

Warrandyte Diary

PRICELESS

No 174, December 1986

Editorial and Advertising 844 2820

A trio of coincidences

There's something afoot, chum of my childhood, something to do with threes.

Willows, pines or gums?

Threes, not trees. Eins, zwei, drei. The trinity. The number that comes before four.

You have my attention. Proceed.

Well, I'm not into numerology but have you noticed lately how things have been

coming in threesomes? There was the naked jogger, for instance. She was seen by three carloads of RSL golfers.

Hardly an earth shattering coincidence. Go on.

Then Rupert looks like getting control of *The Herald* at his third attempt. In 1952 he started, then 1979 and now, well now.

Interesting. Why does he want a paper that's losing a million dollars a month?

It's a Christmas present for his old mum. You'd do the same.

But the clincher was Olive Davis expecting triplets and young Mark being production editor of *Triple AAA* magazine. Weird that.

I'll give you something that will rot your socks.

Yeah?

It's three o'clock, right?

The Timex agrees with you.

And this is our third round?

You're not wrong.

Well, the next round is yours. And merry Christmas.

Anti-tip group seeks our aid

A group of Kangaroo Ground residents is asking for Warrandyte's help in opposing Eltham Council plans for a new tip.

The residents — the Kangaroo Ground Anti Tip Group — claim the tip would be a fire risk and could pollute the Yarra. They say these dangers mean that Warrandyte people would also be affected.

But Eltham councillor John Fisher says the group's concerns are premature. The opening of a new tip would be in the next decade. In the meantime the council will be considering whether a tip is needed or whether other there are better ways of getting rid of the shire's rubbish.

The land in question is an 80-hectare area bounded by the Yarra Glen Road, Nicholas Lane and Carters Lane. Eltham Council decided recently to buy the land from the Board of Works. The cost is estimated to be between \$1.25 million and \$1.3 million.

In an open letter to Warrandyte residents, the secretary of the anti tip association, Peter Byrne, says council's plans for the land "pose a number of dangers to the Warrandyte area which we thought you should know about.

"One is the grave fire risk of such a proposal." The letter says that 250 tip fires are reported to the CFA each year. "Tip fires can burn underground for weeks at a time. In combination with a hot northerly wind, a fire could burn through to Warrandyte in minutes..."

Peter Byrne says the Kangaroo Ground residents are also deeply worried about the problems of smell, flies, rats, feral cats, litter and unsightliness. He asks Warrandyte people to protest to Eltham Council and concludes: "We invite everybody who is concerned to preserve everything good about our part of Victoria to join us...after all, we are neighbors."

John Fisher told the *Diary*: "It should be pointed out that council has made no decision about using this land as a municipal tip.

"Earlier this year council established a committee to investigate refuse disposal options for the shire once the existing tip is closed in about eight years. Three members of the (Kangaroo Ground) community sit on this committee. No action will be taken until the committee has completed its investigations."

Stane Brae Park needs cash boost

By CLIFF GREEN

The addition of 119 hectares of land — described as "significant natural habitat" — to Warrandyte State Park is being delayed because of a shortage of funds.

This land, an area of open redbox forest with few introduced plants, is the last remaining unsubdivided portion of the property known as Stane Brae, off Jumping Creek Road, Wonga Park, just beyond the border with Warrandyte.

More than 100 species of birds have been identified in the area, including 10 types of parrot and the wedgetailed eagle. It is believed that the eagle's nest at Stane Brae is the closest one to Melbourne.

Among the animals observed is a colony of about 100 eastern grey kangaroos, numerous echidnas, possums and sugar gliders and some wombats, swamp wallabies, phascogales and platypus.

So large are some of these populations that naturalists believe the area is probably providing shelter and food for as many individuals of these species as it can comfortably hold.

More than 235 separate species of plants have been identified at Stane Brae, including 43 varieties of orchid.

Stane Brae was one of the largest properties in the Wonga Park area. Arthur Henty purchased Stane Brae in 1910 and ran a horse coach service between Croydon and Wonga Park, terminating at his property.

During the Second World War, Stane Brae was used as an RAAF training camp, with facilities for 600 men. Clearings for tents and concrete slabs where huts and a



magazine once stood are all that remain of the camp and are included in the land now being sought for the park.

The Air Force built a rope bridge across the Yarra. Some of the airmen played cricket with Wonga Park and many attended local dances.

The original Stane Brae homestead, of weatherboard and corrugated iron, was destroyed in the 1962 bushfires.

The remains of a stone weir and

an old waterwheel are included in the park, being part of Stane Brae river frontage already acquired.

Approximately 40 hectares of Stane Brae has been subdivided and sold for low-density housing. Expensive private homes are being built on these blocks, which originally included some of the best forest land, described as "botanically highly significant".

The remaining section, being sought for the park, has the existing Warrandyte State Park bordering it

on two sides. It would provide a valuable "hinterland" buffer between the settled zones and the narrow strip of park extending along the river beyond Yarra Brae.

This whole area is now valuable real estate, and funds in excess of \$250,000 will be needed to purchase it for posterity. A Save Stane Brae Committee has been formed, with representatives from community, conservation and natural history groups in Warrandyte.

Continued page 3

How the seedless can still blossom

Swedish player Niklas Kroon won the final of the Warrandyte Tennis Classic against second seed Darren Cahill from South Australia after Cahill fell and injured himself during the first game.

The unseeded Kroon defeated Cahill in straight sets — 6-2, 6-4 in less than 100 minutes.

His rather disappointing final came at the end of a week of outstanding tennis at the Warrandyte courts.

A total of 126 international-standard players from Australia

and overseas gathered for the tournament — held between November 17 and 22 — an integral part of the Davis Cup Foundation satellite circuit.

Last year's singles winner Peter Doohan, partnered by Des Tyson, won the doubles final, defeating Peter Carter and Craig Miller in straight sets — 6-3, 6-1.

During the week, officials of the Davis Cup Foundation made many comments of appreciation and the club is hopeful of retaining a satellite event next year.

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We are very likely over-exposing Jim Girvan in this column, thereby defying his expressed wish to be spared cult-hero status. But his description of the much-worse-for-wear incinerator at the RSL Club bears repeating. "It's like me," said Jim. "Seventy years old and its spout's falling off!" Nice one, Girv.

The things you see on the way to golf! It was six o'clock on the morning of Saturday, December 6, and there was something most unusual about the lady jogger the Wsrrandyte RSL blokes passed on the way to their annual trophy event at the Healesville Country Club. She was heading east in Yarra Street and she was naked. Not a stitch on, mate. Starkers. The first carload of golfers spotted her near Blair Street, the second as she trotted past the police station, the third near the Jumping Creek Road turn-off. Jim Girvan, who's been able to distinguish between the sexes longer than most of us, was at the wheel of the third car and damned near ran through the gates of Warran Glen Nursery. The shots from the first tee at Healesville that day were quite sub-standard. Perhaps it was big-match nerves. More likely, though, the chaps had their minds on things other than golf.

Peter Lovett has lost a deal of weight since a major operation earlier this year and the pants he was going to wear to the Warrandyte RSL Cup-eve bash were not going to stay aloft on the dance floor. Not without braces, anyway, and former editors of the Diary are never suspended. Not to worry, said the effervescent Pat, I'll take 'em in.

IN RED & WHITE



And duly did. Pete thought the prickly heat must have got to him after he sat down in the RSL hall, but a furtive delve into the daks solved it all. Yeah, Pat's needle and cotton.

Eltham Council refers to them as "known traffic conflict locations". Warrandyte knows them as crash sites.

Ennio Torresan is a gentle giant of a bloke whose surname and physique lend themselves naturally to the nickname "Tarzan". It has taken a lunatic to upset him — and Smokey can assure you he is very, very annoyed. Somebody shot a hole in the tailgate of Ennio's station-wagon, parked outside his home at the top of Houghton Road...with a crossbow! Tarz has the arrows to prove it. Two of them, steel tipped, 16 inches long, feather flights. The matter is in the hands of the police and hopefully the arrows will be traceable. The last thing this town needs is some goose on the loose with a crossbow and a William Tell fixation. Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

Smokey's mate Maggie Baring (she lives in Ivanhoe but visits Warrandyte whenever she hears a cork pop) visited China last month and carried out her own version of taking coals to Newcastle. Tucked into her suitcase was a two-week supply of Lipton's teabags. The good Margaret has been there before and reckons the brew in the People's Republic is not quite kosher.

Smokey Joe

THE WARRANDYTE DIARY

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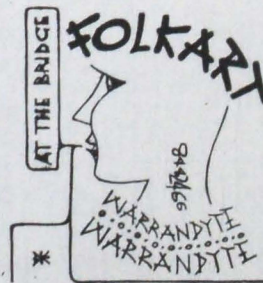
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Why are we waiting, why are we waiting, why . . . ?

The widening and reconstruction of the worst stretch of road in Warrandyte — that part of Research Road between Banning Road and Bradleys Lane — is off for the time being.

Eltham Council says it can't get the money to pay for it.

A public meeting of North Warrandyte residents back in July endorsed the reconstruction. In September, council endorsed the proposals of its works committee.

The plan was for a road 8.6

metres wide with two bus bays and a guard rail at danger spots. A formed gravel footpath a metre wide was to be made on the east side of the road.

The report even got down to the nitty gritty. "Reconstruction will require minimal tree removal," it said. "Retaining walls, where required, will be a random rock type, typical of the 'Main Road' walls, and incorporate planter boxes where practical.

Later in September the works

OPINION

Bob Millington

committee came up with a plan to pop a roundabout at the Bradleys Lane/Research Road intersection. Why not, seeing as the road was being tarted up at the same time.

Bonzer, said the council meeting of October 6. It resolved to seek

approval from the Road Construction Authority and the Road Traffic Authority.

The money was to come from the RCA's "unclassified road grant". But, says shire engineer J.H. Stamp in a letter to residents: "Council has recently been advised that the State and Federal Governments have reduced their allocation of funds to unclassified road-works.

"Therefore council cannot adhere to the proposed pro-

gram. It is not possible to give an indication, at this stage, of when alternative funding will be available for this work.

"The council is to continue the detailed design and land acquisition proceedings so that works can commence as soon as funds are available."

So, once again Warrandyte residents find themselves living in the forgotten riding of Eltham.

And still the cars go slamming off that rotten road.

After-bell care is approved

Who says persistence doesn't pay off?

The word has come through that "the woman in Warrandyte who keeps writing to the minister" has successfully brow-beaten Senator Don Grimes into giving Warrandyte an after-school-hours care program.

She-who-has-been-obeyed is Louise Joy, who has been writing to and telephoning MPs and public servants for months.

The word came through late in October that the scheme has been granted \$5625 for 1987 and \$7875 for the following year, with a one-off equipment grant of \$500.

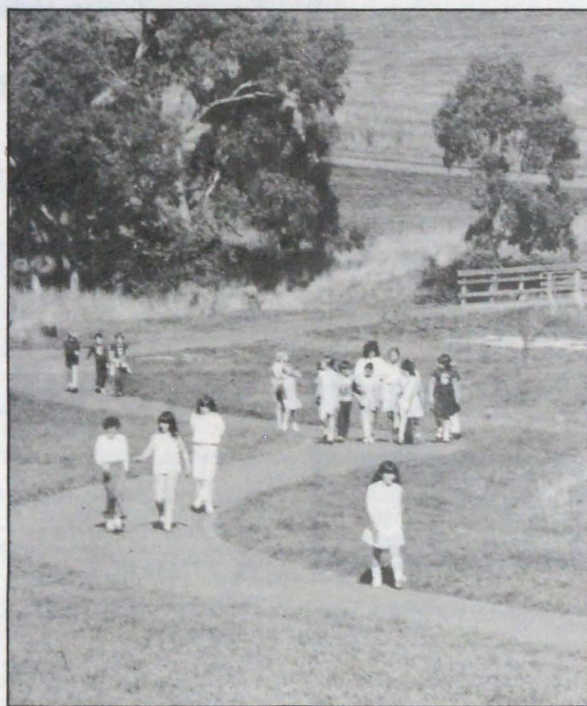
The jobs of co-ordinator and assistant are being advertised in the Diary. Job-sharing arrangements are being considered.

There will be places for 30 primary age children every night.

The program will appeal to those families where both parents are working and who have trouble getting home each night in time to collect their children from school.

Those interested should ring 844 2548 or 844 3326.

Children will be accommodated in the multi-purpose room at the Warrandyte Primary School from 3.30 to 6.30pm on Monday to Friday.



Children stroll through Westerfolds Park

Holiday fun in parks

There are activities for young and old this holiday season in parks around Warrandyte.

At the Board of Works' Westerfolds Park in Templestowe everyone is invited from 11.30am to 3pm on Saturday and Sunday, December 20 and 21.

Wendy Eva, twice Australian gum whistling champion, will show allcomers how to get started with the art, and the park's open spaces will be put to good use for flying special "sugar glider" kites.

Kids can design an individual brick that will remain in the park forever. And for the amateur detective there is animal tracking. You can follow the tracks around the park and try to find the animal which made them.

A board spokesman said Westerfolds Park is forging ahead. A big area of wetlands has been provided and nesting boxes hung in trees. Each year new bird and animal species are seen in the park.

Westerfolds Park is off Porter Street. The Melways reference is 33G2.

Closer to home is the little-known Currawong Bush Park, just down Reynolds Road near the Springvale Road intersection.

Currawong is 25 hectares of native bush and features a wildlife reserve with kangaroos and wallabies. There are good opportunities for bushwalking and birdwatching, and a small dam can be used for pond life studies.

Paul Sandells, who is the Currawong ranger, is keen to extend community awareness of the park to the residents of Warrandyte.

In particular, Paul wants to promote the park's Friends of Currawong group, which is looking for members.

As part of its summer holiday program the park is running a bush dance. All proceeds from this will go towards preserving the bushland.

Paul Sandells will answer any queries on 842 7279.

Diary Advertising serving your community

— 844-2707 —

Continued from page 1

Wonga Park, Doncaster, Ringwood, Nunawading, Blackburn, Lilydale and Kangaroo Ground.

The State Government has pledged \$10,000 towards the purchase fund. The committee has raised a similar amount.

"Almost enough for the deposit," Glen Jameson told the Diary. Glen is convener of the Friends of the Warrandyte State Park and is the committee's treasurer.

"We are looking for donations, support for our fundraising functions and people who can help us in our campaign," Glen said. "Of particular interest to us would be

someone with a big tax problem who would like to make a very real contribution to posterity. All donations are tax deductible."

Glen can be contacted at 844 2395 and cheques can be made out to the Save Stane Brae Committee and sent to PO Box 296, Blackburn 3132.

Noted naturalist-author Jack Hyett writes:

"It is possible for us now to ensure that on Stane Brae the lovely creatures and plants of its forest will survive, to delight our children and grandchildren for generations to come. To let it go for subdivision means their irretrievable loss."

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December, 1886: The case, *Crown v. Tunn*, which is reported in this issue (see below), is the most disgraceful thing I ever reported, under any circumstances.

It was evidently a mistake, simply, and should never have been brought before the court, at all events, as a criminal charge. The police, unfortunately, have no option in the matter, and have to do their duty.

There is no doubt that the sentence was given on Mrs Dowling's letter to the bench. The bench themselves called it a trumpety case, and the feeling of the court was exhibited by all the respectable women of the Creek condoling with Mrs Tunn in what they, I have no doubt, considered a grievous wrong.

ANDERSON'S CREEK POLICE COURT

Crown v. Tunn. — Feloniously stealing certain goods. Mrs Tunn surrendered to her bail on this charge. Constable Arnold, who prosecuted, asked the bench to alter the charge to larceny as a baillie; there was not sufficient evidence to support the former charge.

Margaret McDonald (sworn) stated that she had purchased the

How We Lived



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

Mrs Stonaway proved that she had bought a tablecloth from Mrs Tunn. Mrs Tunn stated that she had received the same for washing things for Mr Hosford.

The defendant stated that she had washed certain things for Mr Hosford; that Mrs Dowling had given her a parcel of things for it; the goods mentioned were in the parcel.

Mrs Belger proved that she was present when a parcel of things was given to Mrs Tunn, but would not say that the things in court were amongst them.

Mrs Dowling, who had been subpoenaed by the Crown, sent a letter to the bench, with a certificate stating her inability to attend, but informed the bench that the goods had been given Mrs Tunn to be delivered to Mrs McDonald, &c.

Mrs Grant gave Mrs Tunn an excellent character; she had worked for 16 years for her, and had always found her a thoroughly honest woman.

The bench also stated that they were very sorry that such a trumpety charge should have been brought before them. Evidently there had been some misunderstanding, but they had to deal with the evidence, and sentenced the prisoner to three days' imprisonment.

goods, a cushion, bolster and tablecloth at Mr Hosford's sale (the goods in question).

She asked Mrs Tunn to take them to her store. The goods were not delivered. She was informed that Mrs Tunn had them, and asked her for them. She refused to deliver them up, stating they had been given to her by Mrs Dowling for washing certain articles.

Read this book: it could save your life

The recent publication of a book by an author well known in the district could lead to the saving of life.

The Complete Australian Bushfire Book by Joan Webster (Nelson) is the end-product of a tremendous amount of detailed and meticulous research. It contains the distilled wisdom of the fire-fighting and fire research organisations throughout our country.

Much of this wisdom was bought at fearful cost during fires from the

earliest times of European settlement, through until the present day.

This book is a virtual manual on survival for all living in a fire-prone environment. It covers every aspect of fire safety from fire weather, through house design, property layout, protection of home and life, care of farm animals and pets, to travelling during the fire season and holidaying in the bush. Even fire legislation from state to state has been summarised.

Joan Webster was a journalist on

REVIEW

Bruce Bence

such local newspapers as the *Doncaster News*, *East Yarra News* and *Doncaster Mirror*, writing under the name Joan Seppings.

She covered the fires that swept the Warrandyte area during the

1960s, forming a close liaison with local fire brigades and with the emerging civil defence organisation, set up in the municipality by the late Graham Keogh.

During this period Joan gained first hand knowledge of bushfire problems in the community and of rapid developments in fire-fighting and support groups.

Through her columns, Joan gave splendid support to the brigades and civil defence, reminding her

readers of the need to be constantly aware of the dangers of fire and of the steps needed to ensure their safety and survival during the fire season.

These experiences close to the "fire front" led to her determination to record the work of fire-fighters in Australia and to collate information which may well help save lives. No household in a fire-prone area should be without a well-thumbed copy of *The Complete Australian Bushfire Book*.

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Many people contemplating vegetable gardening for the first time imagine that this rewarding occupation is difficult and time consuming. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This step-by-step annual gardening guide will reveal just how easy and relaxing this part-time occupation can prove to the amateur.

January

THIS, of course, is holiday month. Go off with a sanguine heart, secure in the knowledge that those exemplary neighbors of yours have agreed to water your patch.

Upon return, gently prise off the bushes those juicy tomatoes that have ripened in your absence. Give the neighbors a couple for their trouble. Green tomatoes should be picked now. Give them to your wife and suggest she learn from her mother how to make pickles.

Gather also unto you the bountiful harvest of cucumbers, carrots and radishes.

February

MOST summer crops will be in now. Try cleaning up the patch a bit. Have the kids pull out old tomato stakes and weeds and spread a bit of fertilizer before they turn over the beds. Children love to help in the garden.

March

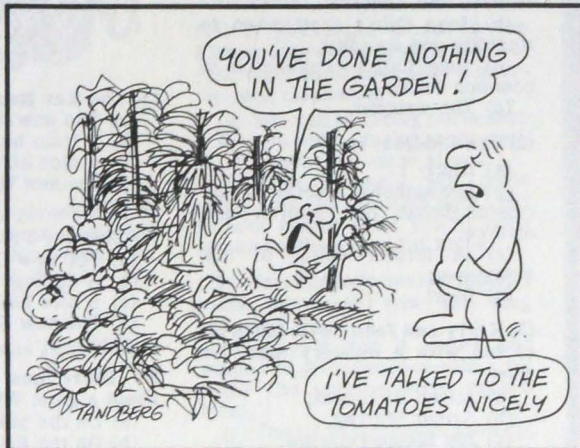
THIS is a very good month for seed catalogues. Send off for a few, pull up a chair, pop open a beer and peruse them. Many have pleasant color photographs and technical words which, if used properly, will gain you a certain social standing among other gardeners in the pub.

Have the kids turn over the vegetable garden again. If they demur, try the old "when I was your age I had to mow a 40-acre wheat paddock before breakfast" line. They can't call you a liar and they sure as hell don't know what an acre is.

April

TRY out your new knowledge in the pub. "I'm hard pressed to decide between *Phaseolus vulgaris* and *Phaseolus multiflorus* this year," you opine. They nod sagely, say nothing and press more pots of beer on the guru of the garden in their midst. You are, of course, tossing up only between French beans and climbing beans.

Your Gardening Guide



Back in the patch the kids should be planting broccoli, cabbage and parsnips. Suggest to the wife that she help them. After all why should she be cooped up in the house all day. A good gardener is a caring gardener.

May

GARDENERS never shut their minds to new ideas. Make sure you watch Kevin Heinze on television. Quite often you will find that his show is followed by a football match or an Italian movie with nubile starlets inadequately sewn into their dresses.

If the kids cut up rough about missing one of their ghastly videoclip shows, be firm. Send them outside into the fresh air. At the very least they can pick snails off the emerging cabbage.

June

HALF way through a hard but rewarding year. It is time to take stock. Keep away from the patch and think. Is there anything you could have done better? Have you been too easy on the children?

July

THIS month is far too cold to work in the garden. Visit the pub but be forewarned: your mates will now know all there is to know about about the family *Phaseolus*. Quickly turn the conversation to *Brassica oleracea*. Their eyes will

be able to call in a professional. Don't consider doing the job yourself. Remember, as the gardener you need to retain a detached overview.

Have the professional make your mounds across the line of drainage, and choose longer rather than shorter mounds. Little mounds look like graves and could invite a visit from the rozzers investigating those claims made by your children at show and tell time that you are working them to death.

September

IT's hard to avoid getting the hands dirtied this month. Grab a garden stake, saw off a foot-length at the end and you have a useful gardening implement. It is called a dibber. Give it to one of the kids. Their little hands are better for this kind of close work. Run the dibber along the edge of your mounds and you have created a furrow. Rip off the top of a seed packet and pop in your carrots and radishes. Get the kids to water well and manure the mounds. Have a day off work after this exhausting activity.

glaze and you will have maintained your advantage.

August

AN important month. Time to get your beds ready for spring vegetables. It's a scientific fact that children from 18 months onwards can handle a tiller and make a reasonable fist of turning over a half an acre a day. They have trouble pulling the starter cord, however.

For this reason it is advis-

October

TOMATO month. Send the wife out to buy a punnet of seedlings, select a sunny spot, have the kids dig holes and *Lycopersicon esculentum*'s your uncle. Tomatoes are the most talked-about plant in Australia. Independent research shows that the subject of tomatoes is the most common topic in public houses between the end of the football season and the finish of our pasting at the hands of the English cricket team.

November

KEEP a careful watch on your vegetables this month. A sunny balcony with a comfortable chair and a car fridge alongside it is the perfect vantage point from which to supervise madame and the brood as they weed and water.

December

HERE's the pay-off: vegetables from your own garden. The gardener should always personally visit the patch and harvest his own crop. It is, after all, the culmination of all your hard work during the year.

Make sure the kids keep well away.

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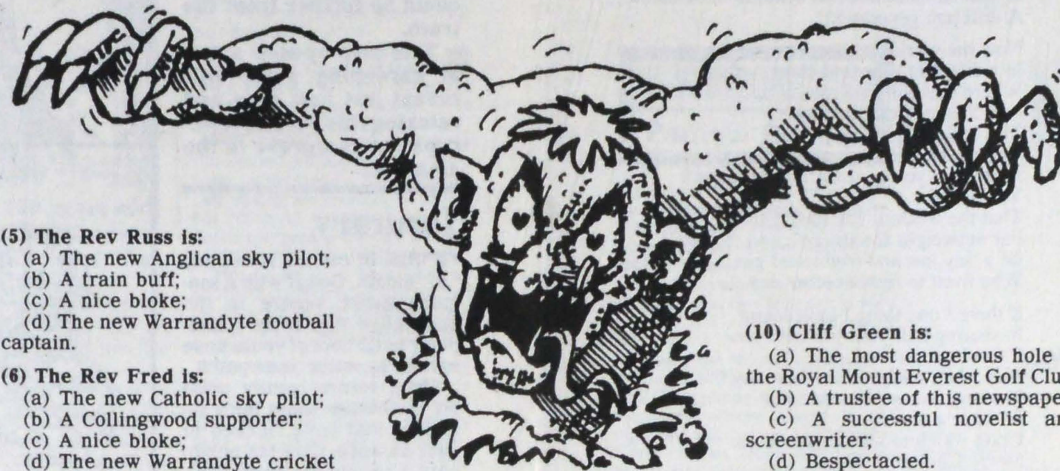
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The end-of-year monster quiz



(1) Warrandyte's best chance for unification since the blacks were troublesome fundered this year because of:

- (a) The small yet needlessly underpublicised nuclear war between Monaco and Andorra;
- (b) John Cain's capitulation to stupidity and cupidity;
- (c) John Cain's capitulation to common sense;
- (d) The weather.

(2) Jan Liddicut is:

- (a) Short;
- (b) The author of a series of successful books on children and divorce;
- (c) A former editor of this newspaper;
- (d) Short.

(3) Kerry and John Boyle had a lot of fun with a mystery man. He was:

- (a) Alfred Hitchcock;
- (b) Arthur Murray;
- (c) Joh Bjelke-Petersen;
- (d) Ron Barassi.

(4) Alice Watson, through a quirk of the electoral system, was denied permission to vote for her son. Her son is:

- (a) Hercules Watson;
- (b) Ken McKenzie;
- (c) Bob Hawke;
- (d) None of the above.

(5) The Rev Russ is:

- (a) The new Anglican sky pilot;
- (b) A train buff;
- (c) A nice bloke;
- (d) The new Warrandyte football captain.

(6) The Rev Fred is:

- (a) The new Catholic sky pilot;
- (b) A Collingwood supporter;
- (c) A nice bloke;
- (d) The new Warrandyte cricket captain.

(7) There has been much talk about a gate. Where will it go?

- (a) On the bridge;
- (b) On the Fourth Hill Tunnel;
- (c) On the Yarra;
- (d) On whatever tickles your fancy.

(8) The MP for Warrandyte is:

- (a) Lou Hill;
- (b) Fourth Hill;
- (c) The Fourth Hill Tunnel, MLA;
- (d) All these Hills look the same to me, Martha.

(9) Mary Townsend:

- (a) Makes the best store-bought sandwiches in Warrandyte;
- (b) You'd better believe she makes the best store-bought sandwiches in Warrandyte because her husband is a policeman and he'll put you in jail otherwise;
- (c) Owns the best-loved VW in the district;
- (d) Once played ping pong non-stop for 54 hours in aid of the Freedom from the Guinness Book of Records Campaign.

(10) Cliff Green is:

- (a) The most dangerous hole at the Royal Mount Everest Golf Club;
- (b) A trustee of this newspaper;
- (c) A successful novelist and screenwriter;
- (d) Bespectacled.

(11) Warrandyte was first settled by:

- (a) Gold miners;
- (b) Mr Anderson;
- (c) Mr Creek;
- (d) Trendies from Templestowe.

(12) Warrandyte was last settled by:

- (a) Trendies from Templestowe;
- (b) People with tennis courts;
- (c) People who hope to put in tennis courts;
- (d) Those nice people who moved in next door.

(13) Before they built the bridge in 1955 Warrandyte was served by:

- (a) A wooden bridge;
- (b) The Punt Road Ferry;
- (c) John Ryan, plumber;
- (d) Black-tie waiters at the Whitehouse.

(14) If you stand on the Eltham side of the bridge, hold out your right hand and make a quarter turn clockwise:

- (a) You will be facing north-east;
- (b) You will be facing south-west;
- (c) People will stare at you;
- (d) Jim Archbold will come along, turn off the blue light, and without asking what you've been smoking offer you a lift home.

(15) Warrandyte's senior football team failed to win the flag because:

- (a) They'd won it before and wanted to give someone else a go;
- (b) The umpires were against them;
- (c) The hit man failed to show up;
- (d) Them's the breaks.

(16) Which of the town's historical treasures is due to be fully restored in 1987?

- (a) The pub;
- (b) The post office;
- (c) The old slab hut;
- (d) Ken McKenzie.

Answers to Quiz in February.

The Australian Aspect

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The red steer is loose

By BRUCE BENCE

Life for early Warrandyte settlers was tough. Apart from harsh living conditions they had to cope with floods, constant epidemics of typhoid and diphtheria — and fire.

For they had chosen an extremely fire-prone area in which to live. Victoria joins California and the French Riviera as one of the highest fire risk areas in the world. Savage wildfires sweep some parts of the state almost every year. All the elements that go to make up a fire prone environment are present in Victoria: high summer temperatures, low humidity, hot dry winds gusting above 160 km per hour and native vegetation which ignites easily and burns magnificently; all coupled with a generous rainfall ensuring a plentiful supply of fuel.

It would have been unusual for the Warrandyte area to survive a single summer without an outbreak of fire.

The settlers did not have long to

wait before they experienced the awesome might of an uncontrolled wildfire. In November 1850 the Argus was warning of the danger to come.

The summer that followed was unusually hot and dry. Scorching winds from the north-west precipitated a 'blow-up' on February 6, 1851, a day that was to be long remembered as 'Black Thursday'.

A holocaust of fire swept the colony from the South Australian border to Gippsland, and from the Murray to the sea. The temperature reached 44 degrees celsius in Melbourne. Temperatures of 47 degrees were reported from country areas. City shops were closed as people sought to escape the searing winds and suffocating smoke.

At Kangaroo Ground, settlers fled with their families and livestock, while at The Plenty, every farmer lost property in a fire that burned southward through Heidelberg and spread as far as Armadale.

Although no report exists of these fires in the Warrandyte area, it would have needed a miracle for the district to have escaped them.

Daniel Bunce, who visited the area in December 1851, described the black and scorched surface caused by the devastating effect of Black Thursday and the growth of epicormic shoots on the large trees that survived the fires, a sure sign that a hot fire had passed this way.

Black Thursday was no isolated incident, as generations of Warrandyte residents were to discover to their cost.

In February 1854, a visitor to the goldfields commented on the grim aspect of the landscape, due to fires which had recently been burning in the valley down which they travelled to reach the diggings.

On January 12, 1857, John Hutchinson of Pound Bend wrote of "very hot bushfires" in his diary. On February 12, 1865 he recorded: "Extremely hot winds and bushfires, with strong north winds up till 4 pm when the wind changed suddenly to the south and then veered round to the west. The range opposite the Township of Warrandyte on fire".

The summer of 1890 was very hot and by February fires were raging around Kinglake, Queenstown (St Andrews), Smith's Gully and Christmas Hills, with thousands of hectares burnt. There were a number of bushfires in the Anderson's Creek area, but no serious damage was done, thanks to the volunteers who worked to contain them.

A year later the 'Red Steer' was loose again. Anderson's Creek was under threat from a bushfire that had been burning on Wonga Station for weeks.

A small number of volunteers, led by Captain Selby and Constable Williams and including Messrs Garnham, Hastings, Shultz and Stiggans, battled the fires for the best part of a fortnight.

They saved the township, although there was some damage to

the common adjacent to Wonga Station. Residents running stock on the common were supposed to turn out to protect the grass in the event of fire, but apparently had not done so in this case.

An estimated eight square miles (1040 hectares) of country were burnt out between Wonga Park and Ringwood before a wind change drove the fire towards Lilydale.

The 'Red Steer' was a name aptly used in those days to describe a running fire. People burning off areas to encourage new growth or to clear land for grazing were said to have 'turned loose the Red Steer'.

The 'Red Steer' was on the rampage again in 1893. Fires to the north of Anderson's Creek, burning from Kangaroo Ground to Kinglake and from Diamond Creek to Yarra Glen, were described as the most appalling and destructive in the district to that date.

A wind change to the west saved Anderson's Creek. Most of the residents of Kangaroo Ground turned out to fight this fire, averting serious damage to their township.

Fires continued to rage throughout the district during February. Early in March of the same year an extensive fire broke out on the common, destroying a four-roomed house and several acres of fruit trees owned by Mr J. Stewart.

On March 24, 1898, Mr Robert Hunter, an old and respected resident of Templestowe, failed to return from a visit to land he owned 3 km from Anderson's Creek (now Pygmalion Park Estate). Searchers found his partly-burnt remains.

A bushfire had been noticed in the area and it appeared that he had tried to put it out on his own, but was overcome by smoke and exhaustion.

The death of Mr Hunter came at the end of a disastrous bushfire season, the worst since 1851. The whole colony was ablaze.

To be continued.

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POEM

TO MUM

This is a time for Reflection
As you gaze back upon your life's calendar.
The years of plenty...
Those childhood years of struggle...
The Poverty, the hunger, the Depression...
The "susso" kids, the soleless shoes...
The Panic and the Fear...
The strict and austere nuns and priests,
The sniggers and the jeers —
Humiliation...Jubilation...
The Introvertedness
resulting from the dread
of words spoken in anger...
of Fists raised in rage and torment...
of blurred drunken days of Rage and Depravity,
And Cold Heartless nights
of wandering back streets and alleyways...
And then the marching, tramping feet of war
which carried vermin across the continent
and spread the tentacles of fear
into every heart, in every land...
The aftermath — the coastal breeze
The rolling of the surf — a lullaby...
The "hazy, crazy days" of wine and song...
Trimming the tree...

Two children to bring you joy,
and sometimes woe.
The many years of work and toil,
The dusty Warrandyte summer nights
The adolescent fights
The trials and tribulations
Ecstatic achievements —
A Mother's heart which aches to understand
A different generation.

Now the world has begun again
In a different time and place
Where you will find solace
And Shelter from the Storm...
This is the beginning
And the end of all that is and was...
And when you gaze back in retrospect
You'll find
That the wisdom you have gained
Far outweighs the struggle and the pain
Of a tiny lost and frightened girl
Who lived to fight another day...

If there's one thing I have learnt
In sharing half your life with you
It's to be a survivor.
And when you're taken from my life
In many, many years to come
I'll have a model
Upon which to set my standards.
Merry Christmas Mum.

Robyn J. Youlten

Market has cash to give away

The Warrandyte Community Market has some money to give away.

The market is a non-profit making organisation and returns all the money it makes from the rent of stalls to the community in the form of small donations to local groups.

The grants are usually up to \$300, except in the

case of projects which are seen to benefit a large proportion of Warrandyte residents.

Sue Boyle, the market co-ordinator, would like to hear from groups with a need for cash. Write to her at P0 Box 8, Warrandyte, and explain carefully what the money would be used for.

But remember, the market committee has the sole right to decide on how its money is allocated.



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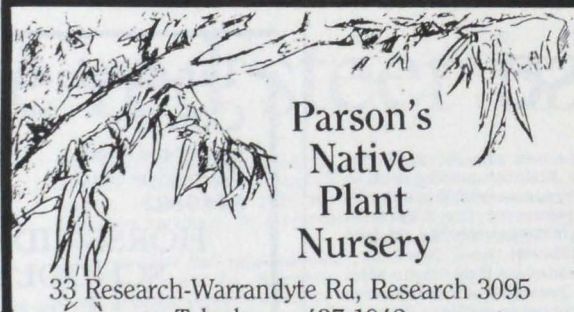
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On the wings of night a common confusion

NATURE

Pamela Conder

If you have been kept awake by a maddeningly monotonous cuckoo-like call, don't blame the tawny frogmouth, sometimes incorrectly dubbed "mopoke".

The real culprit is the boobook owl. And that two-note call is only part of this small brown owl's repertoire.

Apart from their nocturnal habits, tawny frogmouths have very little in common with owls. They are more closely related to the nightjars and belong to the order Coraciiformes, along with kookaburras, bee-eaters and swifts.

The scientific name — Podargus — given to the tawny frogmouth by Cuvier early last century, refers to its "gouty, feeble feet". Whether or not they are gouty, they are certainly feeble when compared to the powerful, gripping talons of the owls.

If we go back to the common name, frogmouth, we find a reference to the other major difference between this bird and the owl tribe.

That beak, which appears to stretch from "ear to ear" and gives the frogmouth its charming loony leer, is better suited to scooping up beetles, worms and spiders from the ground or branches, than holding and tearing prey, as the owls do with their narrow, hooked beaks.

Another talent for which the frogmouth is justly famous is its



native genius for blending into the landscape.

A pair of frogmouths roosted for several years in a messmate outside my studio. Although I knew which tree to look in, it invariably took a few minutes to "get my eye in" and locate the birds.

The frogmouth's disappearing act is aided by certain physical characteristics, as well as its ability to sit drawn up and immobile, with beak pointing skyward.

For a start, the line of its profile is broken by a shock of "bristles" above the beak and the feathers themselves are intricately patterned with dark and light lines and mottling.

This disruptive coloring is one of nature's craftier devices for hiding things in obvious places.

Another habit of the frogmouth which sets it apart from the boobook is its sloppy approach to

housekeeping. The nest is a rather jerry-built job, usually a rough and ready platform of sticks, sometimes even the abandoned nest of another species.

Boobooks go in for somewhat more formal arrangements, often taking advantage of tree hollows, which the male then fits out with a suitable lining.

He also provides his mate with food while she attends to the business of brooding their clutch of two or three eggs.

In fact, these are the last of the Australian owls to breed each year. The owlets fledge about this time (early December) having hatched some six weeks earlier.

Should you manage to spot a boobook, the ones with brown eyes are the youngsters. Those of the adults — in most Australian mainland boobooks — are greenish-grey.

Why not hire one of our triers?

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.

Sandy, 16, has five years experience

milking cows, tending cashmere goats, fowls, ducks and sheep, and can ride a horse. She is looking for farm work.

Mark, 15, wants full-time work outside or in a shop. He will try anything.

Anyone able to help is asked to contact Jean Chapman on 844 2548 or 844 3326. This is another Warrandyte Community Workshop Co-operative project.

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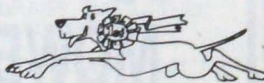
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IN BRIEF

Bus services upgraded

The Met has upgraded Warrandyte bus services.

The authority says that the recent introduction of three more articulated buses on the Warrandyte-city run has allowed more of the old-fashioned kind to be released for other services.

The Met says there are now more off-peak runs to the city and back and more morning and evening peak services. A new route from Donvale to Shoppingtown has been established.

Copies of the new Met timetables are available at some Warrandyte shops.

Christmas services

Christmas services at St. Stephens Anglican Church will be at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve and at 8 am on Christmas Day. The following Sunday service will be at 9 am.

At Emmanuel Church, Park Orchards, the Christmas Day service will take place at 9.15 am.

Happy 92nd birthdays

Two members of the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Centre have recently celebrated their 92nd birthdays. They are Mrs Corrie Davies and Mrs Kathie Baird.

The centre had 85 guests and members at its 24th birthday concert on November 13. And, while talking about birthdays, the centre's "Pryme Movers" easy exercise program celebrated two years in October 30.

WAC NOTES

*...prepared by
 Warrandyte
 Advisory
 Committee.*

The Warrandyte Advisory Committee has met with the developer of the Knees Road project and his consultants to point out a number of objections the committee has.

At the moment WAC is the only objector to the present proposal, although in view of certain information regarding clearing, grazing and building arrangements, the committee believes other groups might now object to the development.

WAC has been advised of a proposed upgrading of Yarra Street parking facilities. It will be presenting proposed plans to traders and the community soon.

At WAC's last meeting concern was raised about the parking and accident problem outside Pancakes on the Yarra. The committee intends taking this up with the City of Doncaster and Templestowe.

A study of the Warrandyte area is being undertaken by Doncaster/Templestowe. WAC will be submitting information to the Warrandyte/Park Orchards zoning committee. A sub committee has been formed to seek community opinion.

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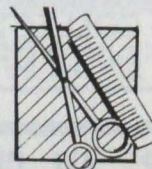
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The dynasty carries on

The names Chapman and Bellinger have long been synonymous with cricket in this town.

In the case of the Chapmans, it has been not so much a family as a dynasty and the careers of the Bellingers have run parallel to a considerable part of it.

A whole new generation of the two families has now emerged at Warrandyte Cricket Club. Five descendants — Matthew Chapman, Tristan Martin, Adam White and Ray and Scott Bellinger — are playing in the various under-12 teams.

They are destined to carry on remarkable family traditions.

Jean Chapman, the "matriarch" of her family, traces the lineages;

Matthew is the son of Maxine (nee Adams), who played a few games for the first Warrandyte women's team, and John Chapman, who has represented the local club for 30 years. John started with what was then Warrandyte's only junior team, the under-16s.

Matthew is the grandson of Allan Chapman and Les Adams, both WCC life members, as is John. He is the nephew of outstanding local woman cricketers Jenny Chapman and Suzanne Martin (nee Chapman). Jenny played three times for Victoria at junior level; Suzanne played in two State junior teams and once for Australia in India.

Back to Matthew. He is also a



nephew of Peter Adams (who played in the first under-16 team Glenn Martin) and Peter's wife Cheryl, who played women's cricket here.

Matthew's uncle Brian Chapman played in the first local under-12 team, started by his mother, Jean, and local schoolteacher Peter Moran, and graduated to the seniors via the under-14s, under-16s and seconds.

Tristan Martin is the son of Glenn (whose association goes back to the first under-11 eleven with Peter Adams) and Suzanne. As such he inherits the same illustrious Chapman cricketing background as Matthew.

Adam White is the son of long-time senior player and current captain Robert. Robert's wife Margaret (nee Lee) is a cousin of Maxine Chapman and neice of Les Adams.

Scott and Ray Bellinger are the sons of Alan, who began in the under-16s with John Chapman and played in the seniors for many years. Alan is a life member of WCC, his father Ray also had a long playing career with Warrandyte.

Brownies are busy girls

Warrandyte Brownies, Guides and Rangers have been very busy of late. Brownies held cake stalls, planted trees, made floral arrangements, celebrated Halloween with fancy dress costumes and went swimming.

Guides covered coat hangers with macrame for the elderly, practised first aid and knots, held a games night for tracking skills and had a visit from Rob Gell.

Ranger Guides have been on Puffing Billy.



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Outright puts Dytes back in business



Tony Sturesteps — hard-hitting 33 led Warrandyte's successful run chase against North Ringwood.

There are few opportunities for outright victory in the Ringwood District Cricket Association's Chandler Shield competition. But Warrandyte scored the maximum 10 points in their match against North Ringwood.

The win catapulted the Dytes into finals contention and is further evidence of the growing confidence and ability of a senior team which is being rebuilt with the help of its junior players.

The outright victory was even more meritorious considering that star all-rounder Ian Broome broke a bone in his hand while batting and played only half the game.

"It was a morale-boosting win from the club's point of view," Warrandyte captain Robert White told the *Diary*.

"We have met the two top sides in the competition in recent matches and lost both. It would have been easy for the team to have lost its way but we showed that we really want to be part of a successful season."

The real strength of the win was that it was based on a team effort. Batsmen were prepared to sacrifice their wickets in the quest for quick runs and the bowlers toiled hard to restrict their opponents' scoring opportunities and take wickets.

Gerald Walshe continues his improvement as a bowler and his match figures of 6/87 set Warrandyte up for victory.

John O'Brien, playing his first senior game, also showed great maturity in both innings and Tony Sturesteps' bold hitting was precisely what was required to enforce the outright.

Michael Day underlined his potential as an opening batsman by top-scoring in the Dytes' first innings.

Warrandyte dismissed North Ringwood for just 111 on the first

WARRANDYTE Diary SPORTS NEWS



Ian Broome

Broome's bad break

Warrandyte opening bowler Ian Broome will be out of action until the new year with a broken bone in his hand.

He was struck by a sharply rising ball when batting during the outright win over North Ringwood.

Broome, who has developed into a valuable all-rounder, was forced to retire hurt and took no further part in the match.

His loss is a major blow because his tearaway bowling has been a big factor in Warrandyte's improvement this season.

Apart from his role with the seniors, Broome is in his second year as junior coach.

CRICKET DETAILS

Scores: Chandler Shield: Warrandyte 8/124 dec. (Day 32, O'Brien 21) and 5/103 (Sturesteps 33, White 28, Sloan 23 n.o.) d. North Ringwood 111 (Walshe 3/58, White 2/10) and 9/115 dec. (Walshe 3/29, White 2/13, Sloan 2/18).

Seconds: Warrandyte 6/239 (Pascoe 89, Jacobs 37, C. Day 30, L. Walker 29 n.o.) d. North Ringwood 182.

Thirds: Warrandyte 162 (R. Walker 38, Hughes 30, B. Baker 22) lost to North Ringwood 7/208 (Le Guier 4/56, R. Walker 2/18).

Fourths: Warrandyte 250 (Heins 66, P. Baker 42) d. North Ringwood 131 (Booker 5/35, Heins 4/22) and 1/102.

Fifths: Warrandyte 188 (G. Broome 60) lost to Mooroolbark 7/298.

Sixths: Warrandyte 94 (G. Walker 30) and 7/181 (Jones 56 n.o., Patterson 52)

lost to Bayswater Park 284 (Fernando 5/82, Clothier 4/85).

Women: Warrandyte 71 (Prince 33, Tunbridge 25) and 0/45 lost to Monash 235.

Under-16 (1): Warrandyte 7/148 (Walker 50, Graf 33, Vitoritti 27) lost to Ringwood 5/261.

Under-14 (1): Warrandyte 9/96 (Spender 25) lost to Ringwood 8/144.

Under-14 (3): Warrandyte 5/120 (Neagle 61 n.o.) d. Wantirna 117.

Under-12 (1): Warrandyte 9/169 (Healy 46 n.o., Jacobs 29, Ryan 25) d. Vermont 136.

Under-12 (2): Warrandyte 105 (Howell 32, Hose 31) lost to Glen Park 132.

Under-12 (4): Warrandyte 74 lost to Bayswater Park 181.

Ex-coach McLean is new football club president

Two premiership coaches head a new-look Warrandyte Football Club administration.

Former Collingwood and Hawthorn player Kevin McLean, who coached the Bloods to the EDFL third-division flag in 1983, is the new club president.

His vice-president is Bill Luttick, coach of the premier under-14 and under-16 local sides in 1985 and 1986 respectively.

Office-bearers were elected at the club's annual general meeting late last month.

Anthony Giles-Peters was installed for his sixth consecutive term as secretary.

Committee members are Peter O'Toole (chairman of the junior

sub-committee), Darryl Cousins, Shane Revell, Robert Heazlewood, Jenny Sharpe and Hobin Golding (last season's senior captain who will head the social sub-committee).

The position of treasurer has not yet been filled and there are vacancies for three further committee appointments.

Mr McLean, who coached the senior side from 1981-84, unsuccessfully contested the presidency last year against Jeff Reddie, who stood down recently after two years at the helm. He was elected unopposed this time.

Former Melbourne player Dennis Clark has already been reappointed senior coach for 1987.

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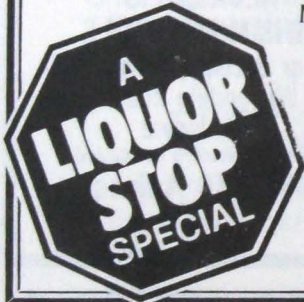
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