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Warrandyte Diary

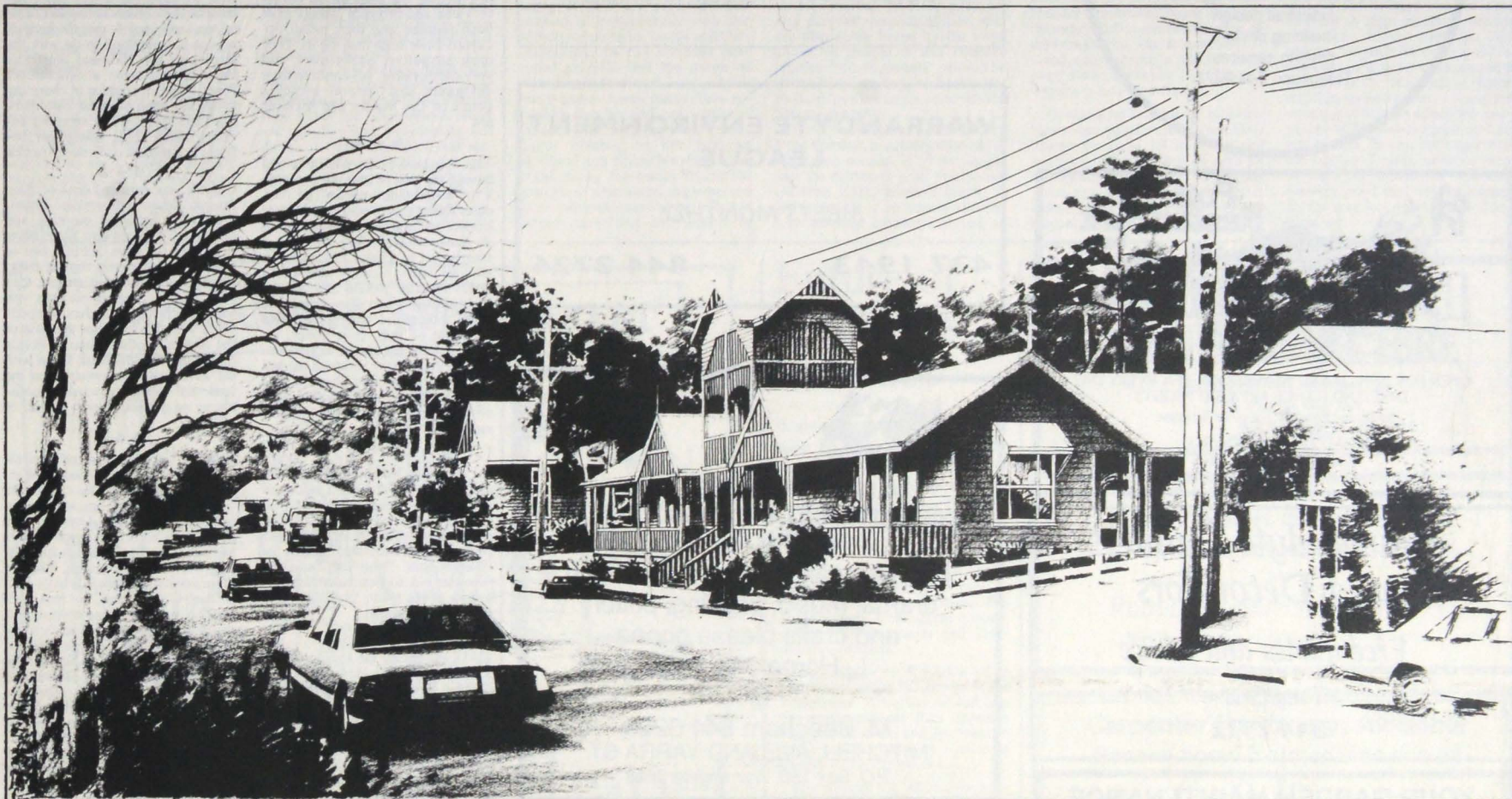
PRICELESS

No 179, July 1987

Editorial and Advertising 844 2820

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Time again, gentlemen, please for a grand design



An old Warrandyte pub, destroyed by fire in 1925, inspired this concept drawing for our proposed new community centre.

The Warrandyte Hotel, on the present site of the Mechanics' Institute Hall, just across Mitchell Avenue from the community centre site, was a district landmark for many years.

What led local architect and Warrandyte Advisory Committee member Kevin Parker to choose this building as his 'theme' for the proposed centre?

Martin Kyne, convener of WAC's community centre sub-committee, explains:

"It would be inappropriate to pre-empt the appearance and form of the centre before we have worked out precisely what will go inside. We want this drawing to spark discussion and debate.

"This concept, based as it is on the hotel that once occupied the site of the existing hall, was chosen because it has a character consistent with the village atmosphere of Warrandyte.

"It continues and enhances the surviving streetscape, providing an appropriate visual focus for a community centre on this location."

The community centre project will be thrown open for public discussion at the annual general meeting of WAC, to be held on Wednesday, August 26 at 8 pm in the Mechanics' Hall.

"Such questions as the appearance of the centre, what facilities it should include, what groups (if any) will be based there, and whether or not your centre should be integrated with the Mechanics' Hall, will all be raised," Martin said.

"If you want to comment — or want to be involved — this will be your chance."

Zoning win is near

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte is close to winning its long fight against closer density housing. However several areas of dispute still remain.

Last month, Doncaster and Templestowe Council, meeting in committee, decided that State Government should be requested to redesignate the township area of Warrandyte a 'special residential zone', similar to the Blackburn 'bellbird area' in the City of Nunawading.

This followed months of campaigning by the Environment League and other local residents when it was revealed that new rules in the Warrandyte 'Residential C' zone permitted dual occupancy and further subdivision of existing minimum size building blocks, allowing two or more dwellings per block, subject to certain conditions.

The matter came to a head when work commenced on a second house on a block at the corner of Yarra and Anderson Streets.

Ward councillors and local MP Mr Lou Hill took the issue to council and to government, urging special consid-

eration be given to Warrandyte's unique environmental and historic importance.

A council survey of affected residents indicated an overwhelming opinion against closer density housing.

Council has responded by agreeing to a special zoning for the area. The recommendation will go before full council this month. Formal agreement is considered a foregone conclusion.

The 'bellbird area' planning controls are designed to protect the pockets of natural bushland, the birdlife, and the informal roads and gardens that give this part of Blackburn its special character.

However, a residents' group, formed to resist closer density, feels that the 'bellbird area' controls as they stand do not go far enough, and would do little to protect the unique character of the township.

"They could leave us worse off than at present," a residents' spokesman told the Diary. "Nunawading Council rules for the 'bellbird area' allow for a minimum allotment size of 650 square metres, with 530 square metres in special circumstances.

"This could mean typical Warran-

dyte blocks as small as one third of an acre could be further subdivided. Council may even allow smaller subdivisions in some circumstances.

"Also, zoning similar to the 'bellbird area' allows dual occupancy 'as of right', instead of by town planning permit, as at present.

"Our group is determined to ensure that block sizes never fall below 1000 square metres and dual occupancy is disallowed in the sensitive township area."

The residents' group has prepared a detailed submission, setting out their arguments. This has been forwarded to every councillor, and to Mr Lou Hill, MP for Warrandyte and Mrs Rosemary Varty MLC.

"The Warrandyte area has little in common with the Nunawading area, which has grown from suburban development since the war," the spokesman said. "Warrandyte is a unique and historic hill township, the only one to survive in the metropolitan area.

"Warrandyte township is enclosed by state park and river reserve and the area's attractions were extolled in the Melbourne press as far back as 1856. It has been a popular amenity for the

whole of the metropolitan area ever since."

Cr Ken McKenzie is anxious to reassure residents that council is well aware of these concerns.

"The committee recommendation to council does not specify minimum block sizes," Cr McKenzie told the Diary.

"It is my intention to ensure that no future building allotment will be smaller than 1000 square metres. Otherwise all our work will have been in vain. Nor is Warrandyte an appropriate area for uncontrolled dual occupancy.

"There is a place for 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.

"Council regards Warrandyte as the 'jewel' of the city. It is one of the most interesting and attractive precincts in the whole Melbourne area.

"I am confident I can convince my fellow councillors to support me in this regard," Cr McKenzie said.

CYRIL BY PAUL W.



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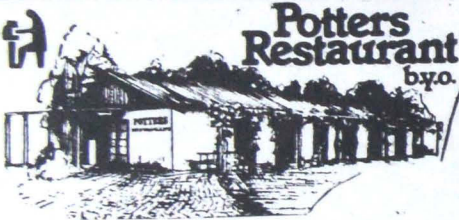
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IN RED & WHITE



Another special event has taken place in Warrandyte during the past few weeks. The units on the corner of Yarra and Stiggant Streets have been finished and their proud occupiers have been moving in. They look attractive, unobtrusive and very comfortable. All credit to their designers and special brownie points to Crs Martin and McKenzie.

The football club, which is not having the best of seasons, could do a lot worse than appoint Lee Tindale, *Diary* sports editor and occasional contributor to this column, as its mascot. Lucky Lee (there is a connection to Lucky Phil of breathalyzer fame) recently paid a visit to his favorite ground and did the right thing when the inevitable raffle tickets did the rounds. Two wins out of two, your honor, although there have been suggestions that he might have returned the last prize on the ground that the last thing he needed was another half dozen tinnies. Smokey can't imagine why.

HE was being led home from school, and they passed the home of one of Warrandyte's leading citizens. Lil Whitehead, amazing woman that she is, was out the front wielding a pickaxe as she excavated the hole for another plant. "Mummy," said the five-year-old, indoctrinated with the history of his town, "that's a stupid place to dig for gold."

DAD was taking the kids to school, and he was in a devilish mood. "Righto boys," he said, "what about I take you off with me on my rounds today? You can wag school." Said the 10-year-old: "Oh no, Dad, I've got too much work to do because I want to be a lawyer." Said the six-year-old: "I can't wag school either, Dad. What does wag mean?"

WE LOVE trundling into the State Bank these days. Service is spot on. And we love the bright paint job done on the outside. It couldn't be — no, no, surely not — that the jump in service has anything to do with the advent of the National Australia Bank branch down at Rockefeller Plaza, where a poultice of charming tellers fall upon potential customers. But then again, we've seen the advertisements. This newspaper believes in competition between banks.

CLOSE your eyes and think of Warrandyte when you venture downtown on a Saturday morning and find yourself forced into Warrandyte Cellars by the siren call of a bird or a bloke flogging grog. Sip the thing, chomp some breakfast cheese, then look around. Smokey reckons you won't find as good and as competitive a selection of wines this side of the Brown Brothers Stump. Bernie Maher and his son Peter, faced with the advent of a supermarket in the west, are moving towards concentrating on gargling liquids instead of edibles.

Charles, the little Cathedral College kid, was right proud of Warrandyte that day and his mate, who gets off the school bus at Doncaster, was no match. Anyway, said our bonsai hero, we've got a Sir in Warrandyte . . . and that's him sitting over there. A sir, eh, said the Doncaster disbeliever. What's he a sir for? Gee, I dunno, but he's definitely a sir. Had either approached, the gent would have modestly identified himself as George Reid of Alexander Road. Not Sir George Reid, former Attorney-General of this State, former High Commissioner to London, long-time champion of fair-dinkum justice. Sir George Reid is one of Smokey's very favourite people. Charles and his mate are welcome to join the fan club.

It never rains but it pours for the Scicluna family of K.G. Rd. On Saturday Joe was watching son Brian playing footy for the mighty Dytes, and witnessed him receive a nasty injury caused by him trying to commit suicide by bashing the back of his head repeatedly against an opponent's size 12. Joe spent Saturday and Sunday night beside his bedside at Box Hill Hospital. On Monday, Joe, a builder, was giving the old Black and Decker a fierce workout when he took his mind off the job and then saw took his thumb off his hand. Son Brian spent Monday and Tuesday night returning the favor. The thumb was sewn back on.

The Warrandyte Historical Society has had an application for a Bicentennial grant approved. The money will go towards making the society's extensive photographic collection open to the public. Right now the society is looking around for someone to take care of the indexing and cross-indexing.

Warrandyte had a link with a Senate candidate for the Nationals this election. Les Flintoff, fighting from the unwinnable third position, is a local boy. His parents had the property now occupied by the football ground and tennis courts in South Warrandyte. And if the name sounds familiar, yes, he's Debbie's father.

They came from far and wide — well, from Queensland and New South Wales — when Nerida Horne had her 21st birthday party on June 13. Grandpa Jim Horkings celebrated his 81st birthday just five days later. Smokey congratulates both of them.

Smokey Joe

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Learning to live again after the agony of grief

By JAN LIDDICUT

Mary Symes of Yarra Street was just 34 when her husband, David, drowned along with all the crew of their yacht, the Charleston, when it sank without trace in 1980 returning from the Sydney to Hobart race. Mary, a nurse, was left with two young daughters.

Her remarkable and intensely personal story was revealed last month with the publication of her book, 'Grief and Dreams'. It is a courageous book, embarrassingly frank in places, succinct and beautifully simple in others as she describes the emotional and physical struggle of rebuilding life alone.

Uniquely, it focuses on her dreams and their role in her recovery.

Since David's death, Mary has studied Jungian psychology and mythology. The two are inextricably linked and 'Grief and Dreams' provides a fascinating initial look at Jungian psychology in the introduction written by Dr. Peter O'Connor, psycho-therapist and author. It is also a poignant story of pain and sadness which, as Mary says, proves to be a paradox as healing is gradually achieved.

Jungian psychology deals with "layers" of consciousness, inner and outer, and supports the concept that within the unconscious mind, all people share universally felt drives and characteristics that manifest in behavior models and patterns called "archetypes". The link with mythology, particularly Greek mythology, occurs through the legends that symbolically describe

these behavior patterns with the archetypes represented by the various gods, their stories and adventures.

Jungians believe dreams play an integral role in the psyche, being symbolic transfers of information from the subconscious to the conscious mind during sleep through the images and stories that dreams bring. If they are recorded and studied in conjunction with the archetypal patterns, myths and fairytales, dreams can enhance personal growth. But the value of 'Grief and Dreams' is two-fold. Mary moves comfortably from recorded dreams and her explanations of their meanings and subsequent effects on her life, to profound and educative statements highlighting the harsh emotional struggle of a bereaved single person in a couple-oriented society that is largely unwilling and unable to

sustain compassion and patience for long.

It demonstrates that grief is absolutely personal and needs to be dealt with on an individual level. For many like Mary, the need to cocoon life while healing takes place is the way of things.

Her feelings on life as a welfare recipient learning to cope with the utterly onerous level of personal and parental responsibilities, that are also being borne by the large chunk of people in this country labelled "single parents", should be compulsory reading for health and welfare professionals and related bureaucrats alike.

'Grief and Dreams', published by Rene Gordon, is equally relevant to separated people. It gives insight into the depths of grief that young children suffer when a family is dislocated. It is an honest account with ultimate emphasis placed on

the importance and value of adjustment and acceptance.

'Grief and Dreams' should be read by those who have grieved for a partner in life for they will be consoled. It should be read by all who are supporting bereaved people or those interested in personal growth, as it will raise empathy to levels that are sorely needed in the broader community. None of us are immune. Bereavement is part of everyone's life, but it can be survived and become a valued stepping stone ensuring joy. Mary's tragedy is now her triumph.

It would be interesting to know how many people tried to use their phone on June 18 early in the morning. After putting up with an antiquated phone exchange for years that was marginally better than "party lines", now we are putting up with "teething prob-

lems" with the new computerised exchange. Not one telephone in Warrandyte purportedly worked for an hour or so on June 18 because of a major breakdown between the Warrandyte-Box Hill exchange. What a lucky stroke for Telecom that emergency services apparently weren't required at the time. Really, it is just outrageous that we are charged like wounded bulls for an inept telephone service.

Smokey doesn't often go canvassing for staff for other publications but he'll make an exception in the case of the Warrandyte Historical Society newsletter, a lively and worthy publication edited for many moons by the indefatigable Jo Lawrence. Alas, Jo can no longer bear the burden. Unless someone steps forward the newsletter will fold. Smokey prays that will not happen. By the way Jo, congratulations on a great job.



The Gospel Chapel Squashes them in

The Warrandyte Squash and Community Centre in Yarra Street may well become the hub of community recreation and social gatherings if the new owners have their way.

Bought as much for a point of contact with the community at large as for business reasons, the centre is beginning to draw the not-so-fit as well as the fit to its bright airy heart.

The congregation of the Warrandyte Gospel Chapel, now the owners, were outgrowing their Yarra Street home but did not have the money needed to purchase land and build a new church. Many different ideas were considered before the unprecedented move of buying the courts was made.

This close group of about 40 families gave \$30,000 in a special offering one Sunday to launch the project.

This attitude of getting behind an idea is obvious in the chapel's enthusiasm for making the centre work. Already heavily committed, the congregation is fully supporting several outreach workers overseas,

as well as two at the Wycliffe Centre in Kangaroo Ground.

Craig Smith, a member of the church and an astute businessman, told the *Diary*: "The centre will be run professionally as a business, but ultimately profit will recycle into the community."

He urges squash pennant teams, or members of previous ones, to return in force and make the centre really successful. The centre hosts a state pennant team, and the Australian junior racketball champion is a member. However, the overall concept is as an outreach project to draw the community together.

Craig said that the next 18 months would mean a lot of hard work to get all the plans off the ground. At present no church services are being held in the building and the Gospel Chapel is still in use, though bursting at the seams. He said that with many handymen and tradesmen in the congregation, the next year could see many aesthetic changes to the squash centre.

All ages are catered for and need no church affiliation. Local schools already strongly support the centre and Saturday night is devoted to group bookings, with people com-

ing by bus from as far away as Bendigo to enjoy the facilities. Local groups are welcome to use the centre in this way.

Women's coffee nights, aerobic classes, child minding facilities, a fully-equipped gymnasium and solarium and plans for non-stop coffee make the centre busy and unique.

Several lonely single parents and bored young people have found their way there and are being drawn into the community. The elderly citizens play carpet bowls in the central spectator area, completing the atmosphere of an extended family. A fast new national sport called Wavolley ball is played in the actual squash courts on Wednesday nights. Interested spectators are welcome to all events.

The new centre manager, Rod Byford, is very keen for the community to enjoy the facilities. He can be contacted on 844 3001.

Young local Mark Watts summed up the sentiment behind the concept when he commented recently about the purchase of the centre. "I suppose the score will be love one, love all."

JUDY MacDONALD

Future of landmark in doubt

Warrandyte residents might soon be asked their opinions on the future of the Whitehouse, the weatherboard building of that color that has stood for generations beside the oval.

Jim Pleasance, chairman of the Whitehouse Management Committee, is looking for suggestions. His concern stems from recent conversations with Doncaster and Templestowe officials.

For years, Alice Watson lived as a caretaker in the flat alongside the Whitehouse. Alice has moved into the senior citizens flats opposite Stiggants Reserve, and Jim went to check out the flat with a view to finding a new caretaker.

His respect for Alice's sticking powers soared. Jim called in the building inspector and the health inspector. They found that the ceilings were too low and the skirting boards and the floor rotten. The inspectors say that the cost of renovation would be too great and they will recommend that the flat be bulldozed.

"I was worried that they'd have the bulldozers around there the next day," says Jim. He quickly got in touch with Councillor Ken McKenzie and was assured there would be a stay of execution.

"I'm writing to the council suggesting that the repair work be done," says Jim, "but I'd go further. We're always talking about a community centre and we have plans to put it in the centre of town, on the Getsons site. It's cramped and there's a parking and traffic problem.

"Why not make the Whitehouse the community centre?" asks Jim. "It's away from the main road, there's plenty of space and tons of parking. The oval is nearby and so are the netball courts. The Whitehouse would be done up and groups could have their headquarters inside. Why not a coffee shop as well?"

Jim Pleasance stresses that it's only an idea, his idea. He would like to hear other suggestions and perhaps call a public meeting to decide the fate of a Warrandyte landmark. He is waiting on 844 2108.

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PO ceremony was fitting

I wonder if Jan Liddicut (Letters June, 1987) was at the same Post Office opening ceremony as I was on May 23.

Ms Liddicut complains that Eltham Shire Council went "unrecognised" for their financial support of the restoration. At the ceremony I attended, Cr Manuel, Eltham Shire President, had been officially invited to take equal part in the ceremony with Cr Denford, Mayor of Doncaster and Templestowe.

At this ceremony a Plaque was unveiled bearing the names of the two councils. Cr Manuel accepted from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne a key to the building — as did Cr Denford. Both gave short addresses.

Cr John Fisher, at the opening I attended, was indeed mentioned, albeit as "Bob" in the excitement of the moment. Everyone Present knew who was meant.

Possibly, the verbally competent president of the WPOPG committee, Rob Trenberth, should have forsaken his natural gift for oratory and read from copious and specific notes. Surely this would have detracted from the spontaneity of that lovely, typically Warrandyte afternoon.

As far as Rodney Roscheller is concerned, he was welcomed personally as an interested resident, rather than in his official capacity as chief executive officer he left that hat at home.

If any name was forgotten in the excitement of the moment, causing offence, then we regret that.

It certainly has never been suggested by the WPOPG that "it is a simple task, or automatic that money be directed from Eltham

letters

Council" as Ms Liddicut suggests. I might add that the Eltham grants were actually made to the CAB who saw fit to divert them to finishing their "home".

The WPOPG committee have had an excellent working relationship with both councils and their various representatives and officers over the years. Council donations have been mentioned at length in all local Press.

As we are into splitting hairs, Ms Liddicut's assumption that "many individuals" have put effort into the Committee is grossly inaccurate. Eleven People have made up this committee, with four retirees. Not one of the eleven has asked for, nor expects recognition, though the value of their time, given their professions, would be inestimable.

It seems a pity that her "helpful" comments were not offered to us at our monthly committee meetings held over seven years, rather than appearing after the event as thorns in the laurels on which we are exhaustedly reclining.

Judy Macdonald.

P.S. As the Preservation Group has officially and gratefully disbanded, no further correspondence will be entered into. Hallelujah!!

Danger on our roads

I wish to express my concern at the lack of footpaths in the

North Warrandyte area. On a recent wet, dark night I nearly ran down some pedestrians walking up Kangaroo Ground Road. Dazzled by oncoming car lights, I just did not see them as they were wearing dark clothing.

Could WAC pressure the Council into making some safer pathways for pedestrians in Kangaroo Ground and Research Roads? Also pedestrians should realise that by wearing dark clothing they make themselves largely invisible to motorists. They should wear something light or better still reflective strips for safety.

Concerned Resident

Thanks from the Flatties

We wish to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Jean Chapman, Maisie Temple, Louise Joy, David Henderson and Freda Rowe for their hard work and untiring efforts to make these lovely units a reality. The grateful and happy residents of 1 Stiggants Street.

House damaged

Fire badly damaged a house in Morilla Place, North Warrandyte, on July 4. Two rooms were destroyed. Captain John Swindley, of the North Warrandyte brigade, said the blaze started in the kitchen then spread into the family room. A fireman was injured when he slipped.


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North Warrandyte CFA news

More on house fires

In last month's article in this series, we discussed fires that occur in your homes and the various precautions you should take to prevent such fires. If you ever have the misfortune to experience a fire at your home, you should consider how you will handle the situation. You could be sound asleep in bed and be awakened by the smell of smoke or the crackle of burning.

DON'T WASTE TIME
• Determine where the fire is and how large it is. If it is beyond your control, ring the fire brigade immediately.

• If it is beyond your control, get everyone out of the house immediately. It is considered beneficial for every home to have a "FAMILY ESCAPE PLAN". Some things to include in such a plan are:

— Let everyone in the house know there is a fire.

— Any closed door should not be opened if it feels hot — remember that a closed door will hold back heat, smoke and flames.

— If a door is blocked by smoke or flames, you should leave by the window.

— Stay close to the floor and crawl if there is smoke and heat.

— Meet your family outside at a predetermined meeting point.

— Don't try and get back into a burning building.

• If the fire is small, you should immediately get adult help and put it out with either a garden hose or fire extinguisher if you have one. Even if you have a small fire that you can put out yourself, you should still contact the fire brigade as they may be able to assist in ensuring that the fire has not spread into wall cavities etc - you can never be too sure.

• If your clothing is on fire:

— STOP, do not run.

— Cross your arms over your chest so that your arms touch your shoulders.

— Drop to the floor and roll over and over slowly to put the flames out.

• If someone else's clothes are on fire, trip them up if necessary to get them to the floor and roll them over until the flames are out. Also, you should cover them with a woollen blanket or rug.

• DO NOT pull burnt clothing away from the skin.

• In general, water is the best agent to fight ordinary fires as it cools as it wets down the fire area. However, water is not always the correct extinguishing agent, ie for cooking oils or fats that have caught fire, do not spray water onto it as this will only splash the burning liquid and make the situation worse.

The best way to stop these fires is to smother them, ie put the cover on the fry pan, smother it with a blanket, or use an appropriate fire extinguisher. If there is an electrical fire, NEVER use water to try and put it out as electricity travels through water and could electrocute you. In this case you should pull out the appliance plug or cut off the power supply at the switchboard.

Why not hire a trier

Each month the *Diary* publishes the names of two job-seekers. If you need work done or have a vacancy we ask you to hire, as a community service, one of our triers.

Peter, 40, experienced at all sorts of odd jobs including carpentry and gardening.

Maria, 35, has had experience as a typist, telephonist and receptionist. She wants any work that can be done at home.

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

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Watching the lovely lyrebird

NATURE
Pamela Conder

Among my friends is a distinguished German zoo director who delights in introducing me to other wildlife people as "a woman of unspeakable habits". Having allowed the impression to take root, he expands that, instead of enduring a decent footslog through cold, wet forest, I make a practice of watching lyrebirds (always enunciated with a reverential shudder) through the window of my car. A white Jaguar, what's worse!

That was in my decadent past — but he refuses to acknowledge any strengthening of my moral fibre since I have been reduced to watching them from the discomfort of a clapped-out Honda. Although this has become a standing joke, it is a salutary reminder of how lucky we are in areas like this, that we are still able to observe so much wildlife with almost indecent lack of effort.

The lyrebird is a bird of restrained elegance, of warm plumbeous browns, dove-soft fawns and glowing chestnut, offset by the males' supremely chic silvery-beige display plumes and gracefully curved lyrates. I say here 'display plumes' rather than tail, as the latter is in fact the fan of short, brown feathers that you see at the base of all the finery. It acts as a support, enabling the bird to control the movements of his fan when dancing.

Around October or November the display feathers are moulted out and the males become more retiring. During winter you may notice a female with tail curving sideways. This is a fair indication that she's nesting. Although the hollow ball of



sticks and debris is quite large, a tail that length tends to suffer during the long incubation and rearing period.

Lyrebirds are also endowed with a pair of remarkably strong, almost oversized feet. They are, of course, invaluable in the search for grubs, termites and other invertebrates. The other thing for which they are particularly handy is mound-building.

There are other mound-builders among the Australian birds but the

megapodes, as the mallee fowl and brush turkeys are known, construct their mounds for quite different reasons to the Lyrebird. The megapodes are also known as 'incubator birds', referring to the way they use the heat generated by decaying vegetable matter in the mounds of earth and debris to keep their eggs warm throughout incubation.

But let's get back to Lyrebirds. The male may build up to 12 or 15 mounds in his home territory of one to four acres. These are the 'stages'

where he flounces and cavorts to his own vocal accompaniment, soliciting the attentions of the female. Most of the vocal repertoire must be learned by imitation of other species and sounds, and the virtuosity of individual performers can vary considerably.

Thus the lyrebird's mound is not merely a monument to his vanity, but, as part of the cycle of courtship and procreation, is every bit as functional as that of the megapode in the perpetuation of the species.

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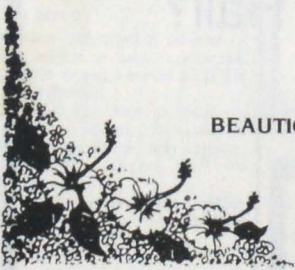
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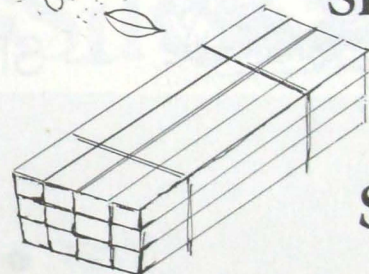
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Art comes closer to home

Local identities Marj and Dirk Eysebertse have organised a special art exhibition, 'Forever Worlds', at the Doncaster Gallery from July 7 to 26.

No, they haven't given up their highly successful East West Art Gallery in Armadale, but have taken the opportunity to bring an exhibition closer to home. As Marj says this means their Warrandyte friends will not be able to complain that it's too far to travel to view one of their exhibitions. Works by four internationally recognised artists, all exponents of contemporary Asian art, will be exhibited.

The brilliant abstracts of Anthony Sum Yap Hing together with the distinctive Chinese paintings of Mok E-Den and Shi Xiou Zhu are complemented by the graphics of Satish Gupta.

Seniors to meet

Warrandyte Senior Citizens' Club will hold its annual general meeting — its 25th — on Thursday, August 6, at 1 pm in the Taroona Avenue clubrooms.

Lions thanked

The Warrandyte Community Workshop Co-operative Ltd wants to thank the Lions Club of Warrandyte for giving \$188.58 to cover the repairs to the co-op's stencil cutting machine.

**DIARY
ADVERTISING
GETS
RESULTS**

POEM

A fragile beauty

*The sun slowly rises from beyond the horizon,
It brings with it a warm yellow glow,
Which ripens the crisp cool dawn.
With the first rays of light all the world is drawn,
To a leafless stem stretching over a rippling brook.
On the very end appears a tiny bud; so small and so
Insignificant against the landscape.
As the sun rises higher the bud opens.
It stretches out its long delicate petals;
To open its heart to the warmth of the sun.
One fragile flower on a bare stem, given the finest
Gift, life.
It lies still in its gentle beauty,
Bringing color to the world,
Its only intention to please.
To please and bring happiness to all,
Who chance to enjoy its presence.
A cool breeze strengthens as it twists and swirls
Amongst nature's treasured gifts.
It rears behind the fragile flower,
Which is now but a few hours old,
And takes it by surprise.
The flower in its innocence is shaken from its stem.
The delicate petals become lost in a confusion
Of dust and pollen grains.
It topples from its naked branch.
Down to where the cold water gurgles
Over rocks and pebbles below.
With a splash so quiet it is heard
By nothing and no-one.
It settles in a pool of still water.
A tiny droplet of water slides down one petal,
Like a silent tear.
The sun sets on the horizon.
The warmth is taken from the air,
And darkness slowly shrouds the landscape.
Un-noticed, the tiny flower floats downwards.
It rests on the muddy bottom,
And becomes engulfed in the murky water.
It is now unrecognisable as a fragile
Or delicate flower,
Which once bloomed in great but gentle beauty;
And lived no longer than a few happy hours.*

TRACEY CORRIGAN

Your Community Centre



- What should it look like?
- What facilities should it have?
- Should it be joined to the Mechanics Hall?

Have your say at the

Warrandyte Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting

8pm

**Mechanics Institute Hall
Wednesday 26th August.**

This meeting will form the basic concepts and facilities so now is your opportunity to put your ideas forward.

High times on the tower

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

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

Following the devastation of the 1939 fires, local brigades set about improving protection for the area.

The Warrandyte, Wonga Park, Kangaroo Ground and Pantom Hill brigades formed themselves into the Lower Yarra Rural Fire Brigade Group.

In Warrandyte, the community raised money to erect a fire station in Mitchell Avenue, at the rear of the Mechanics' Institute hall. It was built in 1944, from stone quarried in Whipstick Gully and donated by Doncaster council. The brigade paid a rental of one shilling (ten cents) a month to the hall committee for the use of the land.

George Stringer, a brigade officer and local builder and stonemason, built the new station for 67 pounds (\$134). This building served the brigade for 36 years, until a new fire station was built in Harris Gully Road.

In the same year, the Warrandyte brigade, again helped by community support, bought a secondhand Fargo truck to be used as a fire unit. Appropriately enough, Frank Nankerville, who owned the garage on the corner of Webb and Yarra Streets, was appointed head driver. With this title went the responsibility for ensuring the truck had fuel, oil and water at all times.

Victoria had barely recovered from the devastation caused by the 1939 holocaust, when December 22, 1943 ushered in the beginning of another terrible fire season. On that day, ten people died as fire swept through thousands of acres of grassland in the north-east of the state.

On January 14, 1944, brigades were battling to contain a fire that had broken out north of Wattle Glen. It spread to Pantom Hill, Kangaroo Ground, Research and Eltham, showering North Warrandyte with burning leaves.

That same day, another fire spread from the Lower Plenty Road to Templestowe, crossing the river on the way and burning out some 2000 acres (800 ha). The local fire fighters were joined by metropolitan brigades from Greensborough, Ivanhoe and Heidelberg, as well as 60 members of the armed forces.

In all, 49 people died throughout the state during this tragic fire season. Following so soon after the previous disaster, the State Government moved at last, implementing the main finding of the Royal Commission into the 1939 fires by proceeding with the setting up of the Country Fire Authority.

Fearing a loss of independence, there was serious opposition from the Bush Fire Brigades. Warrandyte supported this stand, and faced with the prospect of being 'drafted' into the CFA, no-one would take office at the annual general meeting of the brigade and the meeting was deferred. However, Warrandyte officially joined the CFA on October 31, 1945.

A West Warrandyte sub-brigade was formed in April 1951, functioning under a lieutenant of the Warrandyte brigade. But by February 1958 this unit was no longer operating and its equipment was returned to the Warrandyte brigade.

Warrandyte South Rural Fire Brigade was registered as a separate brigade on January 10, 1949, with Bill Knee as captain.

With the assistance of the Forests Commission, the first fire tower, on Fourth Hill, was erected by the Warrandyte brigade. It consisted of a windmill stand donated by Mr Laver, with a sheetmetal cabin built by Alex Edwards.

The tower was manned by Alan Smith, who was paid by the Forests Commission. Helped by others, Alan watched the area through binoculars. One keen member, equipped with field glasses, was sitting outside his house-built in a high position — when suddenly he smelt smoke.

Eagerly he scanned the horizon. He could see nothing, but still the smoky smell persisted. Still nothing through the glasses. Finally, a thorough investigation revealed that his



Audrey Dreschler (nee Walsh) with the secondhand Fargo truck, Warrandyte's first fire unit.

wife's iron had just burned its way through the ironing board.

Soon after the tower was first erected, one local sauntered out and set fire to a pile of rubbish. When the phone rang, it was Alan to tell him to put it out.

"But I've only just lit it," was the reply from the indignant resident. "I know," Alan replied. "I watched you. Now put it out or I'll send for the brigade." It did not take long for the story to get around and for the locals to mend their ways.

During summer, the iron sides of the cabin became so hot that Alan had to tie pieces of bush timber to the inside walls to save himself from being burned.

Alan's dedication and his ability as spotter were incredible. Early in each summer season, before officially commencing another 'tour of duty', he would spend a couple of days in the tower familiarising himself with any changes in the landscape since the previous summer.

The tower was linked by a direct landline to the radio base, first at the Riverview Garage, later at the fire station in Mitchell Avenue.

The original tower was damaged during the construction of the Warrandyte Water Trust dam, and a new tower, 14 metres high, was erected.

It was built by the brigade, with Trevor Pike carrying out all the necessary welding and Alan Smith, Bill Hussey and Bruce Bence prefabricating the wooden cabin before bolting it together on the site. The view obtained while nailing on the iron roof was superb.

With the advent of the fire truck in Warrandyte, together with radio communications and the fire tower on Fourth Hill, no outbreak from within the area ever got out of control until January 1969.

But in January 1962, fire swept in from outside Warrandyte, bringing further devastation and human tragedy.

To be continued.



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ENQUIRIES

For application forms and further enquiries please contact the Enrolment Officer on **725 5388** Cardigan Road, Mooroolbark. 3138

Looking for ideas again

The Warrandyte Festival Committee will hold its annual general meeting at 8 pm on Wednesday, July 29, at the Community Centre in Yarra Street.

Anyone interested is invited to attend, either to help or join the committee or put forward ideas for the 1988 festival.

One idea has been to focus on Warrandyte's unique community of artists and art forms. Any suggestions on this theme will be welcome.

For further information contact Lynne Cappellani on 844 2191 or John Boyle on 844 3333.

Hizzoner wants our ward

Cr Vern Denford, mayor of Doncaster-Templestowe, hopes to represent Warrandyte ward during the coming council term.

Elected three years ago in the Doncaster West ward, Cr Denford, whose term expires next month, has indicated his intention of standing for election in Warrandyte.

"I am anxious to represent the people in the ward where I live," Cr Denford told the *Diary*.

Cr Anne Martin, who has represented Warrandyte since 1980, is not nominating for re-election.

No other prospective nominee for Warrandyte ward had come forward when the *Diary* went to press.

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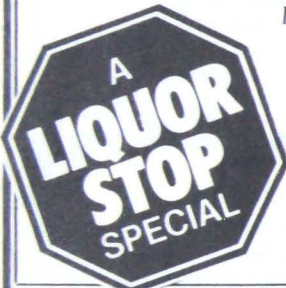
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When a native can be a foreigner

Indigenous plants are the original plants of an area. When we talk of plants indigenous to Warrandyte we mean the plants naturally found in our beautiful bushlands.

The term 'Australian Natives' is a Nurseryman's category and means plants that come from somewhere in Australia. They could come from W.A. goldfields, the Blue Mountains in N.S.W. or the Tablelands of Queensland. These plants would be indigenous to those areas.

The forest that surrounds us, is a mixture of only nine or so main eucalypts: red box, red stringybark, long-leaf bark, messmate and yellow box and in the moister areas manna gum, swamp gum, candle-bark and narrow-leaf peppermint. The lovely red box is the dominant tree and its blue/grey tinge gives Warrandyte its distinctive hue and subtlety.

An example of how eucalypts can be very particular as to where they grow naturally is the road from Templestowe to Warrandyte. All through the lower lands of Templestowe, river reds (e.camaldulensis) dominate. Magnificent specimens of this species grow out front of the Greenery Nursery, just up from Fitzsimmons Lane roundabout. The surrounding

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.

land is classic river red country. Flats, low-lying, often near a river or on an old flood plain. As soon as the road begins to climb the foothills, the river reds stop. The box forest begins. River reds are extremely rare in Warrandyte.

Similarly, as we head towards Ringwood, the red box dominance is replaced by silver-leaved string-bark dominance. There are over 650 species of eucalypt in Australia, yet there are only the nine main types in Warrandyte.

Species of wattle in Australia number over 850, Warrandyte indigenous wattles number 14 with a variety from ground covers to long-living, handsome trees. A most important group, they are pioneer plants after a fire or soil disturbance, regaining land back into the bush. The black wattle (a.meamsii) has this role with its quick growth and ready germination. All wattles and pea-plants put nitrogen back into the soil, preparing for the future forest. Black wattles are in particular an important 'feed tree' for birds and native animals because they host an immense variety of insects. Sugar glider possums feed on the gum exuded from the bark, yellow-tailed black cockatoos search the trunk for insects.

A study at Monash University revealed some 350 varieties of insects in an old black wattle, truly a king harvest for the bush creatures. Black wattle makes an excellent firewood. Very fast growing, you can have a mini forest in your backyard, beginning to harvest after a few years. It is a host plant for the blue jewel, ictinis blue and imperial blue butterflies as well as many others.

The spreading wattle (a.genitifolia) is a profuse flowerer. The cinnamon wattle (a.leprosa) has fragrant foliage. The silver wattle (a.dealbata) is a fast grower for damp spots and is a fire retarding plant, as is blackwood

wattle (a.melandoxydon) a handsome, longliving wattle. Thin-leaf wattle (a.aculeatissima) is a lovely ground cover.

It is important to note that the cootamundra wattle (a.baileyana), is not an indigenous plant. Although a lovely bush, it is causing considerable trouble as a weed in the State Park. It competes with the indigenous flora for space and nutrients, and is slowly changing the composition and look of our bushlands. If you can avoid planting this species, it would be of great benefit to the management of the State Park because it is such an aggressive invader. As is the native pittosporum, a sweet smeller but very damaging.

Other garden escapes causing trouble in the Park are pine trees, smilax, cotoneaster, broome, prunus and cretageus. Only a handful of plants that should be avoided to help save our precious bushlands.

Why Indigenous? There is so little natural bushland left near Melbourne. It is rare and precious. Once gone it will be gone forever, it is impossible to recreate its complexity. Warrandyte has been known for its beauty from the first encounters with this neck of the woods. A major part of this beauty is the indigenous flora. They give unity and a sense of wholeness to the area. The community of plants in the forest, gives us a strength of community, a sense of belonging somewhere.

Why Indigenous? Drive through Greensborough, Watsonia or Templestowe and other close suburbs who not so long ago were noted for their bushland feel. Now they look just like any other suburb of the city sprawl even though many people of these areas planted Australian Natives. Overlooking the unity and harmony of the indigenous plants each garden pulls and strains against its neighbors. Gone is the subtle texture of the bush.

Why Indigenous? Warrandyte still retains a considerable amount of indigenous flora. Our backyards are an important link in the web of life. The State Park, which contains reservoirs of bush life, is fragmented and needs continuity for its survival. If we allow our backyard indigenous flora to deteriorate, then the life cycles will degenerate. The web of life will be broken.

Indigenous plants make sense. They are suited to the rainfall and soil type. They don't need the attention and care that so many of our garden plants need. Kookaburras cannot nest in a liquid amber. Parrots do not nest in oak trees. The birds need our local plants to survive. As we lose our indigenous plants, so do we lose our complex bird and animal life.

The Eltham copper butterfly, which is brinking extinction in Eltham, typifies how many people knew bush land ecology. We call on Government to do something, 'Save the Land', yet in our own personal ecology, backyard ecology, we seldom consider the bush, the reason that most of us came to Warrandyte. We don't need a million dollars from Big Brother, we need you and me to care for and nurture our very fragile earth.

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Monkeying with the mail

July, 1887: A very largely attended public meeting was held in the Mechanics' Hall on Saturday evening with reference to the alteration of our mail service, Mr W. Collins in the chair.

He had a petition signed by 64 of the residents in favor of the alteration (requiring mail to be carried by a morning coach). Our worthy member, Mr Cameron, was present and he was sure we were all very glad to see him.

Mr H. Stiggants seen here produced a counter petition signed he said by 90 persons opposed to the alteration.

On looking through the list of names, the chairman stated that he thought it was very unfair. We had confided ourselves to the Creek and Warrandyte, whereas the majority of those on the counter petition were residents some of Templestowe, Doncaster and beyond Warrandyte.

He thought that the very large majority of residents of Anderson's Creek who were desirous of a change should have some consideration and that a few should sacrifice something for the benefit of the many.

Mr Cameron, who was received with hearty cheers, stated that the expression of a public meeting was preferable to petitions. He was always desirous to do his best in any matter concerning the welfare of the Creek. It was a pity that the people could not pull together.

He asked the meeting to discuss the matter calmly and try and arrive at something definite among themselves. He could understand that the alterations would be a benefit for persons desirous of going to town and returning the same day. The Government gave preference to passenger conveyances as they generally took the mails at a cheaper rate.

He was perfectly willing to present both petitions, but it would be very unfair to expect him to act as arbitrator in the matter or between the two parties or show partiality in any way. (Cheers).

Mr W. Hutchinson JP stated that he was a very strong advocate for any early mail arrival especially for

business men. He had a large number of letters daily and the proposed alteration would be very inconvenient for him.

Captain Selby was decidedly in favour of the morning delivery of letters. By the proposed alteration they would lose a day.

Mr Lewis Grant stated that he had the good fortune to be the first to sign the petition in favor of the alteration, which he thought would be of the greatest benefit to the inhabitants.

There were a large number of people, including women and children, who had to walk to the station if they wanted to visit Melbourne, and, even if they stayed in town all night, it was very inconvenient to get up at five o'clock in the morning to catch the first train.

The following proposition was then handed to the chairman by Mr Hutchinson: "That in the opinion of this meeting it is not desirable that any alteration should be made in mail time." Seconded by Mr Stiggants.

An amendment was then proposed: "That in future our daily

How We Lived



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

mail be changed to an evening delivery and morning departure." A show of hands was taken, with the following result: For the amendment, 32; for the motion, 9.

Majority for the evening mail, 23. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the chair, and to Mr Cameron for his attendance.

ANDERSON'S CREEK POLICE COURT

Frost v. Campbell. — Trespass. On the 15th June last, defendant trespassed on the land with dray and horses.

Defendant had been repeatedly warned not to drive over this land. Defendant stated he was not aware it was private land, had driven over the same during the past 12 years.

Complainant stated he had posted notices warning people against trespassing, but they had always been pulled down. Mr Bancroft for plaintiff. Fined 5s, 10s damages, and 5s costs.

John Orr v. Joseph Bun. — Insulting behaviour. The plaintiff handed to the Bench the language used. Bun denied ever using any bad language. There were no witnesses on either side. Fined 10s and 2s 6d costs.

The weather still keeps wet, dull and cold, and a change would be very desirable.

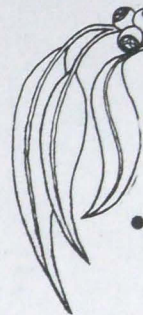
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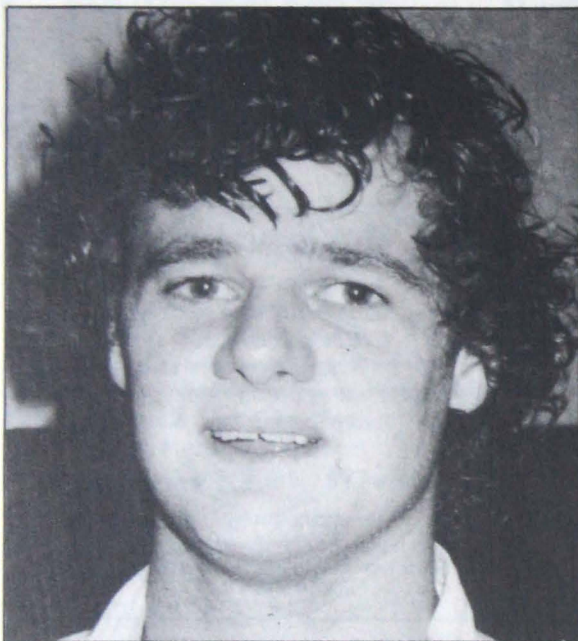
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Bloods bank on return bout



Chris Snaidero . . . a young man going places. He went straight down the middle in the game against Doncaster.

Warrandyte's status in the Eastern Districts Football League next year may depend on a "shoot-out" with Forest Hill in the second-last game of this season.

The date: August 15. The place: Warrandyte.

The losers are likely to be relegated to third division.

Warrandyte beat Forest Hill away on June 14. When this edition of the *Diary* went to press, it had been their only win in 11 games, which included a draw in Round 4.

Bloods president Kevin McLean grimly conceded after a hiding from Doncaster that the match against Forest Hill could be the key to the club's continuing presence in Division 2.

Doncaster beat Warrandyte by more than 20 goals. It was the Bloods' worst defeat in recent memory.

Final score was 27.17 (179) to 7.7 (49) — but that was something of a bonus to those Warrandyte fans who had been game enough to glance at the scoreboard at quarter time. At that stage, it read 10.6 to nothing.



Doncaster made it 12.6 to nought before blessed relief came in the shape of a behind eight minutes into the second term. It was sheer ecstasy when Dareen Peters goaled less than a minute later.

Doncaster were far too accomplished. They played their spacious Schramms Reserve very well, making a point of being first to the ball and creating loose men all over the place.

The inexperienced Bloods fell into the most fundamental errors. At one stage, four Warrandyte players stood on the mark while unattended Doncaster forwards took a vote on which would accept the pass.

Warrandyte played their best football in the third quarter.

Chris Snaidero became a tear-through centre half-back, Peter Banks continued to assert his authority wherever he went, Robin Golding was involved in everything and vete-

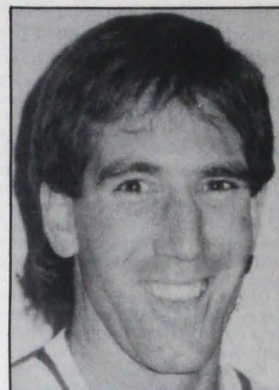
ran John McCartin, the surprise package, was constructive and extremely busy on the forward line.

The Bloods' momentum was stalled by a Doncaster goal from a free kick which could be most charitably described as "dubious".

The home side led 25.23 to 6.6 at the last change and Warrandyte coach Dennis Clark appealed to his charges to salvage something in the final term.

They did, Clark said later. "We were outclassed," he said after the game. "The saving grace was our second half when we applied ourselves and salvaged some pride."

Warrandyte's best were Banks (outstanding), Golding, Chris Snaidero, McCartin, Andrew Snaidero and Peters (until injured).



Robin Golding . . . played good, like a captain should.

A tale of two comebacks

The little bloke in red and white knew all about Schramms Reserve, Doncaster.

Four years earlier, in unbelievably muddy conditions, he had become part of Warrandyte football history by kicking the winning goal in the EDFL third division grand final against Coldstream.

Warrandyte won by two points. It was John (Tich) McCartin's finest moment in football.

This month, McCartin returned to Schramms. He emerged from retirement to lend much-needed experience to Warrandyte's cause.

He's 30 now, but the McCartin stamp is unmistakable. The terrible tenacity, the astute football brain.

Not quite as quick, maybe, as in 1983, but still very fit — a legacy of coaching the reserves by example this season — and still entirely dedicated to the betterment of the game in this town.

Some work, some are a pain in the nose

McCartin was one of Warrandyte's best on a day totally unreminiscent of past glories.

His handpass to Andrew Snaidero in the third quarter — GOAL! — was straight out of the manual, and his own full-stretch, diving mark a few minutes later was suitably rewarded.

The message was that John McCartin is still very much needed in the seniors; perhaps more than ever.

The return to hostilities of Warrandyte Football Club president Kevin McLean was something he'd much prefer to forget.

Kevin, who retired many, many moons ago after an illustrious playing career with Collingwood, Hawthorn and VFA club Preston, made up the numbers in the reserves game against Coldstream — and is sporting a broken nose as a souvenir.

It happened halfway into the first term. Kevin saw out the quarter but was not unhappy to relinquish his place in the side to a regular reserves player who had arrived back from a coaching assignment with the under-10s.

"You can safely say that my football career is now over," Kevin told the *Diary*.

A couple of unknown quantities are about to dominate Warrandyte Football Club's social calendar.

On August 8, a mystery bus tour leaves from the clubrooms at 8 p.m. The destinations — and what else is in store — is known only to the organisers. And they will only smile discreetly when pressed for details.

It's \$30 a head and the touring party is restricted to 50. Tickets: Robin Golding (876 4742).

On August 22, the players will turn on their annual play and talent quest at the Mechanics Institute Hall. Talk about the great unknown!

These nights are always totally unpredictable, always hilarious. Order of the night is BYO drinks and supper. And it's \$8 at the door.

Warrandyte saw out most of the second half against Doncaster with the interchange bench bare.

Brian Scicluna was assisted from the field in the second quarter with blood streaming from a head gash. Remarkably, the incident which caused it went unseen by the umpires.

Darren Peters, another rising young Bloods star, suffered what appeared to be a serious ankle injury early in the third quarter.

Warrandyte fans who had been trading niceties and nasties with a burly Doncaster trainer were impressed when the big fellow helped carry Peters from the field.

Lift your game, umpires — Clark

Warrandyte coach Dennis Clark echoed the sentiments of Bloods supporters at the Doncaster game when he called for improved umpiring standards in the EDFL competition.

Clark was a vocal critic from the coach's box during the match.

In the subdued atmosphere of the dressingroom after the game, he said: "It's a pity we cannot get more consistency and reliability into our umpiring."

"It affects both sides. Many decisions are confusing and quite often the game stops completely because the players simply do not know what is happening."

"There appear to be rules for some players and different rules for others."

Warrandyte supporters at the Schramms Reserve match were incensed by many umpiring decisions, particularly what they regarded as varying interpretations of the holding-the-man and holding-the-ball rules.

Countdown on for cricket

Warrandyte Cricket Club is already actively recruiting for the 1987-88 season.

The club will field 15 teams — five senior men's, two senior women's and eight junior sides.

It is seeking new players for all divisions and welcomes enquiries through Steve Pascoe (844 1213), Jenny Chapman (844 1428, 844 3326) and Ian Cameron (876 3581) for the men's, women's and junior ranks respectively.

Warrandyte is eagerly seeking debenture holders for the recreation reserve pavilion extensions, which are already well under way. Further finance is needed for fittings and furnishings.

Enquiries should be directed to Steve Pascoe.

Office-bearers for 1987-88 were elected at the club's annual general meeting in late May. They are:

Geoff Taylor (president), Teres Prince (secretary), Graeme Jacobs (treasurer), Ann Pascoe (registration secretary), Steve Pascoe (match committee chairman), Joe Scicluna (grounds committee chairman), Michelle Hooper (social secretary).

The junior administrator is Ian Cameron, assisted by Ron Milton. Jenny Chapman is publicity officer. Steve Pascoe and Teresa Prince RDCA delegates and Michelle Hooper delegate to the VWCA.

The general committee is Maria McGhee, Fred Jungwirth, Tony Graf, Jenni McLaws and Andrew Rogers.

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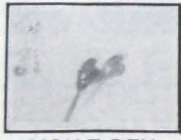
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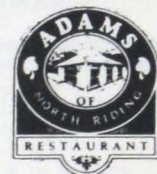
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