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Warrandyte Diary

PRICELESS

No 177 MAY 1987

Editorial and Advertising 844 2820

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 See Page 8 for Alarm Safe Security.

Community centre action needed now

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte's so-called 'community centre', home for a number of vital local activities, is a sadly neglected slum.

The Warrandyte Advisory Committee, responsible for managing the centre, is appealing for broad community help in working towards its replacement.

Situated in the heart of the village, on largely flat land bounded by Yarra Street, Webb Street, Mitchell Avenue and an unmade section of Brackenbury Street, the area is ideal for community facilities.

The site was purchased by Doncaster and Templestowe Council in November 1980 for \$200,000 following intense campaigning by the Warrandyte Environment League and other local groups.

Twice offered at auction, the complex, consisting of two shops (one almost derelict), a dilapidated motor sales and service centre and a relatively large piece of unoccupied land, was passed in on each occasion.

Finally, pushed hard by Warrandyte Ward councillors, and with Eltham Shire reportedly pledged to pay half of all development costs, Doncaster Council bought the site for what many considered a bargain price.

Conditional upon the purchase, however, was an understanding that there would be no council finance available for new buildings during the next ten years.

WAC was asked to manage the complex, minimal repairs were undertaken on the existing structures and these were made available to local groups.

Over the years, WAC has made several moves towards the building of a new centre.

Concept proposals were drawn up. These included provision for a library and other facilities, the integration of the Mechanics' Institute

hall and the old fire station into the complex, and the closing of Mitchell Avenue, with traffic re-routed through the proposed centre and into Webb Street.

Warrandyte market committee pledged \$2000 to start a fund for the new buildings.

More recently, WAC circularised local organisations requesting details of their requirements in a possible new centre. They received only one reply.

The Community Centre Subcommittee of WAC called a meeting of interested parties several weeks ago. Eltham Council agreed

to consider possible future finance for a new centre.

Doncaster-Templestowe, mindful of its original \$200,000 contribution, did agree to consider future applications for finance. It was stressed, however, that a fair proportion should come from other sources, including local fund-raising.

Martin Kyne, convenor of the sub-committee, told the *Diary* that things seem to have reached a stalemate.

"Groups in the existing buildings are working under deplorable conditions. Roofs have leaked, the

buildings are draughty, toilets are substandard and the whole shambles is an appalling eyesore.

"Warrandyte is justly proud of its rich community life. Yet we have no physical focus for the multitude of community activities that enliven this town.

"We are also rich in human resources; experts who can guide us in the design and construction of any centre.

"Perhaps the time has come to re-think this project. Perhaps WAC should be throwing the questions of fund-raising, design and construction of the new centre out to the

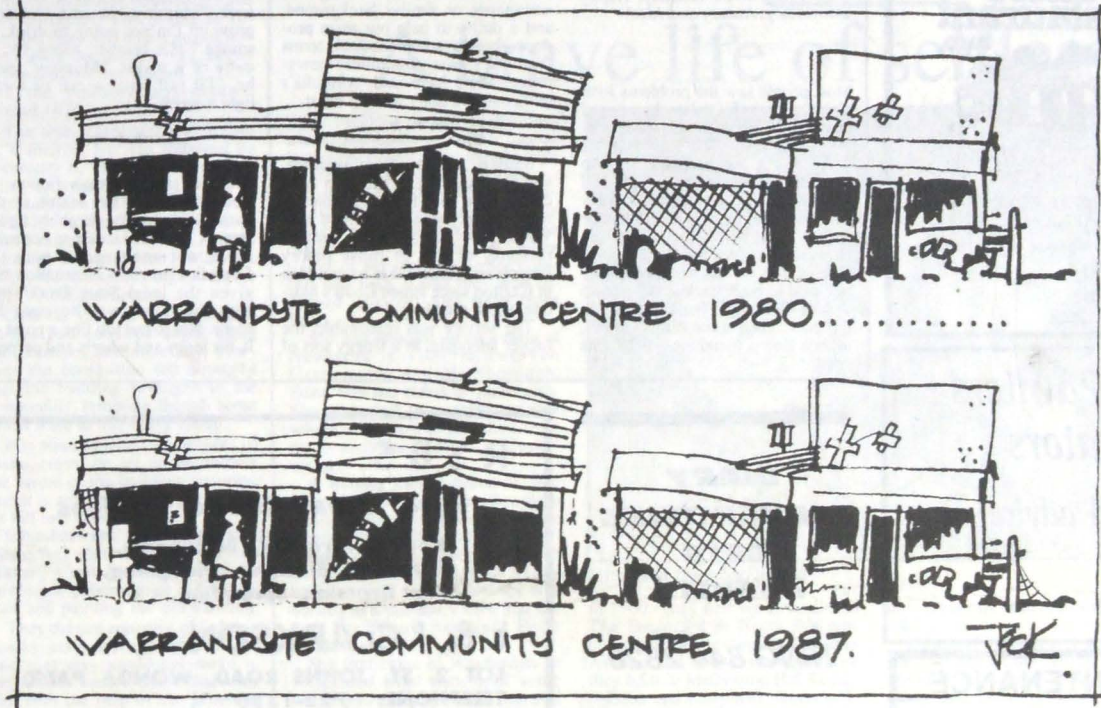
broader community; to interested individuals as well as to local groups.

"Perhaps we need to form a separate organisation to follow the whole thing through, with expert subcommittees working on various facets."

Council's ten-year 'moratorium' will soon be up, Martin pointed out.

"Fund-raising, consultation and design work should start immediately if we are to occupy our new facility by 1990."

Martin Kyne wants to hear from anyone interested. He can be contacted at 844 3769 or 460 1988.



Christian unity shows up in our village

Stiggant's Reserve on Good Friday morning was the scene of an event of great significance to local church communities.

Following a suggestion put forward at the February meeting of the Inter Church Council of Warrandyte and Park Orchards, the stations of the cross were enacted outdoors in beautiful surroundings.

The Inter Church Council organises a number of combined local church activities throughout the year, but this is the first time this deeply significant service has been conducted in the area with all denominations taking part.

The ecumenical movement, which has seen the Christian churches combining together in fellowship and worship, is perhaps the most significant event in the recent history of Christianity. Much has been done to develop closer ties between the churches in this area over a number of years.

Fr Russell Joyce of the Anglican Church, Fr Fred Van Gestel of the Catholic Church, Ken Dawson of the Gospel and the Rev Stan Fishley of the Uniting Church all participated in the service.

Ken Dawson commented that there was a real difference between reading the account of the crucifixion of Christ in the Bible, and seeing it acted out.

The estimated 300 people who attended the service were left with a deep and lasting impression of a very moving experience. It is hoped that this event will become a regular part of the life of the churches in the area.

SHIRLEY McCARTIN

Coffee shop says thanks

The Coffee Shop this year has been running very well. Each weekend sees a large number of local young people enjoying the activities provided and the company of friends in a relaxed atmosphere.

A committee of Coffee Shop members has been set up. They have begun to arrange some special activities. This has created more interest among the young people.

The young people from the Coffee Shop would like to thank the various community groups and individuals for the help they have given.

They include: the Warrandyte Community Market for their donation of \$100 to go towards some desperately needed exhaust fans; the Apex Club for the lounge suite and stereo both of which are in use; and to Peter Thom of Templestowe Television for fixing the TV and video free of charge.

Stane Brae cause lost when it seemed so near

The battle for Stane Brae is lost. The bushland which might have been part of Warrandyte State Park has been sold to a family for a sum believed to be about \$700,000.

Ironically, the sale came just a few days after a successful public meeting, organised by the Save Stane Brae Committee, raised money and publicity for the cause.

More than 120 people heard talks by local botanist David Cameron, naturalist Jack Hyett, botanist and ecologist Geoff Carr and

Warwick Forge from the Victorian Conservation Trust.

Rob Gell compered the evening and John Reid introduced the subject with slides. Don Saunders, head of the National Parks Service, represented the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Joan Kirner.

The Ingram Trust gave a \$5000 cheque, and many people in the audience dipped into their pockets or pledged donations.

But to no avail. And another piece of bushland is lost forever.

Get together for solos

The Sole Parent Support Group is getting things done.

The group is planning a barbecue at the Jumping Creek Reserve on Saturday, May 24 beginning at noon. Meat will be supplied. Bring your own salads and drink. Ring Mary (844 2052) or Jan (844 2769).

Some of the group have already put to good use the brushcutter and lawnmower which are for hire to sole parents for \$1 a pop, plus a refill of the tank. Jean Chapman has the details on 844 2548.

The group has been financed by a one-off grant from the Department of Community Services and will welcome suggestions on equipment to buy.

No rest for wicked — or for fathers

John Hanson certainly had his time cut out at his daughter Jenny's 21st party. First request came from a male guest who couldn't find his bowler hat.

Trouble was, many of the 120 others were dressed as 'The Blues Brothers' and it took fully 15 minutes to locate the right hat on the wrong head.

Second request came from a female guest who had been missing a red shoe for half the night. A search with a torch later located it under a bush. Another female then locked the keys in her car.

Finally at 3.30 am, the disc

jockey headed off, and after a bit of tidying up, John was about to retire when the disc jockey appeared on foot announcing, "I'm lost".

Apparently he'd taken a wrong turn and had finished up in the State Park, his way barred by a gate. After futile efforts of trying to back uphill in the dark, exit was made by hacksawing through the chain on the gate.

John finally hit bed at 4.30 am, only to be up at 7 am to take back tables and chairs, and help run another party — a Sunday school party at 9 am.

CYRIL BY PAUL W.



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Bill McCulloch, our last mounted postie (horse, that is, not motorbikes) has just celebrated his 90th with fellow patients over at Ward 1 North, Box Hill Hospital. 'Patient' isn't a very good description of our old mate Bill these days. 'Impatient' would be closer to the mark. To get home, that is. Meanwhile he's entertaining all and sundry with thrilling tales of old Warrandyte. Happy birthday, Bill. And hang on in there for the big one tonner.

One of Smokey's always reliable sources has whispered a word or two about an extra special celebration, held recently to mark the 40th anniversary of the marriage of well-known locals, Audrey and Alec Edwards. At the home of daughter Louise and son-in-law Ed, in a setting fit for royalty — strolling peacocks and all — their family and friends gave them the surprise of their young lives. Literally. Happy anniversary, Audrey and Alec!

Most people saw the problems John Cain had, on TV, when he opened Heritage Week at the Gold Memorial. Apparently Ben Hall and his Cobb & Co. coach couldn't get up the hill leading to the Fourth Hill Tunnel, so John and the official party had to walk to the tunnel and then be picked up at the end of Tunnel St. However, troubles didn't stop there. One of the official cars, obviously not used to bush tracks, backed into a State Park sign, putting a dint in the boot. Then some official ladies, in their finery, found the official cars

IN RED & WHITE



had left them behind, and had to hitch a ride on the back of a State Park truck. After all this action, a television film crew arrived.

The *Diary* is advertising for a news editor this month. ('News', Maggie, not 'new'. Bob Millington is still wielding the editorial typegauge, despite his recent elevation to lofty heights on page 2 of the *Age*.) We're looking for someone with a keen nose for local news, a smidgen of newspaper or similar background, and a desire to help our team produce what our advert modestly terms 'Victoria's best community newspaper'. We'd have said 'Australia's best', only we don't want to boast.

Smokey's mate from Ivanhoe, she who can hear the pop of a champagne cork from two miles, is moving to Sydney. In Red and White gave her an early farewell recently at one of those pokey French restaurants that have arisen in Carlton since Bruce Doull's hairline began receding.

The service was reasonable, the tucker adequate, in a froggy sort of

way, but the tables, my dear! Smokey is aware that in some quarters of the Republic of France it is the norm to bedeck the groaning board in butcher's paper instead of linen, but there is not here. Your correspondent's cobbler made her point by scribbling the names of her dining companions in red lipstick on the offending paper, thus making sure the table parchment could not be used for the 10 pm trade. Maggie, we'll miss you.

The 10-year-old is a bit of a sook. "Mummy," he said. "When I grow up I'm not going to drink or smoke." His brother, rising six, is more of a realist. "Mummy," said he, "I'll just have a can of Swan light a week."

Truth is stranger than fiction. In Red and White has learnt of the curious case of the scabbly signature. A gentleman of our acquaintance, not unconnected with the *Diary* in a previous incarnation, has given the local State Bank stick with the rotten way he signs his name. Not to put too fine a point on it, his loops and whorls and perpen-

dicularities are never the same from one cheque to another, a source of concern and chagrin to the hard working tellers. It's not as if he does it on purpose. The story goes that once they queried his John Hancock for the first time his natural nervousness made his hand shake ever after.

To continue. Our hero receives a telephonic communication at his city office from the Warrandyte bankers (no rhyming slang intended), announcing that his cheque has been dishonored because of the indecipherable squiggle at the bottom. No way, says the chap. Put so-and-so on the line. And then he tells so-and-so a secret from so-and-so's schooldays. It's Himself, says so-and-so, not wishing the secret to be revealed. Pass the cheque!

Smokey is going to have a right old whinge about something that has been getting up his jumper for months. Why do workmen on the restoration of the old post office have to park on the footpath right in front of the building? It is a public right of way, you know. And pretty tough on elderly folk and people with prams and shopping jeeps and such. There's plenty of safe parking, a few metres away, on either side of the building. What really gets Smokey's dander up is that the people who can't get past may well have helped to raise the money that is paying the contractors' wages. Look to your PR, WPOPG.

Smokey Joe

Continued on page 6


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First came Lazarus, now the post office

By JUDY MacDONALD

After several months of appearing to be in suspended animation, the old Warrandyte Post office will not only have doors, but these will be officially open.

After a seven-year slog, the Warrandyte Post Office Preservation Group committee can finally rest on its laurels.

Fences will be moved back, final fittings attached and the fully operative Citizens Advice Bureau can move in.

An invitation is extended to the community to see your building at close quarters on Saturday 23 May, from 1pm. The view of the river from the back verandah is the best in town!

Authentic paintwork colours were matched by Bristol Paints of Eltham. Hakea glass donated the glazing and Lysaght Steel the roofing at half price.

Recently the committee was very disappointed when a \$9000 National Estate grant was not forthcoming, as this amount was to finish the restoration.

Rather than delay the CAB any longer and because the committee could not face another year of fundraising, a decision was made to delay renovation of the two right hand rooms for use by the Historical Society, and let the main building area be immediately functional.

The Waghorn Collection of post office records was recently ac-

quired by the Manuscripts Collection of the State Library of Victoria. It lists Warrandyte postmasters and postmistresses. The points to remember here are that a postal service, using the number 127, began in Warrandyte on August 1, 1857 and the building was erected around 1876.

The first postmaster was Ewem H. Cameron. He was followed by (February 6, 1858) Fleming Hewitt, (November 1, 1862) A. McDonald, (1876) G. Holloway, (1881) Jane Holloway, (1882) S. J. Holloway, (November 12, 1888) Edmund Owen Palmer, (May 28, 1889) Henry Squires and (October 22, 1900) Ethel Speers.

Over the years several interested parties had enquired about using the premises commercially; however the committee felt strongly that the building belonged to the community, tempting though some offers were to the weary group.

It is planned that a committee of management be set up to oversee the future of the building, ensuring that it is neither painted purple nor let fall into disrepair again.

It has been said before but it is an ironic fact that the original committee — not greatly changed — envisaged propping up a sagging roof and painting the old building.

They did not conceive of fighting apathy, arson and authorities. Some said that they would not make it, but let the record show that they did, with the help of the generous and involved community of Warrandyte and a large dose of dogged determination.



EDNA McDOUGALL

A brave life of selfless service

Edna McDougall, one of the district's best-loved residents, has at last lost her eight year struggle with cancer. She died on 31 March.

It was a fight that never diminished her concern and care for those around her. When people called to visit her during the latter stages of her illness, to offer comfort and help, it was they who received comfort and help from Edna.

She was brought up on a farm at Newstead in Victoria, between Castlemaine and Maryborough. Edna was the eldest of three girls. She attended the small country school at Joyce's Creek, then went on to secondary school at Castlemaine.

A nursing career followed. She began her training at Bendigo Base Hospital, then completed a course in midwifery at Ballarat.

Edna's nursing career took her to the Morwell and Diamond Valley hospitals, and it was while she was nursing at Diamond Valley that she met her future husband, Peter McDougall.

She first came to Warrandyte in 1958, and lived here until some seven years ago, when she and Peter moved to Kangaroo Ground.

Peter and Edna were married in the Church of England at Newstead



Edna and Peter McDougall

in 1960. They first set up house on The Boulevard in North Warrandyte, before moving to Tarroona Avenue, and then to the new house they built in Melbourne Hill Road.

Edna and Peter had three children. Marie and Tony both work in the family real estate firm. Lisa has followed in her mother's footsteps

and is nursing at the Austin Hospital.

Edna's life was one of service to the community, her family and her friends. According to her sisters Betty and Dorothy, this was the constant pattern of her life: always willing to help, never complaining about the amount of work she was

called upon to perform for the community.

Throughout the years, Edna served the community through the church and in a wide variety of other organisations in Warrandyte. She never thought of herself, or looked for thanks. In fact, she always seemed surprised if anyone thanked her for her help.

She spent her last Christmas surrounded by her family and friends, an event she had been looking forward to, and which gave her great pleasure.

Edna was an active member of the Anglican Church in Warrandyte from her earliest days in the area. The church, and her abiding faith, was an important part of her life. It gave her the strength and courage to face her illness and to rise above it.

The Warrandyte community will join in recording their thanks for the many years of service Edna McDougall gave so freely. The sympathy of all of us goes to her husband Peter, and their children — Marie, Tony and Lisa.

As one of Peter McDougall's godsons said at the time of Edna's death: "I am so sad she's gone, but so very proud to have known her, and her love."

— SHIRLEY McCARTIN

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The day that Victoria burned

BRUCE BENICE continues his series on bushfires in Warrandyte and beyond.

The month of January 1939 came towards the end of a long drought, made worse by a severe, hot dry summer.

Water was scarce or non-existent and the forests were tinder dry. One commentator wrote:

"Men who had lived their lives in the bush went their way in the shadow of dread expectancy, but though they felt the imminence of danger they could not tell that it was to be far greater than they could imagine. They had not lived long enough.

"On that day it appeared that the whole state was alight. At midday, in many places, it was dark as night. Men carried hurricane lamps as they worked to make safe their families and belongings. Seventy-one people died. Whole townships were obliterated in a matter of minutes."

That day in January 1939 was the newly formed Warrandyte Bush Fire Brigade's baptism of fire. For Warrandyte it was a day beyond belief.

The thermometer in Melbourne reached 46 degrees Celsius and went even higher in country areas, where large fires had been raging for a week or more. Humidity was down to 8 per cent. Matches, when lit, were described as burning with an unusual blue flame.

It was in these conditions that a fire started between Eltham and the river. Driven by fierce north westerly winds, the fire jumped the river east of Alexander Road and swept towards the township.

The newly formed brigade borrowed a utility truck from the butcher and headed out to Bob Mahoney's place on the Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road. The upholstery in the utility caught fire on the way and they had to stop to put it out.

The brigade was equipped with six knapsacks, and with these they saved the house. But they were powerless to halt the forward spread of the fire. The volunteer firemen involved were Captain Birhisel, Lieutenant Jim Walsh and Jack Cahill, A. Fry, K. Dunkley and B. Stonham.

The fire leapt from hilltop to hilltop and then burnt out the gullies in between. George Stringer and Jack Cahill made another unsuccessful attempt to stop the fire near Keen's cutting.

Jack and Ralph McAuley were picking peaches on a property in East Doncaster when they saw the fire and obtained a lift home. The peaches were literally shrivelling on the trees in the heat.

Jack went up to Mahoney's to help fight the fire. On his way back he saw that the cricket pavilion was well alight. By the time he got home, his wife Dot had filled every container that would hold water and placed them around the house. This enabled Jack to save their house.

Mr J. Pridmore rode round the area on horseback to warn people that the fire was coming and to head for the river.

Dot McAuley will never forget, in the appalling heat, pushing her son Rodney up over the hill as she headed for the river, persuading Mrs J. Moore to bring her baby Maureen and come with her.



Warrandyte's Presbyterian Church burns on Black Friday, 13 January 1939.

Moore's house, at 54 Yarra Street, was destroyed.

They took refuge, with other adults and children, in the pool at the back of the old post office. The river was a lifesaver that day, as it had been in the past and would be again in the future.

Mr and Mrs S. McAuley's house at 34 Brackenbury Street was totally destroyed in a matter of minutes, despite the efforts of Ralph and his father to save it. Ralph took his parents up to the school to shelter from the fire, breaking a window to gain access.

All the McAuleys managed to bring out were the deeds to their

land and photographs of their children. Their horse had taken care of himself, and was found that night, munching cooked apples off a tree in the backyard.

The McAuley house was later rebuilt by crews from H.V. McKay Massey-Harris at Sunshine, as were those belonging to Mrs McCulloch (22 Brackenbury Street), the Dunkleys (55 Harris Gully Road) and McCullums (Harding Road). The same firm, now called Massey Ferguson, again sent crews to help fight the fires in Warrandyte in 1962.

John Hutchinson was at their

tunnel, along with a wallaby and a couple of possums. The animals had lost their fear of humans in face of the greater peril.

As with the animals, so it was with people. Residents who had been at loggerheads for years fought side by side, their enmity forgotten in the struggle against a common adversary.

When the fire had passed, John Hutchinson returned to where their home had been. It was gone. The furniture they had brought out on to the road had also been completely destroyed. So fierce had been the wind that not even the ashes remained.

John called their cow and she came from the direction of the river, walked to the bails and stood quietly as she was milked. John camped on the blackened site that night in a tent a city garage proprietor had lent him.

Despite the appalling odds, those battling the fires never quit trying. For every success there were a dozen losses, and for every act of heroism recorded there were a dozen that went unnoticed.

In South Warrandyte, two firefighters — Norm Bangot and Jack Niven — draped wet blankets over their heads and dashed through the flames to rescue two children from a house, despite the risk to themselves.

Communications being what they were, people coming home on the bus to Warrandyte that night did not know what had happened. The bus dropped them off at heaps of ashes; all that remained of the homes they had left that morning.

Stan Craker, a passenger, described it as the saddest memory of his life. To be continued.

May, 1887: The removal of the Mechanics' to the large room of the hotel, formerly occupied by Mr Hosford, is a step in a very right direction.

A comfortable fire and polite attention has made it a rendezvous for the young of both sexes, the two nights in the week.

There is some talk of forming a debating society — a very good and desirable adjunct, and I hope that it will be carried out.

Progress in being made in building a turning factory near the Yarra on the Creek. It is an initiation and very likely will lead to others. We don't look for a young Birmingham, but anything that destroys our (as the Yankees say) "everlasting monotony" is welcome.

There is nothing fresh in mining matters. The Yarra Tunnel Tribute Company are progressing well in sinking shafts.

Several applications are to be made for participation in the next prospecting vote. This place should have a show.

A permanent shaft 300 feet on the Fourth Hill would provide a large extent of country that has been exceedingly rich on the surface.

"For the rain it raineth every day." So said Shakespeare. At all events we have had it so for the past fortnight, and feel the necessity of the water gauge for information's sake.

ANDERSON'S CREEK POLICE COURT
(Before Mr Hare P.M. and Mr Hutchinson J.P.)

Constable Woods v. Connolly. — Using a horse in a conveyance unfit for work. Mr Barrett appeared for the Humane Society. Fined 3 pounds, and 5 pounds 3 shillings costs.

Constable Woods v. Hewish. — Driving same. — No appearance. Fined 2 pounds, and 3 pounds 3 shillings costs, or 14 days imprisonment.

Murphy v. Frost. — Two cases, one for setting dogs on or "dog-

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

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For hire of Lions Tennis Courts call The Village Milk Bar (844 1240)

SMOKEY — from page 2

The Irish setter was strictly off-limits when he wandered into Harry Heath's supermarket and the manager quickly made that quite clear. Whereupon the dog lay down in an aisle and played dead. No amount of prodding or prompting was going to move him. Someone in the fast-gathering crowd suggested a makeshift stretcher; someone else proposed that the butcher boy be summoned. The boy duly arrived with a fine, meaty bone, which he waved in front of the inert canine's nose. Dog rose as if levitated, followed the bone out of the supermarket, across the road to the recreation reserve and was there rewarded for his belated co-operation. Smokey believes this to be one smart dog who will be back for more. Smart enough, perhaps, to come along disguised as Lassie next time.

Neil Pearson, who retired a few years ago after many years with the Board of Works, has been known to say a few words about a lot of things. And high among those things is Telecom. Neil finds very little to recommend in this giant instrumentality and he was saying plenty recently when his phone service — along with a few hundred others — was out for several hours. He was interrupted mid-haranguing by a gleeful mate who assured him that Telecom was, in fact, blameless in this case. Someone else had drilled through a cable. Yeah, you guessed it: the Board of Works.

It helps to ring the right number

North Warrandyte
CFA
news

To report fires the North Warrandyte area dial 844 3683. This number should be dialled only when the brigade is needed urgently. There are separate telephone numbers available for general enquiries.

The Fire Reporting System consists of six private telephones in North Warrandyte. When the fire call number (844 3683) is rung, all of these phones ring simultaneously, creating a party line effect. Anyone answering the call can then activate the siren at the fire station after judging the call to be legitimate.

As well as the phones on the direct FRS system, there are a further six phones in other brigade members' homes which ring when the siren is activated. Also, the brigade has recently installed a pager system which alerts another six members.

All these steps occur before the siren has gone off. In addition, many members have listening sets so they can hear radio calls and then provide further assistance if necessary.

If there is no answer when the fire call number is rung, The Siren will be activated automatically after 30 seconds. Your call will then

be answered by the first person to arrive at the fire station.

All of this may take two or three minutes, but this is quicker than ringing 000, which can result in long delays before the brigade is notified. These calls go through firstly MFB headquarters then the operation room at Dandenong CFA.

When you ring the fire call number, the brigade requires the following information: name, accurate address, type of fire or incident, location.

To ensure that the fire reporting system is operational, it is regularly tested on Sunday mornings at 10 am. More recently it has been tested also on Thursday evenings at 8.05.

In summary, the fire call numbers in this area are: North Warrandyte: 844 3683. Enquiries — 844 2418 or 844 3595. South Warrandyte: 844 2147. Warrandyte: 844 3798.

letters

Stickers wanted

Can you help me please? I am a qualified Stickerologist. I collect stickers of all kinds. Do you have any stickers I can have to add to my collection please? I would be grateful.

Hoping that you can assist me.
Mark Anthony Jewell
P.O. Box 35,
Mooroolbark 3138

Fireworks pleased

I would like to express my appreciation to Goldfields Plaza Shopping Centre for their sponsorship of the magnificent fireworks display at the "This is Warrandyte" Festival this year.

It provided an exciting climax to a special weekend for Warrandyte despite damp conditions. The number of people who ventured out particularly on the Sunday afternoon were treated to a finale never experienced in Warrandyte before.

Also thank you to the hardworking Festival Committee whose dedicated slogging provided a festival that never looked like washing out.

A grateful resident

Proud of a mother.

It is with great pleasure that on April 22 Mrs Lilian Whitehead celebrated her 77th birthday.

On this day in 1910 at the old Warrandyte bakery a star was born. This light has never dimmed — only grown stronger and during these years many changes have taken place, but not the old spirit of belonging to Warrandyte. She always has a helping hand for others, a smile, a joke.

From all your many friends and family Lil "Happy Birthday".
Norma M. Whitehead
"Green Gables Lodge"
Macclesfield

Proud of a son

My husband Gordon and I are South Warrandyte folk, presently spending 12 months in the U.K., in Wales at this stage.

We just received word from our daughter this week of our youngest son Craig's achievement. He is a 20 year old apprentice plumber, working for local man Ian Anderson of Anson Plumbing. Craig has just won the Frank Maskell Master Plumber's Award.

We feel very proud of him and are so sorry we are not able to attend the presentation.

Brenda Barinton

Potential trap

Drivers travelling west along the main road with left blinker on, to turn into the Solo service station, could have drivers from the new shopping centre coming out in front of them, expecting them to turn into the shopping centre. I believe there have been near misses already.

John Hanson

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A brand new little boy arrived on April 2 at 56 Everard Drive to Heather and Glen Jameson. A brother for Maydeena, a lovely wee grandson from Tom and Popsy. Given proud Poppa's name, Thomas Charles. Only hope he doesn't talk Scotch like his Poppa. Hard enough trying to understand one Scotsman already.

WARRANDYTE CELLARS

THE VILLAGE LICENSED GROCER

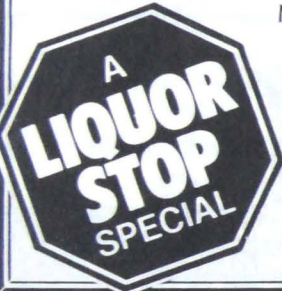
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Frog fancier confesses

NATURE

Pamela Conder

A few nights ago I was rather taken aback by the sight of a familiar face at the window. It was the amiable, slightly vacant grin of a brown tree frog.

Actually its look of bonhomie is quite misleading. It is an efficient little predator of nocturnal creepy crawlies.

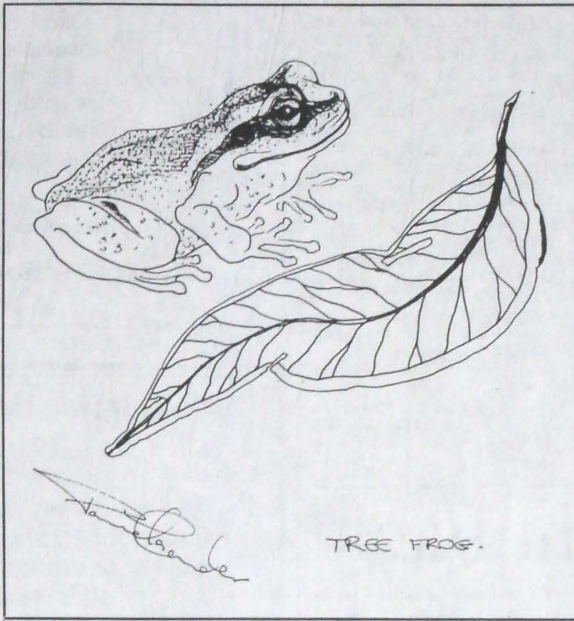
Frogs have a surprisingly long reach with a lightning fast tongue, attached at the front of the mouth, with its free end pointing backward, ready to flip over and out to nab the prey.

As a young frog fancier, I harbored an ambition to study the private lives of some Australian amphibians in captivity.

The getting of subjects was easy. The area within cycling distance of here was stiff with frogs, from the elegant golden bell to blowsy bullfrogs with their amphibian 'Anvil Chorus', and nubbly skinned, miniscule Toadlets.

The keeping of frogs was another matter. My cages and vivaria tended to be held together mostly by spit and optimism, which is no match for a frog with travel on its mind.

When the pride of my collection, a large, athletic golden bell went



AWOL, my main concern was to find him before he became desiccated and died. This species, *Litoria aurea*, although classified with the tree frogs, spends most of its time in water.

Frogs have three ways of breathing: through the lungs which are like hollow sacs, through the roof of the mouth and through the skin, which has blood vessels lying close beneath the surface.

The frog's skin is a complex, multi-function tissue, regularly shed and eaten by its wearer. To breathe the skin must be moist and in vital areas the moisture is maintained by mucous glands. However, a skin clogged up with fluff and house dust is not a lot of use to a frog.

After a long and fruitless search, I resigned myself to the demise of the brilliant green and bronze specimen. Until next morning a banshee screech summoned me to my grandmother's bedroom. The fugitive frog was leering smugly from under the fringe of her bedspread.

Actually, under a bed is by no means the strangest place to find an amphibian.

They are represented by frogs, toads, salamanders or caecilians, on every continent except Antarctica. They range from cold climates like areas above the snow line in NSW, where the corroboree frog lives, to Australia's arid regions, the home of the water-holding frog (sometimes used as a source of fluids by aboriginals).

Amphibians also vary in size, the largest being the Japanese salamander, which grows up to five feet in length and has been known to live up to 52 years. The only amphibians native to Australia are frogs. But what a magnificent variety we have, and new species are still being discovered.

Conder art on display

Pamela Conder, well known to *Diary* readers through her charming nature pieces, is showing a collection of her paintings and drawings at Gallery 21 in Templestowe this month.

Represented in private collections in various countries, Pamela specialises in remarkably accurate and evocative portrayals of the world's wildlife.

From Africa to India, from China to the Channel Isles, from Germany to the Galapagos Islands, animals unique to these areas have been 'captured' by her creative brushwork.

This unique exhibition is open until Saturday 23 May at Gallery 21, 21 Macedon Road, Lower Templestowe. Gallery hours are 11-5 pm Tuesday to Friday and 10-4 pm Saturday.

Warrandyte Diary

NEWS EDITOR

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A drawn-out drama

Warrandyte grabbed their first premiership points of the 1987 EDFL season with a desperate draw in the home game against Clayton.

Two points should have been four. After successive losses to Coldstream, Doncaster and Bayswater, it was a game the young bloods should have won.

They led by 27 points in the third quarter but let Clayton back into it with some fundamental mistakes in the last 10 minutes of that term.

Scores were level going into the last quarter and although Warrandyte ran to a seven-point lead, they were unable to apply the coup de grace.

Coach Dennis Clark was simultaneously disappointed and encouraged.

"We've got our finger on the pulse," he said. "Now we just have to learn to win."

Bloods earn first 1987 points the hard way

"We are expecting a lot from young heads and it appears that it's coming together."

Clarke made special mention of the performances of young players Gerald Walshe, Chris Snaidero, John O'Brien and Darren Peters. He also singled out a couple of not-so-youngsters — ruckmen Colin Bawden and Lou Amos, who changed off the bench.

Warrandyte started well, with goals from full-forward Doug Byron (two) and Peter "Banger" Banks before Clayton had a major on the board.

From the outset it was tough football played in a good spirit.

WARRANDYTE Diary SPORTS NEWS

Both sides went in hard, but the ball was always the object.

The Bloods led 5.6 to 2.4 at the first change and maintained the pressure to increase the advantage to 33 points in the second term.

Clayton fought back and did most of the attacking late in the term, but Warrandyte still had 19 points in hand at the interval.

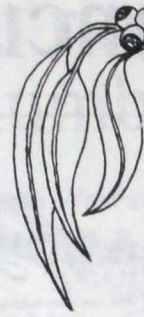
Two Byron goals in the third quarter stretched Warrandyte's lead to 27 points, but the rest of the term belonged to the visitors. Clayton rattled on four goals as the Bloods fell into basic errors and the final quarter started with the scores level on 9.15.

Banks goaled twice to give Warrandyte a seven-point lead, but Clayton came back hard to level again. It was frantic football and the scoreline read 11.18 (84) a piece at the end.

The Bloods' best were Banks, Snaidero, Walshe, Peters, O'Brien and Robin Golding.

Warrandyte president Kevin McLean said it was encouraging that the young players had performed well and had "hung in there".

He also urged local supporters to get right behind the team. The crowd was surprisingly poor considering the ideal weather.



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Twos fight back

Hidden perils lurk in the bedroom of Warrandyte Football Club president Kevin McLean. Kevin awoke recently complaining of a severe ear irritation. Wife Lorraine applied the eardrops — and flushed out a money spider! This was no isolated visit from a creature of the night. Last year, one of those savage jumping-jack ants invaded Kevin's bed and bit him on the head.

The front of the specially-printed T-shirts worn by reserves players Chris Sherriff and Mick Sporton in the rooms after the Clayton game bore the words "Up yours, Clarkie". On the back it said "To fat, to slow, no bloody skills" — which had been senior coach Dennis Clark's response to their plea for a go in the ones. Chris and Mick might also be reminded that their spelling could use a little work, too.

Dual Essendon premiership coach Kevin Sheedy will be the star attraction at a Warrandyte Football Club's Sportsmen's night on Wednesday, June 3. Sheedy will be supported by successful VFA coach Harold Martin. The venue was still to be finalised when this edition went to press, but tickets, at \$25, can be arranged with Robin Golding (876 4742) or Anthony Giles-Peters (844 2573).

The longest kick seen at the local ground for many a quarter came not from a senior superboot but from the visiting Clayton under-18s fullback. One of his last-term kick-outs, a prodigious torpedo punt, travelled darned near to the centre circle. Being built in a sort of junior Ray Gabelich mould, he had a bit going for him. But can he kick!

Howzat for openers?

As a wicketkeeper, Warrandyte women's cricket captain Jenny Chapman has been an instant and resounding success.

In her first season behind the stumps, Jenny accounted for 18 batswomen — the most dismissals by a keeper in the VWCA A-Grade competition.

Her performance was surpassed only by the top keeper in the Penant competition, who took 21 wickets.

Jenny's skills with the bat and ball were already well-known. She can now be described as an all-round cricketer in the total sense of the words.

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Ainslie Dalton (13) returns a beach ball with a stunning forehand drive.
Picture: ROBERT WHITE.

Truly, a novel opening

Junior members celebrated the opening of their own clubroom at Warrandyte Tennis Club with a novelty tournament.

As well as playing tennis with beach balls, contestants had to play with one arm in a sling, wearing a mask, carrying a bucket and with their racket heads shrouded in plastic carrying bags.

The tournament was won by Sarah Morrison and Barney Wedd (both 13).

Officially opening the junior clubroom, Cr Ken McKenzie commented on the value of young people participating in organised sport and in the life of the community. He particularly commended the tennis club for their initiatives in this regard.

BOARD OF WORKS NOTICE

Traffic will be restricted to one way in Everard Drive between Pound Road and Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte due to sewer construction works. That is the north bound lane will be closed.

The detour route will be sign posted.

Construction is anticipated to commence in May and be completed by August 1987.

Authorised by —
Mr D Robinson
Regional Manager
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