the new articulated Green Arrow buses between Warrandyte and Melbourne.

We joined the commuters to catch the inaugural return service, the 5.17 Monday evening haul from the city.

The Green Arrow, all of 18 metres long, glided into its kerbside terminus at the bottom of Russell Street, splendid in its livery of white with lime green flashes.

The passengers boarded and the bus was comfortably full, with no one standing. The yellow Leylands that run around this time are usually jam-packed, but Green Arrow took the load with room to spare. It will hold up to 120 passengers.

Inside, the bus is much the same as any other modern suburban passenger vehicle, except for the extra



one-third on the end. That's the articulated part, a tail, joined to the rest by a concertina-style walk-through coupling.

There is a separate set of folding exit doors in this rear section and a closed-circuit television system, so the driver has full view of any action at the back of the bus.

The seats have a little more padding than those on the yellow Leylands, but are still very much suburban commuter spartan. The Green Arrows are secondhand. The Transport Ministry bought 20 of them in Japan for \$4 million. A real snap. They shuttled sightseers around Expo '85, and the interior trim is just beginning to show wear.

The Green Arrow left right on time, and suddenly we knew were in for a treat. It accelerated smartly up through the gears and had no trou-

It's a test run

Warrandyte is being used as a test for the new articulated bus service.

The Minister for Transport, Mr Roper, says his department will monitor how well the buses perform on the Warrandyte route — the first of six to run from the Doncaster Depot — and then decide whether to operate them in other areas.

ble keeping up with the traffic, beating most of the cars at the lights.

It wound its way through those

narrow Collingwood streets, its tail snaking along behind. Into Johnson and Hoddle Streets and finally on to the freeway, where it really came into its own.

The Green Arrow — Japanese body on a Volvo chassis — has very long legs, as we motoring writers say. It moved along the freeway at a good clip, passing a lot of other traffic, including a couple of yellow Leylands, much to the delight of our fellow passengers.

What a contrast with times past. Remember the 6.30 "drunks' express", 20 years ago? Some of Warrandyte's most memorable characters entertained you all the way home with song and verse, debate and anecdote.

Remember the "comfort stop", in the bush and orchard country just beyond Templestowe? The driver patiently waited while everyone piled off, watered the grass, and piled on again.

The countryside has changed, as well as the buses. The Green Arrow looks quite at home, flashing through the brick suburban sprawl between Templestowe and Warrandyte.

We swooped down into Warrandyte at 6.07, a 50-minute peak period run from the city. The off-peak inward journey by yellow Leyland had taken us all of 70 minutes.

We alighted before the bridge, so I haven't seen Green Arrow negotiate that traffic island. But I'm assured it manages easily.

If you haven't already done so, ride the Green Arrow soon. Public transport to Warrandyte has never been as good as this.



One of the new Green Arrow articulated buses, about to depart on the 7.15 am run from Hogan Avenue.

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Here's some sound advice

The Warrandyte Citizens Advice Bureau is beginning to assemble information and pamphlets in the Community Centre Office, next door to the Co-op in Yarra Street.

Then, some time soon, the centre hopes to move the whole caboodle down to the restored post office.

Volunteers are still spread around other bureaux, continuing their training. The next three-day training course will be at the end of October and those interested are invited to contact Jenny Harkin on 844 2663.

Louise Joy, interim chairwoman of the bureau, says the training course is essential preparation for work in a CAB, "and it is also an excellent opportunity for personal development and preparation for the workforce for people who have been at home for some time."

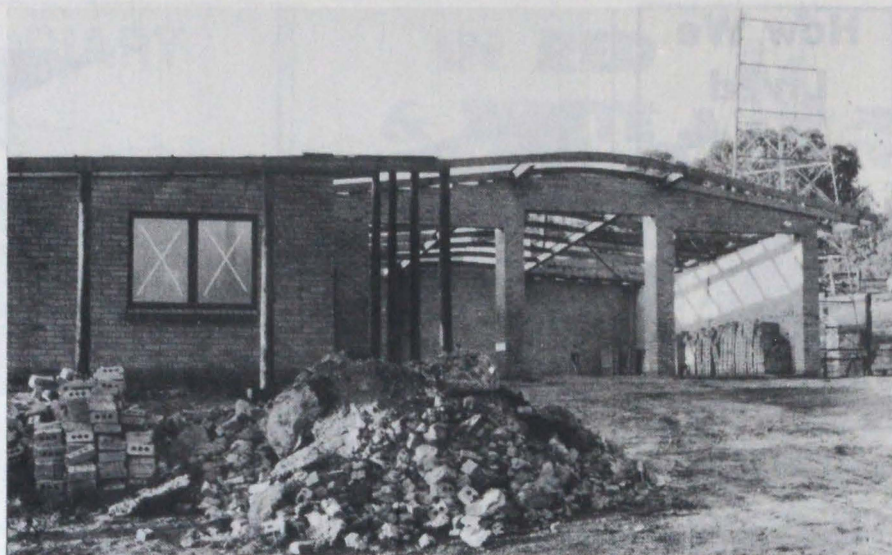
"Retired people also find CAB work rewarding. Remember, it is

not your own advice that you have to give people but an ability to listen to requests and give people access to the amazing range of information which each CAB possesses," says Louise.

"Requests can be small or complicated, and there are many services available in the community of which people are unaware. That is why it is important to develop neighborhood CAB services where people can have access to information."

"Schoolchildren also benefit. For instance, one HSC student requested information about women's unemployment for a project."

Secretaries of local organisations are invited to contact the CAB office (844 2985) with the names and addresses of their groups and details of the services they provide.



Up goes the new South Warrandyte fire station.

CFA builds for future

Self-help is the guiding principle at South Warrandyte Rural Fire Brigade.

In desperate need of a new fire station, brigade members have rolled up their sleeves and set to work.

A brigade spokesman says that faced with ever increasing costs they began building, on the basis that "if we waited until we could pay for it, we would never have started it."

South Warrandyte brigade members built their first station — a galvanised iron shed — in 1963 on land donated to the CFA by Dave Pridmore.

According to the spokesman, "this shed has since been stretched

in height, length and breadth, and is now totally inadequate for the brigade's increasing requirements.

"It would have been at least seven years before we could hope to get a new station under the CFA's priority scheme, so brigade members have taken the bull by the horns."

"They have poured the slab, erected the hose-drying tower and carried out preliminary siteworks, assisted by local contractors where necessary."

The new station will consist of a three-bay engine hall, meeting room, kitchen, radio room and toilet facilities.

"Brigade members, who turn out

to fires on freezing winter nights or in the blazing heat of a north wind summer's day, are hoping to have the station to lock-up stage before the money runs out," the spokesman said.

"The brigade is grateful for the assistance it has received from the community and council, but if ever there was a time to help a dedicated group of people serving the community, that time is now."

Donations of \$2 and over are tax-deductible and cheques can be sent to the South Warrandyte Rural Fire Brigade, Post Office, South Warrandyte 3134. They will also be received over the counter at the post office at Five Ways.

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Business to benefit, say the Lions

Warrandyte Lions say they are making sure that the business people of Warrandyte benefit from the district convention to be held at the high school early next year.

Some 400 Lions, their wives and members of the Lions' young people's club, the Leos, are expected in Warrandyte for the weekend beginning Friday, February 21.

A bus tour has been arranged to include shopping time in the township and there will be regular shuttle bus services between the town and the school.

Convention chairman Eddy Hendricks says local businesses are being invited to be sponsors of the convention. Those that do will have special facilities for advertising and display at the convention's registration area.

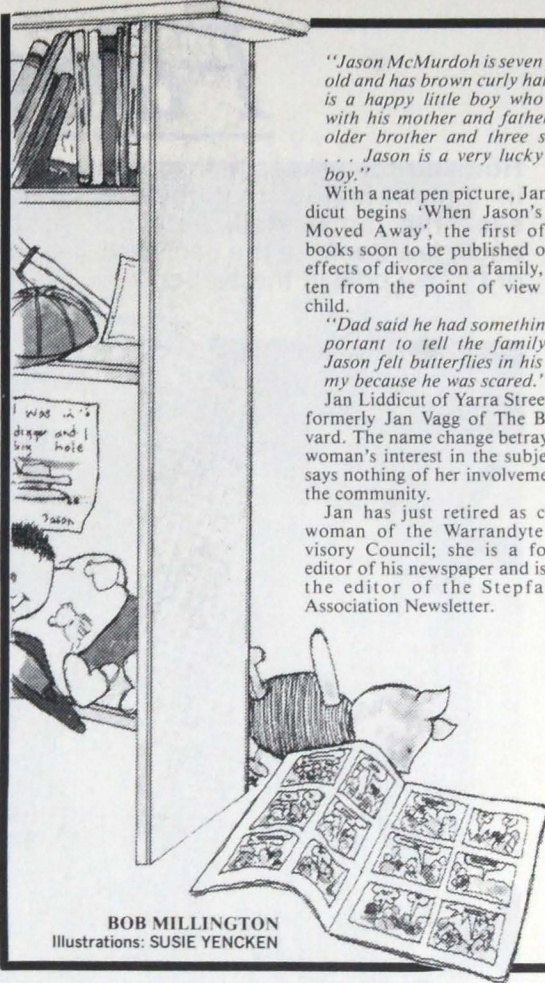
As well, the sites of sponsoring businesses will be highlighted on a special district map to be issued to all delegates.

Those interested should ring Alan Caulfield on 844 3882.

In other Warrandyte Lions news, the club has been helping to renovate the Co-op Coffee Shop. Members held a working bee at the shop last July and plan more.

On the sporting front, the club has given \$200 to Warrandyte Football Club juniors and will provide perpetual trophies for the best and fairest in each of four teams.

The club will also provide the local Junior Basketball No 1 team with new jumpers with logos.



BOB MILLINGTON
Illustrations: SUSIE YENCKEN

"Jason McMurdoch is seven years old and has brown curly hair. He is a happy little boy who lives with his mother and father and older brother and three sisters . . . Jason is a very lucky little boy."

With a neat pen picture, Jan Liddicut begins 'When Jason's Dad Moved Away', the first of two books soon to be published on the effects of divorce on a family, written from the point of view of a child.

"Dad said he had something important to tell the family and Jason felt butterflies in his tummy because he was scared."

Jan Liddicut of Yarra Street was formerly Jan Vagg of The Boulevard. The name change betrays the woman's interest in the subject; it says nothing of her involvement in the community.

Jan has just retired as chairwoman of the Warrandyte Advisory Council; she is a former editor of his newspaper and is now the editor of the Stepfamily Association Newsletter.



Defusing divorce

And, if fate and ambition so will, come five years she will be a full-time author.

That aim in life will hinge substantially on the success of these two books (the second is called 'Jason Goes to Stay with his Dad') and the three sequels that are to appear at the end of next March.

"Mrs McMurdoch reminded Jason that . . . everyone did still love each other, but the family was going to be different now and it would take a little while for everyone to feel better."

Says Jan: "So often adults do not perceive the depths of grief and confusion that young children feel when parents separate and new people are introduced into the family circle.

"Jason felt angry with his father

but Mrs McMurdoch told him this was because he had never thought his dad might love another lady and Jason thought only of his father being with his mother."

Susie Yencken, a children's book designer and family counsellor, has produced a fine set of illustrations to accompany Jan's texts.

Jan Liddicut's books deserve a wide audience. They are literate and decline to talk down to the youngsters for whom they are intended. Oh, and by the way, Ms Liddicut knows the difference between "who" and "whom". One small step for personkind.

"Best of all, Jason knows that both his mother and father love him. The family is just different."

Ready to repel boarders

It's an invasion, says Warrandyte State Park ranger-in-charge Ken Gurney. The target is the park and the invaders are threefold.

Pets: pussies and pooches are roaming at will over the park. Ken points out that cats are very efficient predators of birds and small wildlife. Dogs often get together in night-time packs to hunt bigger beasts. Owners of property near the park can help by choosing sensible pets and making sure they are confined (as the law insists).

Plants: as in The Day of the Triffids, garden plants are escaping into the park and terrifying the natives. The naughtiest here are willows, cotoneaster and the prunus species, although brooms, smilax and angled onion weed are gaining. The answer here, says Ken, is to seek advice when planning shrubs and trees for a garden.

People: some owners of adjoining properties have

encroached on the park. There are cases where fences are absent or sited incorrectly. Some people have cleared vegetation and used the land as an extension of their property. "Such a situation cannot be permitted to continue, as the park is for all of us to use and enjoy."

Ken Gurney says management plans for the park are being reviewed. Rangers have interviewed many park users and will take note of their views on what should be done with the park and what facilities people want.

"Separate written submissions have also been received from interested individuals and organisations whose contributions to the planning process are greatly appreciated."

Warrandyte State Park rangers have shifted their office from Black Flat to the old cool store site at the eastern end of Pound Bend.

Vic Galway

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Not Daffy or Donald, but nice enough. Rachel McClaren and Sarah Potasnik meet a quacker.



Andrea Fox wanted to make friends. The calf had other ideas.

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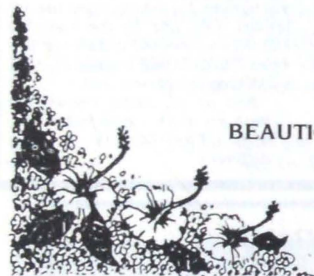
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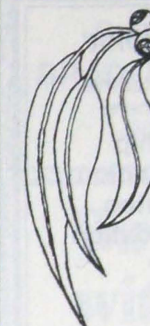
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Some sweet rewards for labors of love

The yellow blossom of silver wattle flowered along Andersons Creek to the Gold Memorial, where the friends met for the third year in succession to work.

What a reward it was to look through the burgan ti-tree and see the patch of maidenhair fern that we had cleared of onion weed last year. This year, using the Bradley Weeding Method, we cleared more from this area, planted some silver wattles, then stopped for a smoko and a great talk from Dr Dianne Simmons.

A eucalyptologist, lecturer and Christmas Hills CFA member, the good doctor talked of fire, its use, abuse, effects and force. Urban fringe bushland remnants have enormous pressures placed upon their depletable resources, she said. Fire can put the bush's health at risk. Look at the fire regime of the land in question and have a definite aim and purpose for fire, was Dianne's general advice. And get involved.

A slide show, 'Lizard Lecture', by Dr Mark Hutchins, 'The Vegetable Caterpillar', by John Reid, 'Fungus Familiar and Funny' have been some of the topics and talkers at smoko this year. Working and learning over a cup of billy tea.

Our projects have been 750 plants put in at the confluence of Andersons Creek and the Yarra River. Three thousand and thirty pine tree seedlings have been

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.

to cope with an unbelievable scale of duties: chasing roo hunters and car wreck shunters, hoons on the grog who have their ute bogged, dogs off the leash or swearing statements to police, gold mine excavations and public indignations, motorcycle rambles and bulldozer shambles, tree choppers, rubbish droppers and a weighty, all-powerful, consuming bureaucracy upon their green shoulders. So much that it is a wonder they don't all go to Kakadu.

Back in the bush little gems unfold their royal garments and we are all caught in a spring swoon. Time for this year's orchid walk which will be led by Christine Gray, Author of Victorian Native Orchids, the only definitive Victorian orchid book, Christine photographed many of the orchids around Warrandyte in Blooms Road and at Stan Brae.

Come along and remove some broom, have some billy tea, then learn about the orchids of Fourth Hill. Last year we found 12 different species, including the wonderful purplish beard-orchid.

Our dates are: September 28: Broom pull and orchid walk. Rendezvous end of Tunnel Street; October 26: Step building at Gold Memorial. Meet at Gold Memorial car park; November 30: Annual general meeting, bush walk and barbecue.

removed from Fourth Hill (they were destroying one of the better orchid patches of the park). Warrandyte Festival watched the Friends' live theatre, and July was propagation month at ranger headquarters.

Incidentally, how many of you know Ken Gurney and the ranger staff? If you see them, say 'Giddy'; they need a lot of help and support. Every day they have

Wasn't that gramps on the box?

Warrandyte senior citizens sang and danced their way on to the box last month.

The centre's concert party joined with other groups to put on a turn at the Bulleen Senior Citizens Centre to raise money for the Doncaster and Templestowe Nursing Home and Day Care Centre.

A camera team from Channel 7 was there and their efforts were

shown on the Day by Day program.

Warrandyte was helped by the Doncaster Senior Citizens, the Bulleen and Templestowe Senior Citizens, the Greek Senior Citizens, the nursing home auxiliary, Doncaster Council and the YMCA.

More than 300 people attended the concert and it raised \$1043.

Maisie Temple, the Warrandyte

centre's honorary secretary, thanked members for their support and the Warrandyte businesses and people who donated gifts.

She said they were Sue and David Duckworth, Golden Gate Milkbar; Warrandyte Hardware; Sue Jones, chemist; Warrandyte Hotel; Warrandyte Newsagents; Warrandyte Primary School children; Tom Kerkhof TV; Warrandyte Cellars.

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House with a history is for sale

When we first came to Warrandyte we rented three different houses, all of which went on to achieve some sort of minor fame or notoriety.

The first, a linker brick house in Everard Drive near the corner of Tarooma Avenue, filled with water to its windowsills during the flood of November 1971.

Our next residence was the grey brick place on the corner of Melbourne Hill Road and Houghton Road. It is now the veterinary clinic. Having your dogs and cats injected in the room that was once your bedroom is a strange experience, to say the least.

We only stayed six months in each place. We had bought land in Webb Street and were saving money to build, but the owners of these rented places kept coming back and claiming their abodes.

Finally we crossed the river into foreign territory and took a little stone cottage on a couple of acres in Albert Road, backing on to Stoney Creek.

Tim and Lynne Sherwood, still a dewy-eyed engaged couple, had bought the cottage but weren't getting married right away. So the Greens moved in.

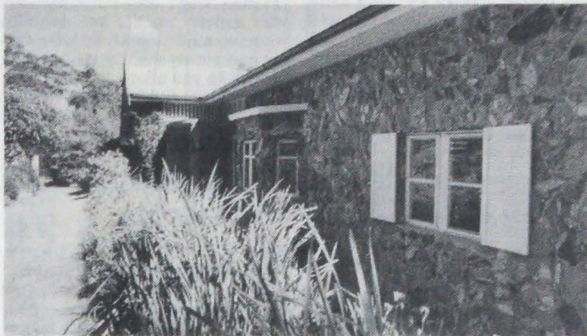
It is surely the most charming house and setting in which we have lived. Made of stone quarried on the site, it is surrounded by an old-style cottage garden and a small orchard, with majestic stands of mature timber and a water meadow along the creek.

The Sherwoods fell in love with it the moment they saw it.

It was built by Steve and Marie Brenton, under the most difficult conditions, during the darkest days of World War II.

The Brentons were real battlers. Most of the building materials (apart from the stone, of course) were second-hand, transported out from the city on Steve's motorbike. He took off the side-car and ferried it out in the chassis! Some-

There are many interesting houses in and around Warrandyte. CLIFF GREEN tells the story of one of them.



times it was so overloaded he had to jump off the bike coming up Sloan's Hill and push.

Steve hadn't built any sort of structure before, let alone a stone house. At first they camped on the site in a tin shed. Then, using stones they found lying around, they built a stone tank to hold water pumped from the creek.

Steve explained to the Sherwoods later: "It was a beautiful running creek then. The aqueduct up further had a big leak in it and we used to get all the beautiful water running down. It ran for 40 years."

The tank was so watertight, and the water always so cool, that the Brentons decided to build a stone house. But where was the stone to come from? They couldn't afford to buy it from a quarry, even if it had been available during those war years.

"So I went down the back with a pick and I saw a little bit of a knob sticking out. I got the stone out. I drove the pick in again and it was solid. So I started to take off the soil and clay on top."

The house grew and grew, seemingly without design. A window that was planned to look out on the creek, now opens on to a back porch. An external arch became the entrance to a charming little bedroom on another level.

In all, it took more than 16 years to build. Steve said he could have fitted "two Warrandyte buses" in the hole left where the stone came out. He filled it with waste material from the excavations.

We loved it too. Milly-Molly-Mandy, our two older daughters' favorite literary character, could have lived in Walpa Cottage (as the Sherwoods had renamed it).

The original format for this newspaper was planned in that tiny room Steve Brenton took a year to build. I had claimed it as a study, and the Diary was conceived there during the winter of 1970.

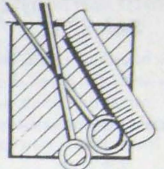
An episode of the TV series Homicide I wrote was filmed in the garden, with the requisite chase through the rose bushes and nearby scrub.

The Sherwoods have sensitively extended the cottage over the years and made it more comfortable. This work was done by the Hobday brothers, two Warrandyte-bred builders who respect the work of battlers like Steve and Marie Brenton.

Now Tim and Lynne are selling Walpa Cottage and moving to Lower Plenty. Goodness knows why. This means that some lucky family is going to be able to buy a fragment of Warrandyte's history — and a tiny corner of this family's heart.

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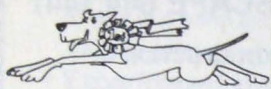
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In defence of Mopoke

In response to S. Campbell (August Diary) 'Down With This Form of Racism', and in defence of Mopoke's inspiring column, I would like to make the following points.

True, Warrandyte's ecology was most probably "subtly different" 1000 years before European settlement, however since our arrival change has not been subtle. The dramatic disturbances which occurred during the gold era and subsequent land developments have rendered much of the area vulnerable to invasion by exotic and non-indigenous native species.

The threat to our remnant vegetation by invasive alien species is now widely recognised and is considered an important aspect in respect to conservation management practices. The fact that indigenous vegetation is seriously under threat (a similar scenario exists for the indigenous people of our continent) is a reflection of our inherent Western racism.

The uniqueness of Warrandyte with its diverse flora and fauna and close proximity to inner Melbourne is reflected in the enormous influx of visitors who come to share many benefits our bushland setting has to

letters

offer. Preservation of such bushland is paramount. The use of indigenous species accompanied by the selection of non-invasive aliens is an important practice for ensuring such preservation.

As S. Campbell states: "Protect our native species by all means . . ." Mopoke's means of protection, i.e. the use of indigenous species, is a truly responsible approach to the management of our bushland remnants. Far from being botanically racist, it simply acknowledges the intrinsic values of our unique environment.

Alan Noy,
Kangaroo Ground Road

activities and meet all the people who showed her kindness and attention.

She enjoyed her stay with us and loved it here in Warrandyte. We were able to show her around quite a lot, even though my husband and I were working. We are hoping she will come back to stay here. If she does we know that she will rejoin all of the friends she made at the Senior Citizens Club.

Doris Wilson was overcome with emotion when they surprised her with a party on her last day. To whoever made the lovely cake for her may we say thank you. Our best regards to you all.

Roger and Margaret Wilson
Yarra Street

The children are ignored

I read Richard Schurmann's letter about owls and it got me thinking about the environmental columns you have been running.

Certainly Mopoke is much better than the dreadful Wombat and is readily understood by readers other than members of the Warrandyte Environment League, but it still ignores a large section of our community — children.

The point is that both columns

addressed themselves to adults (although I had my doubts about Wombat). Why? From what I have seen Warrandyte is divided into three camps — environmental totalitarians and New Vandals at the extremes, and the "I'll Do What I Like" in the middle. Once you are in one of those camps, you are there for eternity.

What I would like to see is an environmental column aimed at children that concentrates on the wider ecological issues as well as the more immediate local problems, and in a language they can understand.

It's a battle for hearts and minds, and I think Wombat and to a lesser extent Mopoke have missed the point.

Name and address supplied

A tome for the Gnome

I read with interest the item in Smokey Joe about the search for a Home for the Gnome and the subsequent decision to conduct the search through the sports pages.

I am not sure that this is fair to the Gnome as it implies that there is no more to him than mud, blood and beer. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Granted he is a connoisseur of the Greatest Game of All as played by the Mighty Dytes, but should not the Diary have another look at what the Gnome really is — a part of our cultural heritage, a golden thread in the weft and warp of Warrandyte's rich artistic tapestry.

His talents have played a vital role in keeping our town at the very avant of the garde, the pointy end of culture, if you like. Bob Karl, Bobby Wilson, Marjorie Beecham et al, eat your hearts out.

Yes, dear editor, you have sold the Gnome short. I suggest that the Diary admit its mistake and put him where he belongs — in the arts section.

Percival Pixie
(address supplied)

Brushcutter

The Warrandyte Sole Parent Support Group has a brushcutter and lawnmower available for hire at \$1 a time from Jean Chapman at the Co-op. Ring 844 2548 or 844 3326.

The last user recommended that a sash and goggles be provided. These have now been included in the hire.

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Fete can move mountains

So it's come, then, maidens and men, to the fair in the pride of the morning.

The Anglican parish of St Stephens (Warrandyte) and Emmanuel (Park Orchards) will hold its annual fete on Saturday, October 11, from 9 am onwards.

A highlight will be the six-prize monster raffle to be drawn at 3 pm. The first prize is a \$120 dinner for two at Stephanie's Restaurant. There will be advice on what to do for the person who draws the monster.

St Stephen's fete is justly renowned for the excellence of the jams it displays for sale. They will be there plus gourmet foods, cakes, sweets and home-made breads.

Stalls will feature home-made garments for all ages as well as second-hand clothing. And native plants will be on sale.

For the kids there will be lucky dips, trampolining, videos and Life-be-in-it games.

For the hungry, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided and barbecues and satays.

Why not hire a trier

Each month the Diary publishes the names of two job-seekers. If you need a job done, the Warrandyte Co-op asks you to hire, as a community service, one of the triers.

Peter, 17-years-old, wants an apprenticeship next year in carpentry or building.

Mary, who is middle-aged, wants work in a florist's shop.

Anyone who can help is asked to contact Jean Chapman on 844 2548 or 844 3326.

Another Warrandyte Community Workshop Co-operative Ltd project.

That's potentially dangerous, too. "I was in the park recently and came across the State Emergency Service lowering themselves down the airshaft on ropes. They were having fun. It smacks of double standards.

"The thing that disappoints me is that adults seem to be taking away the simple joys of kids, leaving them more likely to go down the street and smash up a phone box instead," said Ian.

From page 1

Ian Gedge views the gate as just the start of new restrictions on people who use Warrandyte's parks.

"I can see this going further," said Ian. "Will they eventually forbid us to walk anywhere except on the paths?"

Is the tunnel dangerous? "To my knowledge," said Ian, "no local kid has come to grief in the tunnel. You may as well fence off the river.

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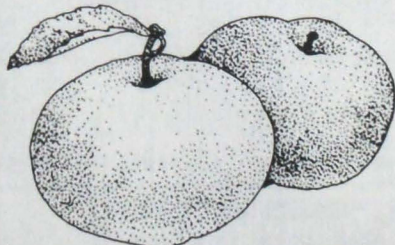
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Clark gets Bloods coaching job again



• Dennis Clark

Warrandyte Football Club have reappointed coach Dennis Clark for 1987.

Clark, who played more than 100 VFL games with Melbourne, masterminded the Bloods' improvement this season, his first at the helm.

Warrandyte finished fifth in the 10-team EDFL second division and perhaps only inexperience in a few crucial moments towards the end of the season cost them a place in the finals.

They won 10 of their 18 games and finished on a high note with a big home win over The Basin.

Club president Jeff Reddie paid tribute to Clark when he summed up the Bloods' year.

"You could be nothing but pleased with the overall on-field improvement seen in 1986," Mr Reddie said. "And the great bulk of the credit for that improvement must go to Dennis Clark."

"His contribution and his involvement with both the seniors and juniors have been excellent."

Mr Reddie said Clark had brought out the best in the existing players and the recruits. He nominated Len Halley and Doug Byron as outstanding results of the club's recruiting campaign and described the injury-free season of John Major as another big plus.

"Overall," he said, "it was an excellent on-field performance to finish fifth in the much-stronger second-division competition."

"It has laid the groundwork for our assault on the finals next year."

Good heavens, it's Halley!

It has indeed been a great year for the Halleys.

A comet by that name fascinated a population when it made its first appearance in our skies for 76 years. And a star named Len Halley has won Warrandyte Football Club's best and fairest award.

Ruckman Halley, a former Essendon player, took the award by three votes in a nail-biting finish to the count at the clubrooms late last month.

With votes for just one game still to be read, he was level, on 38, with defender John Major. Halley wrapped it up by polling the maximum.

Ruck-rover and captain Robin Golding finished third.

A feature of this year's count — and an indication of the evenness of the team — was the

WARRANDYTE Diary SPORTS NEWS

number of players who polled strongly. Among them was full-forward Doug Byron, who missed much of the season because of clearance difficulties and injury.

At least half a dozen players were still in with winning chances with six sets of votes to go.

The reserves award went to Bruce Onken, from Mick Sporton and David Sloan.

Halley was recruited this season from Diamond Valley side Montmorency, which he

had captain-coached. He had represented the Diamond Valley in interleague competition and is also well known for his football deeds in the Goulburn Valley.

Quite apart from his on-field contribution this season, he has been a valuable mentor to the younger players.

Trophies will be awarded at WFC's presentation night at Eltham Barrel on VFL grand final eve, September 26.

Tickets — at \$25 a head, all-inclusive — are available from club president Jeff Reddie (844 2176), secretary Anthony Giles-Peters (844 2573) or any committee member.

It is the big night on the club's social calendar and all members and supporters are urged to be there.

Cricket countdown is on

Warrandyte Cricket Club are gearing up for the 1986-87 season and practice is already under way.

Indoor nets were organised early in August and players from all grades have been involved.

"The coming season is very important to the club and we need all players in good form and the right frame of mind from the very start," said president Geoff Taylor.

With the first round of matches to be played on October 4, the club are looking for more players to help boost its depth of talent.

"I am sure there must be many cricketers who live in Warrandyte but who are travelling to other suburbs to play their games," Mr Taylor said.

"We want them to play their cricket in Warrandyte. We have ex-

cellent facilities and a great club with a tradition that goes back more than 130 years."

The club hope that negotiations will secure another local ground so that a sixth eleven can be fielded.

Mr Taylor said the club had been reluctant to field a sixth senior team if it meant the home ground was located in another municipality.

"We have been discussing possible joint use with a school and I believe we may be able to reach an agreement," he said.

If a suitable ground cannot be found, Warrandyte will field 14 teams in 1986-87. There will be five men's and seven boys' sides, a women's eleven and a girls' team.

Practice for the junior sides will start in September while the women's team and junior girls will

also be getting under way this month.

The club are compiling their successful directory of local businesses. Those wishing to be involved can contact Teresa Prince on 725 9489.

Girls a big hit indoors

Warrandyte's women cricketers have found instant success as indoor players.

An indoor team formed to provide winter training has won a premiership in the Box Hill ICC competition at their first attempt. Warrandyte beat Wheelers Hill 112 to 102 in the grand final and have

Tennis club among the winners

Warrandyte Tennis Club has completed a successful winter season in both senior and junior divisions.

VTA pennant teams finished in the final four and the Section 10 men's combination — Jim McHugh, Robert White, Keith Piper, Andrew Hiscock and Paul Ingalls — were narrowly beaten by Gladstone Park in their zone final.

The Saturday seniors had four of nine teams in the finals without winning a pennant.

Juniors capped a big season by having 10 of 11 teams in the final four, five in grand finals and two triumphant. The winners were the Mixed 20 (Stuart Gent, Barney Wedd, Brad Worland, Caroline Bradbury, Kerry Thatcher and Belinda Wood) and the Girls 1 (Nicci Booth, Phoebe Briggs, Broni Howell, Melanie Rankin and Cecile Ruegg).

The EMRLTA midweek "girls" had two teams in the grand finals and the A6 (Pat Abbott, Joan Bradbury, Rhonda Brown, Shelagh Morton and Jenny Stubbs) brought home the flag.

Preliminary rounds of the senior and junior club championships are now on and the finals (October 12) will coincide with the Warrandyte Festival.

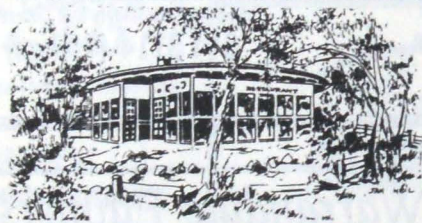
The following office-bearers were elected at the club's recent general meeting: president, Greg Lawrence (844 2498); vice-president, Pat Abbott; secretary, Val Mackintosh (844 2302); treasurer, Frank Waites.

The club will hold a grand masked ball at South Warrandyte Community Hall on Saturday, September 27. Reservations can be made via Heather Farmer (844 2626).

been promoted three divisions for the new indoor season.

The team: Jenni McLaws, Jenny Champman, Suzanne Martin, Sue Fowles, Maria McGhee, Teresa Prince, Michelle Hooper, Liz Brown and Lib McGhee.

Ms McLaws' form won her a berth in the Box Hill Superleague team.



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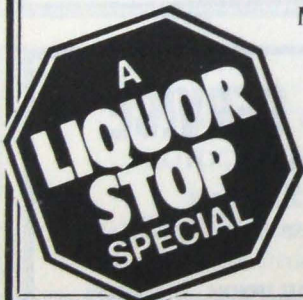
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