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WARRANDYTE
DIARY
No. 183, November 1987

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New units plan for aged

By **DAVID WYMAN**

A retirement village in Warrandyte might result from discussions and feasibility studies now under way by the town's churches.

The move could see 30 single-storey units built on a fairly flat central site. It follows a meeting of representatives of Warrandyte's four churches on October 1 which agreed to find out the accommodation needs of retired and near-retiring local residents.

Leading the move is the Warrandyte Uniting Church and its minister, the Reverend Stan Fishley, who in three years here has seen a strong need for local retirement housing.

"People have told me they don't want to leave Warrandyte. I've heard it in the elderly citizens' clubs, from people living around me, from other locals whose parents, aunts and uncles have had to leave the town to retire," Mr Fishley said. "I've been involved in the sadness of people when they have to decide where to go when their existing homes become too much."

"It's time it stopped. There is a kind of tribalism spirit among Warrandyte people which is quite uni-

que in Melbourne. They want to remain related to local land, organisations and friends."

The scheme which Mr. Fishley has in mind would be a non-profit development in which local retired people would own their own units. He admits he is "on fire" with the concept, which stems from his 12 years in rural parishes before coming to Warrandyte. "In Euroa and Donald, there are very fine retirement schemes, with unit housing, hostel accommodation and hospital care for the aged," he said.

The subject was discussed formally by the parish council of the Warrandyte Uniting Church several weeks ago, and a motion was passed which sought the opinions of the clergy of the local Anglican and Catholic churches, and the Gospel Chapel. The clergy then brought it before the inter-church council, which set up the committee to study retirement housing needs.

Mr Fishley said that if needs were simple — similar to the elderly citizens' units opposite Stiggant's Reserve — then it would be easier to move the project from being a vague concept to a very real possibility. But if people wanted anything grand, the scheme might stay just a scheme for a long time.

Uniting Church treasurer Bruce Williamson, a highly experienced senior finance executive, told the *Diary* his church believed that the retirement village should contain "reasonable quality" units, selling at the lowest possible price with no profit.

"Based on a small sample of potential buyers, their existing homes would sell today for between \$80,000 and \$90,000. We would try to build and sell the retirement units for between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

"So they would have enough to comfortably make the change. Any development would be structured to operate in stages, say three stages of 10 units each, moving to the next stage after 10 units are built and sold.

"We think that any development under 30 units would not serve the community well. We believe there are 30 couples in Warrandyte in the age range who don't want to move away."

The Reverend Fishley thinks the proposal would be well supported by local specialists in a variety of fields, including financial management and care of the elderly.

"In the last two rural parishes I worked in," Mr Fishley said, "the facilities for retired citizens allowed

the older age group to remain a part of the community. It's very important that we keep them. It maintains a wide range of understanding and care, and maintains friendships and families, too. People helped them on a voluntary basis and some employment was provided for young people. "I'm sure that if there was a full-blown retirement village in Warrandyte, it would generate a lot of employment for local youth."

If it goes ahead, the scheme would probably involve a covenant on each title or some other arrangement which would restrict resale of the property, by the beneficiaries, to local retired people.

One other idea mooted would see one unit retained for emergency housing, to accommodate people in urgent need of shelter, such as after a fire.

Footnote: The existing 10 units for elderly citizens opposite Stiggant's Reserve were opened earlier this year on council land and are rented from the Ministry of Housing. It is believed they cost about \$50,000 each to build, not including land. One tenant, Mrs Alice Watson, said the units were a delight. She said many people had lived in Warrandyte for many years and beforehand they had had to move to retirement units in other suburbs.

Halverson attacks former Lib attitude

A Liberal parliamentarian says that the conservative parties' attitude towards conservation may have cost them support in the past.

The MHR for Casey, Bob Halverson, has recently been appointed to the coalition committee on the environment, arts, sport and tourism.

"Environment and conservation are important issues of interest to a wide cross-section of the community," he told the *Diary*. "Despite the coalition's solid record of achievement in regard to the environment, our policies at the last election caused concern to many Australians."

"Our new shadow minister for the environment, Senator Chris Puplick, recognises this fact, and is doing something about it. As part of the policy review process, he will be publishing a coalition environment green paper in December.

"The green paper will not include any policy decisions or commitments, but will canvass various policy options. It will be circulated widely to environment groups, industry representatives, state authorities, academic, economic and scientific commentators, and interested members of the public," Mr. Halverson said.

Comments will be invited on all or any aspects of the paper. The shadow minister wants to encourage positive suggestions and alternatives and genuine criticisms. All views will be given a fair hearing."

Bob Halverson invites any group or person who wants a copy of the green paper, and an opportunity to contribute to the development of the coalition policy on environmental issues, to contact him by phoning 726 9077 or writing to Suite 107, Chirnside Park Shopping Centre, Chirnside Park, 3116.



BOB FREESTONE

Journalist and ALP stalwart dies at 85

Bob Freestone died suddenly in the Maroonah Hospital on November 4, only a few days before he and his wife Pat were to move to a retirement village in South Box Hill.

Bob, who turned 85 in August, and Pat had lived in Osborne Road, Warrandyte, for more than 30 years.

One of 13 children, Bob was born at Outtrim, in Gippsland, where his father was a coal miner. He came to Melbourne as a youngster and shortly after leaving school he began work at the Melbourne Herald. It was to be the start of a lifetime in journalism with the Herald, the Argus and as the Melbourne representative of the Launceston Examiner.

During the war years he worked for the Rationing Department and afterwards with TAA. He was a member of the Australian Journalists' Association at his death.

Bob was widely known for his active interest in trotting and played a big part in helping to establish trotting in Victoria as a well-controlled and respected sport.

Bob was more than 70 when he retired, but sadly he lost his sight not long afterwards. Nevertheless, reflecting his lifetime concern for the less fortunate in the community and the wish for a more just social system, he joined the Warrandyte branch of the Australian Labor Party and took a keen interest in its proceedings.

He loved children and in recent years he greatly enjoyed his role of Santa Claus at the Uniting Church Christmas party.

New threat to housing

Local residents are deeply concerned at the effect proposed new building regulations could have on the future of Warrandyte township.

Following a long and hard fought battle over dual occupancy and closer density housing in the area-issues still not finally resolved — the character of the township is now threatened by a new uniform planning code that could slash the minimum size of residential blocks, allow buildings on allotment boundaries and permit narrower roads.

Planning and Environment Minister, Mr Jim Kennan, has declared that the amendments are designed to encourage a greater diversity of housing stock and more affordable housing.

A residents' action group, formed to oppose dual occupancy, is horrified by the new proposals.

"The new Planning and Environment Act, due to come into operation in January 1988, will allow block sizes down to 300 square

metres, enabling those who wish to exploit the area to build not two, but three houses on a quarter acre block," a spokesman for the group told the *Diary*.

"The recent comprehensive survey of the Warrandyte residential 'C' area showed quite clearly that the majority of residents (86.1%) are opposed to the destruction of the area by increased housing density and a subsequent influx in population.

Page 5: Letter

CYRIL BY PAUL W.



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IN RED & WHITE

Possums! Smokey hates possums. He's got possums rattling round his roof, spitting in his spouting, vanishing down his ventilators, dancing in his drains, frolicking in his fruit trees and — wait for it — copulating on his corrugations. So the marsupial that stares at you from the top of this column (and our masthead, and every other column heading in this rag) was not — repeat — not Smokey's idea. Seriously though, the delightful new graphics gracing this publication are the work of Wayne Rankin, one of Melbourne's leading designers and yet another of Warrandyte's many talented residents. Thanks, Wayne.

his address with a joke. He wondered why the discerning Lions failed to fall on the floor. The reason, they quickly informed him, was that Roger Drew had told the very same tale just two minutes before, presumably while the editor was in mid stream.

The Egg on the Face Award for October goes to *Diary* editor Bob Millington who bored Warrandyte Lions last month with a rambling diatribe on the history, present condition and future plans of this glorious organ. In typical fashion, Millington took in more of Kellybrook's wine than was sensible, then had to answer the call of nature more than once. He was summoned to the rostrum soon after one of these expeditions and began

vealed that one of the arias is entitled 'The Slurry with The Froth on the Top'. Another is believed to be 'Oh What a Beautiful Pop-Top!' To help in the creative process Jan is keeping the impressario well supplied with mood-enhancing liquids.

Good grief! We were wrong. Last month's *Diary* wrongly attributed the profile of Ann Martin to Jan Liddicut. The story was actually written by our beloved chief of staff Val Polley. Sorry Val. But come on Jan, let's get cracking with some more reports. After all, you promised.

Soliciting? Never. Match making? Well, up to a point. Barbara Thomas, she who makes Pancakes on the Yarra run on time, bent our ear the other night about the problem of son Paul. Sorry, "problem" is too harsh a word. "Condition" is far better. Barbara has recently transported the lad back from Surfers Paradise to help make flapjack batter and fetch in the money. "What he needs," said Barbara, "is a wife." We expected her to produce some scrawny klutz. Paul Thomas, we can report, is sound of wind and limb, handsome of visage, 24 years old and already a householder. Welcome to Warrandyte, Paul. However, we hope Pancake Parlor bookings among the fairer sex don't rise merely on the strength of this.



Sick of this tendency to circumlocution? That's the habit of not calling a spade a spade. A private school not a million miles away from Warrandyte introduced the American festival of Halloween some years ago. Smokey neither approves nor disapproves. What gets on his wick, however, is the decision of the mums there to retittle the occasion "Fantasynight". The reason: the kids might get scared by it all. Mesdames, one cannot observe Halloween (or whatever you might like to call it) without ghouls, goblins, witches and scary stories around an open fire. The name change means nothing. We might as well change Guy Fawkes Night to Parliament Deliverance Day.



Smokey Joe

Local role in flora bill, says Hill

The people of Warrandyte have a real role to play in the Flora and Fauna Guarantee, according to Lou Hill, the Member for Warrandyte.

Mr Hill was opening a seminar by the Maroondah Society for Growing Australian Plants. "The Flora and Fauna Guarantee aims to ensure that Victoria's native species survive, flourish and keep their potential for evolutionary development in the wild," he said.

"The legislation sets up a public process for identifying and protecting threatened species and communities of flora and fauna in which a new scientific advisory committee will play a major role."

Mr Hill called on Warrandyte people to report flora and fauna which they believed to be threatened to the Minister for Conservation, Forests and lands to be investigated.

Thanks

Mrs Nora Warr and family would like to thank all friends and relatives for their condolences and sympathy in their recent loss of son and brother John on August 5.

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EDITORIAL: Chief of staff Val Polley, 844 3086.
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Umbrella for hut

Warrandyte's historic slab cottage — on the corner of Kangaroo Ground Road and Castle Road — is, at long last, secure against the elements.

National Trust tradesmen have completed a permanent shelter of round timber poles and corrugated iron. Site works, including car parking spaces, gravelled paths and landscaping are being undertaken by the local management committee.

The tiny timber, clay and stringy-bark building was revealed in March 1984 during demolition of a later house on the site. The identity of the hut's builder and its date of construction are still unknown, but research suggests that it was probably built during the 1880s, although in terms of building techniques and materials used, it could date back to the beginnings of European settlement.

Described as "historically significant", it was classified by the National Trust and the site was purchased from funds donated by Doncaster-Templestowe and Eltham councils.

Although it has been kept covered since its discovery, the resulting changes in its environment have caused some structural damage. It will be restored over the coming months by crafts people skilled in primitive building techniques.

In another move last month, Warrandyte Historical Society has secured an important sculptural commission for the site. The society was approached by Eltham Shire Council, requesting their assistance in selecting a site for a Bicentenary arts project.

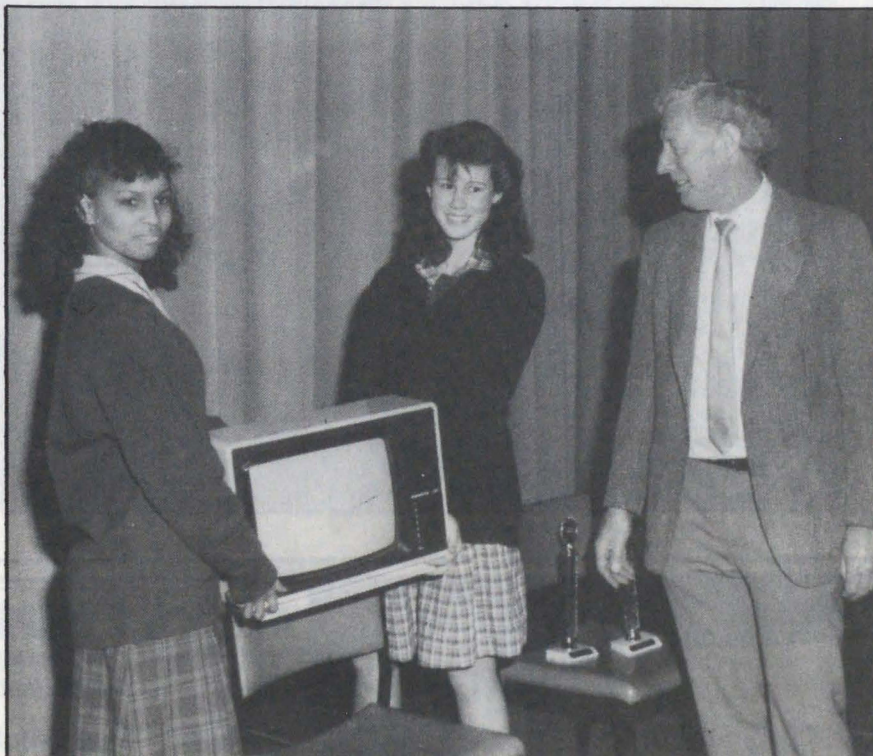
The proposal is to erect four bronze castings throughout the shire; one in each ward. Environmental artist Maggie Fookes has been commissioned to prepare castings of actual everyday objects that have some historical or other relevance to the sites selected.

The historical society chose the grounds of the slab cottage for the North Riding piece, and further suggested the casting should be of a large native fish in a gold panning dish, mounted on a timber stump.

CLIFF GREEN



This sturdy roof, built by National Trust tradesmen, now shelters the hut.



Bernadine (left) and Joanne (right) present a television set which they won for their school to principal Kevin Morrish.

Hill praises riding group

"The Riding for the Disabled Association deserves the highest praise for its dedication and generosity," Lou Hill, the MLA for Warrandyte, said recently while visiting the association's premises in Templestowe.

Mr Hill watched Wendy Maplestone, a physiotherapist and pony instructor, put horses and riders through their paces, while Lorraine McClean explained the role of volunteers. "Some of the children need three volunteers at a time to enable them to ride a horse," she said.

"It is wonderful to see how phys-

ically and intellectually disabled children improve their posture and confidence from horse riding lessons," Mr Hill said. The Templestowe centre was the second of its kind in Victoria. Now there are 44.

"In spite of only a small contribution from both State and Commonwealth Governments to the state association, the Templestowe centre teaches riding to some 70 disabled children per week."

Mrs Maplestone said the association would be very grateful for more volunteers and sponsors who can contribute resources.

High hoofers take second

Warrandyte High School students Bernardine Smith and Joanne Walker have represented their school in a dance contest conducted by Channel 10's 'Early Bird Show' recently.

The Year 8 students devised their own dance routines for each time they had to perform live on the show. They won through to the grand final of the contest, eventually finishing as runners up.

Bernadine and Joanne are busy preparing a new dance in the hope of being selected for an interstate competition.

WEL marks birthday No. 16 with a dinner

Steve Malcolm, an education officer with the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, spoke at the Warrandyte Environment League's annual general meeting on his work in bringing an understanding of conservation and environment into the education process.

Seventy members and friends filled Bid's Bistro last month to help the league celebrate 16 years of community service and hear Steve relate how he became drawn into environmental education through his class's concern for a remnant streamside area of natural vegetation near the Fairhills High School at Knoxfield.

Classes explored the Blind Creek, a tributary of the Dandenong Creek during studies, and one group of students extended an interest developed during landscaping efforts within the school grounds to the creek itself.

As weeds were being removed and replanting was underway, news arrived of plans to barrel-drain the creek to drain a subdivision planned upstream. The students mounted a sustained public campaign which pushed a number of them into the media spotlight and succeeded in saving their stretch of creek.

The meeting agreed that this was an excellent illustration of the potential for community involvement in the conservation and restoration of remnant bushland areas. Steve emphasised the great benefits which can flow from getting children directly involved, through example, in this work.

The meeting was entertained by another Schurmann/Walker production, portraying a typical Warrandyte meeting. (Are we really that bad?)

The present committee will continue on into the next year; new members are always welcome.

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Push needed to remain low-density

The government is continuing its program of town planning reforms which led to the introduction of dual occupancy provisions to Warrandyte.

A new set of "Residential Development Provisions" which will set new standards for residential development in Victoria has now been issued for public comment by the Ministry for Planning and Environment. I have discussed the proposals with Mark Tansley of the WAC and we have concluded that these provisions, if adopted in their present form, would have a severe impact on the bushland residential character of Warrandyte. Their application would allow:

- in areas zoned "Residential C" (south of the river) the minimum lot size permitted as-of-right will be 400 square metres (about 1/10th of an acre), provided the block is capable of containing a rectangle of 10m x 15m. This is the same as for dual occupancy.
- provided windows are not blocked, building will now be permitted right to the boundaries of the block. If walls are not to be on a boundary, minimum offsets are specified;
- boundary walls are not to exceed 3.5 metres or the height of an adjoining wall, whichever is the greater, and in any event the maximum height is 10 metres;
- if an allotment is part of a comprehensive housing development, the minimum allotment size is 300 square metres. Each subdivision containing more than 10 lots must include at least 10% of lots in the range of 300 sq. m to 500 sq. m in area.

I believe the Ministry does not intend that the provisions apply in the "Residential D" zone (minimum area 1 acre) but the present wording does not make that clear. Submissions already made should ensure that the amendments necessary to protect both sides of the river are made.

The reason for the new standards is the Government's understandable concern about the decreasing

affordability of housing for lower and middle income groups; also the lack of diversity of housing types in many areas, the poor suitability of housing to the needs of an increasing number of households and the general lack of consistency and certainty in the development approvals process. However, in setting aside their own conservation and heritage policies while rushing to address housing and equity issues, the Government will cause a loss for all.

If the conservation of our living environment is our objective we have no choice but to continue to advocate low density building in Warrandyte. At least we will then still have something worth protecting when a more selective means of providing for special needs groups is developed.

A worrying feature of the proposals is that they look to be drafted in a form which would enable them to be introduced with the new Planning and Environment Act in early 1988. Essentially, the community is now being confronted with another incomplete ambit planning proposal broadcast from the tenth floor office of the Ministry, to be sorted out by the poor victims when it is almost too late!

We have no choice but to insist that the necessary "overlay controls" which can be adopted for such special cases be resolved before the provisions are applied to our district.

Copies of the proposals are available from the above office at Mitcham office and also from

The Secretary
Ministry for Planning
and Environment
The Olderfleet Buildings
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to whom comments may also be sent. There seems to be no reason why submissions would not be received after the official closing date (6 November).

DOUG SEYMOUR

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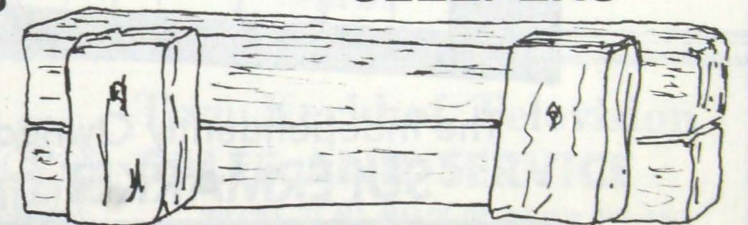
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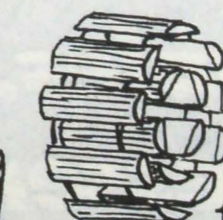
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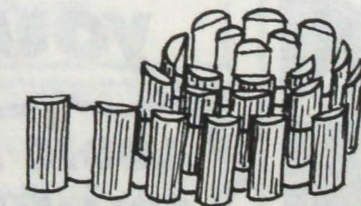


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The test of Ash Wednesday

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

Only the district's volunteer fire brigades stood between the Warrandyte community and disaster on February 16, 1983, a day that will be remembered in Victoria forever as Ash Wednesday.

The 1982-83 fire season was preceded by a savage drought, as had been Black Thursday, 1851 and Black Friday, 1939. Large areas of New South Wales, the ACT, Victoria and South Australia had received their lowest ever recorded rainfall in the eight months to December, 1982.

On February 8, 1983, the district witnessed a prelude to the holocaust that was to come. It was a day such as had not been experienced since the years of the terrible dust storms that occurred in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The temperature reached 43.2 degrees, and by afternoon the western sky was an awesome sight as an enormous dust storm spread across Melbourne and its suburbs.

It was in these conditions that a fire broke out in a gully between McGowans Road and Berinda Road, Donvale. South Warrandyte brigade turned out 2.40 pm, quickly followed by other units from the area, as well as MFB units from Nunawading and Ringwood.

Eight days later, the fire storms of Ash Wednesday occurred, and to those who had lived and fought through Black Friday, what happened that day was not unexpected. In all, the CFA responded to 180 fires in Victoria, not counting false alarms and the hundreds of spot fires.

Stretching from Clare in South Australia, to Warburton in Victoria, spot fires spread and joined together to form a large front ahead of the main fires, with the flames crowning in bush and forest and raging on, out of control. All told, 72 people died: 26 in South Australia and 46 in Victoria. Only those who had lived through Black Friday, 1939, could remember fires of such unbelievable savagery.

One unusual aspect of these fires



The firefighters of today stand by their trucks outside Warrandyte's new fire station.

was that they started so late in the day. The Warburton fires were first reported at 7.20 pm, a time when, under normal circumstances, firefighters are usually beginning to get most fires under control.

Eleven volunteer firefighters died when their units were trapped on a narrow road at Beaconsfield Upper. These were two officers and four firemen from Pantom Hill and five firefighters and their captain from Narre Warren, including Dorothy Balcombe, the first registered woman firefighter to perish in the field.

A casual firefighter — who had gone to the area to help — also died on these units. Two more firemen were killed that day, one from Nar Nar Goon, the other from Wallacedale.

Warrandyte area brigades fought and held five fires that broke out in these appalling conditions, with the support of both group and regional organisation.

Two of these were grass fires;

one in Warrandyte under power lines, another in North Warrandyte when a tree branch brought down power lines in Stoney Creek Road. As well, there were two building fires in South Warrandyte that fateful night. Any one of these fires could have escalated into a major outbreak, had they not been promptly reported, attended and contained.

A fire was reported in Webster Road, Templestowe at 9 pm. It was attended by five CFA units and five units from the MFB, and burnt out four hectares of grassland before being brought under control. The units did not leave the area until midnight.

When the wind change hit the Lower Yarra Group headquarters at Kangaroo Ground at 9.30 pm, the wind speed was recorded at 120 km per hour.

Crews from the area were also fighting fires at Belgrave Heights and Wantirna on Ash Wednesday,

and at Warburton and Reefton on February 17 and 18.

The brigades in the Warrandyte area were ready for Ash Wednesday, 1983. Local volunteer firemen faced Black Friday, 1939, with six knapsack sprays and no truck. Their only training was the accumulated knowledge of years of fighting fires on an unorganised, ad hoc basis.

Today, the same area is protected by three rural brigades and one urban brigade of trained volunteer firefighters, equipped with seven tankers, a pumper and an equipment van.

But despite the tremendous build-up in equipment, resources and training that has taken place, fire safety still depends on the willingness of the individual to be aware of the risks of living in a fire-prone environment, and to heed the lessons of the past; lessons that have been learned at such great cost.

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BILL McCULLOCH

The last mounted postie

Warrandyte said farewell to one of its best-loved and most colorful characters late last month, following the death of Bill McCulloch after a long illness.

Born in April 1889, Bill came to live in Warrandyte with his parents when he was six months old. It was at this time that his father went blind, and apart from a few years spent in the suburbs with an aunt and uncle, Bill lived out his entire life in Warrandyte.

Most of his schooling was obtained at Warrandyte State School. The day after he left school — aged 14 years — he was out cutting a load of wood to sell.

He found work with Mr Stiggant, carting equipment to the mines. He remembered working with his brother Dick, carting four cases of gelignite, together with detonators and rolls of fuse, along the "goat track" and then across the river by punt to the Caledonian mine. He was 16 years of age. Several mines were still operating in the area at that time.

On another occasion, he removed all the records from the Anderson's Creek court house (then situated at 79 Yarra Street) and carted them to the Treasury buildings in Melbourne, just prior to the outbreak of World War I.

Bill tried to enlist in the army as soon as he was old enough, but did not get past Broadmeadows military camp, where he was discharged medically unfit, apparently because of an alleged bad heart. That same heart served him well for a further 70 years!

Following his brief career as a soldier, he drove the Heidelberg to Warrandyte coach for about two years and remembered many of the Warrandyte men coming home from the First War. Among them were Tommy Jones and Frank Lowe, who owned the Whitehouse, still held on a miner's right at that time.

Bill drove the coach on the Heidelberg to Mont Park run for some time, then worked as an orchardist, among the many other occupations he pursued over the following 30 odd years.

Bill was secretary of the Anderson's Creek Cemetery Trust when Warrandyte was engulfed by fire. Many homes and a great deal of the district's recorded history was destroyed, including Bill's home and most of the cemetery records.

Bill McCulloch and his horse were a familiar sight around Warrandyte for many years. As council ranger he collected the two shillings (20 cents) parking fee from people using the river reserve. Most of the visitors did not resent paying, as Bill gave them good value, retailing some of his many reminiscences and details of local lore.

He was appointed mailman in the Warrandyte area, riding 22 miles (35.6 km) on horseback each



A familiar sight around Warrandyte for many years: Bill McCulloch, Victoria's last mounted postman.

day. Victoria's last mounted postman, it was estimated that Bill had ridden more than 70,000 miles (over 100,000 km) with mail, in all weathers, by the time he retired in September 1963.

Bill loved Warrandyte for its free and easy ways and its friendly, helpful people. One of his abiding interests was the cemetery, where so many of his family and friends were laid to rest. Due to the loss of the records in 1939, we do not know how long Bill served on the trust, but he remained secretary right up until his resignation at the end of 1976.

At that time the president of the trust, the late Bill Betton wrote: "I have been associated with you for over 30 years and I know of no other case where a man has served the community so well."

Bill was not only cemetery secretary and treasurer, he was also grave digger. He reckoned on having dug more than 100 graves over the years, all by hand. This was no easy task in Warrandyte, as the old miners would have known only too well. He was still working at the cemetery in his late 70s, though by then the graves were dug mechanically, leaving Bill to backfill by hand.

When one long time resident died and the family suddenly realised they had failed to reserve a site, they were pleased to see a grave had been dug close by the man's parents, who had died 30 years earlier. When thanked, Bill answered: "Yeah, I've been keeping that spot for him."

Bill McCulloch donated the entire cost of the magnificent gates at the cemetery, a total of \$2840. The stonemason included in one of the pillars a niche in which to place Bill's ashes, a touching and fitting tribute to a man who spent so many years working in and for the cemetery.

Someone once asked Bill if it worried him, working among the graves for all those years. He replied, "You don't have to worry about the people in here. It's the ones that are walking around you have to keep your eye on."

He was a keen supporter of both the football and cricket clubs throughout his long life, as well as many other community causes and interests.

He will be missed by his many friends, not least for his fund of local lore, his tales tall and true about Warrandyte's past and his wonderful repertoire of songs.

He took great pride in winning a ballroom dancing competition, partnering his mother, then aged 90 years. The dance was a waltz and each dancer had eggs shells tied to their heels, the prize going to the couple who could keep their shells intact.

Bill almost drowned during the 1934 floods. He stepped off the back verandah of the old post office in an effort to rescue some of Miss Moore's hens, washed out of the flooded fowlhouse. The water was deeper than Bill realised and he almost disappeared from sight. For a while, the chooks were in less trouble than Bill!

Like everyone, his long life had

its periods of sadness and tragedy. His first wife Sylvia died in 1964 after a long illness. As previously mentioned, he lost everything in the 1939 fires; almost including his life.

He came from a time that bred tough, resolute people, able to face hardship and rise above adversity; people who depended on their own resourcefulness in the constant struggle to survive. He retained these characteristics throughout a long and eventful life.

In any transaction, Bill's word was his bond, and there was no better security than a deal sealed with a handshake from Bill McCulloch.

Bill was widely admired and respected, and it was fitting that Fr Russell Joyce of St Stephen's anglican church, who conducted the funeral service, should be assisted by Fr Fred van Gestel of St Gerard's catholic church.

Warrandyte can be proud of the way many local people and organisations helped Bill and his wife Cathy during the years of Bill's failing health. There were too many to name; nor would they want to be named. The important point is that Bill knew.

One reality that stands above all others is the strength of the affection Warrandyte felt for Bill McCulloch. This affection will not diminish with his passing.

(Compiled from information supplied by Bill's friends.)

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A letter to Clive and Janet Nield, co-principals of Koornong school, appeared in the *Herald* in May 1947, it read:

"You seem to be the only persons in the continent who are deliberately attempting something really new. It would be disastrous for the future of Australian education if the valuable and significant work which you are doing were allowed to lapse for lack of finance."

Such words of encouragement and enthusiasm must have given heart to the Nields, as the letter was written by no less than the deputy chairman of the International New Education Fellowship, Dr. J.A. Lauwerys. By late 1946 the Koornong School had failed financially, never to reopen. Yet a world expert like Lauwerys felt strongly enough to protest the situation quite vehemently. Why? What was so "really new" about Koornong, and was it all as worthwhile as Lauwerys suggested?

Koornong opened for the final term of 1939 with a handful of students, eventually building up to at least 60 by the early 1940s. It was a private boarding school built primarily from the resources of Clive Nield. The students ranged in age from about 5 to 17, most of them boarders. The school's buildings were unobtrusive and designed to merge with the bush setting among the hills on the banks of the upper Yarra near Warrandyte.

Koornong was very different to the established forms of education in Australia, both public and private. The likelihood of Koornong being innovative was very strong, given the early influences upon the Nields' educational theories. The Nields read much of A.S. Neill and the theory behind his progressive school, Summerhill, in England. Clive and Janet were impressed by the approach of Summerhill. They devised Koornong along similar lines, although they sought to make Koornong more interesting inside the classroom.

The Nields travelled Europe extensively, and other progressive schools such as Abbotsholme, Bedales, Frensham Heights and Finchdon Manor also made some impression on Koornong. Given such a background, the Nields' annoyance at claims that Koornong was "experimental" was more than justified. As Clive Nield explained: "This was not an experiment, but a demonstration of what could be done by co-operative methods."

Janet Nield once wrote that "the personality of a child is formed in the first five years of its life." Therefore, she argued, the school had a responsibility to offer a program to cater for the different needs of children. It must offer "a sufficiently wide variety of interests" not only to ensure a child's success at school for an avenue to a career, but also to learn "the conscious control of our instincts."

The point made by the Nields was that children were not taught to think for themselves. They were forced into obeying rules and procedures without seeing any underlying reasoning.

The Nields were also critical of the established requirement for pupils to be grouped together by age alone and being forced to follow a rigid, uniform course of study. Such

A pioneering school in our midst

a situation, they argued, failed to take any scientific account of the suitability of subjects to individual children. This was consistent with the Nields' view that the characters of children are already formed by school-age, and therefore to simply slot them into a set curriculum pattern regardless would fail.

One aim of Koornong was to promote maturity and an ability in the students to act responsibly by being able to think for themselves. Clive Nield reinforced this in his approval of "co-operative discipline within the school community" in which the students were equal with the adults in the school's decision making.

During the late 1930s, Clive Nield bought some land on the banks of the Yarra in Warrandyte. It was here, over the next eight years or so, that Nield and his wife, Janet, put their educational theories into practice in their private boarding school, Koornong. In 1946, the school ran out of funds to continue; but during that time the Nields implemented many progressive education techniques and approaches to the point of becoming genuine pioneers in Australian education.
CRAIG TOWNSEND has investigated Koornong. This is an edited version of his report.

The school had a "parliament" which met once a week. In October 1940 *The Argus* reported:

The teachers could impose no rules upon the children except those agreed to by the pupils in their parliament, yet the school had as many rules as most schools...

The weekly meetings were attended well despite not being compulsory. Further, a co-operative spirit reigned, as each member of the school community, staff and students, regardless of their age, enjoyed an equal say and vote in the affairs of the school.

The success of the system was illustrated by the enthusiastic involvement of the pupils in the various committees. Committees concerned with sports, meals and property sprang

up, making the system of self government more thorough. Perhaps the most important of these was the Bullying Tribunal. It consisted of one member of staff, along with three students representative of the student population, from the "primes" to the "Bigs". Its purpose was to investigate cases of intimidation and violence.

One case before the tribunal illustrated Koornong's non-confrontationist approach involved a young boy who was unsettled at school and without friends. He became the target of bullying until the tribunal, after much discussion, resolved to treat the whole problem by appointing two or three "friends" to look after him. No one was punished and the co-operative environment was restored.

According to Bill Oates, a maths teacher at Koornong in 1941, the Nields believed that punishing a student for swearing might further slow that pupil's growth, and only act to increase his resentment. Also, if the school government had not ruled against swearing, then it would have been inconsistent of the Nields to impose a ban on it, given the children's inability to see any rationale behind such a move.

Attendance at classes was not compulsory. Bill Oates explained that the Nields believed that pupils who skipped classes were prompted by previous "unhappy experiences" which they had to sort out for themselves. As Bill Oates explained, the classrooms were rarely bare, as "waggers lasted only a brief while before boredom set in and curiosity to find out what they had missed led them back to school and to be happily engaged in learning ever after".

Another important feature of Koornong was that it was not confined to set subjects and timetables like conventional schools, and it often adopted a general studies type approach.

In 1941 the students centred their studies around the central theme of Sweden. Indeed the whole school enthusiastically threw itself into the study which combined many disciplines including drama, physical education, classical gymnastics, geography, history, politics and writing, all related to the central theme of Sweden. Such an approach first gave a clear picture of the central theme and, second, increased the students' understanding of their other studies with the comfort of a central theme to make diverse subjects relevant.

To be continued next issue...

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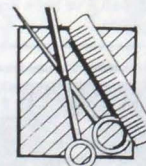


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There is a common belief among many residents of parts of Donvale, East Doncaster and even Warrandyte, that fire protection for the area is provided by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

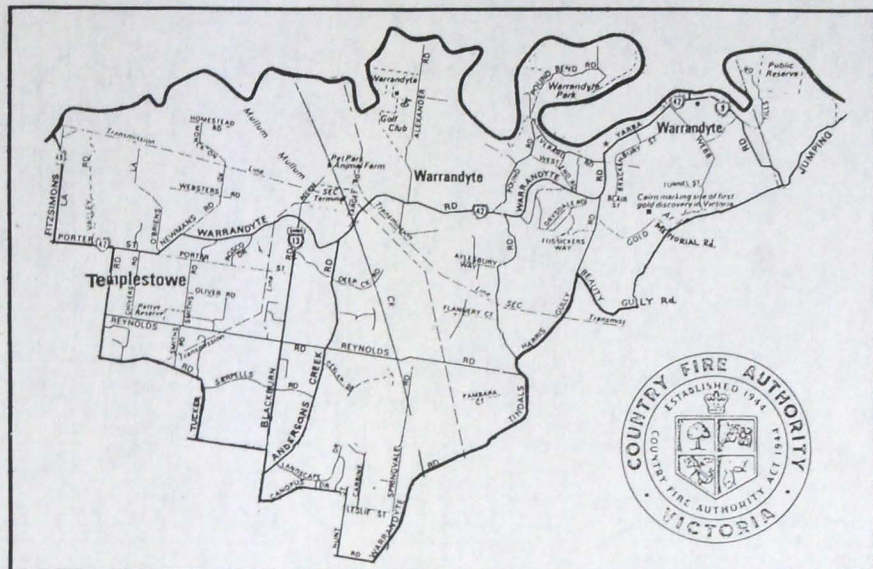
Although the MFB does cover parts of these areas and often helps the CFA at fires, it is the Country Fire Authority at Warrandyte that is responsible for fire protection in this area. The Warrandyte Fire Brigade area is shown on the accompanying map.

If fires in this area are reported to 000 or 11441 they must first be transferred to the CFA at Dandenong, which then pass the call to the Warrandyte brigade. This results in unnecessary delay. Residents living in the area shown on the map should report all fires directly to the Warrandyte brigade on 844 3798.

Calls to this number will be answered on one of six special fire alarm telephones and the brigade alerted. A pamphlet will soon be distributed to all residents living in the area, giving important information on how to report fires, fire restrictions and fire prevention for the summer period.

The Warrandyte brigade has two 3000-litre tankers and an urban pumper and can call on the full resources of neighbouring brigades in a big fire. The brigade also has a wide range of modern equipment.

Warrandyte is a fully-volunteer



brigade with 20 active members and 10 reserve members. However there is an urgent need to recruit and train new members. The brigade would particularly like to hear from able-bodied men and women who live in the Warrandyte area

and who would be able to respond to fires between 8am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. The brigade is keen to hear from anyone who is prepared to come to training on Thursday nights or who can otherwise contribute.

The brigade conducts regular training on Thursday nights at 8pm. If you would like to know more about the work of the fire brigade please contact the secretary, David Gelme, on 844 2592, or Captain Bird, on 844 3661.

Free legal advice

The Eltham Legal Advisory Service offers free, confidential legal advice to the community.

A community worker is also available for consultation. This worker can help by providing useful information about difficulties associated with legal problems, welfare matters, social security and health.

This free service is available on Monday nights from 6 pm at Eltham Community Health Service, 7 Dudley Street, Eltham.

To reduce waiting times, the ser-

IN BRIEF

vice requests people to make an appointment by telephoning 431 1333.

High school dinner dance

Warrandyte High School will be holding a Christmas dinner dance in the new community gymnasium on Saturday, November 28.

The organisers have arranged a

menu including sheries and savories, a choice of entrees and Christmas dinners, home-made Christmas puddings with brandy sauce, then coffee and a cheese board. The price of \$34 includes drinks.

There will be a door prize and lucky spots and a band to keep diners dancing until the early hours. Bookings can be made by ringing Vicki Flynn on 437 1841 or Cheryl Crockett on 844 3716.

A bigger knees-up

Warrandyte senior citizens are combining with a number of other

clubs in presenting a grand enlarged annual concert this year. Included in the line-up will be the clubs at Doncaster and Bulleen, as well as the Chinese, Greek and Italian senior citizens' clubs.

Fans of the Warrandyte club will be pleased to know that their favorite local artists will be participating as usual, presenting some highly entertaining items.

The concert will be held on Wednesday, November 25 in the Athenaeum Hall, Doncaster Road, Doncaster, commencing at 1 pm.

Entry donation is \$2, which includes afternoon tea. Tickets from Helen Ward (844 2671) or Maisie Ward (844 3852).

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Jenni McMarvellous

Jenni McLaws is one of your "young originals".

In deference to the proposition that a woman's age is her own business, it will not be disclosed here (although Jenni probably wouldn't mind a bit).

But she was very young (perhaps not quite a teenager) when she became a foundation member of the Warrandyte women's cricket team. And that was 13 years ago. Anyway, the picture tells the story.

Jenni has run up a remarkable string of achievements in

those years — including six centuries, the Allan Chapman Memorial Shield four times and countless player-of-match awards.

She has opened the bowling and batting for the past eight seasons and is a brilliant fields-woman anywhere on the ground.

Jenni has served on the local committee for six seasons and has been a Victorian Women's Cricket Association delegate several times.

Warrandyte Cricket Club's senior eleven have broken the new-season ice with a superb team performance against Vermont.

After losses to Montrose and Norwood, the Chandler Shield side got it all together.

Chasing a formidable 334, Warrandyte won in the second-last over.

The Dytes lost the toss and were forced to field on the first day in 35-degree heat. The conditions made even more commendable the performances with the ball of Tony Sturesteps, who took 3/73, and Steve Pascoe, who sent down 30 overs unchanged for 2/72.

Sturesteps made it a great double with a blazing 70 in just 47 minutes in Warrandyte's turn at the crease. But the batting was truly a team performance.

Darren Peters also made 70, Colin Dorning contributed 49 and Robert White and captain Gerald Walshe chipped in with 36 and 29 not out respectively.

Sturesteps and Pascoe shared the player-of-the-match award. The third eleven had a big win over Vermont.

Dale Comrie top-scored in the Dytes' 266 and Fred Jungwirth bowled Vermont right out of business with 7/58.

Chris Fernando showed what "all-rounder" was all about as he led the fifths to outright victory over Scoresby.

Fernando made an even hundred and followed up with 5/25 in Scoresby's first innings. Andrew

We sweat it out, come back with bats blazing

Hughes destroyed Scoresby's chances of avoiding an innings defeat by taking 6/20 in their second innings.

The under-14A and under-12A sides have given Warrandyte early hope of finals representation in the junior division. Both have won two of three.

Clinton Grybas, who made 63, Matthew Green (32) and Andrew Hughes (4/26) were the stars of the under-14's win over Ringwood.

Trent Jacobs and Billy Hose have batted consistently well for the under-12s.

CHANDLER SHIELD
Warrandyte 7/103 (D. Sloan 5/46, G. Walshe 4/65). Player of the match: D. Sloan.
Warrandyte 8/339 c.c. (D. Peters 70, T. Sturesteps 70, C. Dorning 49, R. White 36)

d. Vermont 9/334 c.c. (T. Sturesteps 3/73, S. Pascoe 2/72). Players of match: T. Sturesteps, S. Pascoe.

CHANDLER RESERVE
Warrandyte 6/120 lost to Norwood 6/125. Player of match: A. Snaldero. Warrandyte 140 lost to Vermont 9/287 (A. Vitiritti 4/38). Player of match: A. Vitiritti.

THIRDS
Warrandyte 108 (G. McCartin 40) lost to Norwood 7/120 (F. Jungwirth 3/41). Player of match: G. McCartin.
Warrandyte 266 (D. Comrie 63, G. McCartin 36, A. Rodgers 31) d. Vermont 218 (F. Jungwirth 7/58). Player of match: F. Jungwirth.

FOURTHS
Warrandyte 94 lost to Norwood 6/115 (M. Doyle 3/49). Player of match: M. Doyle.
Warrandyte 115 lost to Vermont 269. Player of match: J. Gathercole.

FIFTHS
Warrandyte 75 (B. Leguier 25) lost to South Croydon 6/89 (B. Leguier 3/32). Player of match: B. Leguier.
Warrandyte 3/177 dec. (C. Fernando 100, G. Lawrence 39) d. Scoresby 91 and 68

(Fernando 5/25, J. Weatherly 4/4 and 3/26, A. Hughes 6/20. Players of match: C. Fernando, A. Hughes.)

WOMEN
Warrandyte 7/124 (T. Prince 33 n.o., M. Hooper 25) lost to Melbourne 6/137. Player of match: T. Prince.
Warrandyte 96 and 1/115 (J. Chapman 69 n.o.) lost to South Hawthorn 5/200 dec. Player of match: J. Chapman.

UNDER-16(A)
Warrandyte 8/69 lost to Norwood 3/103 (D. Joy 2/2).
Warrandyte 109 (F. McKenzie 33) lost to Vermont 141 (T. McDermer 3/10, C. Barry 3/16, P. Benetti 3/40).

UNDER-14(A)
Warrandyte 5/41 (Provan 20) lost to Norwood 0/78.
Warrandyte 6/148 (Grybas 63, Green 32) d. Ringwood 112 (Hughes 4/26).

UNDER-14(B)
Warrandyte 171 (Ware 59) d. Norwood 160
Warrandyte 12/63 (B. Hose 24) d. South Croydon 5/49.

UNDER-12(A)
Warrandyte 134 (B. Hose 33 n.o., T. Jacobs 30 n.o.) lost to South Croydon.
Warrandyte 8/90 (M. Howell 30, B. Saaksjarvi 24) lost to Glen Park 2/102.

UNDER-12(B)
Warrandyte 62 and 69 (A. White 32 n.o., M. Lutlick 14) lost to Wantirna 9/187.
Warrandyte 70 and 4/29 (D. Callinan 19) lost to Parkwood 5/291.

They're racing! What again?

It's a long time between Melbourne Cups — but not so for Warrandyte Cricket Club live-wires Michelle Hooper and Brian Chapman.

So successful was this month's Cup Sportsmen's Night that they are already organising next year's.

Upcoming club social events are a quiz night late this month and a Christmas hamper (tickets Jenny Chapman, 844 1428).

Racquet kids have a ball

Racquetball is attracting a strong junior following in Warrandyte. The kids hit up at the Warrandyte Squash Centre from 4-6 p.m. each Friday under the expert guidance of Nancy and Robert Kas.

Newcomers are welcome.

Warrandyte had many stars at

the recent State championships at Ringwood.

Winners were Rebecca Kas, Zachary Kas, Justin Edwards, Oliver Kas.

Runners-up in their respective divisions were Chelsea Crane, Chris England, Oliver Kas, Ben Wood, Aaron Payne and Sarah and Rebecca Kas.

Second's best — again!

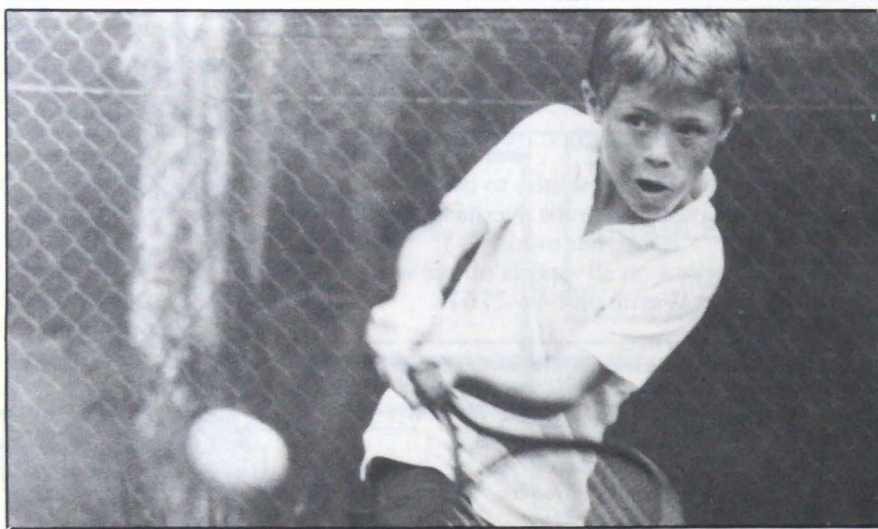
Men's club champion Lee Dehmel successfully defended his title, defeating Robert White 7-5, 6-3 at the Warrandyte Tennis Club championships last month. Robert considers himself the club's most experienced runnerup. This is his fifth successive near-miss!

In the women's open singles, Jane Anderson turned the tables, defeating Annette Ruegg, her successful opponent last year, 6-1, 7-5. Jim McHugh and David McLean won their sixth successive men's doubles title.

Michael Howell, 9, scored twice, winning the 12 years and under singles against Robbie Ryan, 10 games to six, then teamed with his brother Tim to take out the 12 and under doubles.

Another promising young player, Andrew Hiscock, won the boys 16 years and under singles title, defeating Paul Ingalls 6-5, 6-0. He later teamed with Paul to win the doubles title.

In the girls' singles, Melanie Rankin defeated Melissa Kerkhof 6-3, 6-3 in a high class match.



Nine-year old Michael Howell can hardly see over the net, yet his lack of centimetres did not prevent him winning two junior titles at the recent tennis club championships.

RESULTS
Open men's singles: L. Dehmel d R. White 7-5, 6-3.
Open women's singles: J. Anderson d A. Ruegg 6-1, 7-5.
Men's B singles: D. O'Brien d T. Kerkhof 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Women's B singles: M. Abbott d H. Farmer 5-6, 6-0, 6-1.
Men's doubles: J. McHugh, D. McLean d R. Casey, R. White 6-3, 6-1.
Women's doubles: M. Rankin, J. Anderson d V. Macintosh, L. Ryan 6-4, 6-0.
Mixed doubles: G. French, L. Ryan d J. McHugh, A. Ruegg 7-5, 6-7, 6-4.
Boy's singles 16 years: A. Hiscock d P. Ingalls 6-5, 6-0.

Girl's singles 16 years: M. Rankin d M. Kerkhof 6-3, 6-3.
Boy's doubles 16 years: A. Hiscock, P. Ingalls d J. Booth, J. Batchelor 6-3, 6-0.
Girl's doubles 16 years: M. Rankin, P. Fisher d M. Kerkhof, K. Reid 6-4, 6-2.
Mixed doubles 16 years: M. Rankin, A. Hiscock d C. Ruegg, N. Ruegg 6-1, 6-0.
Boy's singles 12 years: M. Howell d R. Ryan 10-6.
Girl's singles 12 years: R. Milburn d P. Hiscock 10-2.
Boy's doubles 12 years: M. Howell, T. Howell d A. Rankin, G. Thomas 10-1.
Girl's doubles 12 years: E. Youll, J. Yarwood d J. Eberbach, M. Ruegg 10-7.

Mixed doubles 12 years: N. Brady, J. Yarwood d A. White, J. Eberbach 10-5. It's a long time between Melbourne Cups — but not so for Warrandyte Cricket Club live-wires Michelle Hooper and Brian Chapman.

So successful was this month's Cup Sportsmen's Night that they are already organising next year's.

Upcoming club social events are a quiz night late this month and a Christmas hamper (tickets Jenny Chapman, 844 1428. Tennis captain Nine-year-old Michael Howell can hardly see over the net, yet his lack of centimetres did not prevent him winning two junior titles at the recent tennis club championships.

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