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Warrandyte Diary

PRICELESS

No 174, February 1987

Editorial and Advertising 844 2820

Burgled?

Make sure it doesn't happen again. See Page 3 for Alarm Safe Security.

Never mind the width, feel the quality

All right. Don't mind if I do. There's something different about the *Diary* this month. I can't quite put my finger on it.

It's gone tabloid, old son. The paper seems the same, and they haven't changed the type. Jock's in, and so are the regular features. Has Murdoch taken over? Or Holmes a Court? Or Bondie? No, it's become a tabloid.

The ads seem to be the same. Bit more space around some of them. Pictures. Is it the pictures?

Chum of my childhood, I'll say it once more. The *Warrandyte Diary* has changed to tabloid. It has increased in size to what is a standard format for a lot of newspapers, to wit the Diamond Valley Whatsit, the Doncaster Templestowe Whatever, the Melbourne *Sun News Pictorial* and the London *Daily Mail*.

You don't say. I do say. Why? Order us two more and I'll explain.



The old size was what they call in the printing trade...you'll excuse my French...a bastard measure, neither one thing or the other. When they started off the *Diary* more than 12 years ago they adopted that odd size, somewhere between A4 and tabloid, for reasons which are hidden in the mists of time and beer-blown brain cells. The best guess is that the *Diary's* first printer had paper stock of that size that he was willing to flog off cheaply.

I'm with you. So these days the *Diary* has a different printer, and it causes all sorts of problems to trim paper to the *Diary* size. But every Johnny with an offset press can accommodate tabloid size. And remember, the *Diary* was bouncing between 12 and 16 pages every edition. This gives the editor the chance to settle on 12 pages most times.

And? And, finally, it's more economical to settle on a standard tabloid size.

Ah, ha! Money. It always comes down to money.

Up to a point, old mate. But look at it this way. You'll be getting about 25 per cent more newspaper for the same price. And how much were you paying for it before?

Well, nothing. It says so up the top there, under the name, "priceless".

And so are you, Curly. It's your shout.

Double trouble tipped for flats

By CLIFF GREEN

The character of Warrandyte township will change forever if Government and Council planning policies already proclaimed are pursued to their full extent.

Under rules allowing 'closer density' housing, many residential blocks within the township area can be further subdivided, permitting two or more dwellings per block, subject to certain conditions.

Residents were alerted to the potential dangers of the new regulations when a sign appeared on a site at the corner of Yarra and Anderson Streets, formerly occupied by the late Miss Aggie Moore, advising of the new owner's intention to apply for a permit for 'dual occupancy' of the site.

A number of locals, and the Warrandyte Environment League, have lodged formal objections to this proposal with Doncaster and Templestowe Council.

WEL is objecting on the grounds that the proposed development is too intensive and is out of keeping with the character of the area. They believe the proposed subdivision would cause a 'loss of amenity' to nearby residents.

"Our main concern however," WEL president Kevin Parker told the *Diary*, "is the precedent this sets for the future. If this permit is granted, it could result in an immediate domino effect, with a rash of similar applications and an upsurge of interest in township real estate, especially in the many older houses on blocks larger than the minimum size.

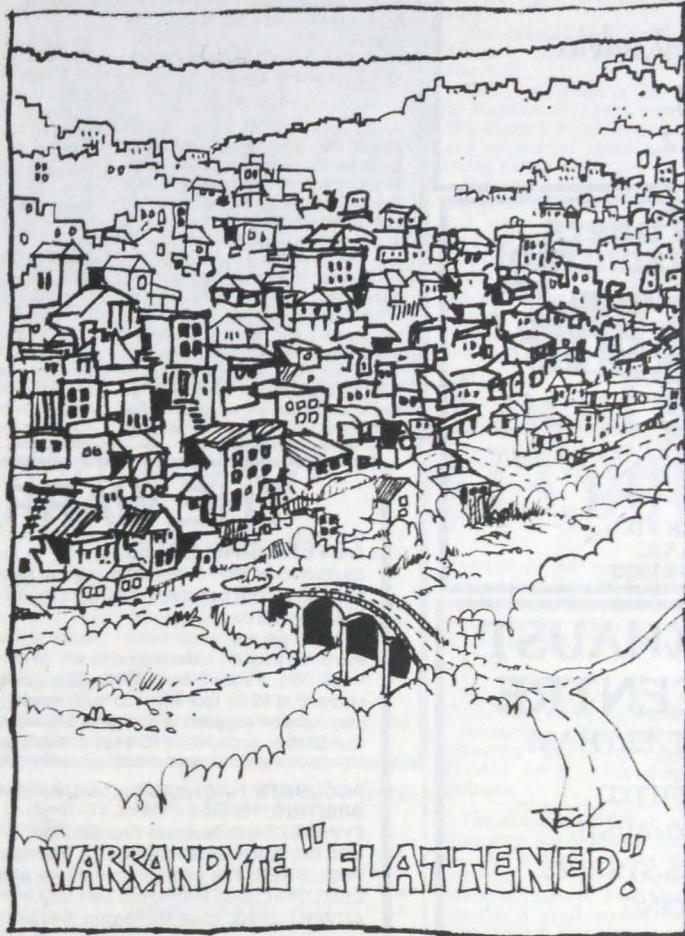
"Many of these houses could be demolished, their gardens uprooted and their sites covered with additional houses, flats and units. The special character of Warrandyte would be destroyed.

"Council should place a freeze on the residential C township area until the appropriateness of dual occupancy is resolved."

Cr Ken McKenzie has expressed similar concerns.

"I support the basic principle of dual occupancy, designed as it is to provide accommodation for people with special needs, and to allow better use of resources and facilities, but only in areas where closer density is appropriate.

"The township of Warrandyte is not such an area. It is one of the most interesting and attractive precincts in



the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, if not the whole Melbourne area. More than 130 years of neighborhood history must not disappear beneath a spread of brick, concrete and bitumen.

"Council and its officers have no intention of letting this happen. It is our hope that the rigorous upholding of special provisions under the regulations will enable us to protect Warrandyte. If this turns out not to be the case, we will press for Government recognition of Warrandyte township as an area of special interest, requiring additional protection."

The township of Park Orchards has been exempted from closer density zoning.

Residents are asking why dual occupancy and closer density regulations have been applied to Warrandyte in the first place, encouraging developers to consider the area ripe for closer subdivision and lifting expectations among locals who find themselves tempted — or forced — to sell.

Much of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe has been recently subjected to closer density zoning. The Warrandyte township area has been zoned 'Density Area 4', the least dense of all, with a minimum of one residence per 650 metres square. This

allows for a dwelling on each site of between one-fifth and one-sixth of an acre.

However, few existing township blocks are this small. Some are quarter acre, many are a third to a half, a number are one acre or larger. All of these could be considered suitable for closer density development, subject to certain conditions.

Few would argue the sense in granting a permit for a temporary 'granny flat' on a large Warrandyte block. Under the existing rules, however, application can now be made — with some expectation of success — for a permit for up to five or six additional residences on a typical larger block.

Council may seek to control the situation by refusing permits, but the possibility of applicants succeeding on appeal to a higher tribunal would appear to be strong.

Ironically, the coming of sewerage, installed to enhance the environment, has made closer density possible. The need to contain sullage on residential blocks has protected us in the past.

The dangers to our township are real and immediate. Urgent resident action is needed if they are to be averted.

Page 11: Map, letter

Chapel buys squash centre

The Gospel Chapel has bought the Warrandyte Squash Centre and intends to hold its Sunday services there.

For the rest of the week the Yarra Street centre will revert to its original purpose: squash courts.

The chapel hall will remain as part of the church. As David Dawson, one of the committee appointed to oversee the move, put it: "There will be times when we will need to use the old hall.

"For instance, I don't think we'd be looking at having mid-week funerals or marriages in the squash centre."

The *Diary* believes that various local groups would also object to the old hall being sold and then used for something other than religious meetings.

David Dawson says the reason behind the squash centre buy was success. The Gospel Chapel is a growing church, but extensions on the present site were thought to be unfeasible. Buying land and putting up a new building were also unattractive because of the cost.

Chapel members began to think about taking over the squash courts, and late last year successfully approached the management.

David Dawson says the squash centre was doubly attractive.

The chapel could buy the centre without heavy cost to members, since the squash and gym business will help pay for the building.

A second point, says David Dawson, is that "leaders and members of the Gospel Chapel would rather be where the people are, making friends and sharing, and maybe helping those in need in our community."

Chapel leaders believe the centre can be run as a squash and gymnasium business for six days a week and then be turned into a meeting hall on the Sunday with little modification.

But they also intend to introduce 'a wide variety' of activities at the centre, including counselling.

A new manager, P. J. Byford, who married a Warrandyte girl, Carole Johnson, began work at the centre on February 2.

Architect is named for slab hut

Work on the preservation and protection of the historic slab cottage in Castle Road is expected to begin during 1987.

The National Trust, which has classified the cottage and is now its legal owner, has informed the local committee of management that an architect, Mr Jonathan Wade, has been appointed to design and supervise the project.

Branch rejects Ruxton

The Warrandyte sub branch of the Returned Services League has moved to distance itself from the recent comments of the RSL state secretary, Bruce Ruxton.

Early in January Mr Ruxton said that black South African archbishop Desmond Tutu was visiting Australia to "breathe hatred". He also described him as a "witchdoctor".

Mr Ruxton's remarks were quickly condemned by churchmen, politicians and the Victorian's boss RSL national chief Sir William Keys.

In a letter to the *Diary*, Lyn Mitchell, secretary of the Warrandyte RSL sub branch, writes: "We, as a sub branch, are not too happy with recent actions of and remarks by Mr Ruxton."

Mr Mitchell says that Ruxton's comments might obscure the clear work that is at the core of the RSL philosophy.

His letter continues: "We, the members and friends of the Warrandyte sub branch, would like to clearly state that the purpose and central focus of our sub branch is to raise funds and give moral and

physical assistance to those who have served and are still serving their country in the Australian defence forces, and their families.

"The Victorian branch of the RSL has over the years built and now runs hostels, flats and units in Melbourne...for the care of the mainly aged ex-service men and women and widows..."

"We appreciate and thank the members of our whole community for their assistance given in the past and which, we trust, will continue in the future."

This month the *Diary* brings you once again its guide to what's on in the fields of learning and culture in the coming year. You'll find this comprehensive list in the centre pages.

The *Diary's* solicitors, Messrs Sullivan, Scott and Runne, advise that this newspaper cannot be held responsible for any reader who takes up the tarot card course. They then find that Auntie Stella has gone against the prophecy and failed to leave him/her/hit the Gold Coast properties.


That said, the *Diary* is indebted to Pat Anderson for a mighty job of compilation.

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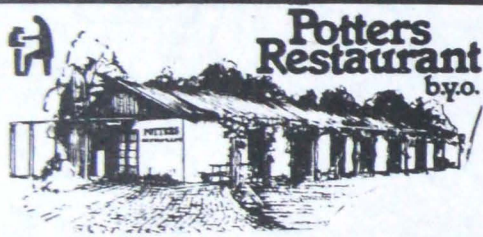


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It's amazing whom you can meet in the main street. It's not unusual to come across Marion Francis, head woofer (with husband Ernie) of Yarrabrook Kennels, the holiday home for pampered Warrandyte pooches. But her companion was a little out of the ordinary.

Dominic Harris is a visiting International Dog Judge (doggy people tend to capitalise) from Ireland. To be exact, he lives in Kiltrie, County Meath. To be even more exact, says Dominic, Kiltrie has only two small shops, a church and — wait for it, folks — no pub. Dominic says it's the only town, village or hamlet in the Old Sod without a place to gargle.

Dominic was in these parts to judge the International Dog Club championship at the Showgrounds. In the great Australian journalistic tradition this column asked Mr Harris his impression of Warrandyte after 24 hours' residence. "It's bigger than what I left behind," he replied.

Ah sure, blessed be Saint Patrick, at least we have a pub.

And, speaking of those lovely places, they do things differently up there on the Sapphire Coast. Smokey stopped in late one night at a Pambula hostelry for a bottle of port to brighten the darkness back at the tent in Eden he was inhabiting. He wandered across to the bottleshop in the main bar. No attendant. Five-minute wait. Finally, an elderly inebriated person (no, we mustn't call them old drunks) sidles up alongside. "No worries, mate," he slurs, unfolds the top of the bar and invites Smokey to go inside and make his selection. After a millisecond's hesitation, Smokey

**IN RED
 & WHITE**



does. "No worries, love" echoes the barmaid from across the crowded room. Civilised people.

But are we too civilised? It was at a motel in Bairnsdale. Smokey emerged for his 7 am scratch, yawn and stretch in the sun when he noticed the bridal car, still ribbon bedecked, three units down. How nice, he thought. An hour later the happy couple packed the car and drove off. Nice looking couple of blokes they were, too.

She always manages to sneak one in. It was at the zoo, and Smokey was looking at those great shaggy beasts so beloved of the Western films of his youth. 'I hear the zoo's getting 10 more next year,' said madame. 'Oh, really,' replied Smokey. 'Yes,' she said, 'it's to be a bison-tennerly gift.'

But how the gods frown on people who make jokes as bad as that. A day later the allergy-wallah, who charges \$100 a sneeze, suggested that the cause of madame's runny eyes could be the result of exposure to the smell of newsprint and tobacco smoke. There's no way those two odors will disappear from Chateau Smokey.

The reporting may be slightly lacking in detail but Alice O'Leary's heart is in the right place and her news instincts true. She tells Smokey that the winner of the Warrandyte Womens Hospital Auxiliary Christmas raffle was B. Davison (the hamper), with second prize (the Christmas cake) going to "Madame Brown". And they are both Warrandyte folk, adds Alice.

A far better result than that achieved by the Warrandyte High School at its fete last year. As reported exclusively in the Diary, the organisers blew their raffle, with all prizes going to out-of-towners. The obvious solution is to let the fair Alice organise all Warrandyte raffles.

Smokey notes that Safeway over at the Pines shopping centre says it will deliver to "Park Orchids". Makes you wonder about other parts of Donc-aster. (Loyal readers please note: no more flower jokes will be entertained).

For nine months or so Warrandyte will miss the happy face of Sally George. As a dutiful wife Sally is accompanying husband Alan to Sarawak while he sorts out a few engineering problems. Sally was settling in nicely as information

officer of the Citizens Advice Bureau. Her place will be taken by Chris Stammers.

As if she hasn't got enough on her plate, Jean Chapman has now been appointed a justice of the peace. But don't spread it around, Jean doesn't want to be rung up at 3 am by drunks seeking bail.

Smokey Joe

**Childcare pair
 appointed**

The After-School Care Program is underway at Warrandyte Primary School.

Joint co-ordinators Gail Brown and Helen Rosmalen are mature local women who have had considerable experience in child care both with their families and in local programs. They will work on a job-sharing basis.

Their assistant is Leanda Bensch, another local with excellent credentials.

Enquiries about the program may be made to Gail on 844 2497 or Helen on 876 3920.

Sole parents

The Sole Parent Support Group will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 8, at 2 pm in the Co-op to decide on plans for 1987.

All sole parents living in Warrandyte are welcome.

THE WARRANDYTE DIARY

ADVERTISING RATES

\$3.00 per column centimetre (casual rate)
 \$2.80 (6 month contract); \$2.60 (12 month contract)
 \$230 per half page
 \$420 per full page

Preferred position advertisements will be surcharged at the rates of: Page 1, 100%; Page 3 and Back Page, 30%; Pages 2 and 5, 20%. Other preferred positions, 10%. Page 1 "ears" \$50. Mini-ads will be charged at \$2 for four lines (20 to 25 words) plus 75c for each extra line. If illustrations are required they must be supplied. A charge of \$10 will apply to illustrations that have to be rephotographed. Outstanding accounts of 60 days and over will be charged 5% on the outstanding account.

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 PRINTING: Ho Bros. Printers, 115 Smith St, Fitzroy 419 5108
 TYPESETTING: Bandaid Productions, 54 Smith St, Collingwood, 419 5385
 POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 72, Warrandyte 3113
 PUBLISHER: The general committee of the Warrandyte Community Youth Club.
 EDITORIAL: Bob Millington (844 2820)
 ADVERTISING: Trish Millington (844 2820)

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Amid the muck, the CAB finds St Patrick

By JAN LIDDICUT

Mud, mud, glorious mud...there's nothing quite like it for cooling the blood. So says the song.

However on January 5, the Citizens Advice Bureau was awash with the stuff, and the floor of the meeting room in the community centre was sporting a new hue reflecting the Warrandyte spirit — mud yellow.

The CAB volunteer on duty for the day was in a bit of a flap. Whom do you contact when the council owns the site and the outside and WAC looks after the inside?

Our intrepid *Diary* reporter barged in and suggested a polite but assertive telephone call to council seeking help to lift the rotting and rank carpet tiles (some say they've been this way for years, but at least they didn't squelch and feel wet underfoot).

Of course the trouble is that our makeshift community centre doesn't have any proper drainage around it, and the stacks of beautiful terracotta pipes which the Board of Works is storing out the back only added to the fury. A few laid around the back would be great.

Council did put in nice support posts and steps down to the temporary CAB, nicely stoned (the steps, not the workmen). It's just that the only place for the water and mud to go in a downpour is under the rotting door, deplete of a weatherstrip. The nice steps helped the water get away ... er, under ... quicker.

The story doesn't end here, and despite the CAB volunteer being most politely advised by a council employee to write a letter (was this for an insurance claim or to get help?), we were left in the dark.

The bossy *Diary* reporter slipped a note under the volunteer insisting that she ask for help to lift the tiles which were getting smaller by the minute.

Some say you should always go to the top when you want action, but if this exercise is any indication, then go to the workers.

Like a knight in a shining Toyota Hi-Ace van the depot assistant superintendent of works, Patrick Dan O'Connell, arrived barely 10 minutes after saying goodbye on the phone to inspect the damage and decide on action.

A quick call on the two-way and Russ and the boys bowled up in the other council Toyota charger (they're faster than horses at traffic lights) and strode in confidently with big towels.

Heck, a bigger job than first thought. A bit of sustenance in the van in the form of a light lunch and the boys sprang into action. They cleaned up the unsightly, stinky mess in about as quick a time as you can say 'Pat's your man'.

The point of this account is now apparent. Council officers frequently — some say usually — come in for a bit of verbal bashing. Whether that is justified or not, they certainly know how to choose the workers at Doncaster Templestowe.

Patrick Daniel told us he was named after a saint. Around the CAB they think he is one.

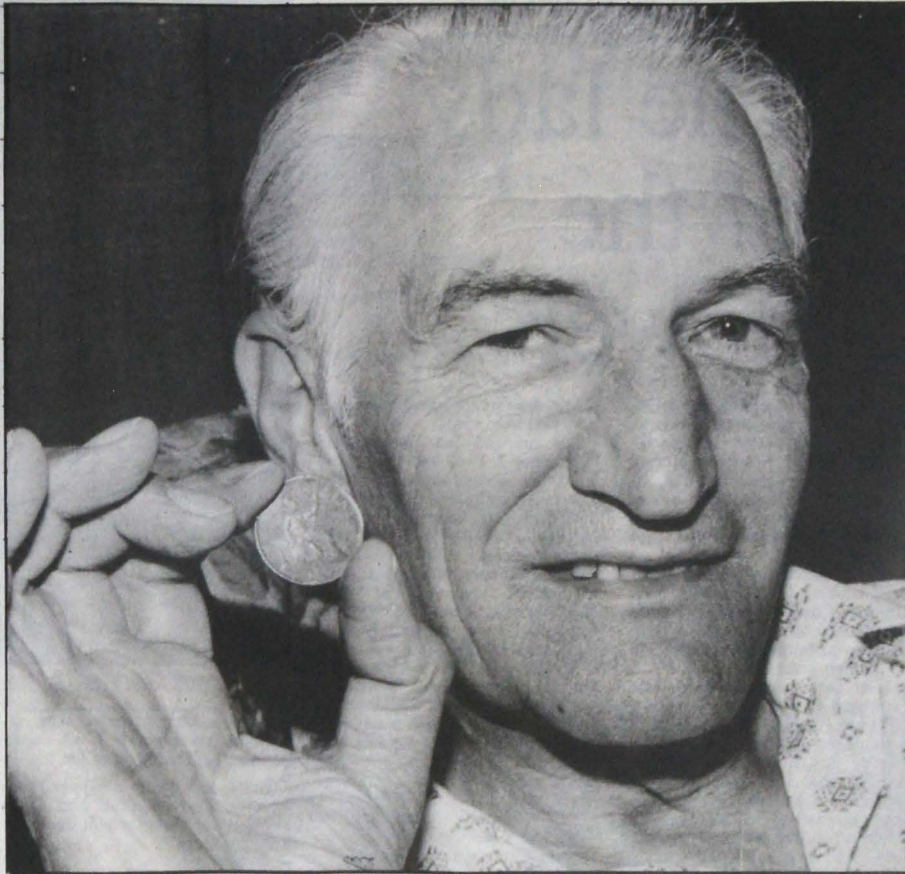
Yooralla seeks aid

The Yooralla Society's Recreation Department is seeking people aged between 18 and 24 years of age to participate in the leisure buddy program.

Leisure buddies are community volunteers who share their time, knowledge and experience with people with disabilities.

Volunteers take part in a training program run by the Society which provides them with all necessary information and skills.

If you are interested in the program please contact Fred Brumhead at the Yooralla Society of Victoria, phone 698 5222.



Eric Scrimshaw shows off his find.

Penny that wasn't spent

It was after the deluge that Warrandyte endured in the early hours of January 3 that Eric Scrimshaw emerged to survey the damage.

The torrential rain had formed a small rivulet through the garden of the Scrimshaw's Yarra Street house. Amid the muck at the base of the new stream Eric spotted a round object.

Picking it up he found it was an 1877 penny, minted in England and

in relatively good condition after all those years in the ground.

Eric's wife Muriel takes up the story: "We have had so much fun fantasising about who lost the penny and just how much it would have bought in 1877.

"Beside our house runs an 8-foot wide 'no man's land' laneway, marked on the earliest map of Warrandyte, which the prospectors

apparently used to push their carts down to the river to wash their gold," says Muriel Scrimshaw.

"It could easily be that the penny dropped out of the pocket of one of these miners during a trek to the Yarra. And here it is, all those years later, eventually coming to the surface.

"Strange how eventually the earth gives up its secrets."

Sunday school is on again

St Stephen's Anglican Church in Stiggant Street has recommenced its Sunday school classes and has some vacancies.

Classes are at 9 am and range from kindergarten to grade 6 level.

There is also a Bible study class for young people.

For information ring Sue Stevens on 844 3196.

Free concerts in the park

Doncaster/Templestowe has organised a series of free outdoor

entertainments as part of its Swing Through Summer program.

On Sunday, February 8, the Bushwazee Bush Band will play between 2 and 4 pm in the Municipal Gardens, George Street. The Melways reference is 33 F10 for the entrance to the park.

Same time, same place, a week later the program is "Jazz in the Gardens".

Festival theme is magic

The Warrandyte Festival is about to burst upon this unsuspecting hamlet again.

Lynne Cappellani, secretary of the organising committee, says that this year's festival — the tenth — will be bigger and brighter than ever.

The dates to bear in mind are Saturday, March 28, and Sunday, March 29.

This year's theme is 'The Magic of Warrandyte'. Lynne hopes that this theme will conjure up weird and wonderful ideas for those taking part in the parade.

She envisages witches, wizards and goblins, all armed with wands and magic potions. Those with ideas are invited to call John Boyle on 844 3333.

The Saturday night will see an old-time dance held in the Senior Citizens' club rooms. Ring John Hanson on 844 3906.



Vacancies still exist for the festival market. Goods must be hand-made or home-grown. Applications can be made through Marylyn Parsons, 13 Koornung Crescent.

And for the young, Warrandyte scouts are planning a waterslide attraction.

Local groups get \$13,000 in grants

Warrandyte community groups received over \$13,000 in the latest round of State Government Community Service grants announced by the Member for Warrandyte, Lou Hill.

Mr Hill said that the Youth Coffee Shop run by the Warrandyte Community Workshop Co-operative has been granted \$11,413 for a coffee shop coordinator.

The founding chairman of the Workshop Co-operative, Mr Hill said the coffee shop was a very important recreation centre for dozens of youths in Warrandyte. "It provides a great service for our young people. This grant shows the State Government is backing community initiative and encouraging youth services," he said.

Mr Hill also announced a \$1463 boost to the Warrandyte Citizens Advice Bureau. The money will help purchase a computer-based information system for the use of the C.A.B. volunteers.

The Warrandyte Occasional Child Care Group also received a \$300 grant towards running expenses.

Mr Hill explained that the grants were part of \$4.5 million allocated statewide by the Cain Government.

"The grants are an indication of the Government's commitment to support and encourage local participation in developing community services," he said.

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JEAN DOMEYER

The lady of the flowers



Jean Domeyer. Born with a keen sense of adventure.

On December 6, 1986, Jean Domeyer died in the Donvale Private Hospital, after many years of ill-health. The Rev. Fishley conducted the funeral service in the Warrandyte Uniting Church, which was packed with her many friends, and she was buried in the Warrandyte Cemetery.

Afterwards members of the Elderly Citizens Club and ladies from Uniting Church served tea and sandwiches in their club rooms. Our sympathy must go to Ted and Ian in their great loss.

Jean Domeyer was born Jean Lochhead in Mildura on January 16, 1906. She must have been born with a keen sense of adventure, for history has it that as a young woman, she and a girlfriend careered all over New South Wales and Queensland, covering some 4000 kilometres in a car that had seen better days - and what's more, wrote it all up in instalments for the local newspaper!

In Mildura she was famous for her pretty contralto voice and her beautiful garden. She won many prizes in singing competitions and

for the flowers she grew, especially her great love, roses.

She married Ted Domeyer on September 7, 1940 and soon afterwards he went away to the war. Eventually he returned to Mildura, and their son, Ian, was born on November 18, 1945, in Margaret Coles Hospital.

The Domeyers moved to Warrandyte in January, 1950. They bought a new house in MacDougal Street, but it was not exactly what they wanted and Ted has been 'renovating' it ever since. Ironically, the house was finished not so very long before Jean died. The Domeyers had brought many plants and seeds with them from Mildura and they established a magnificent garden which is now a mass of beautiful shrubs and flowers. The pin-oaks they planted then are now more than 70 feet high and the Domeyer's roses are famous.

I first met Jean in the late 1950s when she joined the then Warrandyte Country Women's Association choir which was conducted by Mrs Hilda Barbour. We met in Mrs Barbour's home once a week,

learned a lot of songs, sang at concerts, competed in CWA competitions and had a lot of fun.

In her later years, she joined the Elderly Citizens Club and sang regularly at the excellent concerts they produced.

Jean was a very generous friend to many people in Warrandyte. No one who visited her ever left without a bunch of flowers, a cutting from a plant, or a pot of jam or chutney. Anyone arranging the

flowers for the church always knew where they could find as many as they wanted. Her neighbors often found little bunches of lavender popped into their letter boxes.

She had a lovely sense of humor and I'll always remember the wicked twinkle in her eye when she 'saw' a somewhat outrageous joke. Jean has passed on now and Warrandyte is the poorer for her passing.

ENID BIRD

Warrandyte Combined

C.F.A.

news

If bushfires ever threatened the Warrandyte area the human inhabitants could be at grave risk as others were on Ash Wednesday in 1983. This article discusses the advantages and disadvantages of either evacuating the area or staying with your home to help save it.

Many people have abandoned the safety of well-maintained homes and have taken to their cars to escape the fire "front". Any experienced firefighter will tell you that evacuation at the last minute has a very high risk. Crowded roads with low visibility (because of dense smoke) have a very high risk, and cars often malfunction in high temperatures. The traffic is bad enough in the morning when you

take the kids to school. Imagine what it would be like in a panic situation when the area has low visibility - remember there are really only two roads out of the area.

If you decide to evacuate your house when a bushfire threatens you should do so early - preferably 2 to 3 hours beforehand. You

should also evacuate in a direction away from the oncoming fire and to a "fire safe" area.

There is strong evidence that you have a much greater chance of saving your home if you are able to stay with it and help protect it.

However, before you consider such an action you have got to consider

your own life and whether the risk is worth it.

When assessing the degree of risk of a home the most dangerous places to live are:

- On a ridge top above a steeply wooded slope (especially facing northern or western slopes).
- Surrounded by dense undergrowth in flat or hilly locations.
- Near high grassland which has not been cut (more homes are lost in open grassland than in forest locations).

However, even in the forested areas of Mt Macedon 90% of occupied houses were saved under the most severe conditions in the Ash Wednesday fires (as compared with only a 30% survival rate for homes without anyone in attendance).

Able-bodied residents can save their homes providing they plan well ahead and prepare their defences. You should not however, risk the lives people who cannot help in saving the house. Ensure that no young children and no adult persons who are infirm, or not able-bodied are left alone.

Before the fire approaches, take these actions:

- Fill the bath with water - leave buckets full of water in the bathroom or laundry.
- Soak towels, including hand towels which you can use for eye protection and ease of breathing in heavy smoke.
- Soak travel rugs to use as protection if you need to move out of the house.
- Check hose is connected to pumps/taps outside.
- Check equipment is operating, and sufficient water is available.

This may all sound very dramatic, but it is a very real possibility - it happened in various areas similar to Warrandyte on Ash Wednesday and it could happen again. If you have any further queries, contact your local CFA fire brigade (844 2707 or 844 2418 if you live in North Warrandyte)

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REVIEW

'This,' said Gail, handing me something that looked like a cross between a computer printout offset and a ticket in Tatts, 'is a free pass to 'Heaven Help Us'. It's worth eight dollars. All you have to do is write the review.'

'You're on,' I said, for I'll go anywhere for a bit of culture and I like the Warrandyte Christmas shows too.

I began writing immediately.
'What are you doing?' asked Gail.

'I thought I'd get the crit out of the way so that I can concentrate on the show,' I said.

'I wonder,' said Gail, 'if you're the right man for the job.'

It all started in the Box Hill Hospital where Helen Cahill and Linda Mitchell woke up one morning in adjoining beds, found that they each had a baby and thought, 'Heaven help us!'

'What are you doing?' Gail asked me.

'I'm writing the review.'

'You can't say that. You're supposed to talk about the show.'

'I'm discussing the conception.'

'And there's no need for filth, either.'

I picked my nose. 'I think I know what you mean,' I said.

'Now what?' asked Gail.
'I can't get started.'
'Start with the beginning of the show.'
'There was a lot of noise,' I remembered, 'and a good bottle of Chateau Pennewarra and some runny Brie...'
'Go on.'
'Then a naughty scene with four girls and a man in a bath.'
'You've forgotten the comma,' said Gail.
'It was a particularly good bottle of Pennewarra,' I said.

'Talk about the plot,' suggested Gail.
'I couldn't follow it,' I replied. 'Explain it to me.'
'I can't,' said Gail. 'I helped write it.'
'That's reasonable,' I said. 'I remember a clever carol, a priest with a fabulous voice, and a man called Anyman. Now that,' I said proudly, 'is a thinly veiled literary allusion.'
'Don't ask me,' said Gail. 'I only helped write it.'

Once the show moved to Heaven it really hotted

up. Jim Dickson as a saturated seraph took great care never to remove both feet from the ground at the same time. Daryl Cousins was positively angelic as a deceased MASH reject on the lam...

'How about the feminists?' Gail wanted to know. Richard and Sharry provided the slickest moments of the evening with a contrapuntal conversational comedy crosstalk act...

'The feminists?' asked Gail.

Kylie Moppert was divine...

'Did you like the feminists?' shouted Gail, hitting me across the ear with what looked like a closed fist.

'I loved the little blonde one,' I replied.

'Now that's a typical male chauvinist response! I knew I should never have invited you to do this crit.

You're just the same as all other men. You treat women in the tired, old-fashioned unimaginative traditional way. You should be ashamed of yourself! I suppose you noticed Meredith too...?'

'You mean the girl with the long legs?'

'Yes.'

'And the garter?'

'Yes.'

'And the short gold skirt?'

'Yes.'

'No. Not particularly.'

'That does it,' said Gail. 'Go ahead and write your review but don't expect us to print it.'

Mark Maddocks' power of concentration was positively exemplary. After all, having to stand about with a girl stroking each leg is usually enough to try the patience of a saint. But this is indicative of the dedicated training and hours of dutiful rehearsal that the Warrandyte players put in in a determined effort to get things right. Clearly nothing is too much trouble for this band of devoted thespians. For do not get the idea that drama is easy.

There are times when even the greatest of actors must feel like saying, 'Kathie, Meredith, give us a break will you?' But you just can't afford to indulge in this kind of selfish, thoughtless behavior. Never was a truer word spoken than 'The show must go on'. Whatever the cost, the only reality is the continuing, enduring challenge of the spirit of Dionysus which lives on in the breasts of all true performers...

'Bollocks,' said Gail.

'Pardon?'

'Tell the truth. What happened?'

The table in the corner was so excited by the media man scene that it emitted a series of wild catcalls and the man in the black and red football jumper had to be forcibly restrained from taking a quick celestial trip of his own. When the lights went up for the interval I found I had upset the Pennewarra over the boss' wife and my elbow was in a salami sandwich.

*** Continued page 12

Information exchange is working at CAB

Warrandyte's Citizens' Advice Bureau is really an information exchange, and it is interesting to see what information the still-new organisation has gathered already.

For instance:

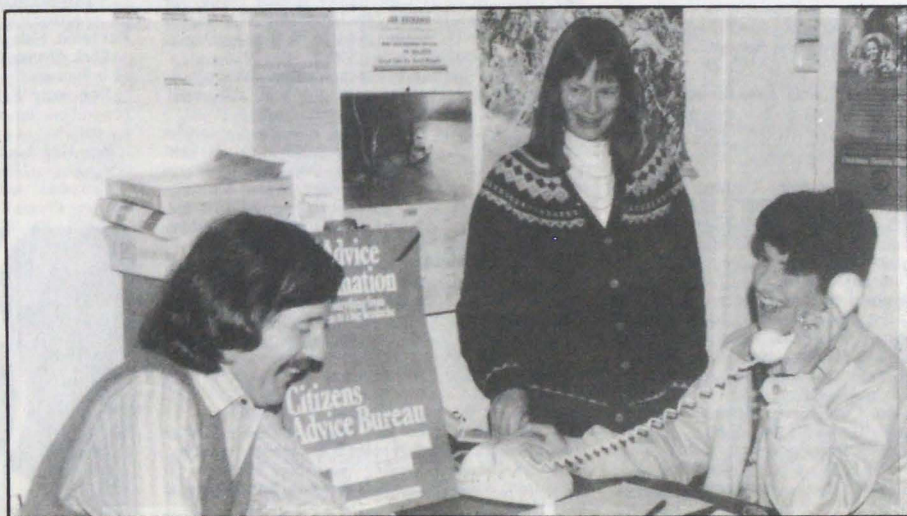
- A family income supplement of \$14 a week is available for some families with low incomes;

- Application forms for copies of birth, death, marriage and change-of-name certificates are obtainable from Victorian post offices;

- For a child's surname, the mother's name, the father's name or both can be registered on the birth certificate;

- Help for depressed or suicidal teenagers is available from the Austin Hospital crisis centre, telephone 450 5111.

Louise Joy says a swag of mail has arrived from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. These include complaint forms for goods and



Catherine Harboe-Ree, principal librarian of the Box Hill-Doncaster Regional Library, explains to Sally George how the telephone link between the bureau and the library will work. Brian Bayly, a member of the committee, is on the other side of the desk for a change.

services, a guide to the Small Claims Tribunal, a copy of the Motor Car Traders Act plus a check list for those buying second-hand vehicles, guidelines for door-

to-door sales and for bag searches. Colin Bentley, who has special knowledge of workers' compensation and union affairs, will be available for special consultation

on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.30 am to noon, by appointment. Ring the bureau on 844 2985.

And the CAB is still looking for a few good volunteers to be trained as counsellors.

Coffee shop is flourishing

The Coffee Shop gang ended 1986 with a barbecue and some good news. The barbecue saw Councillor John Fisher, local policeman Andy Baker and members of the Co-op management join in the fun to entertainment provided by Royal Jade Band, Ian McKenzie, Nathan Croft, David Mooney and Karl Kleinhenz.

The good news is that the state Department of Community Services has come up with some money towards employing a co-ordinator for the coffee shop. He will be local man Craig Milburn, who is married with one child and who has had extensive experience in youth work.

Craig will be available for more personal work with young people and their families, as well as continuing on coffee shop duty with Jackie Law, Lee Podporin, Pam Egglestone and Peter Knott.

The coffee shop continues to flourish in the backroom of the Co-op building at 176 Yarra Street

every Friday between 6 pm and midnight, Saturday (2 pm to midnight) and Sunday (1 pm to 6pm).

There is a mix of "deep and meaningful discussion", light-hearted discussion, games of pool and Trivial Pursuit, video machines and plenty of food and drink for sale.

There are now 112 members. Their \$3 yearly membership fee covers video nights and the end-of-year break-up.

Eltham Council provided money for the games and the coffee mugs. Warrandyte Lions gave a microwave oven, an electric iron and carpet and carried out alterations to the building.

As well as the fun there is work to be done on the committee of young people and workers which makes decisions about the running of the coffee shop.

Any enquiries about the coffee shop can be made on 844 2548.

WAC NOTES

Prepared by Warrandyte Advisory Committee.

At the first meeting for 1987, Warrandyte Advisory Committee members felt that the most important issue for the year concerning our community was the zoning study being conducted by Doncaster and Templestowe Council on the Warrandyte/Park Orchards "green wedge" areas of the city.

Council is concerned about the increasing number of rezoning requests and that the existing controls were not adequate to preserve the landscape quality of the area.

The results could have far-reaching effects on our town.

WAC will be conferring over the next few months with representatives of council, the Warrandyte Environment League and Park Orchards residents.

The committee feels, however, that the study conducted by Loder & Bayly for council on the Warrandyte township addressed most of the problems faced now. But this study has been largely ignored.

WAC will also be addressing the dual occupancy question in conjunction with the study and notes the growing number of concerned residents.



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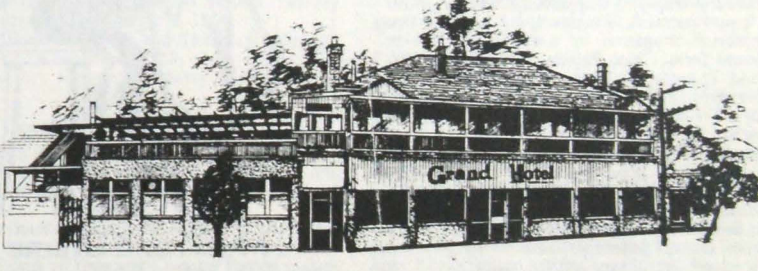
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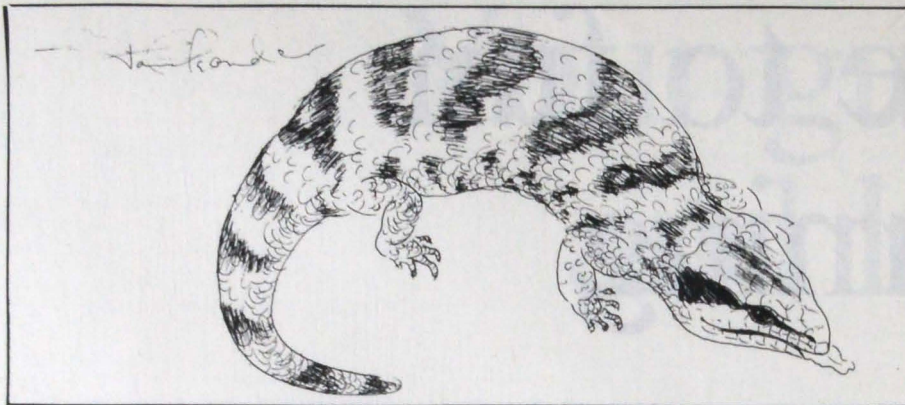
NATURE

Pamela Conder

**In praise
of garden
reptiles**

When we reel off the list of species that have successfully learned to live alongside man, there is one group we often overlook — the reptiles. As a knee-high naturalist my first love was for snails, collected behind the neighbors' chook shed (although the fascination was not entirely zoological — snail-racing is the only sport in which I have ever evinced the slightest interest). However, these collecting expeditions sometimes yielded a prize to put any mere mollusc in the shade, or so I thought at the time — a real reptile, in the form of a garden skink.

These minute predators are a joy to watch, as they hunt even smaller forms of life through the grass jungle. When attacked they are able, with no apparent effort, to



shed their long, slender tail, which remains writhing vigorously to distract the attacker, whilst the skink makes a swift getaway.

The garden skink, in time, grows a replacement tail, but you can always pick the 'panel-beaten' ones. The new tail contains cartilage, rather than a series of jointed bones and thus lacks the graceful flexibility of the original, tending to look a bit 'stuck on'.

Like the majority of lizards, garden skinks are oviparous — they lay eggs. In fact, they have an interesting habit of communal

laying, each female contributing two to three eggs to the cache.

The skinks being the largest family of lizards in Australia, you would expect to see some variety among them. During the warmer months you should also be able to sight one of the much larger blue-tongued skinks — probably a blotched one (*Tiliqua nigrolutea*) or the more streamlined, stripey eastern blue-tongue (*T. scincoides*).

Blue-tongues are viviparous, giving birth to a litter of live, fully-formed youngsters. When a female I had produced five strapping miniatures of herself, they almost

immediately reacted to various stimuli in exactly the same way as an adult. Although only about 10 centimetres long at birth, they put on a fine performance of hissing and displaying colorful mouth-linings and tongues when feeling threatened.

The blue-tongue's bite, by the way, is definitely not poisonous — just rather painful if it happens to latch on to the more sensitive bits of your anatomy.

These large skinks are also an ally worth cultivating, should you find one living in your garden.

The sights of countless summers

A small Brown was the first of the season as the sausages sizzled in the new summer. Late November.

Blue tongues had been getting caught on the road for almost a month, always appearing before the snakes. Not much armor against a rubber wheel is a blue tongue or a hiss.

A few Christmases ago my neighbor and I were down in snake country slashing blackberries, when we found a big long-leaf lomatia in full flower along the river. It was so full of pale yellow flower that at first we thought it was a summer wattle.

Lomatia myricoides is a member of the proteaceae family. One generally poorly represented in gold fields flora. The only other family members claiming to be Warrandyte indigenous plants are the rosemary grevillea and the silky habea. *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* certainly lives in Hurstbridge, Yarrambat and Kangaroo Ground but

no strong claims of local inhabitance have been found yet.

Habea sericea grows in Kangaroo Ground and at Stane Brae but is thought to have vanished from Warrandyte. Also in Wonga Park, *Banksia marginata* probably occurs naturally. Our botanical history is full of missing pieces despite an early start last century with naturalists like Baron Von Mueller collecting orchids from along Andersons Creek. Trying to decipher which plants are indigenous sometimes leaves us feeling like a brown snake on a barbecue minus the tyre print.

Why is this botanical history important you ask? Is it important to know which plants existed in Warrandyte pre-Cook? Collectors of historical information, especially natural history, would tell us that all this information is essential for our understanding of the historical process. The passing of time, changes to the environment, a gauge of our use of the Earth's resources.

**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.

The year soon comes to a close and a time of review. In the young summer fields the grasses have

finished their season and the winds will deliver their seeds. Dry seed pods of the silver wattle are passed over the flowing water which will transport them to their scattered destinations.

We unfold our summer wings and things as the December heat moves our blood and we long to splash in the river. Photos of white skins and sun glasses, history. The river is terribly polluted but at least the ants keep away from you after a dip.

Digesting our barbecue beside a smoky fire, idly watching a drop-tail skink move in typewriter motion, conversation moved to the Kings of the Bush. Ants. There are millions of them. All shapes and sizes, genus and species. Crawling over bloated blue tongues who failed to stand behind the barricades when Moffit tore down Bralennberry. A whole army of them carrying that young brown snake off Jumping Creek Road like a paper dragon in a Chinese Moomba.

In pot plants, fence posts, dead logs and house stumps — everywhere. Countless ants. Strangely the only ant that will continually raid and, if possible, live in our homes, is the Argentine ant. An import from South America with a taste for processed food and old Andrew Sisters records.

Long December evenings full of the sounds of 78's and young magpies calling to be fed. Almost fully grown and still begging for their parents to stand and deliver. The demand of all children. A command we must obey as history demands. The grass seeds ripen, the children grow.

We see none of this happen, yet before our eyes is the illusion of yesterday. Young snakes dare each other to cross the road. Ancient blue tongues forget the roads were not made for them. We drive hurriedly up and down to our own little destinations and Warrandyte moves closer to the place we are changing it to.

Hot sun pounds the earth and powdered dust of the pathways dries our feet and squeezes between the toes. The river looks inviting. I am told powdered 78 records were a cure for snake bites. The skies are blue more often as the forest floors turn blue with flowers of the native blue-bell and boronia. Dryness, the Australian predicament, sheds its skin and comes out from under the rocks. Seed and leaves fall.

Ants of all descriptions scurry along invisible freeways, hauling produce off to their cellars. Australia has more plants that are dependant on ants for the dispersal of their seed than all the other countries put together. Blue bell and blue tongue. Ant and plants together in the hot Australian Bush.

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How should the coach approach?

January, 1887: The Bachelor's Ball on the 29th December last was an unqualified success, although rather crowded. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

For many years past the State School children have been treated to a picnic on New Year's Day. However, on this occasion it was decided to combine it and make it general.

Mr Collins, with his usual taste, erected a circle on the ground, which was tastefully decorated. The ground presented a very gay appearance.

Nearly 400 persons were present, amongst whom I noticed Mr and Mrs E.H. Cameron and family, Messrs J. Smith and Reynolds (Bulleen councillors), O'Brien (Shire Secretary) and a host of ladies and gentlemen from Pantom Hill, Ringwood, Templestowe, Doncaster, with a fair sprinkling from Melbourne.

The committee were indefatigable in their labors to make everyone comfortable, and they thoroughly succeeded.

Thanks are also due to the ladies who gave their services in the provision department, and to Messrs Delves and Kent, in the handicapping and racing portion of the programme.

Swings were erected, and there was plenty of music for those who indulged in dancing. After the sports a ball was held, which was well attended, and dancing vigorously kept up until half-past eleven o'clock.

MINING

We have started work again, and with our present prospects there is every likelihood we shall have the most prosperous year we have seen for a long time.

The Yarra Tunnel Tribute company are raising very good quartz. This claim has previously averaged 4oz to the ton, and they expect this crushing to be fully equal to this. 250 Pounds has been recommended for this company by the Prospecting Board.

February, 1887: A public meeting was held last Monday week, to decide upon some action as to the alteration of the times of our daily mail; also, to discuss the most practicable route for the benefit of the majority.

Mr Pretty was voted to the chair. Mr Oldham, before the business of the meeting commenced, wished to explain why the meeting had not been called before.

It was nearly a month since he had been requested to write out notices and a petition in favor of the Templestowe route, but on consideration it was thought advisable to invite communications from Templestowe respecting their coach transit.

He had seen Mr Hunter, at Templestowe, and they had not got definite information on the subject.

The petition in favor of the Ringwood route had taken them by surprise, hence their immediate action; but he could assure the gentlemen who had interested themselves in that petition their action was not through pure antagonism or in a selfish spirit of opposition, as had been attributed to them.

The chairman opened the meeting with a few unbiased remarks, and Mr Henry Squires moved the first resolution, viz:

"That it is desirable that our daily mail, starting with the new mail service in June next, from Melbourne to Anderson's Creek, at present arriving at 10.15 am, and returning at 10.45 am, be altered to an evening and morning one, by coach; the alteration being conducive to the best interests of the Creek."

After making a few remarks on the subject it was seconded by Mr P. Beljer and passed unanimously.

Mr Davidson proposed the second resolution, viz:—

"That an evening and morning mail from Melbourne by coach, being conducive to the best interests of the Creek, it is for us to consider the best route."

"Two had been proposed, one via Heidelberg, by coach, the other via Ringwood. As the mails, in future, from Heidelberg to Templestowe will be conveyed by coach, we consider the extension of this line (by coach) the most advantageous to the majority, cheaper to the Government, and the most convenient to the larger section of the community."

In speaking to the resolution, he described the difference in length being favorable to the Templestowe route, not only that, but by that time a larger number of persons would avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting the Creek, very likely settling here; and, for a future benefit, that line was simply inconceivably the best.

There was very little chance of



How We Lived

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

an extension of railway communication from Ringwood, but there was a great probability of one from either Box Hill, through Doncaster, or an extension of the Heidelberg line through Templestowe; and we should look ahead.

Mr Collins, in seconding the resolution, cordially endorsed the whole of Mr Davidson's remarks, dwelt on the state of the Ringwood road, and generally comparing the two routes, thought the believers in the Ringwood one must be mad.

Mr Andrews also spoke in favor of the resolution, stating there were fifty ratepayers between Anderson's Creek and Templestowe, whereas there were only a few on the other line.

Mr Hunter, Templestowe, explained the times of their mail, and assured the meeting that they would assist all in their power the wishes of the Creek.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The third resolution, to the effect that:—

"The petition now read by the chairman be signed at this meeting and forwarded to Mr E.H. Cameron MP, for presentation to the Postmaster-General," was also carried.

Messrs Davidson, Andrews and Collins were appointed delegates to wait upon Mr Cameron, and also, if necessary, to proceed to town, if that gentleman thought it desirable.

After a very cordial vote of thanks to the excellent chairman and to the visitors, the meeting closed. Fifty-six names on petition.

ANDERSON'S CREEK POLICE COURT

Constable Woods v. Gun. — Obscene language at Ringwood. The language was very bad indeed; and Mrs Gun conducted herself so badly in court that she had to be removed to the lock-up. Fined five pounds and one guinea costs, or two months. Taken to gaol.

Constable Woods v. Whithead. — Obscene language at Ringwood. No appearance. Fined five pounds and one guinea costs, or two months. Warrant issued for her arrest.

Constable Woods v. J. Tindall. — Removing timber from Common. Fined ten shillings, with two shillings and sixpence costs.

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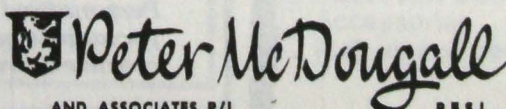
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'Red Tuesday' returns

BRUCE BENICE continues his series on the history of the Warrandyte fires.

The holocaust of 1 February 1898 — "Red Tuesday" as it became known — devastated thousands of square miles of country, killed at least 12 people and left more than 1500 families homeless.

Late that night a little girl of nine wandered into Warragul with her three small brothers. She carried a note: "Will someone please look after these kids? We expect to be burnt out before morning." The father of these children died trying to save their home.

"The smoke was so thick," said a report from Lilydale, "that the sun wasn't visible during the day and the extent of the flames was such that they defied all attempts to control them."

Early in February 1898 a fire started in the hills behind Queenstown (now St Andrews) and raced towards Kangaroo Ground. By now the people in the area must have become proficient at fighting fires, for despite the appalling conditions, only one house was lost.

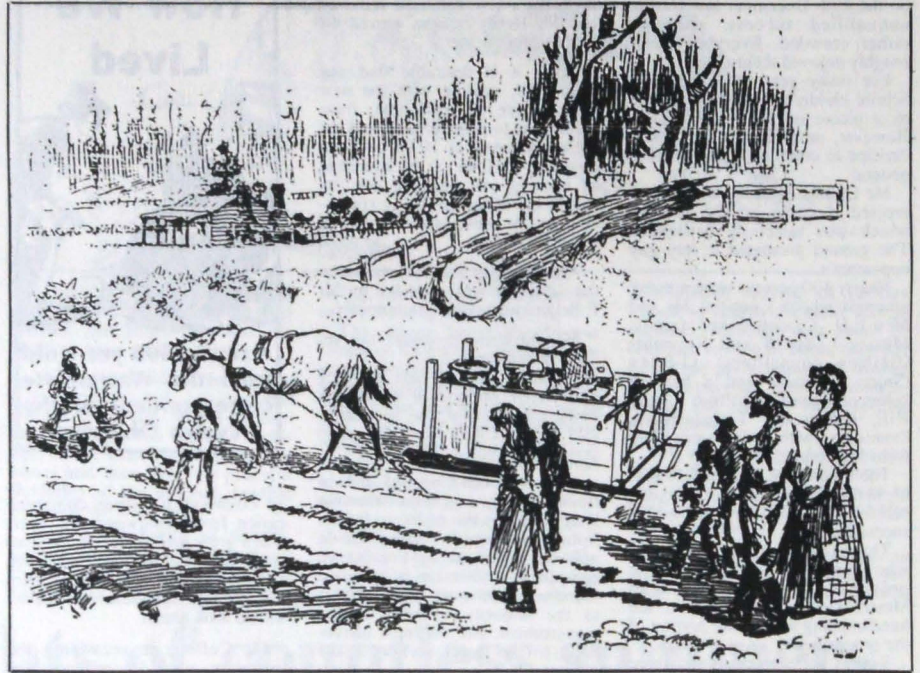
This fire was last seen heading for Andersons Creek, but no record of its progress beyond Kangaroo Ground exists.

The following year — 1899 — was Andersons Creek's turn. A fire started at Pound Bend, swept along the river at the back of Bradley's (Bradleys Lane) and Brown's (corner Research Road and Bradleys Lane), then on to Stoney Creek.

The township turned out and all the dwellings were saved, with the exception of a hut belonging to a Mr Porteous. The fire was last seen burning in the direction of Kangaroo Ground.

The summer of 1905 again saw the state in the path of the rampaging "Red Steer". Fires were burning from the first week in January, throughout our extended area, the County of Evelyn.

On Wednesday, 11 January a fire broke out at Watsons Creek, spreading in all directions. The



from 'The Australasian'

residents of Kangaroo Ground fought day and night until a change arrived on the Saturday. But for their efforts the township would have been destroyed.

A huge fire burnt from Kinglake down to Yarra Glen, but was brought under control late in the evening of Friday 13.

Fires were also burning at Watsons Creek, Steels Creek, Dixons Creek and Toolangi.

At Toolangi, a woman of 80 had a terrifying experience. She was burnt out, losing everything, including the clothes she was wearing. She stood in her blackened garden, peeling off her clothes as they caught fire, and was fortunate to escape with her life.

Another fire broke out on Friday 13 in the river paddock of the Wonga Park Company. It spread rapidly on one front, heading for Wonga Park, whilst another front burnt along the Brushy Creek

towards Black Springs, threatening Lilydale.

Late that afternoon, messengers rode into Lilydale from four different directions, seeking help to fight the fires that ringed the district.

The residents of Wonga Park turned out, and although they fought all that night and the next day, they finally realised the situation was hopeless and turned to protect their own homes.

Mr Fulford and family were completely surrounded and cut off from help. They managed to save their recently built house after a hard fight.

At the same time, a "spot" fire from a huge conflagration north of the river roared out of control across the historic "Flowerfield" property belonging to the Lithgow family.

The homestead was saved by a timely wind change when the fight to save it had reached crisis point. While fighting this fire, a Mr

Black's waistcoat caught alight, destroying his watch and some papers in the pockets.

This fire was so hot that those attempting to stop it could not get within 200 yards of the front, and could only beat it out at the sides and attempt to "pinch in" the flanks.

The country was burning for miles around. By night it looked like the lights of a vast city. Finally, rains quelled the fires that had been burning from Kinglake south of the river, and from St Andrews to Toolangi.

A month later, fires were again ravaging the area, cumulating on 11 February in hot north wind conditions. No lives were lost, but houses, stock and fencing were destroyed in the 25 square miles covered by the fire.

Property losses would have been much greater, but for the efforts of volunteers.

When the Kinglake cricket team arrived in Queenstown on Saturday 14 February, they found their opponents busy fighting fires, so they joined them. The Kangaroo Ground and Christmas Hills teams were also fighting side by side at another fire which was sweeping the area.

During that terrible summer of 1905, more than 60 districts reported fires from virtually every part of the state.

The summer of 1909 saw Healesville under a pall of smoke and the Black Spur impassable.

Fires were burning all round Emerald. A traveller driving from Gembrook had what he described as "an exciting experience"; his coat caught fire and his umbrella was destroyed.

Bushfires were again burning to the north and east of Warrandyte in January 1912.

Warburton was fighting for its life on the evening of 28 January as fires swept down on the township out of the mountains. Nearer home, a teamster travelling with bullocks along the Christmas Hills Road could not see his team because of dense smoke from fires in the area.

The smoke haze from fires in late January, early February 1913 was so thick that the watchman in the Eastern Hill fire tower in Melbourne could not penetrate it with his powerful glasses.

The Plenty Ranges were again burning from end to end, as were the Dandenongs and large areas of Gippsland from Walhalla to Foster. Black smoke around the fringes of the city hid the fires from view.

On Tuesday 4 February 1913, several houses were lost when a bushfire broke out near Warrandyte and, fanned by strong winds, raced towards Ringwood.

Simultaneously, the fire which had been burning for the past week in the Plenty Ranges was making a run towards Warrandyte at an alarming rate, driven by the same north wind. Fortunately a cool change, followed by rain, saved the situation when the fire was within a couple of miles of Queenstown.

To be continued.

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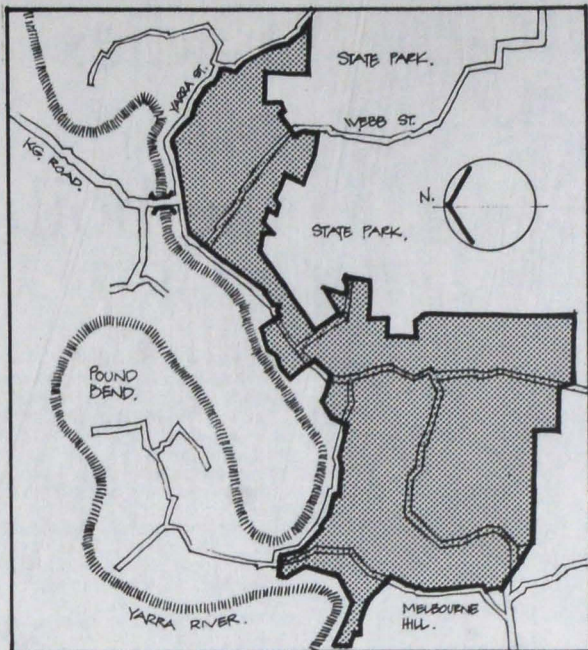
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Stop this madness

Having come to Warrandyte to escape suburbia, like so many others, I now find Warrandyte is about to become suburbia plus. Planning policies being pursued as Government initiatives will result in Warrandyte having a far greater housing density in the future than that of the suburbs most of us left to seek a different life style.

Following the recent sale of a house in the area, residents were suddenly confronted with a sign advising that the new owner had applied for dual occupancy on the land. If granted, this could mean two or more dwellings on the site.

The area shown on the map is zoned "residential C" which meant that the minimum block size was 785 metres square. Now any block larger than this can have a second dwelling on it, subject to the buildings occupying no more than 60% of the land, plus space for drives, car parking, etc.

Flats and units can be built on land 650 metres square and apparently permits can be granted for smaller size blocks in some situations. This change to the planning requirements will mean a much greater housing density on the older subdivisions of Warrandyte as the block sizes were generally quarter acre or approximately 1014 metres square, with many blocks of half an acre or larger.

The advent of high density housing in Warrandyte will be quite rapid. In one area alone, four houses out of the 15 existing have been sold in the past two years. Under dual occupancy ruling this area could contain 33 dwellings.

As has happened in other places, developers move in and buy up the larger properties, as they are the only ones with the capital to take advantage of the situation. Closer development occurs with frightening rapidity.

The mind boggles at the chaotic traffic situation that will occur with a population two or three times greater than at present. Yarra Street is the only access available to much of the area affected.

The residential C area of Warrandyte is virtually enclosed by the river reserve and a State Park. This

must be the only place in Australia, and possibly the world, where high density housing is being encouraged in such an environmentally sensitive situation.

There are those who see high density housing as a solution to the needs of elderly and young people. But surely they would not accept the destruction of the area as a proper price to pay for this amenity.

Even limited exemptions for the best of reasons could have their dangers. What happens when the 'special areas' are full? The same arguments could then be advanced for high-rise flats.

Having come to the area 37 years ago and now suffering doubtful health, we could be faced with the prospect of having to leave the district. A simple solution for us could be to subdivide our half-acre into — possibly — four residential units, thus capitalising the property to its fullest extent and providing ourselves with a manageable living space.

This alternative is abhorrent to us. We are investigating the possibility of placing a caveat on the title, prohibiting its further subdivision forever. We would rather leave the area than participate in its ruination.

Warrandyte does not belong to the residents alone. It belongs to the whole of Melbourne — and to future generations. No one will thank us if we stand by and allow it to be destroyed.

Bruce Bence

letters

Stane Brae remembered

I have just read your article on Stane Brae in the December *Diary*. It was mailed to me by an old friend. It was a lovely surprise for Christmas and it makes me so happy to know that some effort is being made to keep this area for the people, as it would be nice to visit the old RAAF camp in the future.

Wonga Park Jungle Training School has lots of grand memories for me as I was an instructor from 1944 until the end of the war, when, on receiving official notice from RAAF HQ in Melbourne, we gave all trainees leave and all the staff headed for Warrandyte and Tresizes' hotel to celebrate.

At that time and during the war the pub was run by the Tresize girls — Bella Tresize, Nellie Nob and Emmy Todd, with the help of part-time barman Allan Smith and their great friend (Little) Nell Langton

— as the two Tresize boys, Arthur and Frank, were away in the AIF.

It didn't take the girls long to organise a victory party. I still have the dinner menu. Oh, what a night! Here are the names of some of the boys present: Fl/t Alec Hurwood (CO), WO Pat Callagan, WO Boag (of Boags' Breweries, Tasmania), Sgts Joe Ryan and Mick Punch (both publicans), Allan Price (station owner, Queensland), Joe Rule, Joe Shergold, Joe Weston, the late Dave Smith of Warrandyte and myself, Gordon (Scotty) Scott. I resided at Koormong from 1950 to 1983.

Please forward enclosed cheque to Glen Jameson. A Happy New Year to you and Glen and success to his efforts.

Gordon Scott
Calliope, Qld.

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Dytes let chances slip

Warrandyte Cricket Club's fortunes during the 1986-87 season have been a tale of opportunities lost.

With only two rounds remaining before the finals, Warrandyte are seven points out of the four and must now rely on other teams to lose if they are to play off for the premiership.

But it could easily have been so different. Since the Christmas break, the Dytes have won two matches and lost two, and both losses were matches that should have been won.

In the first game after the break, Warrandyte crushed Scoresby, to win by 131 runs.

Ian Broome, with 5-30, crashed through the Scoresby batting and then Darren Peters clubbed an unbeaten 73 to give the Dytes a runaway win.

In the second one-day match after Christmas, Warrandyte failed by three runs when needing only 11 runs from two overs with three wickets in hand.

But three tragic runouts left Warrandyte three runs short, enabling St Andrews to retain fourth position on the ladder.

Against Vermont, Warrandyte started well with David Sloan, Michael Day, Robert White and Colin Dorning all among the runs. But with the score at 3-170, the Dytes lost 4-8 to finally collapse to be all out for 234.

A win was essential if the Dytes were to keep in touch with the top four but Vermont took a stranglehold on the game at 0-140. They were finally dismissed for 343.

Robert White took the bowling honors with four wickets but the damage was done.

In the Australia Day encounter, Warrandyte batted first against a lethargic Ainslie Park who could bowl only 43 overs in more than three hours of play.

WARRANDYTE Diary SPORTS NEWS

They dismissed Warrandyte for 163 with David Sloan again batting well to score 49 and Ian Broome hitting out for 32.

But as has been the case for most of the season, the middle order collapsed and the final score was well short of what was expected.

But Ainslie Park faltered badly under the attack led by Broome and Gerald Walsh.

With Sloan shipping in for his share of wickets and Mark O'Brien cleaning up the tail, Ainslie Park were dismissed for 65. In the remaining 12 overs, Warrandyte sought bonus points to score 3-60.

The Dytes face top placed North Croydon and then Norwood in the final two matches and must keep winning to keep their faint finals hopes alive.

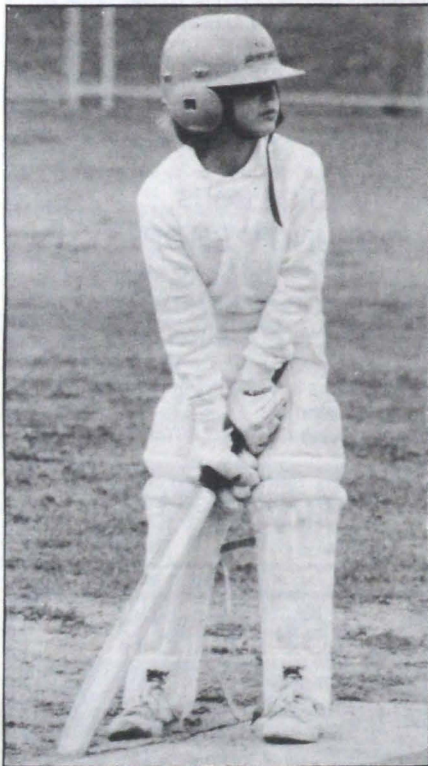
Senior scores:
Round 8: Chandler Shield: Warrandyte 5/220 (Peters 73 no, Broome 62, Kline 25 no) d. Scoresby 89 (Broome 5/30). Seconds: Warrandyte 6/102 d. Scoresby 92.

Round 9: Chandler Shield: Warrandyte 149 (Sloan 41) lost to St Andrews 6/152 (Broome 3/62). Seconds: Warrandyte 8/102 (McCarthy 48) v. St Andrews 7/196. Thirds: Warrandyte 113 lost to St Andrews 9/183 (King 3/230). Fourth: Warrandyte 118 lost to St Andrews 139. Fifth: Warrandyte 4/182 (Martin 49, Owen 38, Lawrence 37) lost to Wonga Park 4/198. Sixth: Warrandyte 136 (Walker 37) lost to Mooroolbark 182 (Walker 3/29).

Round 10: Chandler Shield: Warrandyte 234 (Sloan 61, White 43, Dorning 39, Pascoe 33) lost to Vermont 360 (White 4/62). Reserves: Warrandyte 8/274 (J. Kline 105 n.o., Sciclune 45, Walshe 27, Chapman 26) d. Vermont 248 (Snaldero 3/71, Walshe 3/71). Thirds: Warrandyte 169 (B. Baker 5/79) lost to Vermont 198. Fourth: Warrandyte 135 (Booker 27, Andrew King 26) d. Vermont 124 and 8/135 (Booker 3/59, Jungwirth 3/26 and 3/42). Fifth: Warrandyte 277 (Gathercole 109, G. Broome 29) d. Croydon North 97 and 3/159 (Blackburn 4/33). Sixth: Warrandyte 8/355 (G. Walker 101, Webb 75, C. Dorning 41, Bowles 39) d. Chirnside Park 233 (Fernando 4/40, Bowles 4/16).



Adam White puts everything into this cut shot while playing for Warrandyte's Under 12 Grade 4 team.



Centuries? They're on for young and old

Three Warrandyte batsmen obviously have carried out New Year's resolutions to the letter.

In one of the first rounds after the Christmas break, three players scored centuries.

Two of the players, Godfrey Walker and Jim Gathercole, are at the veteran stage of their careers while Jason Kline is just embarking on what is certain to be a successful cricket future.

Jason, who is captain of Warrandyte's Under 16 team, opened the batting for the seconds against Vermont and was unbeaten at the end of the day with 105.

His form with the bat enabled the Chandler Seconds to score a good win and enhance their chances of making the finals.

Jim Gathercole led the fifths to a bit win over Croydon North with a slashing 109.

And in the sixths, Godfrey Walker scored 101 after tea to enable Warrandyte to score a massive 8 dec 355.

Matthew Chapman is a picture of concentration as he waits to face the bowling for Warrandyte's Under 12 Grade 4 team.

Ladies off the boil in '87

Warrandyte Cricket Club's women's team has not been able to keep up their pre-Christmas momentum.

In the two matches completed since the break, the women's team has been unable to break the ice despite several impressive winning performances in the first half of the season.

In the first match for the second half of the season, Warrandyte scored a competitive 6/166 with Jenny McLaws scoring an aggressive 62.

But Waverley's batting was too strong and they scored an impressive 4/171.

In the second match, some hostile bowling from Buckley Ridges saw Warrandyte score a creditable 5/187 with Jenny Chapman holding the team together for 74.

But Buckley Ridges forced the Warrandyte girls to spend a full day in the field as they compiled 7/203. Women's scores: Warrandyte 6/166 (McLaws 62, Martin 31) lost to Waverley 4/171.

Warrandyte 5/187 (Chapman 74, Prince 31) lost to Buckley Ridges 7/203 (Martin 3/43).

continued from p.5

The third act was thoroughly joyful. The music, dance and continuing fermentation of plot in this tribal pantomime elevated absurdity to an art form. Or did it? The climax of the play showed us what we have all believed for a long time, that God is a tired old Verdun aviator and his message is 'Give up.'

It all makes good sense. Mankind is not worth saving. But then God too must have caught sight of Eleanora's smile, Rebecca's haircut or Sue's gyrations and decided that a happy ending was in order. Thank God for male chauvinism.

'You've missed the whole point of the play,' said Gail. 'How pathetic!'

'I've had a great evening,' I said, 'thanks to Libby and Carol and Jenny and Mark and Mark and Linda and Helen and Joanna and John and Jock and Gus and Denise and Laurel and Kaye and Fran and Yvonne and Roger and Annette and Lachie and Fiona and Eric and Arthur and Trad and Norman and Clifford and Pennewarra...'

'Hey!' said Don, coming over and hitting me on the back. 'How do you like the show?' He seemed to be on a high. Not surprising really since he was God.

'What you going to write in the review?'

I searched for words.
'Eh?'
I kept searching.
Next time I'll pay the eight dollars.

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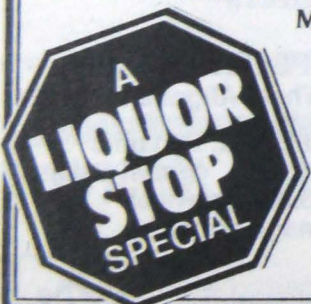
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