

SEE PAGE 6

PRICELESS

# WARRANDYTE DIARY

No. 189, June 1988

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# Plan to lure more trippers

By JUDY MacDONALD

Once again Warrandyte residents are the last to know of the well-laid plans of ministers and men, which could alter their village and lives.

The latest plan is a proposal by the Ministry for Planning and Environment to develop a Yarra River scenic drive, from Williamstown to Warrandyte.

Leaflets prepared by the ministry for public perusal were released to councils in October 1987 with an understanding that affected communities were to be made aware of the plans. The *Diary* has yet to find a resident who is aware of the proposal.

Mr Colin Leigh at the ministry said that the first meeting was an informal one between the councils, the Victorian Tourism Commission and the Ministry. "The initial concept was to link open spaces along the Yarra Valley, using existing roads and signposting points of interest." Tourists would be able to obtain strip maps of the route from the Tourism Commission.

Plans for the actual route were then developed and councils were asked to comment. It appears that plans are still at that stage.

A major concern for Warrandyte is that the route ends in Yarra Street. Mr Leigh said that, as far as he knew, "any concerns with existing tourist levels, impact on the areas and parking concerns were to be addressed by the councils, with input from their communities."

More seriously, the leaflet carries a legend for a tourist coach route, which although using the Eastern Freeway as a shorter route, also ends in Yarra Street. Mr Leigh, when asked whether this would necessitate road upgrading and car-



parking facilities, said that there was "no budget allocation for road alterations," then went on to say that the Ministry planned to "transform" the Boulevard near Kew as part of the route.

He added that the Ministry and the Doncaster and Templestowe Council were hoping to prepare a "concept plan for the area from Burke Road to the Upper Yarra" but that the drive could be announced before this occurs.

The proposed route enters Warrandyte from Bridge Road, Bulleen and Templestowe Road. An alternate route comes via Eltham using Brimbank Road, Banyule Road and Mount Pleasant and Research

Roads. Most of these roads are extremely hazardous and low grade. Mr Leigh was asked whether anyone had actually driven over the route, or was it picked from the Melways? He replied that it had been driven over. As the leaflet extols the semi-rural countryside dotted with farmlets on the Templestowe side of Warrandyte, it can only be assumed that the "drive" was some decade ago as this area is now rampant with estates.

Councillor John Fisher said Eltham Council had not deliberated on the proposal, but that he believed officers supported it in principle as long as the alternate route was through Main Road, Eltham, and Warrandyte/Research Road.

Councillor Fisher said that the council "had an obligation to the residents in Mount Pleasant Road to keep it a private road, so that it could not be considered as a tourist route."

He went on to say that there was some concern in other municipalities, such as Heidelberg, where the unmade section of the Boulevard was included in the proposal.

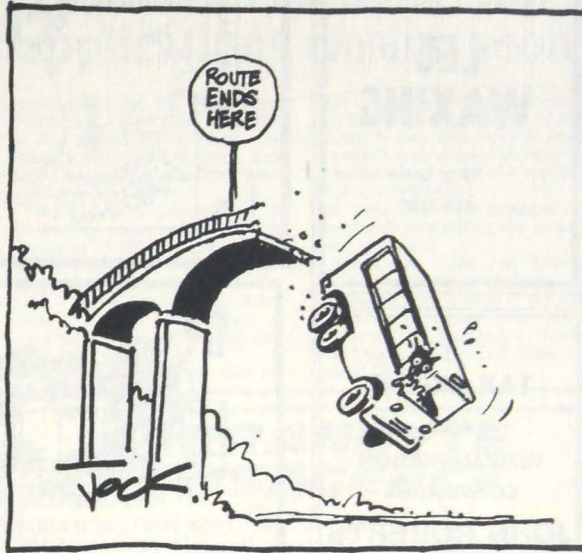
Councillor Fisher made it clear that if Warrandyte was faced with the provision of extra carparking because of this concept, then it was "a potential threat to the village and a firmer stand may need to be taken."

Doncaster and Templestowe Council were quoted recently as claiming that they were seeking community input on the proposal through their Development Consulting Unit, however letters sent from the unit to scattered members of the community speak of the council looking at "any means that may be available to enhance the tourist potential of the area, in a way that will be of benefit to the city ... in particular opportunities available in the Warrandyte area are being explored."

This letter, together with the lack of consultation on the proposed tourist route, have added to a growing local unease about the rumor of a possibility of council-owned shops on the Community Centre site.

Councillor Ken McKenzie said that neither as a Doncaster and Templestowe councillor, a Warrandyte Advisory Committee member, nor as a citizen had he been asked to consider the proposed tourist route. He had, by chance, seen the route map recently at the Ministry.

Councillor McKenzie said that "if there was any significant in-



crease in the number of tourists to Warrandyte, they would not find anywhere safe to stop. As it was they constantly park in a dangerous manner and it is unfortunate that no regulatory body sees to this parking problem during the weekend."

Residents have also voiced concern about the parking situation if tourism were to increase, though most of them have long since given up trying to get near their own shops on a weekend. They are perhaps more concerned about the effect on the natural environment, claiming that the river banks are already filthy with litter left by tourists and that four-wheel drive vehicles are starting to break down grassy banks near the river.

The Victorian Tourism Commission was unable to find anyone who knew of the proposed route. A spokesman told the *Diary* that it was "unlikely that major tour operators would bring overseas tourists to Warrandyte for a day tour, but that it was possible that they would include Warrandyte in a day trip to somewhere such as Healesville."

It seems that the Warrandyte community may once again have to gird its loins for a stand against what seems like a concerted effort to commercialise their village. Councils seem to have short memories. Last time that the character of Yarra Street was threatened, 1600 residents signed a petition in one day, to let it remain as it was.

# 'Dual' opposition crosses party line

By CLIFF GREEN

Opposition to the projected 'Special Residential Zone' for Warrandyte is hardening as local residents and groups closely examine and question the State Government's proposed amendment to the planning scheme.

Local MP Mr Lou Hill has been made aware of these objections and has responded accordingly.

"I welcome the proposed rezoning of Warrandyte Residential 'C' Zone to Special Residential," Mr Hill told the *Diary*.

"The new zone proposes many of the controls we have been seeking to protect our unique local environment. These include tree protection, limits to building site coverage and limits to subdivision.

"However, the proposed zoning includes a limited right to dual occupancy subject to the aim of providing residential dwellings compatible with the environment and present natural character of the area.

"Although the aims of the proposed zoning are generally welcomed, the dual occu-

pancy provisions have caused concern," Mr Hill said.

In a letter to the *Diary*, the Warrandyte Environment League has expressed outright opposition to the proposed amendment, pointing out that Warrandyte's unique quality flows from the bushland and village character "we treasure so much". The league believes that tree controls, as expressed in the amendment, are not enough to protect this unique character.

"We must have no dual occupancy," WEL states, "and housing density must be limited to one dwelling per thousand square metres. Until the Special Residential Zone embraces these essentials we will continue to reject it."

The Residents' Action Group, formed especially to fight dual occupancy, has responded in similar terms.

"The purpose of creating a special zone is to ensure Warrandyte is preserved, not only for the people who live here now, but for those who will live here in the future," a spokesman for the group said.

"This can only be done by exempting the area from high density development. This precedent has already been set in New South Wales.

"We welcome the recognition of Warrandyte as a special area with special controls needed to preserve it."

The group believes, however, that the suggested controls will not provide lasting protection for the area, as all the conditions governing dual occupancy can be breached by the granting of a permit.

"Should a permit be refused, a planning appeal hearing can overturn council's refusal."

Although the Warrandyte Advisory Council has not formally considered the proposed amendment, its response to the present debate is to reiterate its attitude to dual occupancy, first expressed almost a year ago.

"Although WAC originally recommended that dual occupancy should be subject to a permit and to specified conditions," spokesman Mark Tansley told the *Diary*, "we now

consider that in view of the results of council's survey and pressure from Warrandyte residents, dual occupancy should not be permitted in Warrandyte.

"WAC recognises that certain groups, such as the elderly, have housing needs which are often best satisfied with multi-dwelling unit developments.

"In Warrandyte however, such developments should only be permitted by site-specific rezonings after thorough consideration of the social, environmental and economic ramifications of specific proposals."

As reported last month, the vexed question of dual occupancy housing in Warrandyte has now entered the party political arena, with endorsed Liberal candidate Mr Phil Honeywood threatening to exploit the debate at the next state election.

Liberal MLC Mrs Rosemary Varty stated recently that "Warrandyte could lose its character completely" with the proliferation of dual occupancy. Opposition Leader Mr Jeff Kennett visited the town last month and assured residents that Warrandyte

would be exempt from dual occupancy under a Liberal Government.

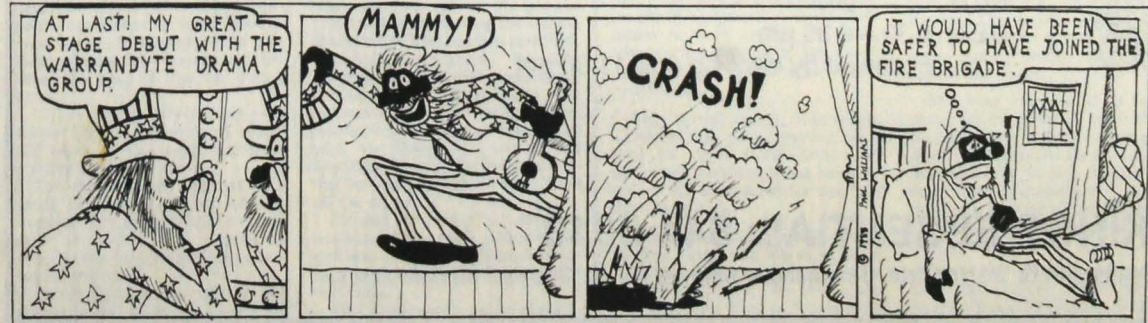
Labor MP Mr Lou Hill is urging residents to make themselves familiar with the proposals and to make their views known by writing to the Ministry of Planning and Environment at P.O. Box 224T, Melbourne 3001.

"We have until July 4 to express our concerns so they can be taken into account when the proposed zone is finalised," Mr Hill said.

"Meanwhile, following my representations to the Minister, Mr Tom Roper, about the environmental sensitivity of the area, interim controls apply to prevent subdivision and dual occupancy contrary to the proposed special residential zone."

The plans for the proposed rezoning may be inspected at Doncaster council offices, at the Ministry of Planning Eastern Regional Office at 38 Prospect Street, Box Hill and at the Warrandyte Citizens' Advice Bureau, situated in the old post office in Yarra Street.

CYRIL BY PAUL W.



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Old hill-climbers never back down — they go up, up and away at a rate of knots. Peter Holinger, of Pigeon Bank Lane, had to rearrange his car-racing trophy cabinet to accommodate his fourth Australian Hillclimb Championship, won recently on Canberra's heady heights. Peter had a bit on the whipper-snappers who took him on. He's a specialist automotive engineer and has been around for 55 years. When the timed ascents began, they were calling him The Old Bastard. When they were over, he was being referred to quite reverently as The Flying Victorian. To that, Smokey can add only "Vvvrrooom!"

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Until just recently, Shane Revell was a confirmed bird-fancier (in the strict sense of the word). Now he's not so sure. Shane arrived with trailer at Park Orchards to accept a mate's offer of a free aviary and agreed that the best way to handle the moving job was to drive into the neighbor's backyard and pass the substantial cage over the fence. The neighbor wasn't home but he wouldn't mind a bit, said the mate. Things went swimmingly until Shane managed to back the loaded trailer into the neighbor's carport — demolishing a goodly part of it — on the way out. It took him and his mate the next two weekends to repair the damage. And the aviary? That's still lying in many pieces at Shane's place. Ask him about aviaries now and he's likely to tell you they're strictly for the birds.

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## IN RED & WHITE

We're going to miss Senior Constable Jim Archbold. The popular policeman's transfer to Ivanhoe broke an association with this town that dated back far beyond the dozen-or-so years he was stationed here. Jim did bushfire work and a lot of relief duty here before he moved in semi-permanently. Actually, the association goes right back to his schooldays and the friendships he made with a lot of Warrandyte kids then attending Box Hill High. The Archbolds' many friends here hope to see Jim, wife Sue and their three kids on a regular social basis.

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The local footy club's Past Players' Association was launched this month amid much hilarity. Highlight of the inaugural luncheon was a player profile of John (Tomatoes) Hutchinson, one of this town's unforgettable football characters. John was reminded of the deafness which used to afflict him every time the coach ordered him off the ball and into a pockek for a rest. And of his unfortunate habit of injuring team-mates. The men behind the PPA plan to make it a real, livewire goer. There's more about it on the back page.

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HE'LL never make a captain of industry, that nice Peter Maher, son of Bernie and co-bwana of Warrandyte Cellars. What can you do with a bloke who welcomes you into the establishment, says you've made a good choice with that bottle of Chateau Expensive at \$8.95, but that a shot of Maison Reasonable at \$5.95 makes a heap more sense? Maybe just sit back and watch as the customers roll in.

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Her twins aren't due until early August, but they are already costing North Warrandyte's Debbie McLean a lot of sleep. A lively pair of night-owls, they are, who keep Mum awake with their constant movement. "I hope they're not as much trouble when they're out," yawned Debbie after another restless night.

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IT WAS one day after school, and just outside Harry Heath's, when our reporter realised she had stumbled into the depths of yuppiedom. There was the person of much attention, a person of the female persuasion, guarding her trolley with one hand and dialling the world on the other with her mobile, stick-it-in-your-handbag cellular telephone. Our reporter suspects she was an unfortunate shopper from the Templestowe trendy section of our town who mistakenly took a left turn and rolled into Warrandyte instead of ending up at The Pines Shopping Centre. But what on earth was she gabbling about? Probably telling her poor unfortunate soulmate that the lights on the tennis court had failed.



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DEADLINE (Editorial and advertising): Last Friday of the month.



# Park team tells why some natives are naughty

The Management Plan for the Warrandyte State Park is well advanced, and the planning team hopes it will be ready in late July, as previously promised.

It has become apparent to the team that the linear and fragmented nature of the park presents many problems. There are hundreds of points of entry. More than 500 adjoining properties, and in many cases the park is extremely narrow, often just a riverside strip a few metres wide. The park and its neighbors are interdependent.

The planning team has been asked many questions about the township river frontage which is managed by the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. Many people visit the area, and it is suffering from problems with rubbish, pest plants and erosion. It is such an important area, easily accessible and viewed from much of the main road through the township, that the team hopes it will be managed in a way complementary to the rest of the park.

Other questions have concerned

invasive pest plants. Many people wonder why native plants such as cootamundra wattle and sweet pittosporum as well as exotics such as willow, prunus, pines, and honeysuckle are viewed as problems. Most native plants present few problems, but the two mentioned are considered environmental weeds, that is native plant species that grow outside their geographic range, invade indigenous vegetation and prevent its regeneration.

They have proven to be vigorous growers and spread easily. Pittosporum can form very dense clumps and nothing else will grow underneath them.

Willow spreads rapidly and gradually clogs up the river. For an example one only has to look at the Island. The backwaters that in the 1940s were described as being sparkling clear are now willow-choked mud pools.

Prunus fruits readily and attracts birds, which then spread the seed far and wide. Creepers such as ivy and honeysuckle can strangle their

host trees and obliterate native ground cover.

However, it is smilax that is causing great concern at the moment. This is an extremely invasive plant that is appearing in very remote areas of the park and is known to be hard to eradicate.

In the past Warrandyte was fortunate that at times of maximum ground disturbance, such as the gold mining period and big fires, there were fewer introduced plants around, so the area was rapidly

recolonised by indigenous species.

This is not the case today. If the park is to continue to provide a refuge for our native animals, then education and information will be needed to help the community understand why invasive pest plants are such a problem.

The planning team has been very pleased to find there is such a high degree of interest in the park. They are still working at 3 Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte, and can be contacted on 844 1515.

## Brigade's hard work pays off

By BRUCE BENCE

Firemen and residents turned out in force for the long-awaited opening of the new fire station in Brumby's Lane, South Warrandyte, on the afternoon of Saturday, May 14.

After Captain John Haddon had welcomed the guests, the chairman of the Country Fire Authority, Mr R.M. Greenwood, commented on the enthusiasm and co-operative spirit that existed throughout the service. He said it was great to see brigades that were prepared to "go the extra mile" and do themselves what the authority could not do due to its large number of commitments. Mr Greenwood added he had no doubt that the new fire station would enhance the already fine reputation of the South Warrandyte Fire Brigade.

Following the opening, the Mayor of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, Councillor Doug McKenzie, presented certificates of appreciation for their efforts to John Haddon, Les Dixon and Ken Reid for their outstanding community service.

One sad note was that Les Reid, who worked so hard throughout the entire project was not there at the opening. Les's award was made posthumously and was received by his son, Station Officer Mark Reid.

The South Warrandyte district was originally part of the Warrandyte Brigade area when it was formed in 1938, and when the South Warrandyte Brigade was registered under Captain Bill Knee on January 10, 1949 many of its members had been foundation members of the Warrandyte Brigade. The brigade started to raise



Captain John Haddon addresses guests at the opening ceremony

funds to buy basic equipment such as knapsacks, beaters and rakes.

It was with this equipment that the brigade faced the fire that swept into the district in January 1962. The fire had been burning for some 52 hours and was well out of control by the time it hit Warrandyte, driven by gale-force northerly winds. The brigades in the area were powerless to stop the main fire, but using what equipment they had they managed to break up the front. They were unable to stop the fire in heavy scrub, however.

Following these fires the brigade bought a Fargo utility and fitted a tank and pump to it. The CFA Regional Officer "Mac" McClaren rang the captain, Wal Riddle, in 1963 and told him: "If you get the fire station up quickly I might have something to put in it". The fire station was at lock-up stage three weeks later. Wal rang the RO to say the station was ready. The RO replied that there was a fire truck at Lilydale but it needed cleaning and a mechanical overhaul. When

asked when he would pick it up, Wal said "right now".

The fire truck was no stranger to the area, being a Series 1 Austin that had seen years of service with the Warrandyte Brigade. The brigade then sold the Fargo utility.

The fire station serviced the brigade through a very rapid period of development which saw the brigade develop from a knapsack unit to one with three vehicles, a comprehensive communications system and numerous pieces of sophisticated emergency equipment.

While the old station was in use there were two big fires in the area (1965 and 1969) as well as several that were brought under control before they developed into major fires. This included the five fires that started in the area on Ash Wednesday 1983.

In September 1987 the old station was finally demolished and the new station stands as a tribute to the spirit of the brigade and the community that helped them to build it. On the day of the opening

Les Dixon paid tribute to the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, the CFA and to all those outside the brigade, including the many firms and organisations that supplied services and materials at cost or free of charge.

The new fire station was built by the brigade when members realised that it would be some years before they could expect to get one through the CFA priority system.

The new fire station cost some \$108,000. The CFA contributed \$30,000 and the council about \$35,000. The brigade contributed the remainder.

It was fitting that the catering for the opening was carried out by the Salvation Army Emergency Service from Briar Hill, as most of the emergency services personnel present would remember with gratitude when they were fed by the Salvation Army under very different circumstances.

The community owes a debt of gratitude to all those who made the South Warrandyte Fire Station a reality.

## Lou's Liberal challenger states his case

The 28-year-old Liberal Party candidate for the State seat of Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood, says he would bring energy, enthusiasm and compassion to the people in the electorate.

The seat is held for the Labor Party by Lou Hill by a margin of only 87 votes and is the second most marginal seat in Victoria. If elected, Mr Honeywood would become the youngest member of the Victorian Parliament.

After four years as an industrial relations officer with a large company, experience in local government and an honors degree in political science, Mr Honeywood believes the time is ripe for young ideas.

"I am particularly looking to a future Liberal government which will work for the public's interest and not for itself," he said.

The eldest of six children of a small businessman, and recently married, Mr Honeywood is confident he can make a significant contribution to young families facing difficulties.

"More than 60 per cent of the people in the electorate have high mortgages. In addition they are

being asked to pay exorbitant state taxes and charges, which have become the highest in Australia," Mr Honeywood said. "These burdens have to be eased."

Mr Honeywood plans a two-pronged campaign to win the seat of Warrandyte.

"I will campaign on state-wide issues such as health, education and law and order, but will also involve myself in local issues. I will attack the Labor Party's introduction of dual occupancy, which I think has gone against the general principles of conserving the unique character of Warrandyte and Park Orchards in particular," he said.

Mr Honeywood also wants to see the number of police in the area increased. "Vandalism by young people is a very real problem," he said. Mr Honeywood said it was important to provide better facilities for young people to keep them off the streets.

He said the lack of an adequate transport system only added to the problem. He added: "Based on local issues I believe I can win this seat back."

Phil Honeywood can be contacted by phoning 879 0534.

## Sirens sound, but in the best of causes

Residents of Warrandyte and Park Orchards are hearing sirens echoing across the hills and valleys as part of the Neighborhood Monitoring Scheme, a community service initiative conducted by the City of Doncaster and Templestowe.

The Lions Clubs of Warrandyte and Park Orchards, and the Lioness Club of Park Orchards, have ensured that the elderly of their area can stay in their own homes with a greater sense of security by funding the installation of electronic monitor alarm equipment. A small transmitter is worn around the neck, which when pressed in any emergency, sets off a siren which alerts neighbors.

After a trial period, Warrandyte Lions has now given approval for a total of eight installations. Bill Butler and Graham Miles have installed the equipment for the first three recipients.

Graham Miles, president of Warrandyte Lions, said it was wonderful to see neighbors getting together to help the elderly. "We have many folk who have lived in Warrandyte all their lives, and it's time we

helped them. One lady told me she had lain on her floor for two days before help came. This equipment will certainly prevent that particular problem."

One of the recipients, Alan Main, of Yarra Street, said he thought it was a very good idea. "I was impressed with the speed in which the neighbors responded when the siren went off. They were out in a flash."

Mrs Lesley Slattery, president of the Lioness Club of Park Orchards, said the club, with assistance from the Park Orchards Lions Club, had installed equipment in the homes of seven elderly people in Park Orchards this month.

Mrs Vina Johnson, 85, is full of praise for the clubs. "I think it's an excellent idea. It gives old people a sense of security in case of illness or intruders. My family is delighted that I have this measure of protection. And I know all the recipients are very grateful to the clubs for their generosity."

For further details, contact Betty Cole, the project officer for the Neighborhood Monitoring Scheme, on 840 9238.

## Youth arts scholarship applications closing soon

Applications for the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award close at the end of this month. Young artists who intend applying should obtain their forms immediately and lodge them as soon as possible.

The award, a joint project of Warrandyte Lions and the *Diary*, is valued at \$5000. Applications are invited from young artists — painters, potters, sculptors, weavers, singers, actors, musicians, filmmakers, designers or whatever — aged between 18 and 25 who usually live in Warrandyte.

The organisers intend that the

prize should be used in ways that specifically serve the needs of the winner. It may help towards fees, overseas travel, a living allowance, equipment or the cost of a specific project or exhibition.

If more than one applicant is considered outstanding the award could be shared.

Application forms and further details can be obtained from the Citizens' Advice Bureau in the old post office in Yarra Street, or by writing to the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award, P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.

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# The boy in blue battled fires, too

By BRUCE BENICE

Bert Birthisel came to Warrandyte in 1935 as the constable in charge of the Warrandyte Police Station, which was then at 71 Yarra Street, and the vacant blocks at the back of 67 and 69 Yarra Street served as the police paddock.

Warrandyte was in the grip of the depression and Bert would often check the contents of peoples' cupboards if he thought they were going hungry. Many families were too proud to apply for the relief vouchers which entitled them to receive certain food.

Bert was a good "country cop" there when he was needed, otherwise a keen and enthusiastic member of the community. The police of today would envy his freedom to take what action he saw fit. On one occasion some youths were swimming naked at Hussey's pool and were reported to Bert. He arrived, mounted on the troophorse, and sent the boys on their way with a few well-placed whacks on a well-padded part of their anatomy as they tried to don their pants and run away at the same time. Tradition has it that they ate their tea off the mantelpiece for some time and gave up nude bathing, at least near the police station.

Bert was a superb horseman and taught the police horse Minnie to do tricks, such as sitting on her haunches, playing dead and walking on her hind legs. Minnie was to become part of Warrandyte's folk lore for those who remembered her. Bushfires were part of every summer when the country dried out, and without a water supply, fire fighting was a matter of bushcraft and a strong arm wielding a branch torn from the nearest tree.

The local policeman was usually

the community leader in times of trouble. Before the CFA was formed it was quite usual for the local policeman to be the captain of the Bush Fire Brigade.

When the Warrandyte Bush Fire Brigade was formed, Constable Bert Birthisel was elected to the position of captain at the inaugural meeting which was held either at the end of February or early in March 1938.

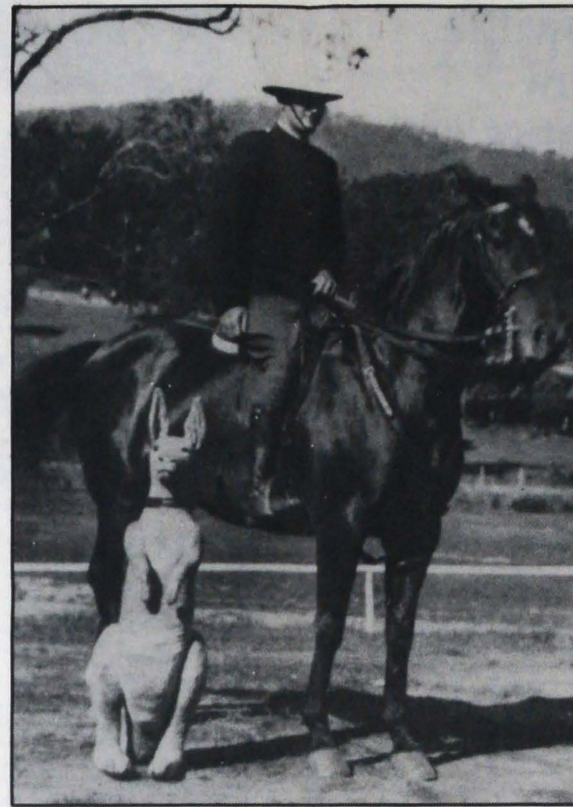
The area had already had two severe bush fires that year, one which started in Stoney Creek area on New Year's Day and another on February 20. On the second occasion Constable Birthisel led some 50 locals in a fight to contain the fire which burnt about 40 hectares in the Gold Memorial Road area.

It was not surprising that the community took action to call a meeting to form a fire brigade, particularly as on February 6, Hugh Robinson's house had caught fire and been totally destroyed.

The Warrandyte Brigade area originally included the areas now covered by North and South Warrandyte as well, and when the 1939 fires struck the brigade equipment consisted of six knapsacks.

Bert Birthisel took the brigade up to Bob Mahoney's place where they managed to save the house after a hair-raising trip in the utility they borrowed from the butcher. On the way up to Mahoney's they had to stop to put out the upholstery in the utility, which had caught fire. The men who went with the captain were Lieutenant Jim Walsh, Jack Cahill, A. Fry, K. Dunkley and B. Stoneham. Both Jim Walsh and Jack Cahill were later to be elected captain.

By the time the brigade had saved Mahoney's house the fire was into the township and it became a



Constable Bert Birthisel mounted on his troophorse Minnie. The kangaroo was a well-known prop used by photographer Bill Norman. Photograph courtesy of Valma Credlin (nee Birthisel).

running fight to save what they could.

Minnie the troophorse and Hussey's cow Petty took refuge together in the depression at the bottom of what is now 77 Yarra Street and came through unscathed, although all the fences around the property were burnt.

Constable Birthisel had the distinction of being the first brigade captain in the district although he was not to hold the position for very long before he was transferred from Warrandyte late in 1939.

Mr Birthisel served in the police force in northern Victoria until he injured his foot when turning out to an early-morning fire at Boort where he was stationed. The injury was to cause him trouble and a great deal of pain over the next four years and finally forced him to retire from the police force.

In August 1962 Bert was admitted

to hospital and died shortly afterwards. The funeral service was one of the largest seen in the district, as Bert had taken a keen interest in the community and was actively involved in many of the social and sporting organisations in Boort.

The local paper at the time of his death described Bert as a man among the best of men. The paper went on to comment that Boort and its people were so much better for their association with "Bertie". As a policeman he was respected for his work in the community and his understanding.

Bert was survived by his wife Ivy (nee Webb) and two daughters Valma (Mrs K. Credlin married to the captain of the Wycheproof Urban Fire Brigade) and Sylvia (Mrs W. Griffiths of Boort).

Ivy Birthisel moved to Bendigo where she died in November 1972.

# When a plethora of surveyors was present

June, 1888: Surveyors here! surveyors there! surveyors everywhere. We have had a plethora of them lately. Railway, land and electric. The township presented quite a busy appearance.

Go ahead is our motto now, and ere long, when the residences go up, the improvement will be evident. There has been no difficulty experienced for our direct railway, and the permanency of the survey is hopeful of its ultimate fact.

Land is still rising in value with us, although few sales are made, people are determined, if they do realise, to ask enough.

The surveyors who have been engaged for some time making flying surveys for the railway to us have, I believe, commenced making out the most practicable route. The Templestowe people are still strongly advocating their claim — from either Kew or Heidelberg.

I heard an argument the other day whether the present land racket is a 'paper' one or 'bona fide' arrangement. It was clearly proved that in connection with the suburban properties, the thing was right enough.

The acre system has been a great boon to those who intend to comply with the regulations and spend occasional weeks where fresh air, pure water and absence of typhoid exists. Our little (I was going to say despised) village will yet become the 'Bath' of Victoria.

The Great Southern quartz claim is to be revived. The speculation is

## How We Lived



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

a good one, and will, I think, turn out profitable.

I think it probable the diorite dyke will be shortly started again. The machinery has been purchased by some gentlemen in Melbourne, it being their intention to thoroughly test the ground.

An accident occurred at the Yarra Tunnel claim which will delay them a few days. The chimney fell on the machine house. However, it is nothing serious.

Mr W. Oldham, the land agent, &c, has opened the late Commercial Bank as an office, &c.

## Club seeks its history

The Warrandyte Tennis Club is believed to have been established down by the old bridge in 1911.

The club is now flourishing. Despite having only five tennis courts, a great array of tennis opportunities is made available for the club's 600 or so members and others.

Over recent years members have built a fine clubhouse. The club now wants to install honor boards showing the names of the club's office-bearers over the years.

The trouble is that little information is available for the period from 1911 through to the early 50s. If anybody can provide the club with old records or information about those years it would be greatly appreciated.

The club would also be interested to hear about any old photographs or memorabilia relating to the club and tennis in Warrandyte.

Anyone who can help should contact Val MacKintosh, the club secretary, on 844 2302.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WARRANDYTE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU AT THE OLD POST OFFICE MONDAY JULY 11 AT 8 PM

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## MERV NAUGHTON

# Clever gunsmith, good citizen

The death of Merv Naughton on April 3 at the age of 79 brought to a close a remarkable career.

Merv was born in South Australia and grew up on a farm where he developed an interest in guns and shooting, an interest that was to stay with him all his life. More successful than most of us, he turned his hobby into his life's work, setting up a business producing high-quality rifles that were exported to 12 countries.

His rifles won markets in such world-renowned engineering countries as Canada, Switzerland and America. The incredible thing about Merv's achievement was that the rifles were manufactured in a factory built by himself, using machines mostly designed and built by himself, although Merv had no formal training in engineering.

With the outbreak of World War II, Merv volunteered to join the armed services but failed the medical examination. He went to work in the munitions factory at Maribyrnong, making anti-aircraft guns.

Following the war, Merv worked for the Melbourne firm of Alcock and Pierce (an old established gunsmith and dealer). He started to build his home at Warrandyte, where he and his wife Lois had bought a block of land. It was then that Merv started converting surplus army rifles to .303/22 and .303/25 sporting rifles. From this he went on to manufacture a rifle which he developed to his own design and marketed under the name "Fieldman Naughton".

Merv developed a number of different models of the Fieldman and was at one time the only non-government manufacturer of firearms in Australia. Merv was an

instructor on firearm safety and was a member of the Government Firearm Advisory Committee until the age limit finally brought about his retirement. Even so, he had been requested by the Government to remain on the committee for a number of years beyond the retiring age.

In conjunction with the Forest Commission, Merv developed a special rifle that fired incendiary projectiles for use during fuel reduction burns and backburning during fire fighting. Merv regularly demonstrated these rifles and the special projectiles during the Fire Prevention Week displays which were held at the Recreation Oval at Warrandyte for many years.

Merv was an active member of the Warrandyte Fire Brigade for many years and even after he ceased to be an active member he still contributed to the safety of the area by allowing men to turn out from his factory to fires. This loss of time was a voluntary contribution to the community as the men were paid by Merv while they were away fighting fires.

When Merv built his factory, he provided a diesel plant to provide the power supply. This power was also used to run a pump which supplied not only his place but all the neighbors in the area with water. This was a Godsend during the 1962 fires which swept through the area.

In an area that attracts more than its fair share of fires, Merv and Lois's home and factory have been in the path of two major fires, in 1962 and 1969. January 8, 1969 was one of those days that firemen and bushmen alike dread, with high temperatures, low humidity and a

howling north wind. By day's end, 21 people were dead and 253 fires had been reported across the State.

It was in these conditions that a fire started in Alexander Road and swept through Naughton Avenue, burning two houses on the way before being finally stopped in Leber Street. Merv was in his factory at the time and got the fright of his life when a tongue of flame shot through the factory window just missing Merv on the way.

The flame crossed the width of the factory and passed through the window in the opposite wall, then started a fire on the bank between the factory and the road. Merv modified the windows forthwith to prevent any possibility of a repeat performance.

Although guns were his abiding passion, Merv, in his younger days, was a very competitive football and tennis player. He was an enthusiastic member of the Warrandyte Tennis Club for many years. He was also a keen photographer, astrologer and writer. He recently wrote a book called 'Relativity — Fact or Fiction', as yet unpublished.

Stan Craker, who worked for Merv Naughton for more than 20 years, remembers him as a man who would help anyone, a good man to work for and a person who never had a bad word to say about anyone.

Merv was a man of extraordinary ability and his death is a real loss to the Warrandyte Community. Apart from those of us who will remember him always, his life in the area is commemorated by the naming of Naughton Avenue.

BRUCE BENCE

## How the show shapes up

Bookings for 'The Sallow Wattle', Warrandyte High School's original musical production, open next month.

"Although we are presenting two more performances than we did last year with 'Oklohoma', all our previous shows have been very popular and have booked out quickly," a school spokesman told the *Diary*.

"Because 'The Sallow Wattle' is a brand new piece, specially written for the school by locals Barry McKimm, Cliff Green and Lee Tindale, we are expecting a very high level of audience interest.

"Everyone would be well advised to book as early as possible."

It will be staged at the high school theatre on August 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27.

Set in Warrandyte during World War II, 'The Sallow Wattle' tells of the romance and heartbreak of young love in war-time, the tragedy of two bushfires, the touching and sometimes comic reactions of local characters to these traumatic events.

Rehearsals for the show are continuing apace under director Carole-Anne Gill and vocal coach Renee Maddocks. "It's shaping up beautifully," Carole-Anne told the *Diary*. "It's a very exciting piece, both dramatically and musically and the talent of these kids is stunning."

Bookings open on Monday, July 11 through Ann Gronow at the school, phone 844 2749.

The school is also appealing for help with set construction. "Anyone willing to swing a hammer or a brush would be really welcome," the spokesman said. They could ring either Jeff Robinson at the school on 844 2749, or Jock Macneish the designer, on 844 2669.

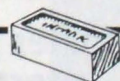
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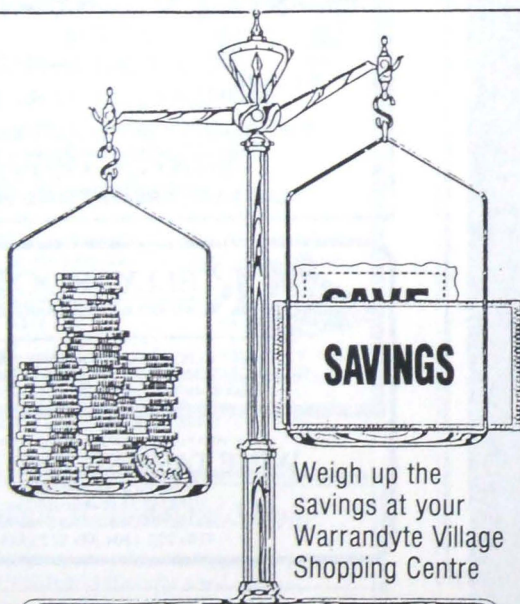
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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE  
WARRANDYTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AT THE  
WARRANDYTE MECHANICS INSTITUTE  
ON

WEDNESDAY JULY 13 at 8PM

"The thin edge of the green wedge.  
Can all of Warrandyte be subdivided?  
Is Warrandyte in Danger?"

Explanation of dual occupancy and zoning provisions.

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# Auxiliary seeks members

The Warrandyte Royal Women's Hospital Auxiliary has been operating continuously since it was formed in 1930 at the instigation of Dr Ethel Osborne, and it is believed to be the longest serving organisation of its kind in the municipality.

Over the years the auxiliary has raised money to provide much-needed equipment for the hospital, including five beds at a cost of \$1000 each. In recent years it has bought equipment to the value of \$17,000.

The auxiliary originated the Lilac Time Ball and ran 27, the last in 1961. The Historical Society re-

vived the Lilac Time Ball in 1986. It was so successful that it was held again in 1987 and now once more looks like becoming a fixture on Warrandyte's social calendar.

When Mrs Sylvia Hussey died last December she was the last of the original members to be still actively serving in the auxiliary. With money donated in her memory, the auxiliary is having a display case for memorabilia placed in the foyer of the Royal Women's Hospital. This display case will have a plaque dedicating it in Sylvia's name.

Included in the display case will

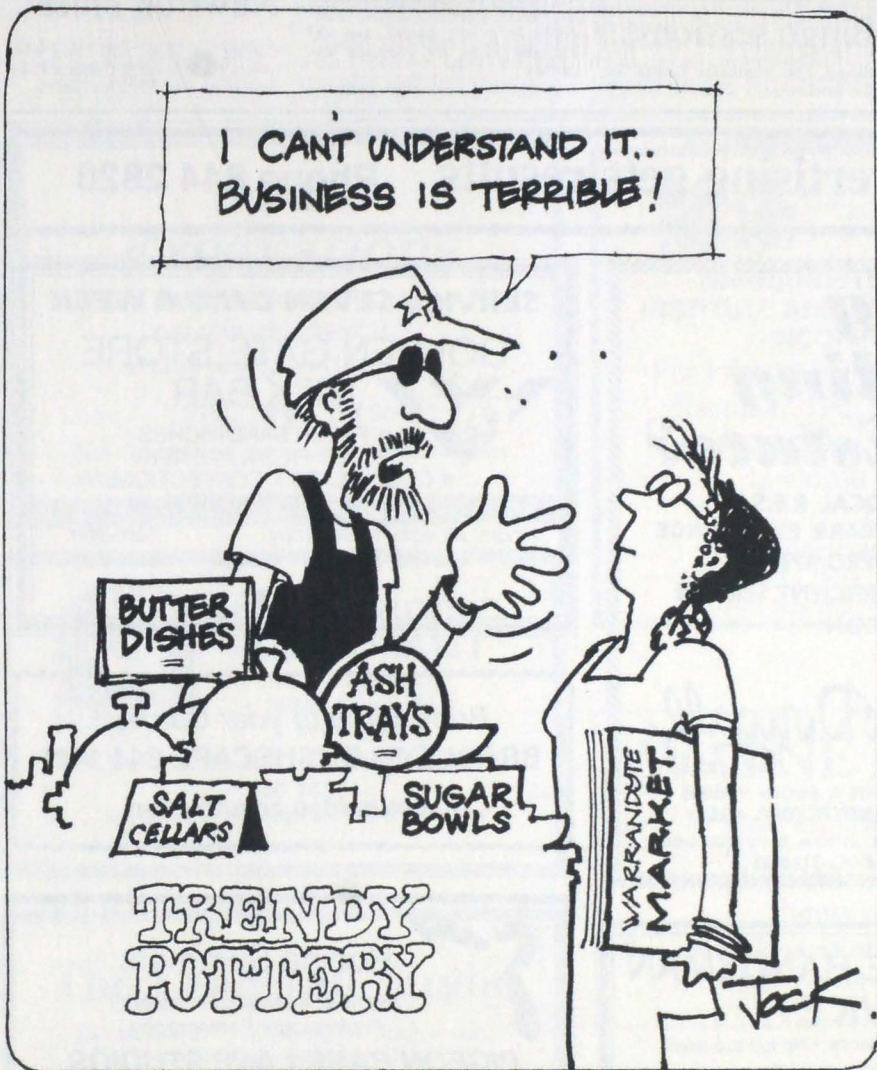
be Sylvia's 51-year Certificate of Service and a Life Governor certificate awarded to her in 1948. It was fitting that not long after Sylvia's death her 24th great grandchild was born in the hospital.

The Warrandyte auxiliary recently lost another dedicated member when Ruth Padgham died on May 7 at the age of 89 years. Ruth was a member of the auxiliary for more than 20 years and, even in latter years, despite failing health, looked forward to going to the meetings. She would stay in bed the day before to make sure she was fit enough to attend.

The Warrandyte Branch of the auxiliary meets each month and raises money through a number of activities including the trading table, raffles and staffing the Op Shop, as well as arranging other functions.

The membership has not changed a great deal over recent years and the auxiliary would welcome new members to its meetings. These are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the library of the Elderly Citizens Club at 1.30pm.

DULCIE CROUCH



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT..  
BUSINESS IS TERRIBLE!

## Fashion parade succeeds

A combined effort produced an extremely successful fashion parade recently in Warrandyte. The front verandah of the Bridge Gallery was the venue, and with tables and umbrellas from the Warrandyte Deli, proved an ideal place.

Chantik Fashion supplied the garments and accessories which included patchwork, bright stylish woollens, garments for winter wear and after-five fashions. Chantik Hair Design was responsible for the model's make up and hair styles.

The models were chosen from customers and staff and all handled their new role with great aplomb. The audience was most appreciative and it was generally agreed that it was both a great use of an unusual venue and a good opportunity to view the forthcoming winter styles.

The evening was made possible with lots of support from the other shopowners, customers and friends, and the two organisers, Robyn and Cathy from Chantik, will be hoping for similar support, if and when they undertake the next parade.

## Ex-MLA Cox tries again

The Liberal Party has pre-selected George Cox as its candidate for Nunawading Province. Mr Cox was the MLA for Mitcham between 1976 and 1982 and the Liberal candidate for Box Hill in 1985.

Nunawading Province has more than 120,000 voters and stretches across the Assembly seats of Box Hill, Mitcham, Ringwood and Warrandyte.

## Hill demands action on road

Lou Hill, the Member for Warrandyte, has demanded that Doncaster/Templestowe Council take immediate action to construct that part of Leber Street and Drysdale Road which connects Colin Avenue to Fossicker's Way, and to grade and gravel the remainder of these two roads.

"Doncaster/Templestowe Council has blocked off that part of

Drysdale Road, so obviously it agrees that the road is so bad as to be impassable.

"Council owes a duty to its residents to provide safe roads to their homes. We cannot wait months or years for a private road construction scheme," Mr Hill said. The MP's demands followed a meeting he had arranged between local res-

idents and the council's chief executive officer, Brian Harper. Mr Harper said that the maintenance agreement from the last temporary construction scheme expired in June 1987.

"That is an excuse we can't accept. Had council carried out proper maintenance up to June 1987, the roads would not be in such a shocking state today," Mr Hill said.

# chantik

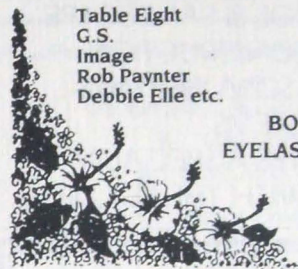
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1988-89

Young artists who usually live in the Warrandyte area are invited to apply for the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award for 1988-89. Applicants between the ages of 18 and 25 — working in any artistic field — are eligible. It is intended that a prize of \$5,000 be offered every two years to enable the winner to further their career as an artist.

Applications close 30 June 1988 and the winner will be announced in March 1989, during the Warrandyte Festival.

Further details and application forms can be obtained by writing to:

Warrandyte Youth Arts Award,  
P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113

Organised by the Warrandyte Diary in conjunction with the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.

Sole sponsor: The Lions Club of Warrandyte (Inc)

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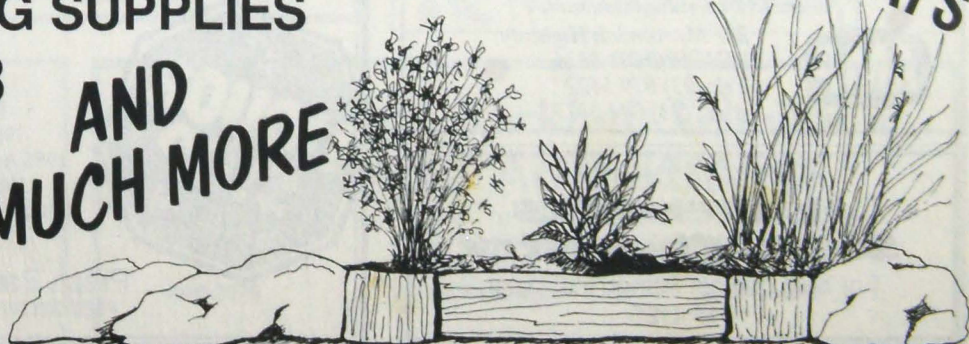
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## Green belt the topic at WAC Meetings

The future of the 'green belt' surrounding the township will be the main topic for discussion at the forthcoming annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Advisory Council.

"WAC is very concerned about the possible ramifications of Doncaster and Templestowe council's latest report on zoning in the Landscape Interest 'A' and the Residential 'D' zones," spokesman Mark Tansley told the *Diary*. "We have therefore decided to make this the subject of WAC's annual general meeting in July."

The meeting will be held in the Mechanics' Institute Hall at 8 pm on Wednesday, July 13. It is expected that such other important issues at dual occupancy and the proposed community centre will also be discussed.

## Why not hire a real trier?

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

Andrew, 30, has experience at gardening, laboring and is willing to try almost anything.

Mary, 15, has a small amount of office experience, typing, filing, research, etc. She would like a job in an office.

Anyone able to help is asked to contact Jean Chapman on 844 2548 or 844 3326.

Another Warrandyte Community Workshop Co-operative Ltd. project.

## Bingo sessions

Bingo! The Monkami Centre for the Intellectually Disabled holds a

## IN BRIEF



tremely useful advice to the meeting on preparing and handling budgets, and agreed to help members in the future. This discussion will be continued at the next meeting on Sunday June 26. Phone 844 1966 for details.

Members were also informed that the Shire of Eltham has approved community services development grant to the group.

bingo session every Monday at the Ringwood Bingo Centre in the basement of the Target shopping centre. Games start at 11am, noon, 1pm and 2pm.

## Solos get aid on budgeting

Budgeting on a limited income was the main topic of the Warrandyte Sole Parent Support Group's meeting on May 22. Members discussed the various aspects of coping financially as a sole parent, and exchanged ideas for reducing expenses.

A financial counsellor gave ex-

## Thanks: co-op

The Warrandyte Co-op thanks the Warrandyte Community Market Committee for a donation of \$500 towards the Co-op's running expenses.

## News on blues

Calling all blues fans. You now have a place to meet. Contact Peter Bartold on 844 3092 for details.

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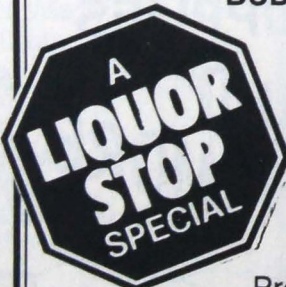
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# Locals rally to huge squash challenge

More than 150 local players are involved in what is being billed as the world's biggest squash tournament.

The players from Warrandyte Squash Centre are among 10,000 entrants in the Victoria-wide Expressway Transport Super Squash Challenge.

WSC manager Mike Betts told the *Diary* the event had attracted players of all standards.

Mr Betts said a round-robin series would be played at Warrandyte and centres throughout Victoria during June and July to establish

the best men and women players at each of four skill levels.

"Our best four men and women will then represent us as teams in a zone competition," he said.

"If either of our teams succeed, they proceed to an area final. The Expressway Transport grand finals in October are the ultimate goals."

The competition uses Super Squash scoring system. A point is scored after each rally and the winner declared after 25 minutes' play.

"Squash against the clock is an exciting spectator sport and the Warrandyte centre will be happy to arrange for interested spectators to

call in and watch the round-robin series," Mr Betts said.

"Expressway Transport has provided \$23,000 sponsorship for the challenge.

"Each entrant receives a T-shirt and there are minor prizes through to the finals.

"Teams in the grand finals will be playing for a first prize of \$3000 in both men's and women's events."

For further information, Mr Betts can be contacted at Warrandyte Squash Centre on 844 3001.

The centre will host a major junior racquetball competition in August. Details will be in next month's *Diary*.

## Bloods in business

From Page 10

change player Jerard Dickson. Elliott was dominating his wing and consistently setting up forward thrusts. It was difficult to pinpoint a Warrandyte player who wasn't at least breaking even.

The final stanza shaped as a procession as goals to Joey Hassall, Carroll, Wilson and Lachlan McLean saw the Bloods run to a 64-point advantage. But the Basin showed a lot of character to reverse the trend and finish full of fire.

Warrandyte's best were Elliott, Constance, Sturesteps, Wayne Clark, Stuart McLean, Chris Snaidero and Allsopp.

The reserves, who are also in the four, came from four goals down at three-quarter time to beat The Basin by 11 points in a high-standard thriller. Final score was 17.7 (91) to 12.8 (80).

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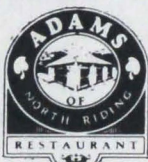
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# Halley's Bloods back in finals business

Write in Warrandyte for a place in the Eastern Districts Football League finals!

That was the projection among enthusiastic supporters as the Bloods entered the second half of the home-and away season with a 6-3 winning record, third spot on the second-division ladder and teamwork and confidence improving by the game.

Warrandyte grabbed third spot from The Basin with a big home win over that team. Final score was 20.14 (134) to 15.10 (100).

The only query against the Bloods' performance was that they allowed the visitors to kick the last five goals.

Coach Len Halley dismissed the "fade-out" which came when the game was well and truly won.

"Our fellows gave 100 per cent all day and might have tired a little," Halley said. "The commitment was first-class."

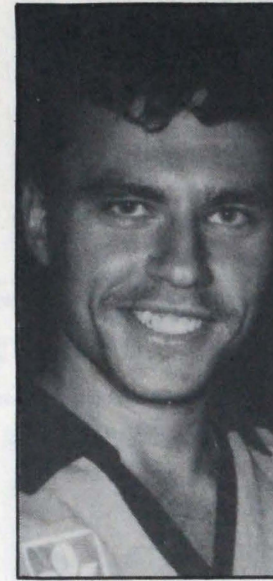
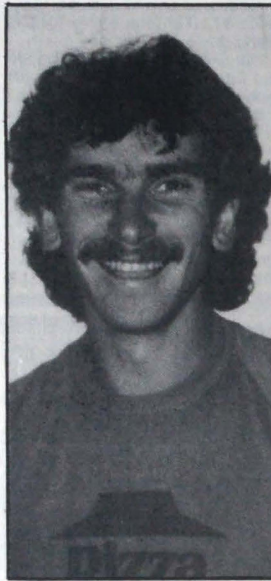
"It was a good win by a young side which has a bit of experience. Maybe we have found the right mixture at the right time."

"This is an even competition and it is going to be a matter of the players applying themselves at the right time."

Warrandyte president Kevin McLean was guarded in his consideration of the program ahead. He would say only: "I'd have to suggest we are a chance for the finals."

Mr. McLean said the Bloods were "improving all the time" and cited ladder-leaders Mooroolbark as obviously the team to beat.

The Basin gave early notice of their determination to retain third spot when they were quickly into



Matthew Elliott (left), Stuart McLean (centre) and Wayne Clark ... three of Warrandyte's best in a fine team performance against The Basin.

stride and drew first blood with a long, bouncing goal.

Warrandyte replied through Brian Scicluna and, with the team combining well, broke away mid-quarter to lead 6.5 to 3.2 at the first change. The scene had been set for the Bloods' fourth consecutive victory.

Trevor Constance had roamed the centre with telling effect and

Tony Sturesteps had drawn applause with strong dashes out of defence.

Pint-sized rover Steve Carroll, who had also been under notice, stretched the lead to 28 points before The Basin regrouped. Three goals in quick succession reduced the deficit to just nine points before Eugene Hansen, one of the youngest Bloods, put the home side back

on course by bouncing one through.

Goals to Gary Allsopp, Gary Wilson and Matthew Elliott put Warrandyte 30 points clear at the interval.

The Bloods extended that lead to 39 points at the last change with two goals apiece to Elliott and Lachlan McLean and one to inter-

Continued Page 9

## Whites will put you into gear.

Graeme and Heather White were house-hunting when they came to Warrandyte from Nunawading quite by chance last year.

They found what they wanted, moved in 12 months ago — and have now joined the burgeoning business community.

They have opened "Whites of Warrandyte" a specialist sporting gear and equipment shop at 266 Yarra Street, in the post office complex.

Apart from a wide range of trackuits, footwear and other gear, the new shop carries sports accessories and offers a repair and restringing service for all kinds of racquets.

The business carries the slogan "If you want it, we can get it."

"I want to know exactly what the people of Warrandyte want in this field," Mr White told the *Diary*. "We will cater for every need."

Mr White is an all-round sportsman who plays B-grade open basketball for Nunawading and coaches men's and women's teams there. Mrs White is a ballet teacher and proprietor of the Vermont School of Dance.

The couple have four daughters.

## Local 'old boys' get their act together

A past players' association has been formed to promote Warrandyte Football Club.

Any player who has represented the club at senior or reserves level is eligible to join and maximum participation is being sought.

"Our aim is to promote togetherness among past players and further enhance the atmosphere at the club," said Brian Tomlinson, one of the men behind the new group.

Mr Tomlinson, a former Warrandyte senior coach and South Melbourne player, said any funds raised by Past Players' Association activities would be ploughed back into the club in the form of trophies and equipment.

"We will not be in the business of buying players," he said.

The association held its first function — a luncheon — during the home fixtures against The Basin early this month. A similar event will be held in the new clubrooms on June 24, when Warrandyte play Beverley Hills.

If you have played for Warrandyte and would like to be part of

this new venture, contact Mr Tomlinson (876 2187) or David Mitchell (844 1465).

Warrandyte Football Club's remaining 1988 fixtures:

June 11, Heathmont (H); June 18, Mooroolbark (A); June 25, Beverley Hills (H); July 2, Mt. Evelyn (A); July 9, Fair Park (H); July 16, Norwood (H); July 23, South Waverley-Sandown (A); July 30, Upper Ferntree Gully (H); August 6, The Basin (A).

The word "stalwart" tends to be over-used in football club parlance — but not so in the case of our David (Mouse) Mitchell.

Mouse has presided, committed, played, coached ... you name it ... at Warrandyte and bobbed up as umpire in the reserves game against The Basin.

Nice job, too, although that opinion was unshared by a vocal local who couldn't agree that one of the Bloods had run much too far with the ball.

There goes your life member-

ship, Mitchell," the VL hollered. We very much doubt that.

Saturday afternoons have few dull moments for John (Titch) McCartin.

Titch, a hero of the Blood's 1983 premiership, plays his usual effective game in the reserves, then doubles as official runner in the seniors game.

And in the rooms, after eight quarters of football, he still has enough cheek to question the accuracy of your correspondent's shorthand!

According to the WFC membership card, senior games start at 2 p.m. It would be nice if they did because they would then finish in daylight.

But it was 2.30 (or very close to it) when the game against The Basin got underway and the last quarter was played in fast-gathering gloom.

Perhaps the two o'clock start is a printer's error.

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