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Warrandyte Diary

PRICELESS

No. 181, September 1987

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Views sought on our park

By DAVID WYMAN

A management plan for Warrandyte State Park, now in the important survey and review stage, is likely to lead to greater discipline in public behavior in and around the park.

The plan has the objective of long term protection of plants, wildlife, natural and historical features, as well as provision of recreation facilities.

As a fragmented series of properties along and spanning the Yarra, on the doorstep of suburbia, the park suffers from overuse by visitors and its neighbors, and its natural characteristics are being depreciated by the intrusion of weeds and domestic pets, including dogs and horses.

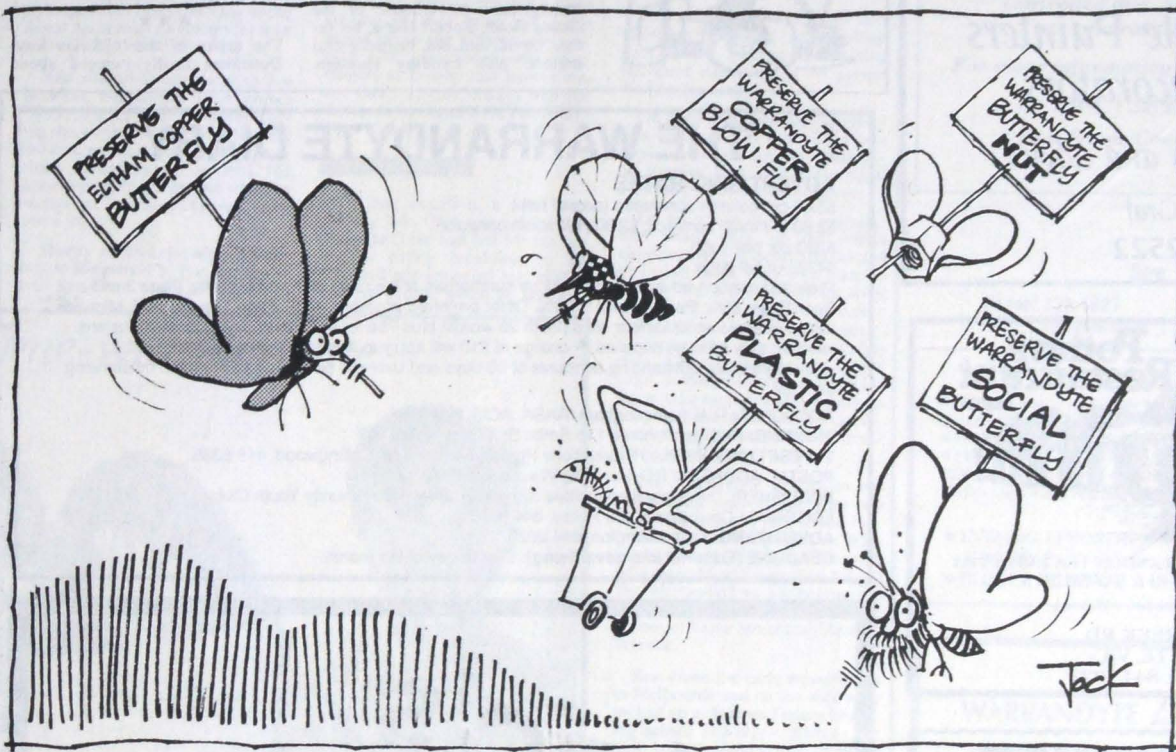
But that doesn't mean that the park will be shut up as a patch of wilderness. The approach of the planning group at this early stage seems to be that the park should be used by people even more than it is now, and that, by education and restrictions, the natural elements will be preserved and appreciated.

Warrandyte people and groups are being asked for their viewpoints on the park's future. Even non-users are being invited to register their interest in the park, and make submissions on how they see its future.

Already, there have been over 100 submissions made in writing. The park's 600 neighbors, on residential C blocks to large properties, have been advised of the plan and invited to comment on its future.

It is unusual for a government department to seek public input into a plan before the plan has been prepared. Usually it's the other way around: first the plan, then the public wrangle.

But by calling on the public and groups to say what they want from the park now, the officers of the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands believe the difficult mix of recreation and conservation will be compatible.



The plan is required as part of the implementation of the Upper Yarra River Management Strategy, and to ensure the park's future management conforms to the guidelines of the National Parks and Wildlife Division of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

Ranger in charge of Warrandyte State Park is Ken Gurney. He sees the management plan as plotting the future direction of the park which he says has unusual features and problems — it has been well used by man for 130 years, it has an enormous boundary, it is fragment-

ed and is close to Melbourne.

Yet it has three colonies of Eastern Grey kangaroos, a scattered population of wallabies, a rich resource of birds and plants, and wonderful features like its gold history and old mines, and the Warrandyte Gorge.

Ken Gurney says the call for public input into the park's management plan will make people "feel part of the plan" and hopefully there will be a better understanding of the park's problems.

Since announcement of the plan on July 8, with funding of the \$100,000 cost by CFL and

MMBW, there has been rapid progress.

Two trained foresters, Susan Masterson, from Canada, and Richard Martland have been appointed as resource surveyors and are well into a survey of the park's resources — flora (indigenous and introduced), fauna, soil types, slopes, historical relics, geological features, roads and fences.

Ken Gurney says that about 40 issues statements will be prepared and distributed for comment. These are open-ended to present problems, not answers, and already cover up-front issues like "Canoeing in

WSP", "Horse riding in WSP" and "Fire protection in WSP".

And the most up-front person in community contact is Val Polley, an active resident of the town for 20 years who has taken up the position of community consultation officer with great enthusiasm.

Val's job is to identify all interested groups and individuals, to obtain their attitudes, to help public responses and to publicise the project and its information. She can be contacted on 651 3166 or 844 3086.

The project planner, who probably has the most onerous job, is Gary Niewand from CFL. His task is to initiate the plan's program, collate the resources surveys, analyse all submissions and write the material as a plan.

A management planning working group meets monthly and is composed of local government representatives, the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority, MMBW, the Ministry of Planning and the Environment, National Parks and Wildlife Division, and the project team led by Denis O'Bryan, the project manager.

"Linking the park with the downstream MMBW parks and the Kinglake National Park will be a subject for study, and we'll be looking at the possible addition of crown land and farmland to Warrandyte State Park," Gary Niewand told the *Diary*.

The new Mount Lofty area of the park at the eastern end, which was acquired by the MMBW for the proposed Yarra Brae reservoir, offers creative scope in the management plan. One of the concepts for the area includes a viable kangaroo population and wet lands development.

The job of preparing a plan for the park is formidable. Indeed, the multitude of pressures on the park's plants and wildlife, and the need to cater for the great variety of park users, would seem to draw battle lines.

And all the viewpoints and opinions, selfish and communal, would seem to herald a hornet's nest, a dog's breakfast of ideas and statements.

The *Diary* hopes that from it all will come a plan which will effectively halt the abuse of the park which is evident to anyone who carefully walks its tracks, a plan which means we will all have to live with it if it is to have a future.

PAGE 6: Friends of the park

No gall on hall, we'll play ball, says WMI spokesman

Suggestions that the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association might be "going it alone" in seeking funds for hall extensions and renovations were misleading, a spokesman for the association has stated.

The spokesman, Henry (Pi) Beecham, was commenting on a *Diary* report that the group had applied to Doncaster and Templestowe Council for \$285,000 for this work.

"The facts are," Henry said, "that WMI & AA always saw the possibility of hall improvements forming a part of the community centre development, and we participated in the original concept discussions.

"More recently, the association approached Doncaster and Eltham councils, State and Federal ministers and local MPs seeking support for our project.

"This led to representatives of both councils, the Warrandyte Advisory Committee and WMI & AA conferring, with a brief to establish priorities and make recommendations for the development of an overall project, embracing the hall and the community centre.

The cost of hall improvements and extensions were estimated at \$285,000 in June last year. The *Diary* understands that consultation between WAC, WMI & AA and the councils is continuing.

CLIFF GREEN

Community centre group formed

By VAL POLLEY

A working party to further investigate the building of a new community centre was formed at a public meeting held in Warrandyte late last month.

The new centre was the major topic at the annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Advisory Committee.

Alan King explained that seven years ago WAC and other local groups lobbied vigorously for Doncaster and Templestowe Council to purchase the site, bounded by Yarra Street, Webb Street, Mitchell Avenue and an unmade section of Brackenbury Street.

Council finally agreed, paying \$200,000 for what was considered a prime commercial location. Although Eltham Council did not

contribute towards the purchase, they did pledge financial assistance for future development.

Alan said that in addition to car parking space and public toilets, a number of suggestions had been made over the years for facilities that should be included in the proposed complex.

These include an indoor/outdoor coffee shop, a State Park and tourist information centre, office space for the Warrandyte *Diary*, a small community library, a multi-purpose area combining meeting rooms and storage space, and a multi-discipline gallery.

The needs of the tenants of the existing buildings should also be considered, he said. These include the Warrandyte Co-op, the young people's coffee shop and the oppor-

tunity shop. It is understood that the historical society museum is shifting to the old post office as soon as their space is re-lined and painted.

Doncaster Council has recently asked WAC to list community needs in order of priority, and the centre is being considered in relation to this.

Several speakers asked if such a centre was really necessary, suggesting that most groups seem to have their own premises already. It was also suggested that the Whitehouse building at the recreation reserve should be kept in mind in future discussions.

A number of speakers, however, pointed out that the centre was necessary for the provision of such long needed facilities as a public

library and to serve as a community focus.

Newly-elected Warrandyte Ward councillor Vern Denford described the proposed centre as "a great concept".

"It is essential we fix priorities," he said. "Every community needs a hub. The centre should remain flexible. Community needs will change over the years and any complex should be planned so that it can adapt to meet changing needs and conditions."

A number of other important community items were discussed, including dual occupancy and closer density zoning, the State Park community consultation project, the quarry disaster cottages, restoration of the old bakery and the provision of a community bus.

CYRIL — BY PAUL W.



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Smokey hears that Anne Harman is a bit of a disaster area, although her heart is definitely in the right place. Who else would roll a car in the middle of the night in deserted St Andrews just to avoid bowling over a feral cat? Who else would have half the kindergarten around for a sausage sizzle on a wet day and set fire to the balcony plus the patio furniture? No wonder husband Phil travels away a lot. It's safer.



IN RED & WHITE



It's all right for some. Smokey boarded a big white Qantas bird recently, forced against his will to fly to Singapore on business. "G'day," said a voice, and there they were, stretched across the Jumbo's mid-section, all of the management powerhouse of the Grand Hotel. Robert Harte, his father David, and Bid, his delightful mother, plus Lyndsay Howden.

Well, what's the story? we asked. Without batting an eyelid, Robert replied: "Hoteliers' convention, mate, in Bali." Smokey suggests patrons demand to see the copious notes the sunburnt foursome must have taken at this seminar.

The driver of the 3.38 via East Doncaster finally twigged about

THE WARRANDYTE DIARY

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\$230 per half page.
\$420 per full page.

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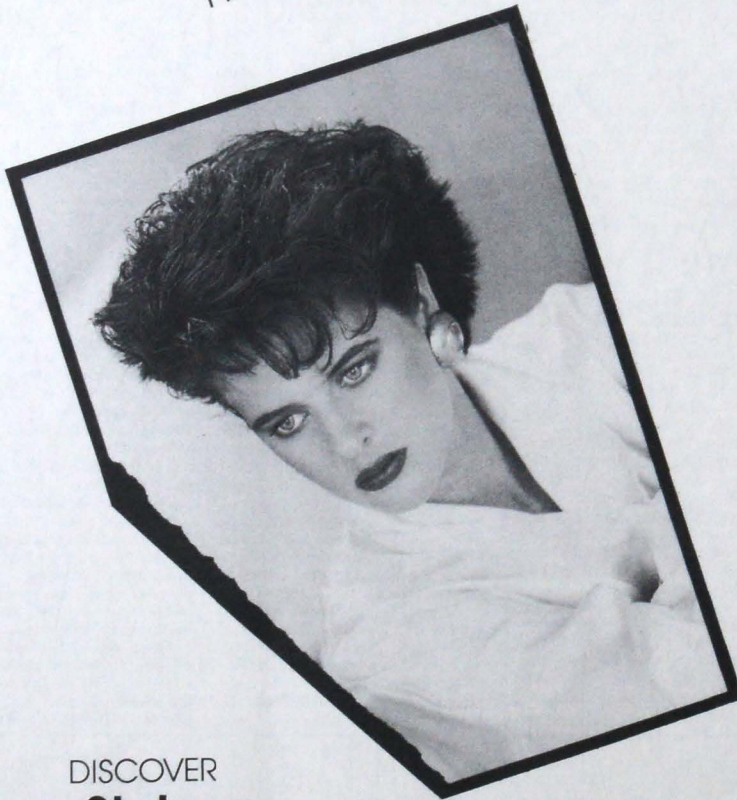
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Greythorn and addressed the crowded bus in pleasant ethnic English. Was anyone going to Templestowe because he wasn't. Neither was the bus and it wasn't his fault that the destination showing when he left town had led to this sorry state of affairs. Or words to that effect. Four elderly, Stowe-bound ladies might have panicked had he not assured them of delivery to their respective destinations on the way back from Hogan Avenue. And at no extra cost. Lovely scenery this way, he said — which immediately exposed him as a man who'd never driven the run before someone declared war on orchards and other green stuff.



Even John Knox, his best mate, wonders sometimes about Kevin Luttick. He wonders particularly about the Commodore which, according to Kevin, is making fuel rather than consuming it. Look, said Kev, I put \$10 worth in the tank, drove 100km and the gauge was showing more than when I started. We were going to Yarra-wonga next day but I didn't want petrol spewing out of the tank as we started to chew up the miles. Knoxie reckons he's joking — but if Kevin has just struck upon a solution to the energy crisis, he wants to be involved.

There are those who regard a Saturday afternoon at the local footy as somewhat couthless. Us hedonists regard it as fundamental to our social and cultural betterment. "They" stayed away from Warrandyte's last run for 1987, against Surrey Hills; we went. It was "their" loss. Every comedian in town turned out and who but the umpire could have resisted the appeal, "Tripped? He fell down Willy Wombat's hole!" Someone suggested the ump should be struck over the head with a stockingful of something unmentionable, and the music effects were a lusty rendition of the Melbourne club song just as the Demons' arrival into the VFL finals was confirmed. And all this on the members' wing. God knows the frivolity in Bay 13, over by the scoreboard. It is quite an afternoon at the local footy. And wait until we show off our new pavilion!



Far be it for us to condone on-field incidents, but we had to admire the no-nonsense attitude of young Stewart Bardwell, who was flattened by a late charge after marking in the last quarter. Umpires and tribunals, we know, make little distinction between instigation and retaliation, but Stewart was having none of this turn-the-other-cheek business. He gave his much bigger, much older adversary a sample of good, old-fashioned Warrandyte retribution. Stewart copped a bloodnose for his troubles but delighted the crowd a couple of minutes later with a full-blooded (no pun meant) dash downfield and a long kick deep into the forward line.

Where are you, Irving Rosenwater, when we need you most? Or can any of you other cricket historians out there produce a precedent for brother-sister-sister coaching, captaining and vice-captaining a team? That's the situation in the Warrandyte women's eleven, with Brian, Jenny and Suzanne Chapman (now Martin) respectively. The Chapmans, of course, have long been our most illustrious cricketering family.



Smokey
Joe

KEN WILLMAN

Bus driver and firefighter

Local identity Ken Willman died peacefully on the evening of August 24 at his home in Warrandyte after a prolonged illness.

Ken had lived more than 28 years in the district, mainly in South Warrandyte, where he served a number of local organisations.

He joined the South Warrandyte Rural Fire Brigade in 1950, and was secretary for seven years. Ken, along with Jim Harrison, was instrumental in forming the Warrandyte Group after the 1962 fires, and he served as group secretary for four years.

Apart from belonging to the South Warrandyte Social Club, Ken became involved with the South Warrandyte Cricket Club when his

son John began to play. Ken became secretary of the club, a position he held for some 13 years.

As a young man, Ken Willman lived in various Melbourne suburbs. He learned his trade as a painter and signwriter before serving in the Royal Australian Engineers for four years during World War II.

Ken and his family came to live in South Warrandyte in December 1949. A knee injury received during the war prevented him climbing ladders, so his painting and signwriting career was at an end. His knee was operated on, but when he recovered, Ken found himself without a job.

Shortly afterwards, when travelling to Ringwood by bus, the driver told Ken there was a job available

driving the bus on the Warrandyte to Eltham run. This service was operated by Rolly Kennedy.

In those days, local drivers on the bus runs prided themselves on their community service. If a regular was missing at their stop, the driver pulled up to see if they were running late, questioning other passengers as to why that person was not there. Locals always told the drivers beforehand if they were taking a 'sickie'.

On one occasion, a local was running late. (Not unusual for this passenger.) He had left for the bus without eating breakfast, so his wife had accompanied him with a bowl of cereal, which he was still

eating as the bus pulled in. The driver asked the other passengers if anyone was in a hurry, no-one was, so the bus waited while the late one finished breakfast, handed the plate to his wife and climbed aboard.

The road between Eltham and Warrandyte was in an appalling state, so the little orange painted bus spent more time in the garage than on the road.

On numerous occasions Jim Harris's furniture van was called into service while the bus was undergoing repairs. Ken rode in the back collecting fares while Jim drove.

On his return trip each morning, Ken would pick up the school children along Research Road and at Pound Bend, then take them to school. He picked them up from school and took them home before doing the evening run to Eltham.

During the day, between bus runs, Ken sat outside the Grand Hotel in Rolly Kennedy's taxi, waiting to take tourists and honeymoon couples, who were staying at the hotel, on pleasure trips to Warrandyte's scenic spots.

The Warrandyte to Eltham bus run became uneconomic after two or three years, and Ken joined Parlorcars on the Ringwood to Warrandyte route. Withers' Transport, who owned Parlorcars, then bought the Warrandyte to Melbourne run and established a bus depot on the corner of Yarra Street and Masonic Avenue.

Ken drove the early morning bus to Melbourne and on the way back picked up girls from Tintern boarding school and drove them to the new school Tintern had built at East Ringwood.

On Wednesday 13 October 1954 a tram collided with the bus just after Ken had picked up the girls from Tintern. The tram tore the side and back out of the bus and threw it against a steel pole.

Ken had stayed at the wheel and fought the bus to a standstill. Helped by Jack Urquhart, another driver on the bus, and by a number of bystanders, they brought the girls out through a large hole in the side. Thirteen girls were injured and taken to hospital, fortunately none of them seriously.

Remarkably, the bus was still driveable. Ken drove it clear of the roadway, then back to the city depot. He was cleared of any blame at a later court case.

A sense of overwhelming responsibility for his passengers caused Ken to give up driving, shortly after the accident. He secured work with a firm in Ringwood, selling farm machinery. Three years later he returned to his old trade with a large city firm, then started on his own in the Warrandyte area.

Ken and his family moved from South Warrandyte to Ringwood in 1970 as his wife's health was failing and his children were working in Ringwood. His wife died in 1971 and in 1980 Ken moved back to Warrandyte, where he spent his remaining years.

Everyone who knew Ken will want to extend sympathy to his family at this time.

BRUCE BENCE



Time-warping time

It's on in October in the second week of term four. And up at the Warrandyte Primary School they reckon it will be an inter-galactic, time warping, sensationally celestial extravaganza by the senior students.

It's the main item of the school concert this year. Last year the kids launched into the world of superheroes with Superkid Captain Ve-

gemite. This year they will take the audience into space, the final frontier, encountering strange new life forms and boldly going where no man has gone before.

As well as the trip into hyperspace, the audience will also get to enjoy musical items from the mob in grades three to six. We believe the Bushband will be performing Warrandyte's latest song.

The concert is being sponsored by Harry Heath's supermarket and by the ever-reliable Peter McDougall real estate agency. Tickets are on sale at the school and the performances will be on October 12, 14 and 15.

weekend for two at the Windsor Hotel. The fete begins at 9 am.

Apex restores old bakery

The Warrandyte Apex Club is again supporting the Apex Australia national service scheme.

Melanoma is the "Australian disease", because of our climate and way of life. Apex will be paying for a public awareness campaign, medical research and the treatment of patients.

Locally, the club is preparing to take on an important project in restoring the old bakery in Yarra Street. This project will provide jobs for young people.

Warrandyte Apex Club welcomes new members.

BRIEFS

ers are appealing for bunches of locally grown lilac blossom.

So look out your old finery and brush up your steps for the pride of erin, the tangoette, waltzes, polkas and all the other old-timers. To book, phone Ruby Arnaud at 844 3358.

Anglican fete

Fun, fellowship and bargains is the theme of the annual Anglican Church Fete to be held on Saturday, October 10, at St Stephens in Stiggart Street.

Traditional home-made bread and cakes, gourmet foods, hand-made garments and toys will be on sale. First prize in the raffle is a

It's Lilac Time again

The good old days in Warrandyte will be re-lived on Saturday October 10 when the Historical Society stages the 1987 Lilac Time Ball at the Mechanics Institute hall.

The ball was the highlight of the district's springtime social calendar in time past, and was revived last year to mark the society's 10th anniversary. It was so successful it was decided to revive it as an annual event.

All the old favorites will be featured, including 50-50 dancing, lucky spots, a balloon dance, a belle of the ball contest and a sumptuous supper. The hall will be decorated in lilac and white, and the organis-

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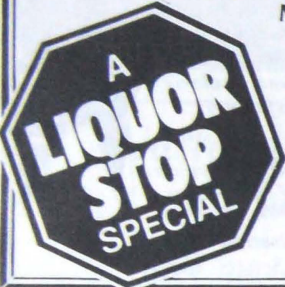
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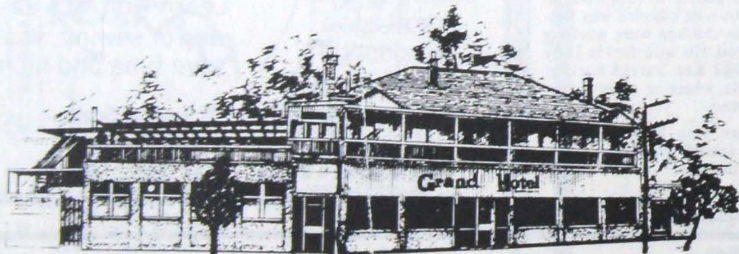
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The lighter side of tragedy

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

Tragedy and devastation stalked these hills during the holocaust of January 1962. But, as always, there were a few lighter moments.

People take extraordinary things with them when they realise they must leave their home in a hurry, perhaps for the last time. One woman took a cantaloupe and a handful of cutlery, another her Mixmaster. Yet another, obviously with a keen sense of priorities, took a bottle of gin and a tray of ice cubes from her refrigerator.

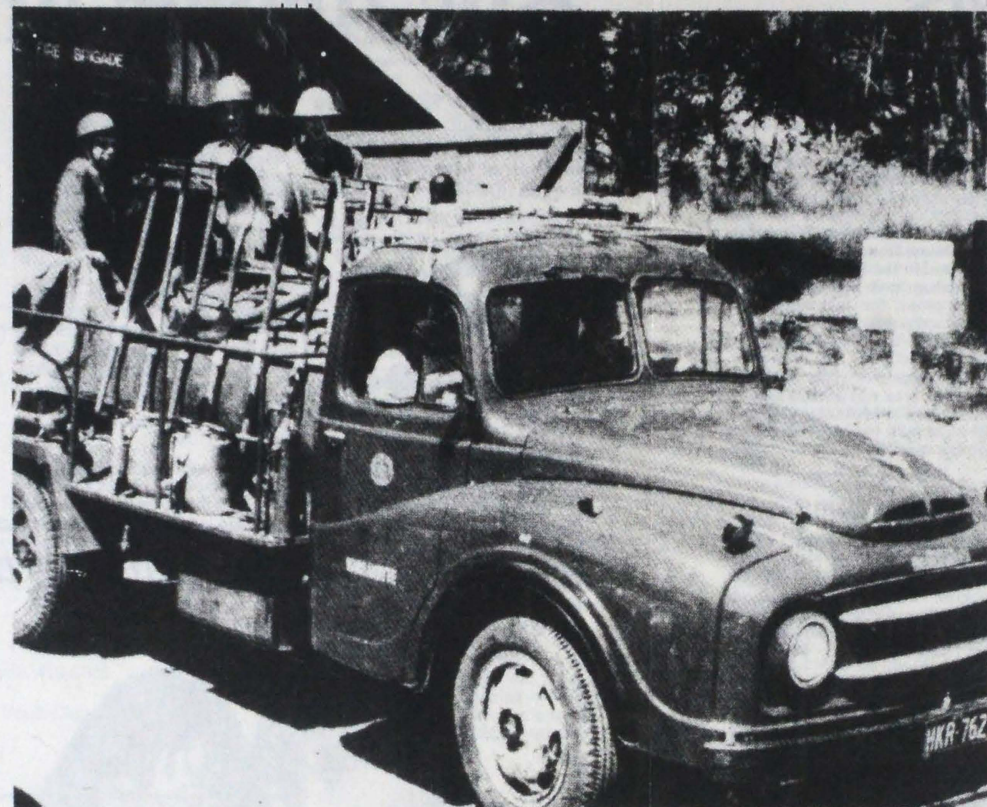
One local man finally arrived home through the chaos and was most relieved to see his house still standing, if somewhat scorched. In the kitchen he found two grimy strangers drinking his beer. They apologised profusely, explaining that they were so dry after a warm fight to save the house that they just had to have a drink. The grateful owner offered them the rest of his beer, and the refrigerator, too, if they wanted it.

Another local was caught out in the open with the fire bearing swiftly down. He began running. The way was uphill and he was badly out of training. He was soon exhausted. But by this time the fire had already burnt under him and was leading him by a good 100 yards.

Throughout the three days of the fires, radio stations broadcast frequent warnings about the dangers of wearing nylon clothing in the fire area. One story circulating on the local grapevine at the time concerned a woman from one of the welfare groups working in the area.

She heard the warning and suddenly realised she was wearing nylon "unmentionables". To avoid the possibility of a very painful experience, she took them off forthwith and handed them to a Warrandyte brigade officer who put them in his pocket and promptly forgot them; until his wife discovered them doing the washing.

In a scene straight out of 'The Man From Snowy River', Wally Riddle (who owned a riding school at the time), his son Geoff, Bob Tresize and another rider rounded up fleeing and straying stock and drove them right through the vil-



Warrandyte brigade's Series II Austin fire truck held the line through the 1960s.

lage to a paddock on Cr Alan Croxford's property. They remained there until their owners could re-fence their properties. The pound fences had been destroyed in the fire.

Throughout the area the fight went on, although night brought some relief. The bush was so dry that fires restarted almost as the flames were extinguished. It was with unbelievable relief that the weary fire fighters felt the first drops of rain as they began falling just after one o'clock, early on the Wednesday morning.

It arrived just in time for one group that had been battling a par-

ticularly stubborn fire in the mining reserve on Fourth Hill since five o'clock the previous evening, armed only with hand tools. When they went back in the morning to check the area they discovered an unmapped mine shaft less than 20 yards from their fire line.

Following the 1962 fires, funds were made available so that a number of roads in the district could be linked to allow fire fighting access.

In North Warrandyte, Floods Road was connected to Stoney Creek Road, Pigeon Bank Lane was joined to Menzies Road and

Overbank Road was linked to Shorts Road. In the Warrandyte area, Harris Gully Road was extended from Beauty Gully Road to Tindalls Road. In Wonga Park, Homestead Road was joined between Hughes Road and Paynes Road, and Gatters Road was made a through road.

The most tragic fire recorded in the Warrandyte brigade area occurred on the afternoon of Friday, January 31, 1964. An unregistered day nursery, at the corner of Foote Street and Mount View Road, Templestowe, was totally destroyed. Seven children under school age died.

Although the fire was just inside the Warrandyte brigade area, the fire call went to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, who attended the fire. By the time they arrived, the building, in which the children were asleep, was totally alight.

The woman who gave the alarm managed to rescue two of the children, but despite repeated attempts no further lives could be saved, as the building was totally engulfed within minutes of the fire being noticed.

The summer of 1964-65 ushered in an unusually quiet fire season. Then, as late as Wednesday, March 3, a fire broke out in inaccessible country in North Eltham. Fanned by a savage northerly, it was soon out of control.

Warrandyte, South Warrandyte and North Warrandyte brigades were all involved and the Doncaster and Templestowe civil defence unit was activated for the first time. Three men died fighting this fire. In a matter of minutes, a violent south-westerly wind change drove it to Wattle Glen in a series of spot fires.

On Friday, March 5 a fire started in Bradleys Lane, caused by power lines touching a tree in a high wind. Alan Smith, spotting the fire from the tower, advised the group by direct telephone and all units were dispatched immediately.

Alan had, as usual, plotted the fire with pinpoint accuracy. A 200 metre error in any direction would have sent units to the wrong side of the river. In fact the first call from the public reported the fire's location as Taroonia Avenue, 3 km by road from its true site. Conditions were appalling, but rapid mobilisation confined the fire to an area below 100 square metres.

On Friday, May 12, Warrandyte personnel who had been fighting fires burning in East Gippsland on a 160 km front were withdrawn to help contain a renewed outbreak at home. They arrived back as the massive task of "backing out" was underway.

The brigades worked all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday, totally backing out a window that posed a threat to the township. Mopping up continued until March 17, when stumps were still burning, despite the rain that had fallen.

To be continued.

letters

Vandalism must be stopped

I wonder whether an article on the current state of vandalism in Warrandyte would jolt some parents into keeping a closer check on the movements of their teenagers. Obviously boredom mixed with alcohol would be the main cause of this.

The State Bank is installing extra lighting in its garden area to try to improve the situation. Also, an East End shopkeeper has told me of problems there.

Perhaps Warrandyte or Doncaster police could throw more light on the situation, possibly proposing ways of improving things. For instance parents could be warned of what to watch out for or residents could be encouraged to keep an eye out for potential troublemakers.

Concerned resident

Benefits in belonging

As a recent member of the more active realms of the Warrandyte Environment League I'd like to share a few of my feelings with

local people. I've spent half of my short life in Warrandyte saying "WEL should do this" or "WEL should do that". I think many of us are guilty of this thought process: bureaucracies thrive on this very attitude.

Since becoming involved a little I have become aware that as well as myself other members have many wonderful ideas and positive contributions to keep our very special environment beautiful for us all. I am now a lot wiser. There are only so many hours in the day and everything can't be done by a handful of people.

Environmental issues are so vital for the survival of this earth and our children's future, and never so important as now. We must all think globally but act locally.

Women with their traditional caring and nurturing credentials have a real place in the environmental network. We need the experts but we also need you. So, if you care, please join up. I'm discovering it's actually fun and much better than sitting at home watching television.

Jan Pierce,
North Warrandyte

Fire prevention plans will be put on show

The fire brigades within the Shire of Eltham are to promote their fire prevention plans to the local communities and will call for public comment from interested parties.

Over the past few years the brigades have developed fire prevention plans. This work has been coordinated through the shire's Municipal Fire Prevention Committee. The groundwork for the plans was established in 1982/83 by carrying out a fire hazard assessment for the whole shire. This fire hazard mapping report was adopted by council in September 1983 for use in land management planning.

Since then each brigade has worked on a standardised format which includes a general description of the area and the history of any big fires that may have affected it. The aim and scope of the plan is

explained, the fire hazard rating given and details provided of such things as safe areas or refuges, buffer zones, firebreaks, water points and annual hazard removal works.

The plans will be available for public inspection from Tuesday, September 15 until Wednesday, September 30. Each brigade has its own plan at the fire station which is open on Sunday mornings. The North Warrandyte brigade will display its plan on the station door. The Kangaroo Ground plan will be shown at the store and the Research brigade's plan will be on view at the post office.

The brigades and the fire prevention committee are hoping for a good response from the public during this two weeks. Fire Awareness Week will then follow three weeks later.

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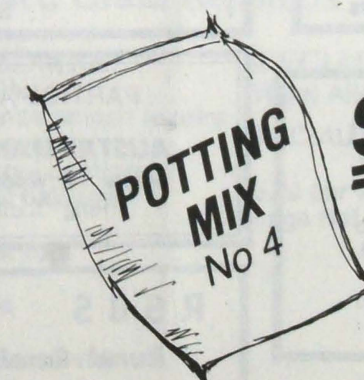
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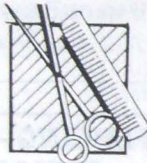
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**Friends of Park
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The Friends of Warrandyte State Park consist of about 50 people who actively help the park's rangers in restoration of flora, weeding and other projects.

Coordinator Glen Jameson says the park has two major enemies — the weeds and garden escapes which come mainly from abutting properties, and "hoons" who enter the park and destroy plants and facilities, and scare wildlife.

"The weeds are the most omnipresent problem and without the cooperation of local residents the park probably has no long-term viability," he said.

"Weed incursion is so bad in some areas that it is well beyond the resources of park staff to fix it.

"In the past two years, The Friends have taken no less than 4800 pine seedlings out of the Fourth Hill area".

Glen would like to see more education so that Warrandyte people do not grow the exotic and native plant species which escape from their gardens into the park. People, with their everyday behavior, are modifying the park in some way, he says.

"They walk their dogs in the park and leave scents which the

native animals don't like. Local people should be responsible for the impact their pets, weeds, rubbish and their own behavior have on the park".

But if the plants and wildlife are taking a hammering now, consider what happened there in the 1860s and 1870s when about 20 gold mines were working. Warrandyte was almost de-treed.

Historical society president Ted Rotherham says logs were used as mine props, for fuel and coffer dams across the river. Few trees in the district today were 100 years old.

With regrowth some 50 years later, the area was a main supplier of firewood to Melbourne. Much of the state park today covers the old mining reserves.

Job going

The Warrandyte Youth Coffee Shop is looking for a co-ordinator. The position will involve administration work, public relations, counselling and working alongside young people. Applications should be sent to PO Box 223, Warrandyte.

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Full steam ahead for benefit concert

September, 1887: The ladies and gentlemen who are taking part in our forthcoming hospital concert are assiduously practising their several parts, and I can safely say that the entertainment will eclipse anything of the kind previously produced.

The claims of the institution on the whole of the inhabitants should, I think, be recognised, and the large and varied program, and with fine weather, I think that, monetarily and otherwise, it will be the most successful affair ever held here.

The system of electing stewards for the sale of tickets is a very good one, and I earnestly appeal to all classes of the community, whether present or not, to assist this very deserving charitable institution by purchasing one.

The price (one shilling) comes within the reach of all, and to nothing better could the charitable devote it.

As a mining community we have, I am thankful to say, been singularly free from accidents, yet the institution exists for our benefit in case they do occur, and I trust that our friends surrounding us will assist us all in their power to make the affair worthy of our district.

Arrangements for the ball are in good hands, and our prestige will, I think, be upheld on this occasion.

Mr H. Roberts has let the claim and machinery on tribute to Messrs Goldsworthy and Party at Melbourne, and work will be commenced at once.



Spring fair

Warrandyte High School will be holding a Spring Fair on Saturday, October 17, to raise money to complete its playing field. Kick-off is at 10 am.

The fair will feature stalls with international, traditional and barbecue food. Other booths will feature books and records, cakes, second-hand clothes, handicrafts, sweets and plants.

First prize in the raffle will be a holiday package worth \$660.

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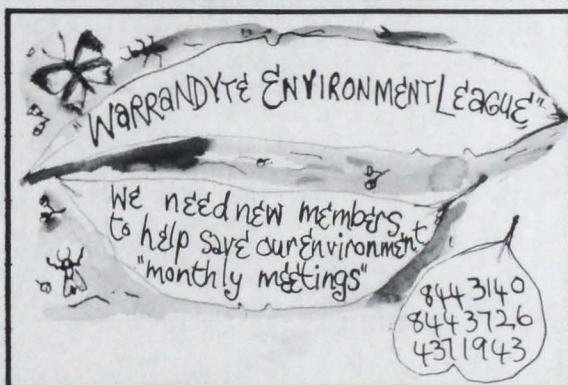
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Banger's best — by far

Peter (Banger) Banks is a tearaway winner of Warrandyte Football Club's 1987 best and fairest award.

Banks, a big-marking, long-kicking ruck-rover, scored by a massive 30 votes (69 to 39) from Darren Peters. Captain Robin Golding, who won the award in 1984, was third, on 36.

Banks was joint winner in 1985, his first season with the Bloods. His latest success was widely predicted and will be unanimously applauded.

The seconds' award went to Stuart McCroy, from Shane Miles and Peter Knott.

Kimberley O'Connor, who finished the season in the seniors, won the under-18s trophy.

Warrandyte's presentation night is at Alfred's Homestead on Thursday, September 17. Tickets, at \$20 a head, are available from Jenny Sharpe (712 0324) and Robin Golding (876 4742). It's BYO.

Coach Clark bows out

Dennis Clark has quit the Warrandyte Football Club coaching job after two seasons.

Clark, a former VFL star with Melbourne, announced his decision to the players two weeks before the season's end.

"I'm leaving because I have failed to achieve the goals I had set for myself," he told the *Diary*. "I believe the team would do well to have a new voice."

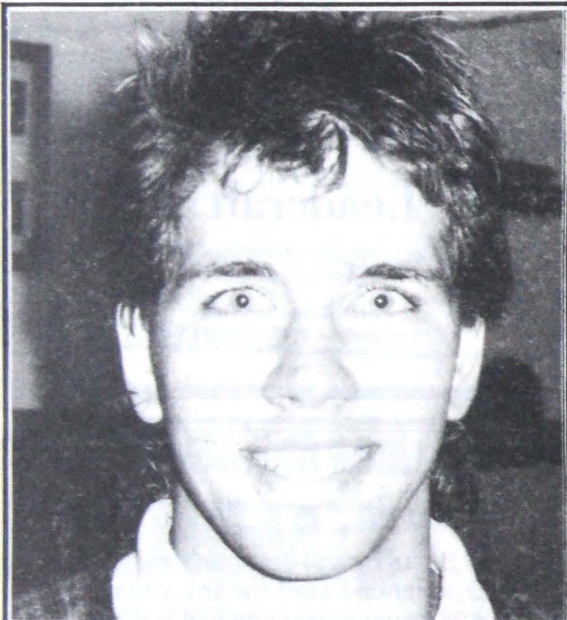
Clark described 1987 as a sea-

son in which the young players "could not cope with the extra pressure and responsibilities." But he also saw the potential for vast improvement.

"We need four experienced players," he said. "We need a top ruckman, a top rover, another key position player and a strong-running ruck-rover."

"With these players to complement the wealth of young talent already there, Warrandyte could be a very, very good side."

New-look league is Bloods' last chance



Warrandyte Cricket Club has put another feather in the cap of outstanding young local sportsman Gerald Walshe (above).

One of this town's best footballers, Walshe has been appointed captain of the first eleven. It is a vote of confidence in the fast

bowler-batsman's ability to lead by example.

Graeme Jacobs will lead the second eleven and Alan King the thirds. The fourths and fifths will be captained by Peter Baker and Chris Dornning respectively.

Jenny Chapman has been reappointed women's skipper.

A decision from above may save Warrandyte Football Club from relegation to the EDFL third division next season.

The Bloods put relegation out of their own hands by losing the crucial home game against Forest Hill on August 15. But they could be rescued by a proposal to restructure the EDFL for 1988.

If the proposal is adopted, the league will drop its struggling fourth division and field three expanded grades, each of 12 teams.

And if that happens, Warrandyte will retain second-division status.

The Bloods' sorry record for 1987 was two wins and a draw from 18 games, but they finished the season on an encouraging note by beating Montrose and finishing on against premiership contenders Surrey Hills.

They won the Montrose game by 28 points and produced one of their best quarters (and certainly their last) of the season against Forest Hills, widely regarded as the best dry-weather team in the competition.

Responding to the words of retiring coach Dennis Clark and a big, vocal home crowd, they kicked six goals to three in that term in an indication of much better things to come in 1988.

Warrandyte trailed 24.14 to 9.3 at the last change and Clark, who had already announced to his players that he would not be coaching them next year, appealed for a big

quarter to give themselves confidence for the 1988 campaign.

Disappointing? "Very disappointing, obviously," said club president Kevin McLean. "We lost some early games by less than a couple of goals and that cost us dearly."

"But there is certainly hope for next season."

Mr McLean was non-committal about his own role at the club in 1988 but said that time permitting, he would probably stand for reelection.

State-of-the-gamewise, the fans were left in the dark during the game against Surrey Hills. Maybe the scoreboard attendant became afflicted by the dreaded RSI as he tried to keep up with a string of SH goals. Maybe he went for a Tosca. Whatever, he disappeared early in the second quarter, leaving the scoreline at a forlorn 12.8 to 2.1.

Our errant numbers operator was back in harness for the second half, but the scoreboard and its care is one area Warrandyte Football Club might consider for improvement next season.

The numbers could certainly stand a repaint. If the Bloods produce their anticipated improvement, we are all going to want to know the score, precisely, at all stages of every game.

So bring on 1988.

Dytes won't settle for second best

Warrandyte Cricket Club's new season starts on October 3 — and nothing less than the top grade's top honour will do!

The club has set its sights squarely on the Ringwood District Cricket Association's Chandler Shield pennant and believes it has the depth of talent to make a big impression at all levels.

Still, it is seeking new players — senior and junior — to further strengthen the ranks.

The senior coaching position is still open and club president Geoff Taylor welcomes applications. They should be addressed to Mr Taylor at 31 Dingley Avenue, Warrandyte 3113.

Warrandyte will field 14 teams in 1987-88, five in the men's grades, a women's side and eight junior teams.

The women — and coach Brian Chapman — are counting on the

"third time lucky" principle prevailing. They have unsuccessfully contested the past two grand finals.

Junior administrator Ian Cameron would like to hear from parents of interested junior players. A full list of seniors will be available this season to coach the kids.

Contacts for practice details — in fact, any information on the club and its activities — are:

- Men: Geoff Taylor (844 2041).
- Women: Jenni McLaws (842 4718).
- Juniors: Ian Cameron (876 3581).

Just \$30 will "buy" a grassy van tage point at Warrandyte cricket matches this season.

It will also entitle you to cut-price admission to WCC functions — and your very own stubby-holder, with name imprinted.

The benefits are offered by the new Square Leg Club which, according to WCC social secretary Michelle Hooper, is "taking off".

Be quick or you'll miss out, warns Michelle, who can be contacted on 458 2376 (AH).

The Dytes' first social function will be a barbecue at the clubrooms after the opening day's play (October 3).

The cricket club welcomes sponsors — (individual or business) and Jenny Chapman (844 1428) awaits your call.

Extensions to the Warrandyte recreation reserve pavilion are now expected to be finished by November.

The cricket and football clubs are still offering \$100 shares in the development, with the entitlement

of full use of the vastly-improved amenities.

Contacts are Steve Pascoe (cricket club, 844 1213); Shane Revell, Kevin Luttick (football club, 844 3887, 844 3687).

Local cricket club stalwart Ann Pascoe is recovering from an illness which required a short stay in hospital. Those who know Ann at all say the strongest tonic would be another Hawthorn grand final victory.

Joe Scicluna has gone straight from involvement with the football club on to the cricket club committee as grounds committee chairman. The cricket folk all hope his wounded thumb recovers quickly and is ready for the first game.



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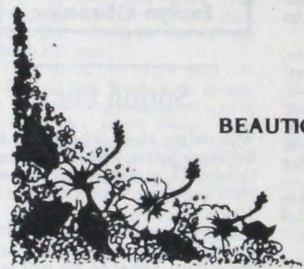
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