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No. 207, February 1990

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Cork meets bottleneck; pop goes the evening

It happened again the other night. I dare say it will keep on occurring until Eltham Council stops making excuses and comes up with the money.

We were inside, fending off the heat, when we heard a familiar noise. We opened the door. A familiar cloud of white dust was drifting past. Within minutes, a familiar group of faces had gathered. We are drawn together by calamity and, by jingo, we may even have a calamity barbecue one of these days and get to know each other better.

Meanwhile, just down the road, a Volvo 244 station wagon was propped on its top, lights blazing and blocking the wrong side of the road.

The driver, who had hung upside down in his seatbelt for 30 seconds or so, had scrambled clear by the time we reached the scene. Good old Volvos: the four-wheel-drive trendies who plague this town may sneer but Swedish engineering ensures that most fools survive a doing.

And this dill had. He was wandering about and commenting crisply and pungently on his predicament. You could smell the pungency.

Meanwhile, the car lay upside down just around the reconstructed bend on Research Road, 100 metres up the slope from Brown's Lane.

I was a dill, too. I rang the police and a neighbor dialled the RACV. The North Warrandyte Fire Brigade — alerted by someone more sensible — arrived after 20 minutes.

A youngster wandered around the bend to where I had been flagging down traffic. And not very well. There seems to be a hard core of fools who flash their lights and speed up when some poor sod tries to tell them there is danger ahead.

"I'll take over," said the fireman, and lit a cigarette from the red flare he was waving.

The towtrucks (why are there always at least two?) arrived. The experts nudged the Volvo back on to its wheels, then winched the car up and on to the tray of the winner. "Can you sign for it?" the towies asked no one in particular.

Then came the flashing blue lights. "Anyone know where the driver is?" asked a young constable. Not really, we said.

The constable sighed, took the odd name, address and telephone number, and waited for the towtruck operator to say that he was ready to depart.

Without the car's driver, however, the towie had a problem. "You're sure you don't know where he is?" he asked, looking us over in the starlight. "Never seen him before," we answered truthfully.

But there is truth and there is short-changing the law. And in the middle is a grey patch. Did some of us know where he had gone? Maybe. But late on a hot January night no one was prepared to bother the fresh-faced representatives of the law with what they might have seen or might have heard.

Their anger was reserved for Eltham Council which boasts about the lovely corner it has constructed while forgetting that it continues to funnel traffic into an impossibly narrow 100 metres to meet the bend.

It seems so awfully difficult to get through to the buggers.



"Who'd have thought they'd put a road through the dead centre of Warrandyte?"

Road not needed

By DAVID WYMAN

The opening of a road reservation to allow access to a new single housing development has effectively divided the old and new sections of Warrandyte Cemetery.

The gravel roadway leaves Blair Street and goes straight through the cemetery to the back of an allotment fronting Trezise Street. The new road has surprised and angered the cemetery trust, some members of the Catholic Church and local residents.

The road has always been regarded as an unmade track, used by horse riders, walkers and for state park access. But it has been developed without consultation by council with the cemetery trust.

Doncaster and Templestowe Council issued a Permit to subdivide a half-acre block at 26 Trezise Street into two blocks.

Access to the front block is by the street. Council gave the developer access to the

rear block by the government road, provided that it was upgraded for traffic and provided there was minimum destruction of bush and trees.

Alternative access routes to Trezise Street or through the Catholic Church property "fell through" according to a council spokesman.

Bruce Bence, local historian and a trustee of the cemetery, said the trust was appalled to learn that the road reserve was to be opened for public access.

"The road will be a continuing hindrance to the operation of the cemetery. It will be detrimental to the peace, serenity and tranquility which visitors and mourners expect and to which they are entitled for all time," he told the *Diary*.

"The road will provide clouds of dust each summer and we expect the first heavy downpour to wash out the road, spreading metres of gravel over the cemetery.

"The trust believes that the granting of the subdivision without advising the War-

randyte State Park, the Catholic Church or the cemetery trust — all directly affected by it contravenes a planning scheme amendment. This requires the responsible authority to have regard for the existing and future amenity of adjoining land and of the neighborhood."

Bruce Bence said the graded and gravelled roadway passed about one metre from graves. The road would involve the cemetery trust in considerable expense in providing security fences and gates.

Marco Negri, the assistant statutory planner at Doncaster and Templestowe Council, said the road reserve had "been there since the year dot". It appeared on all plans of the town.

He said two appeals against the development had not been considered by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for various reasons. A more recent appeal seeking cancellation of the Permit had been lodged. At the time of the *Diary* going to press it had not been heard.

Daffy, no!
Ducky, yes!

The Warrandyte Festival will dazzle and deafen you this year with the theme of 'Color and Noise'. So start thinking of a costume and get involved on March 24 and 25.

The ever-popular duck race will be held again (the inside information is that they have a new, fail-proof starting device) and the sale of these little creatures will be on very soon.

The money raised from this event will be given to a local charity or organisation. Buy your duck early and start training!

Other events will include the Festival Floaties challenge, line throwing, boat rides and safety rules test. These events will be monitored by the Yarra River Lifeguard Service.

Established events include the parade, children's fancy dress, pet parade, cart rides, billy cart derby, fun run, kids market, food stalls, garden tours (due to last year's success, tours will be conducted on both days this year), Yarra yobbos, bin races and the spectacular concert finale and fireworks display on Sunday evening.

CYRIL BY PAUL W.




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IS building still booming in Warrandyte or are some of our builders slack on business, asks one of our scribes. Looking for a builder to erect a garage, he picked three from the local business directory. One phoned back a quote and was asked to put it in writing, but hasn't been heard of since. Another came, looked, said he was interested, but after many weeks, zilch. The third had a recorded message, an almost pleading little piece in which he said he hated listening to blank tapes. Well, after leaving two lots of name and address, and listening to this earnest fellow promise he'll call back, there's been nothing. And that's many weeks ago. Our scribe says he'll go elsewhere.

THE local cockatoo colony, really ripped into their New Year's Eve celebrations by tearing to shreds doors and window frames at the Warrandyte Tennis Club. The club has had vandal problems before, but this one's a bit different. Tennis supremo Greg Lawrence has appealed for help from the State Park rangers. Given that the local cockies are wild and don't speak English, he wants to know how he can convince the feathered hooligans that the clubhouse woodwork isn't chockful of tasty witchetty grubs.

THE No one Under 40 Can Spell Department. Phillip Island caravan park sign: "Kids — watch out for carless drivers!"

AND a special welcome to Veronica Jane, brand-new daughter for Mandy and Mark Bence of Yarra Street. Wilma and Bruce Bence and Judy and Cliff Green are the proud grandparents. Veronica — and her sister Claire — are sixth-generation Warrandytians.

IN RED & WHITE

NOW, here's a proposition for someone. A mate of Smokey's, with a swanky house down in Kew, is looking to arrange a swap with a Warrandyte family for a year or two. He wants rural peace and is prepared to give up his house on the outskirts of the city. Don't all rush! Pop your proposal in the *Diary's* box.

for a month and a half — was visibly upset at the chained Olive. The foul-minded swine then cheered up and was canvassing the possibilities when a seven-year-old picklock freed the captive as easily as the Liberal Party chooses dills to lead it. Stay home, Olive! And watch your wrists.

LOOK, we don't know who is responsible for the little idiot, but Smokey came across him up on Glynn's Road one Sunday night as the sun was setting. Thank goodness we were stationary, as the arrogant little sod certainly wasn't. About eight years short of a learner's permit, he gunned his imitation formula one round the corner and up on to the grass that obviously led to home.

Perhaps the coppers might like to watch out for him. His stupid parents obviously don't care that their golden-haired boy is breaking the law and risking death. But then, some kids do 'ave 'em, don't they?

POOR Olive Davis. Barely back from her six-week sojourn with the family in Port Moresby and she finds herself forced to celebrate her return with the Millingtons, the thirsty editor and advertising manager of this august journal. But they weren't the problem. It was five-year-old Lakani Davis who snapped a pair of plastic handcuffs on his mum. "Enough's enough," said Mrs Davis. "Get the key and set me free." "Um . . ." said Lakani, who is obviously a likely candidate for chief commissioner around 2025. Gareth Millington, who owned the bracelets, was questioned. "What key?"

Even with a thwack around the ear the key remained undiscovered. Mark Davis — without his missus



SMOKEY tries not to dump on his mates, but we can't help but gloat over the fate that has overtaken Lee Tindale, sports editor. Some three years ago the *Warrandyte Diary* trustees bought Tindale an Electric typewriter to replace the 30-year-old portable that he had used since his parents sold him into journalism for five pounds and three months' subscription to the 'West Australian'. Tindale stuck stubbornly to his manual, even though bits of it kept falling off and the letters "a" and "h" declined to appear. "I'm happy with it," he twittered *Diary* staffers who tried to lead him gently into the latter half of the 20th Century.

Last month the inevitable happened. The Smith-Corona fell to pieces as Tindale belted into it with his two fingers. "I suppose I'll have to switch to the electric," Warrandyte's Luddite told Jan. Now, can anyone explain to him how to use the "correction facility"? Lisa Tindale might be able to but feels she can't reveal to her father that she mastered the machine a good two years ago.



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EASTERN FREEWAY DEBATE STRIKES HOME . . . HERE ARE THREE VIEWS

MP fears Reynolds Rd chaos

The State Liberal member for Warrandyte, Mr Phil Honeywood, is concerned that lobbying by "localised conservation groups" outside the area could lead to the scrapping of the Eastern Freeway extension.

He suggests that an alternative major route, centred on Reynolds Road, could destroy the Yarra Valley through to Lilydale. He is asking local residents and conservation groups "to identify their priorities over the controversial freeway extension versus Reynolds Road issue".

"At the 1988 State election, the Cain Government promised it would extend the freeway from Doncaster Road along the Koonung Creek reserve to Springvale Road," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*. "Since then, a large number of conservation groups have been able to lobby the Government to defer and delay the project."

"Unfortunately for Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park residents, there is evidence to indicate that the Government is now seriously considering extending

Reynolds Road to become the major outer eastern route in place of the Eastern Freeway extension from Doncaster Road to Springvale Road.

"Most of these conservation groups comprise concerned residents of Box Hill, Balwyn and Ringwood, who stand to be most affected by the Koonung route."

"The danger is that if these localised groups are successful in stopping the freeway from proceeding down the Koonung Creek route, the extension to Reynolds Road,

through Warrandyte and Croydon to Lilydale, could become the major alternative to a freeway."

Mr Honeywood believes that the price of saving the Koonung Creek from freeway development, "could well be the destruction of the Yarra Valley all the way along Reynolds Road, through the Green Wedge areas, to Lilydale".

"If Reynolds Road were to become the new outer eastern highway, then it would most likely have feeder roads interspersed along the route, impacting upon Warrandyte

and Park Orchards townships."

Mr Honeywood points to increased Government finance for land acquisition along the route of the proposed Reynolds Road extension as evidence of the road becoming the major alternative to the freeway extension.

He also claims that a Transport Workers' Union spokesman strongly supported Reynolds Road as the alternative freeway route at a recent meeting at the Doncaster council chambers.

"The Liberal Party is committed

to the extension of the freeway along the Koonung Creek route, providing the safest and quickest route to the city. We support the extension of Reynolds Road, but only as a small scale main road, not as the major alternative to the freeway."

Mr Honeywood concluded by calling on such organisations as the Warrandyte Advisory Committee to conduct a survey of local residents, similar to that organised in Park Orchards, in order to ascertain their views on this issue.

Issues ignored: Polley Park Orchards says welcome

Concern is being expressed in Warrandyte that important issues are being ignored in the debate over the Doncaster freeway extension.

Councillor Val Polley believes that important environmental and social aspects have been overlooked.

"Most of the major arguments advanced so far have concentrated on alleviating traffic problems," Councillor Polley told the *Diary*. "Extending the freeway may bring some measure of temporary relief to these problems — in some areas — but at what cost?"

The building of this road along the Mullum Mullum and Koonung valleys is designed to cater for car and truck traffic. Councillor Polley believes that one obvious alternative — the provision of improved public transport — has received insufficient attention.

The Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands recently released a survey of flora and fauna in the Koonung and Mullum Mullum valleys. It states categorically that "construction and maintenance of the Eastern Arterial Road (the freeway extension) and Ringwood Bypass would have major effects on flora and fauna."

"Local communities rallied to preserve the Green Wedge conservation area between Warrandyte and Park Orchards," Councillor Polley said. "Yet many people in those same communities appear to accept a plan to run a major arterial road through a significant natural creek valley.

"The survey points out that constructing the road would eliminate large areas of vegetation, resulting in the probable loss of significant flora species. The effect on fauna is likely to be substantial."

Included among creatures threatened by the project is the broad-finned galaxia, a rare native fish that lives in Koonung Creek.

Important areas of native plants are found along the Mullum Mullum Valley. Of particular interest is the valley sclerophyll forest in the Hillcrest-Chaim Court area.

According to the study, "the proposed Eastern Arterial Road would eliminate or pass through the highest quality areas of remnant vegetation . . . (it) would greatly compromise the natural values of the study area, particularly in the Mullum Mullum Valley."

"Community attitudes have changed," Councillor Polley said. "Twenty years ago it was generally accepted that the cheap and easy way was to build roads along creek and river valleys."

"Surely, in these days of increased environmental awareness, with concern about the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect, people are accepting new priorities."

"The Warrandyte community has a fine reputation for protecting the environment. I do not doubt that they are prepared to consider all the alternatives facing them on this issue," Councillor Polley said.

Park Orchards residents have expressed strong support for the proposed extension to the Eastern Freeway.

A recent survey conducted by the Park Orchards Ratepayers' Association indicated that 86.5 per cent of residents polled supported PORA's moves to have the extension built. Only 9.5 per cent registered their opposition.

Although only 78 households in Park Orchards responded to the survey, PORA believes the results indicate an overwhelming level of support for the freeway extension.

"Local residents support the design of the extension as a proper freeway with separated interchanges, rather than a limited access arterial road with traffic lights at intersections with other arterial roads," PORA president Adrian Jackson told the *Diary*.

"A properly designed freeway, we believe, will provide smoother traffic flow, fewer accidents, less traffic delay, less traffic noise to adjacent properties and less air pollution from petrol wasted in idling vehicle engines."

However, almost 70 per cent of residents polled do not want a direct connection between the freeway extension and Park Road.

"PORA has always strongly objected to any direct access from Park Road onto the Eastern Freeway extension," Mr Jackson said.

"We recognise that a direct connection will attract more through traffic onto Park Road. This could adversely affect the amenity of our attractive community through higher traffic volumes and speed, greater noise and more accidents."

Park Road is a secondary arterial road averaging 4000 vehicles a day. It is a route for buses to Mitcham and Ringwood, and a terminus for freeway express buses to the city in peak hours.

"However, the steep grades and curves of Park Road are not suitable for higher traffic volumes or speeds," Mr Jackson said. "This is especially true near Mullum Mullum Creek and in the Alva Avenue to Hopetoun Road sections."

"PORA strongly believes that Park Road must be separated from the freeway extension, without access ramps in either direction."

It is proposed that Park Orchard residents will gain access to the extension by driving from Park Road to Mitcham Road, then to Springvale Road and onto the freeway.

The survey also indicated that 67 per cent of Park Orchards residents support the early construction of the so-called Northern Route as a divided road with two lanes each way.

"Our members and residents support the concept of this high standard primary ar-

terial road, cutting across the Green Wedge, without permitting abutting development," Mr Jackson said.

"We recognise the need to provide high quality roads for regional development. We believe that the rural Green Wedge must be retained with the exclusion of any strip development. The road must be built in sympathy with the landscape interest and conservation objectives of the area."

PORA also supports the early construction of two new linking roads to encourage through traffic to use the proposed northern arterial route.

The first of these roads would run from the intersection of Reynolds and Tindals Roads, across orchard country and the former council tip, to Stintons Road at Commercial Road.

The second would commence at the corner of Falconer Road and Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, proceed along Kendall Road to Hall Road and then across to Colman Road at the boundary between Doncaster-Templestowe and Croydon.

"The early construction of these two link roads will reduce through traffic on Yarra Street, Warrandyte and Park Road, Park Orchards," Mr Jackson said.

"It will achieve this by providing an excellent route, by-passing Ringwood, and offering easy access to the Eastern Freeway at Bulleen, to Bell Street and the Hume Highway through Heidelberg, or to Springvale Road and the southern suburbs from Reynolds Road."

Interchurch results in

The annual general meeting of the Interchurch Council of Park Orchards and Warrandyte was held early this month. New office bearers were elected. They are: president, Rae O'Shaughnessy; vice president, John Hanson; secretary, Lynne Sherwood; treasurer, Heather Ingram.

Gospel Chapel representative Lindsay Thatcher, who has been a member since the council's inception, was farewelled after many years service. The ICC expressed its gratitude to Lindsay for his valuable contribution.

The collection at the carols service totalled \$384. This has been forwarded to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

Primary colours for school

While some of us were undergoing transformations of our own in 1989, be it either work, weight or whatever, Warrandyte Primary went through a transformation of its own.

The school was painted inside and out. The old school building was completely refurbished and turned into an all-important fire refuge.

New carpets and heaters were installed in all rooms and the portables equipped with airconditioners. The new toilet block was completed and play equipment worth thousands of dollars was installed in newly landscaped gardens.

The principal, Ken Wing Jan, said: "The future for our school is very rosy and with a joint effort from our teachers and parents we would be able to continue to develop Warrandyte Primary as one of the best schools in the eastern region."

CORALIE SOUVATZIS



Former Warrandyte Diary reporter John Forster married Jenny Spiller on January 7.

John and Jenny are nurses and met at Box Hill Hospital in 1985.

There is something to be said for night duty after all.

John and Jenny live in Pantom Hill.

Kids give to help Tigray hungry

It started with an announcement by Rob Curtin, news director of 3MP. One of his youngest listeners, Laura Souvatzis, a seven year-old, Grade 1 student at Warrandyte Primary, heard Rob discussing the plight of Ethiopian children, particularly those in the drought-stricken areas of Tigray and Eritrea.

Laura told her mother that she would like to send all of her pocket money to help.

Her daughter's concern led Coralie Souvatzis to discuss with the principal, Ken Wing Jan, the possibility of the school's children contributing to an appeal.

"The children of Warrandyte" to "the children of Ethiopia" appeal ran for two days at Warrandyte Primary, just before Christmas. Pupils were encouraged to bring along a donation from their pocket money.

Gifts ranged from a few cents to several dollars, and resulted in a cheque for \$400 being presented to Mrs Margo Matthews from Community Aid Abroad.

It was a proud moment for Laura, representing the junior school, and Kerrie Beardell, on behalf of students from the senior school, as they presented their combined donation.

Mrs Matthews told the assembled children that their efforts were "incredible". To her knowledge Warrandyte Primary was the first school to make a combined effort donation, which she hoped would set a precedent for other schools.

Donations may still be sent to Community Aid Abroad, GPO Box 9920, Melbourne. Donations are tax deductible.

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TOM HAY

Man who served our town

The death of any member of the community is cause for sorrow and regret. When that person is a family man in the prime of life, and someone who contributed a great deal to his community, that sense of loss can be so much greater.

Such a man was Tom Hay, who died in Bendigo hospital on January 8, following a stroke. He was 47.

The very large number of Tom's relatives, workmates and friends who gathered for the funeral was some measure of the regard in which Tom was held. Appropriately, the service was held at the Warrandyte Recreation Reserve, where Tom had worked for a number of years.

Tom came to live in Warrandyte with his wife Margaret more than 20 years ago. He was a family man, who generously used the many skills he had acquired to help his friends and the community.

He was a keen sportsman, and in 1988 was made a life member of the Warrandyte Basketball Club. Tom was a player, coach and A grade referee, and was always available to show young players how to improve their skills.

He was president and a committee member serving Warrandyte junior football teams for a number of years and was also a water-skiing and golf enthusiast.

Tom was an active and valued member of the Warrandyte Fire Brigade for some 20 years and was one of the brigade's most competent drivers. The crew was always confident when Tom was at the wheel.

His experience driving buses and interstate transports developed the skills that enabled Tom to handle heavy fire vehicles in the difficult and dangerous terrain around Warrandyte.

He will be missed by the brigade, not only for his fellowship, ability and willingness to help, but also for his prompt response to fire calls, especially during working hours. He spent many hours working on the brigade equipment, ensuring it remained in top condition. Brigade members will especially



The Hay family: From left at the front . . . Margaret, Tom, Suzanne. Back: Kathryn, Paul, Darren and Greg.

remember that Tom, as driver of the bus on social occasions, was content to leave the drinking to others, so they could all enjoy a safe trip home.

Tom was given a full fire service funeral. The Warrandyte brigade marched behind the hearse from the recreation reserve to the fire station. They formed a guard of honor at both the reserve and the crematorium. The fireman's eulogy was read by Paul King, CFA regional officer.

Tom attended Coburg primary school, where he played drums in

the band. Warrandyte residents John Burns and Barry Scritchley have fond memories of playing in the school band with Tom. He went on to play in the Coburg junior brass band and in a jazz band.

For a number of years Tom worked, as driver and mechanic, for the company running school buses through North Warrandyte. If a small child fell asleep on his bus, Tom carried the little one all the way home.

Tom joined Doncaster council staff in 1983. He worked at the quarry, then transferred to the

Parks and Gardens Department, working first at Domeny Reserve, then at the Warrandyte Recreation Reserve as groundsman.

Looking after the reserve was more than just a job to Tom. He turned out to attend to any problem, day or night.

The people of Warrandyte extend their heartfelt sympathy to Tom's wife Margaret and to his children — Darren, Paul, Kathryn, Gregory and Suzanne. Tom Hay leaves a large gap in the ranks of the community he served so well.

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Plan rules are in force

Regulations to protect and preserve the special character of the township are now permanently in place, following the finalisation of the planning scheme for the Warrandyte Residential Zone.

Uniquely in Victoria, the new scheme totally forbids dual occupancy and flat development and provides much greater protection for the natural and historic environment than the previous Residential C zoning.

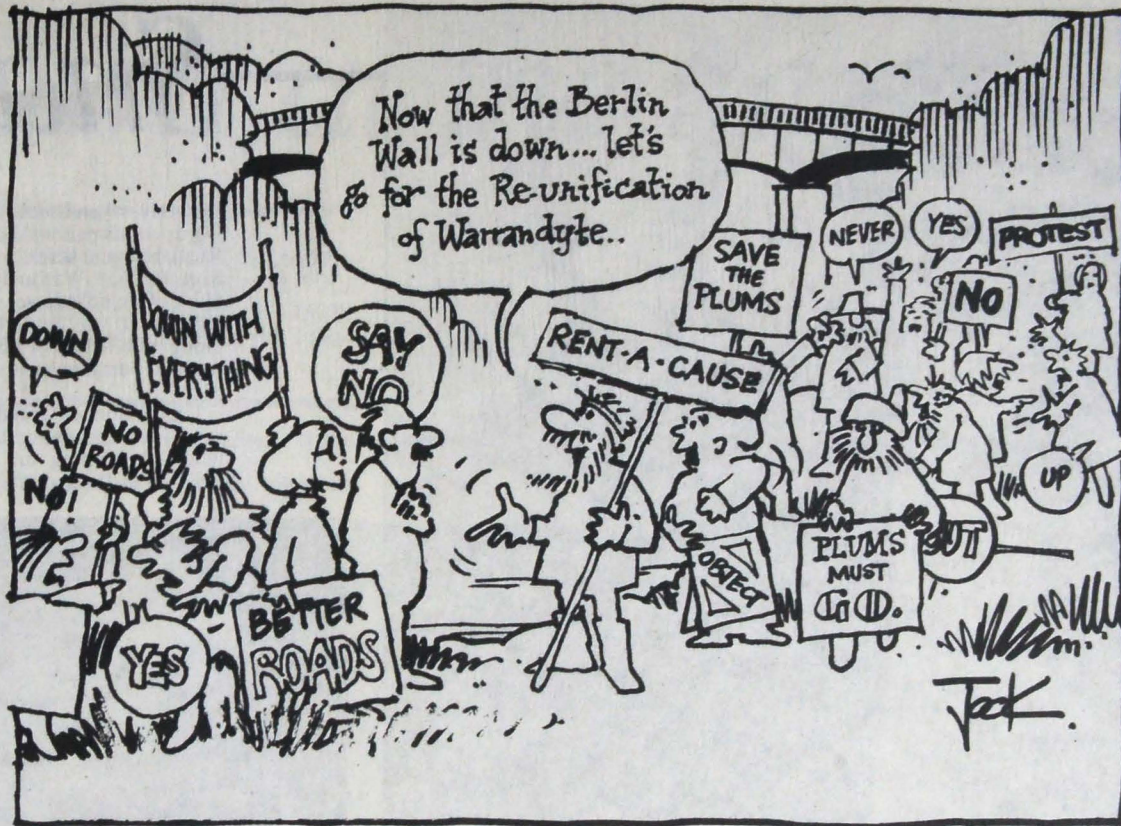
This victory for the community follows several years of concerted effort by many local groups and residents, campaigning against overdevelopment in the township area. Prominent in these efforts was the Warrandyte Residents' Group.

The final amended planning scheme is the outcome of a Ministry for Planning hearing which saw resident groups and individuals, strongly supported by a superb submission from the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, arguing the need to preserve this unique area.

However, some disappointment is being expressed that a number of important suggested provisions have not been included in the planning scheme.

"Dual occupancy and flat development have received their final death blows in Warrandyte," a spokesman for the residents' group told the *Diary*.

"But we are disappointed that a



number of important safeguards, strongly argued by virtually all those making submissions, have been ignored by the Ministry in the final document.

"For example, it was proposed that the minimum lot size in the township area should be 1000 square metres (approximately a quarter acre). We fondly hoped this would be enshrined in the scheme,

and although it is now council policy, an overnight decision could throw it out.

"Also, the previous planning amendment required that consideration should be given to the existing and future amenity of adjoining land and the neighborhood. Sadly, the words 'and the neighborhood' are no longer included, thus severely weakening the provision."

The final amendment allows such facilities as cafes, convenience shops, motels and medical centres in the residential zone, subject to council permit.

"Developments such as these can be the forerunners of the destruction of a residential neighbourhood," the spokesman said.

"Houses for these purposes are bought up for conversion or demo-

lition, frequently resulting in expanding commercial pockets within the residential area.

"With three commercial zones in the township, and no dwelling more than 1.6 kilometres from a shopping centre, it was argued that there was no need for additional commercial premises.

"The aim of the residents making

Eternal vigilance is the price

A report in a recent issue of 'The Australian Builder' alerts Warrandyte residents to the need to remain constantly alert if the dangers of overdevelopment in the township area are to be kept at bay.

According to the report, the Victorian State Government has initiated a review of the dual occupancy provisions of the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme, a review that the Master Builders' Association "was instrumental in obtaining".

Among the recommendations are increased floor area for dual occupancy and the introduction of dual occupancy provisions on a statewide basis, "particularly in all residential areas".

The builders' submission calls for legislation "to ensure that councils do not promote restrictive covenants on subdivisions prohibiting dual occupancy".

The builders are further requesting that action be taken against "municipalities that continue to thwart State Government policy and current or future legislation on dual occupancy".

By CLIFF GREEN

submissions at the hearing was to ensure we would not have to maintain an ongoing battle to preserve the area from the rash of overdevelopment that has engulfed other townships in the district.

"Unfortunately, the outcome of the hearing means that constant vigilance will still be needed if the community wishes to continue to preserve this unique area."

Rozzers to stay on

North Warrandyte residents will continue to be served by Warrandyte police for at least the next 12 months.

Under an extensive police reorganisation to be introduced on March 3, it had been planned to place North Warrandyte under the care of the Eltham police.

But Warrandyte police have been told they will retain their existing territory for at least 12 months. They will, however, be taken out of the Ivanhoe police district and join the Nunawading district.

Orchardists have voice

The *Diary* is pleased to announce the appointment of a correspondent in the Park Orchards area. She is Mrs Pauline Brooke of 55 Arundel Road, telephone 876 1351.

Pauline will welcome all Park Orchards news, including items on group activities, forthcoming events, sporting news, personal notes, letters to the editor, photos (black and white preferred) and so on.

Just give Pauline a ring or leave your material with Beverly Dickson at the post office.

Bushfire report fails the frail, says Webster

Fears that aged and frail people being evacuated in the face of a bushfire will be unable to take their pets with them are among serious problems identified in local emergency arrangements.

Ms Joan Webster of East Doncaster, author of 'The Complete Australian Bushfire Book' claims that an emergency information brochure has been prepared for Warrandyte residents, but Doncaster Council has refused to finance its printing and distribution.

"The council's bushfire emergency management plan does not inform Warrandyte residents of the whereabouts of evacuation assembly places," Ms Webster told the *Diary*. "Nor has it any procedure for informing residents about its designated community bushfire refuges."

"Therefore, residents who hope

to evacuate from a bushfire threat while it is still safe to do so — that is, before the threat becomes imminent — cannot make advance plans."

Ms Webster claims that the proposal is to doorknock at the time of the perceived bushfire threat to inform the aged and frail that they may be evacuated.

The City of Doncaster and Templestowe emergency management plan allows for the evacuation of "certain frail, aged and otherwise handicapped persons in the Warrandyte area".

It nominates eight cars and a minibus to transport these people, but, according to Ms Webster, gives no guarantee that these vehicles will be available.

"The plan also states that Warrandyte aged and infirm who hope to be evacuated from a bushfire

threat will not be allowed to evacuate their pets," she said.

The Doncaster plan for emergency relocation or evacuation will be "based on a potential, rather than an actual threat".

"There is no way a threat can be guaranteed to be potential," Ms Webster said. "Is it assumed a bushfire will start in another district, thus giving time to perceive the potentiality of its threat to Warrandyte?"

"Emergency plans are not activated until a bushfire has become serious enough to call in co-ordinating services."

According to Ms Webster, the Doncaster city emergency co-ordinator, Mr Richard Bramham, has prepared a bushfire emergency brochure to be sent to Warrandyte residents, "but council would not vote him the \$5000 to have it printed".

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Snapshot of a town at the turn



John Duter: four generations of his family have lived in the one house.

Recently, when Laurie Holmes was cleaning up at his parents' home in Warrandyte Road, he came across a copy of the Voters' Roll for the Warrandyte Riding of the Shire of Templestowe, dated 1899. Laurie believes it was brought to the property along with a box of his grandfather's letters and business papers.

Laurie Holmes' grandfather, John Speer, served an apprenticeship as a carpenter whilst developing an orchard. He later lived on the land during the week, return-

An old document, recently discovered in a Warrandyte house, provides valuable information about the people who lived in this area almost 100 years ago. Using historical society records, and with the help of many local residents, **BRUCE BENCE** has pieced together brief glimpses into the lives and times of a number of these people.

ing to his home in the suburbs at the weekend. He bought a weatherboard house, cut it in half with a handsaw and moved it to its present site using a horse team. John's daughter Ruby married Bernard

Holmes, well remembered for his bees and honey, and they lived on the property all their married life.

Almost all the property in the riding was owned by the people who lived on it. Considering that two pounds (\$4) was a living wage at the time, the ten pounds one shilling (\$20.10) paid in rates by Elizabeth Duter (see below), for a small house on less than one acre of land, was equivalent to five weeks wages.

At the time the roll was produced, property owners had one, two or three votes,

depending on the rates they paid. This system continued at least until the end of the 1950s.

Unfortunately, problems of time and space have prevented us from including all the families listed on the roll with connections still in the district.

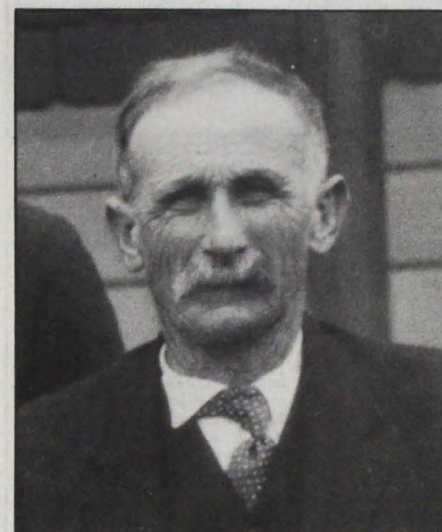
• The complete 'Voters' Roll for the Warrandyte Riding of the Shire of Templestowe, 1899' is being reprinted, and copies will soon be available for sale at the Citizens' Advice Bureau at the old post office in Yarra Street.



Henry Aumann's orchard still stands at the corner of Tindals and Harris Gully Roads.



Mary Hussey: took up land in what is now Hussey's Lane in 1893.



William Aumann started his orchard on land next to his brother's but two years later.



Alice Hutchinson: first woman poundkeeper in Warrandyte.



Bathia Speers: she gave the site on which the Gospel Hall stands.

VOTERS' ROLL FOR THE WARRANDYTE RIDING OF THE SHIRE OF TEMPLESTOWE, MADE IN THE YEAR 1899.

NUMBER	VOTER'S SURNAME	VOTER'S CHRISTIAN NAME	RESIDENCE AND POSTAL ADDRESS	TRADE OR OCCUPATION	DESCRIPTION & SITUATION OF RATEABLE PROPERTY	Value of Property	Number of Votes	Electoral District
1	Andrew	John	Deep Cr., Templestowe	farmer	house and land, Deep Creek	£61	2	Division of Yarra
2	Atkins	John	Bullen, Templestowe	carter	land, Warrandyte	12	1	Division of Yarra
3	Aumann	Henry	Warrandyte	gardener	house and land, Warrandyte	30	2	Division of Yarra
4	Aumann	William	Warrandyte	gardener	land, Warrandyte	15	1	Division of Yarra
					house and garden, Warrandyte	3	1	Division of Yarra
					land, Warrandyte	5	1	Division of Yarra

Part of the 1899 roll.



John Speer: this colonial volunteer was the son of Alexander and Bathia Speers.



John Hutchinson: son of Alice and poundkeeper from 1896 to 1957.

The women who bucked the sexist trend

Among ratepayers listed on the roll, eleven are female. How these women came to own their properties and how they managed to survive independently in those hard days is a matter of some interest.

HARRIET BELZER was the widow of Philip Belzer, who died of pneumonia whilst working on the Maroondah Aqueduct in 1889. Harriet and Philip's descendants still live in Warrandyte, there being third, fourth and fifth generations living here today.

ELIZABETH DUTER was the sole surviving member of the family of William Hastings and his wife Mary, perhaps the most tragic family ever to have lived in Warrandyte. By the time William died in 1892, his wife and ten of his twelve children were dead, nearly all from consumption.

Only two daughters — Caroline and Elizabeth — survived William. Caroline married and had a daughter who died in infancy, some two months before Caroline herself died of consumption.

Elizabeth inherited the property, on the eastern corner of Russell Road and Yarra Street, and married Joe Duter. They lived there until Elizabeth died in 1945, aged 84. Joe Duter died in 1954. The house, virtually unchanged since it was built, has remained in the family. It is presently occupied by Elizabeth's grandson Peter Mann and his wife Joan.

ALICE HUTCHINSON (nee Blair) was the widow of William Hutchinson, who died from pneumonia in 1896. She was pound keeper from 1878 to 1887 and was the first woman to hold this position at Warrandyte.

Members of the Hutchinson family were pound keepers from 1855 until the death of Alice's son John in 1956. There are still third, fourth and fifth generation descendants living on part of the property.

MRS A HARDMAN paid rates on a house and garden in Parson's Gully, but nothing is known of her or the property concerned.

MARY HUSSEY was one of the few women who owned land in her own right. In September 1893 she paid one pound eight shillings (\$1.90) for a licence on an allotment of 19 acres in what was to become Husseys Lane at South Warrandyte.

Mary was the daughter of Ben Logan, a miner who arrived in Warrandyte in 1853. Mary and her husband William, who was a driver and horse-breaker with Cobb & Co, moved to the land in 1895, Cobb & Co having closed their Lilydale operation following the extension of the railway to Warburton and Healesville.

There are fourth, fifth and sixth generation descendants of Ben Logan and his wife Jane at present living in Warrandyte and South Warrandyte.

CAROLINE MASTERTON was the widow of William Masterton, who had died in 1886. William Masterton was the stonemason who, with James Sloan, built the Anderson's Creek School, now Warrandyte Primary School, in 1875. He owned the property now known as 'Yarra Gold Cottage' in Yarra Street, as well as another large area of land between Mitchell Avenue and Brackenbury Street.

MARGARET McDONALD's husband died in 1885. At the time of his death he was a storekeeper at Anderson's Creek.

MRS PENDER's husband John died in 1897. His occupation at time of death was given as 'gentleman'; usually meaning someone of independent means. At the time, Mrs Pender lived in the area opposite the cemetery. That section of Brackenbury Street was then known as Cemetery Road.

AMELIA STIGGANT was the wife of Henry Stiggant junior, and both she and her husband owned land in Warrandyte in 1889. Henry Stiggant junior was a councillor and successful miner. At one time, in partnership with his father, he owned the rich Pig Tail mine.

Amelia, her husband and her father-in-law Henry Stiggant senior, paid the highest rates in the riding, with the exception of Laban Peter-Budge.

was used by the Presbyterians from 1923 until it was burned down on January 13, 1939.

George, James and John Speers were all sons of Bathia and Alexander.

ELIZABETH STEWART paid rates in Warrandyte in 1899. Elizabeth's maiden name was Tortice, and she was the sister of George Tortice senior, who, with George Tortice and John Stewart (Elizabeth's husband) all became owners of adjacent land at South Warrandyte in January 1882.

WILLIAM and HENRY AUMANN's father, Ernst August Aumann, came to Australia from Silesia around 1850 to avoid conscription into the Prussian army. He settled in Doncaster. Around 1892 he bought the land between Tindals Road and Harris Gully Road from Thomas Hicks for his sons William and Henry. Henry had built a house on his land, which fronted Tindals Road, before 1899. This explains the variation in the rates they paid.

William's daughter Mary still lives in the home

Descendants live on in village

The voters' roll for 1899 contains a number of well-known Warrandyte families, many of whom have descendants still living in the area, some on the same land.

AUGUST ANDREW owned land on the Warrandyte side of Deep Creek (now called Mullum Mullum Creek) and west of Target Road. When his daughter Kate, aged two days, died on July 27, 1888, she was buried on the property, and is the last recorded person to be buried on private property in the municipality. It is believed heavy flooding prevented her remains being taken to the cemetery. The property was then known as 'Mount Pleasant Farm'.

WILLIAM and HENRY AUMANN's father, Ernst August Aumann, came to Australia from Silesia around 1850 to avoid conscription into the Prussian army. He settled in Doncaster. Around 1892 he bought the land between Tindals Road and Harris Gully Road from Thomas Hicks for his sons William and Henry. Henry had built a house on his land, which fronted Tindals Road, before 1899. This explains the variation in the rates they paid.

William's daughter Mary still lives in the home

his father built on his land. Four generations of the Aumann family have lived on the land, which has been under orchard for more than 90 years.

CHARLES F. BLAIR was one of the earliest settlers in the Warrandyte area. Christopher and Edmund were his sons. 'Gentleman' was Charles's listed occupation. Charles and Edmund owned adjacent blocks between Keen Avenue and Andersons Creek, and Christopher later bought the land between his father's property and the Church of England.

Christopher married Harriet Belzer in 1893 and they lived on the block of land on the north corner of Everard Drive and Yarra Street (or Main Road, to give it its then local name). Charles's descendants still live on the land where he originally settled.

COLMAN is a well-known name in South Warrandyte. Peter's son Jack, who lived on his father's property, was a councillor for 23 years and a tireless worker for the South Warrandyte district. It is fitting that Colman Park should be named after him. The Colman family was one of the first to settle in South Warrandyte, and members of the family are still living on the original land.

WILLIAM LEWIS operated a crushing machine or stamping battery, powered by a waterwheel and used to crush quartz. The site of this battery (not to be confused with the State Battery which was opposite the present site of 'Pancakes on the Yarra') is thought to have been on the river bank, between the old post office and the bridge.

CHARLES NEWMAN, of Deep Creek, Templestowe, inherited 'Pontville' from his father, Major Charles Newman, who died in 1865. Charles married Mrs McAuley, who was the grandmother of Lillian (Mrs Whitehead) and Jack, Bill and Ralph McAuley.

JAMES SLOAN was the stonemason who, with William Masterton, built the Andersons Creek (now Warrandyte) school in 1875. James and Margaret Sloan had 14 children. (Surprisingly, only one of them died in childhood; this at a time when more than 25 per cent of children died before they reached the age of two years, and half the population before they were 21 years old.) Their descendants still live in the Warrandyte area.

HENRY SQUIRES' occupation is given as postmaster, a position he held from May 1889, up until Eihel Speers became postmistress in October 1900. Henry was owner of what is now known as the Whitehouse, which he inherited from his stepfather, William Collins. This property was held on a miner's right, for which he paid five shillings (50 cents) a year.

Henry Squires was agent for the 'Evelyn Observer' (printed at Kangaroo Ground from 1875 until 1919) and is thought to have been the paper's Andersons Creek correspondent. He was deputy registrar of births, deaths and marriages from 1891 until 1918, a post he inherited from his stepfather.

The **TORTICE** family were early settlers in South Warrandyte. George senior and George junior became owners of adjacent blocks of land in 1882 and their descendants still live in the area.

FRANCIS TREZISE is listed as hotel keeper. He was manager at the Grand Hotel and later owned it. The hotel remained in the family until after the second world war.

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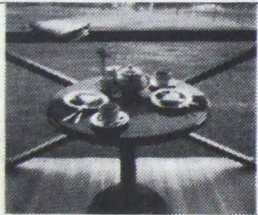


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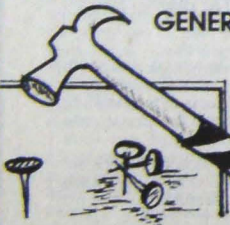
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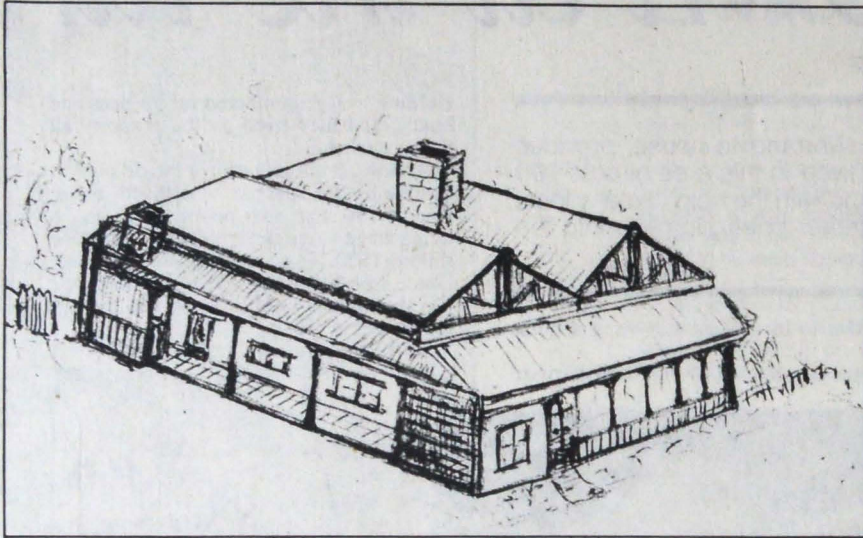


TELEPHONE

RICHARD SWIFT

844 2300

LETTERS



Cop this version

I have read with interest Cliff Green's article about the building at the Warrandyte Recreation Reserve that has come to be known as the Whitehouse.

I also believe that the building is a significant one and has played an important role in the history of Warrandyte and should be preserved.

I think that the proposal to remove the top floor added in the 1930s and restore the building to its original single-storey form is a good one.

Kevin Parker's impression of such a renovated, single-storey building does not, in my opinion, represent an appropriate style for such a restoration.

The owners of the Warrandyte Recreation Ground Cafe and Dance Hall from 1910 until the early 1930s were Mr and Mrs Lowe, my grandparents, and I was familiar with the property during the 1920s as I frequently visited and often stayed with my grandparents.

Les Adams' drawing of the Whitehouse as he remembers it.

I enclose a sketch of the building as I remember it and you will observe that the main structural difference in the two sketches is in the roof lines.

The old building did not have gable ends, but I have sketched them in my version, as I believe that such a modification would improve the appearance considerably without sacrificing the simple design of that era.

Les Adams,
Warrandyte-Heidelberg Road.

Thanks to the High

I am puzzled sometimes when I hear of Warrandyte parents sending their children to schools out of the area. I know distant fields are greener and in the past I have been caught by that one too.

This letter is just to put on record

a thanks to Warrandyte High School for education and individual attention to three children over the years and two more years to go.

As most families experience to their surprise, each child is so different, at least we parents can see it. In my experience Warrandyte High School teachers were caring and discriminating of individual differences.

The school results in external and internal examinations are good to excellent. When there is failure, there is a caring, not a punitive attitude, a sharp jolt when needed with a touch of humor to win the child's respect.

There are ski trips, an excursion to Kakadu, a beautiful garden developed by parent involvement, excellent musical productions, a school dance, a school canteen — yes all the frills and the basics too.

Good education like all good personal services cannot necessarily be bought by the highest bidder. Good teaching has a way of emerging just around the corner when no-one is looking.

There are extra maths classes at lunch times for those in difficulty!

Louise Joy,
Brackenbury Street

High sees 90% pass the VCE

Warrandyte High School has once again registered an outstanding final year pass rate with no fewer than 90 per cent of students satisfying tertiary entrance requirements at last year's VCE exams.

"There were some marvellous individual results amongst the students," deputy principal Mr Joe Ardley told the *Diary*. "One girl achieved 100 per cent in Human Development and Society, and there were many scores above 90 per cent amongst the 31 As achieved."

The school is justly proud. In particular, there were a number of students who overcame either medical disabilities or personal hardships to gain their VCE. "They should take pride in their achievements, as the VCE is tough going, even for students who are physically and emotionally in top shape," Mr Ardley said.

Works on the old site at the high school will begin this year. The State Government has set aside \$75,000 for this task, and an extra \$10,000 has been allocated for minor works. The new school oval has now been completed.

This year will also see the high school co-operating more closely with Warrandyte and Andersons Creek primary schools.

Mr Johan Elsmann, who teaches Japanese at the high school, will be spending time each week in the primary schools, introducing the children to the Japanese language and culture.

"It is hoped that our community will be further enriched by this additional link between our schools," Mr Ardley said.

Drug charges

Warrandyte police charged two men with firearms and drug offences after they were called to a house in Bradleys Lane on January 21.

One of the men was charged with three firearms offences. On the following day, police issued a warrant to search the property and found eight marijuana plants. Another man was then charged with cultivating and possessing drugs of addiction.

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Knitters for Expo

Get out your needles, knitters. There is still time to make a scarf or hat for St Stephen's Expo '90 at the Warrandyte Festival, commencing March 24. The many other categories of competition include, in the open section, best painted gum leaf, best dahlia, best photographic enlargement, best poem about the festival, best loaf of bread and best item of craft (any medium) and, of course, those pumpkins you are growing.

In special children's sections there are competitions for best fruit/vegetable animal or person (primary school students only), best computer picture (under 12 and over 12) and best snapshot (also under 12 and over 12). For further information give Ann Ley a ring on 844 3543.

Annual meeting

The North Warrandyte Community Centre committee of management will hold its annual general meeting at the North Warrandyte hall on Tuesday, March 13 at 8.30 pm. All interested residents and users of the hall are invited to attend.



Ron Fletcher with the medallion he received for many years' service to the Corps of Commissionaires.

Flautist

As part of its 'Music in the Courtyard' series, the Box Hill-Doncaster regional library will present flautist Judith Watkins in a program of romantic works on Sunday, February 25. Judith will be performing in two sessions — 1.45 to 2.30 pm and 2.45 to 3.30 pm. Admission is free. The library is at 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. For further information contact Tracy Gibson, 890 1002.

Medallion

During the Corps of Commissionaires' annual family day, held at Warrandyte Primary School recently, local resident Ron Fletcher was presented with a medallion for dedicated voluntary service to the corps. This well-deserved token was in recognition of a lifetime of service to the corps and to the nation. Ron and wife Heather came to live in Warrandyte about eight years ago.

Thanks to friends

Ruth Smith of Webb Street has asked us to thank her many Warrandyte friends for their help and expressions of sympathy on the death of her son, David Malcolm. Malcolm, aged 42, grew up in Warrandyte. He was killed in a road accident on the Hume Highway at Gunning, New South Wales, on December 20.

Amnesty

Amnesty International, the organisation working for prisoners of conscience around the world, now has a local group that meets once a month in Warrandyte. Telephone 427 7055 for further information.

Left behind

The Citizens Advice Bureau has a copy of the booklet 'How to get out of sexually transmitted debt', published by the Women and Credit Task Group. If you have found a pile of unpaid bills among the souvenirs of your former relationship, drop in to the CAE at the old post office in Yarra Street, or give them a ring on 844 3082.

We can help

This corner of the Diary exists to help you publicise your group's approaching activities, or to carry some item of personal news you want known in the community. All we ask is that you type or write clearly and include all the details; especially date, time, place and telephone contact number. And remember, copy closes on the last Friday of every month and the paper comes out somewhere between the 15th and 20th of each month.

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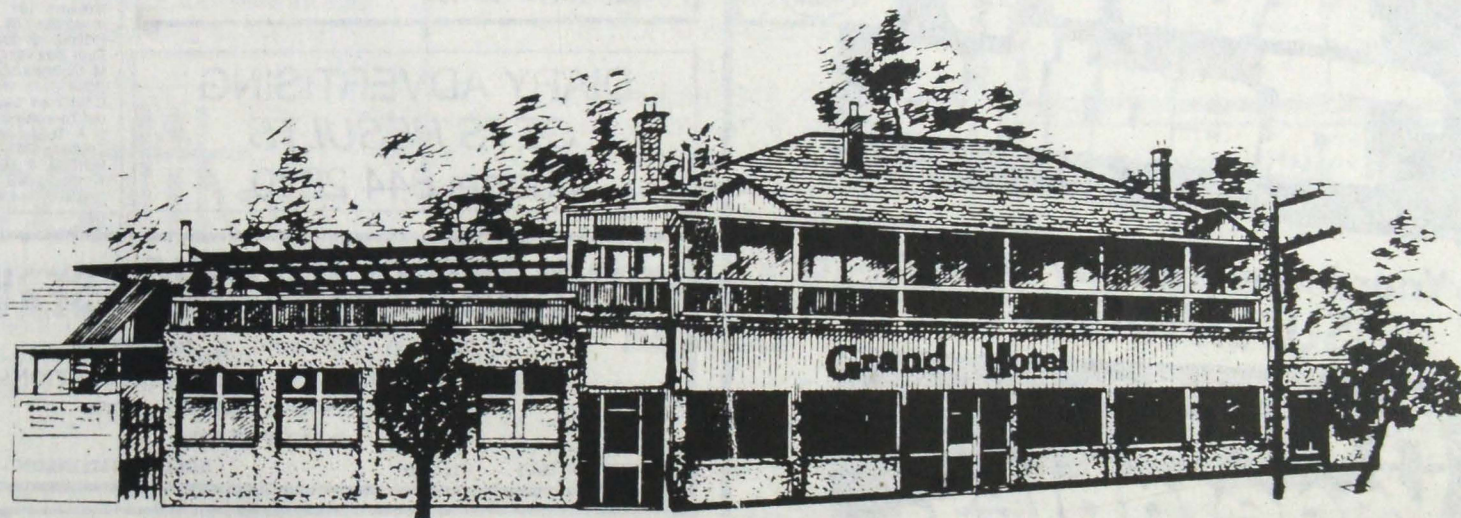
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The Grand Hotel is sad to announce the closure of Fossikers Restaurant and would like to thank customers for their patronage in that area. However, counter lunches will be available Monday to Sunday and evening meals Monday to Saturday nights.

Fossikers will now be the venue for live entertainment every Friday and Saturday night from Friday the 9th of February.

Keep an eye out on what's going on at

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After-school care for Research

Max McDonald, the Member for Whittlesea, has announced money for out-of-school-hours childcare at Research Primary School.

Mr McDonald said the money would allow the school to provide care for up to 30 children this year. "This program helps working parents and, in particular, working mothers," Mr McDonald said.

"Lack of out-of-school-hours childcare prevents some women from entering the workforce, studying or retraining."

Mr McDonald said the Government's Out-of-School-Hours Childcare Program, which began in April 1988, had already provided 3300 childcare places around Victoria.

"That means the Government is well on the way to the target of providing 4000 childcare places through this program," he said.

More than 100 schools are getting money under the program.

Come and join

The Park Orchards Junior Football Club will hold a registration day on Sunday, March 4, at Domeney Reserve. Registration starts at 5 pm, with a barbecue to follow.

The club is seeking teams from Under-9 ("Tackers") through to Under-16. For further information contact Doug Taylor (876 3574) or Lyn Ferrall (722 1621).

Cricket results

CHANDLER SHIELD
ROUND 6: Warrandyte 173, B. Baker 42, Colin Dorning 60, def Sth Croydon 132. J. O'Brien 4/36

ROUND 7: Warrandyte 159, A. Snaidero 36, S. Pascoe 31, lost to East Ringwood 4/267

ROUND 8: Warrandyte 6/174, G. Tregear 79, D. Sloan 52, def Lilydale 6/168. J. O'Brien 4/55.

ROUND 9: Warrandyte 300, M. Day 86, G. Tregear 41, D. Sloan 38, def Sth Ringwood 7/284. J. O'Brien 3/92.

ROUND 10: Warrandyte 164, C. Day 38, T. Sturesteps 37, M. Day 31, S. Pascoe 25no, lost to Mooroolbark 7/250. G. Walshe 3/65.

ROUND 11: Warrandyte 7/209, G. Tregear 75, D. Sloan 36, lost to St Andrews 9/258.

WOMEN A. EAST
ROUND 5: Warrandyte 195, J. McLaws 105, J. Chapman 35, def Montrose 188, J. McLaws 5/49.

ROUND 6: Warrandyte 45 lost to East Box Hill 75, A. Tunbridge 3/12, M. McGhee 3/27.

ROUND 7: Warrandyte 3/237 dec. E. McGhee 55no, A. Tunbridge 98, def Tooronga 54, 228, J. McLaws 4/9, A. Tunbridge 4/3. 2nd Innings S. Egeberg 5/67.

ROUND 8: Warrandyte 7/163, A. Tunbridge 82, J. McLaws 38, lost to Nth Croydon 7/340.

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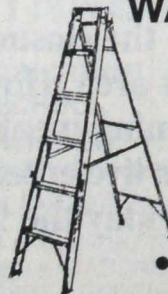
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Tug that ended in a tussle

January, 1890: Anderson's Creek New Year's Day sports. A very fair attendance, with weather all that could be desired. Everything passed off very well, with the exception of the conduct of certain members of the Lilydale contingent.

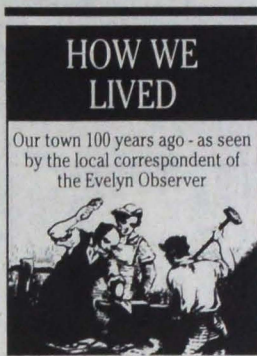
Mr Hatrick, who was assisting the committee, got rather roughly handled. After the tug of war, Kangaroo Ground v. Lilydale, there seemed to be an evident desire with the latter to have a general row, which, with police protection, would have been avoided.

I am sure that next year when the matter is brought before the Chief Commissioner of Police, our local constable will be allowed to remain. We have always been noted for the admirable behaviour of both visitors and residents hitherto.

Mr Hutchinson JP acted as judge, and Mr John Atkins starter. The whole of the arrangements were admirably carried out by the Hon. Secretary, Mr E. Squires. Sixteen pounds four shillings and sixpence was paid away in prizes, and after playing everything a balance will remain in hand. An enjoyable dance agreeably wound up the proceedings.

I am given to understand that the preliminaries have been settled respecting the severance of the Doncaster Riding from the Shire of Bulleen.

As the wish was unanimous, the Government makes no objection; so as soon as the necessary forms are completed I suppose the general election will take place in the separate shires. I suppose the Tem-



HOW WE LIVED

Our town 100 years ago - as seen by the local correspondent of the Evelyn Observer

plestowe and Warrandyte ridings will retain the old title.

The intensely hot weather recently has thoroughly changed the aspect of the country round about us, and bush fires have been prevalent although no very serious losses have occurred. Care has been exercised for their prevention. Volunteers have worked with a will and prevented any serious spread to surrounding homesteads.

Fishing parties who have recently visited us have had tolerable success. The river is exceptionally low, and very favorable for lovers of the gentle art. The herring season is on and fly fishing has started. Strangers should pay us a visit. The fishing is close to the township and would amply repay them for their journey.

The fruit season has, with the

exception of cherry plums, been a remunerative one. Owing to the scarcity of rain, however, it has run smaller than ordinary. There is a good scope of ground here that is only fit for vineyards and orchards which would eventually prove highly remunerative, and I cannot for the life of me understand why it has been left.

We are comparatively close to the Melbourne market with always a chance of the disposal of products; however it's like a good many other things, when we become known, it will come with a rush. We ought to get the Governor, the Ministry, and a few dozen reporters to visit us.

Nothing new. Mining is at a standstill. Shandygaff in demand.

February 1890: The first annual picnic in connection with the Warrandyte Sunday School took place on Thursday, the 6th inst. An invitation to all the children on the Creek was also taken advantage of, and between 50 and 60 mustered on the local recreation ground in spite of the intensely hot weather.

The usual good things provided for such occasions were done ample justice to. Foot races and the usual other sports incident to children were eagerly contested for. A few of the parents and friends put in an appearance during the day, and an exceedingly pleasant day was enjoyably spent by all.

To Mr E. Squires (the superintendent) and the Misses Symington and Cargill (the lady teachers) the thanks of the community are due, not only for their efforts in making

the Sunday school a resort for religious instruction for the children but their successful method in carrying out the same.

The fact of the gazettement of the application for the severance of the Doncaster Riding from the Bulleen Shire should give a fillip to get the matter completed as soon as possible. That it is impossible, under the present circumstances, for satisfactory business to be done when the respective members are so antagonistic is apparent.

When the Doncaster members have the ruling of their own business I have no doubt they will be a happy family indeed. They are respectable, intelligent gentlemen, but obstinate under the present regime.

I have written so often about the Evelyn Tunnel that at present it would be wise to wait yet a little longer before stating an actual start. I have had faith in this from the start. There is very little doubt that a very payable affair will eventually come out of it, and the sooner actual work is started the better.

There is also some talk of prospecting. This is badly wanted, and the expense would be small. Whether any application will be made for a portion of the mining grant I have not heard. Yet it is worth trying for.

The weather has decidedly changed for the better, yet rain is very much needed. Farmers cannot start ploughing under present circumstances.

(From the Newspaper Collection, State Library of Victoria.)



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Hold the spring rolls! I'll have the nostalgia

By ROGER KIBELL

I've just been to a marvellous Vietnamese restaurant. It's called Thy Thy and is one of those crowded upstairs, basic eating houses in Victoria Street, Richmond.

I ate Vietnamese rice paper rolls, small spring rolls in lettuce, bean shoots and Vietnamese mint. The vermicelli and noodle soups were piquant and the curried prawn dish flavoursome without being overpowering.

The restaurant was overflowing with families as well as the usual assortment of "the scene" in their studied-nonchalance designer t-shirts, ethnics and a few humorously recycled "yongs" like me.

The dinner occasion was normal, pleasant and uneventful. On the way to our cars, we passed several similar restaurants, some more patronised than others but all selling food that has only been available in this country for a relatively short time.

Most of the people frequenting these restaurants grew up assuming that this type of food has always been available in Australia. They have always been able to choose from French, Italian, Chinese, Malay, South American, Mexican... and the list goes on. Chinese food shops began appearing in suburban shopping centres.

In my courting days it was very avant garde to visit the Chinese restaurant for take-away, complete with your own saucepan. None of today's wasteful throw-away plastic bowls: the food went straight from the wok to the aluminium saucepan and home to be reheated. It may be apocryphal, but I am led to believe that the health inspectors put a stop to that.

Every dish we selected seemed to come with almonds, chicken particularly. Our palates could cope only with westernised Chinese food. Combination fried rice was very adventurous and suavity was lemon chicken. It's hardly surprising we were timid in our eating habits, given the normal fare served up on most Australian tables in the first half of this century.

If I went to Stewey's house any night of the week, the food on his table would have been much the same as mine, so there was really never any need to ask what you were going to have. For most of us, meal times were metaphors for the lives we were being trained to lead — predictable, bland and lacking spice.

Just developing the metaphor a little, if life was supposed to be mundane, why then did we hanker for the illicit spoonful of condensed milk from the Frigidaire? Or the lusting after Chocolate Royals? Freud would, and did, have a field day with us.

Bland meals, it seems, prevented us from evil thoughts, stopped us believing that life was our oyster. This was the Protestant warning that unless we lived life sensibly, we would go blind! So, what was it that saved us from falling?



Chops! Boiled potatoes! Brussel sprouts! Carrots, beans and peas!

Sunday lunch was the roast, the left-overs served the following night. Fatty sausages figured prominently, as did steak, fried in a pan until it passed the ice hockey puck test. They all laid on our plates awaiting massive indigestion. Irish stew, floating in a cholesterol coulis, and macaroni in cheese clag were our concessions to international cuisine.

L. P. Hartley writes in 'The Go-Between': "The past is another country, they do things differently there." Metaphorically speaking, Stewey's and my mum didn't like foreigners. They took advice from the Mortein ad: when they were on a good thing they stuck to it.

Imprinting is very powerful. I brought home a stray kitten from my school. It had lived under the staff room for the first three months of its life, making sorties after hours to scrounge a living out of the leftovers from the students' lunches. Now 18 months later, having been feted with fresh meat and tinned guff, it treats such offerings with indifference and becomes quiveringly expectant when confronted by a crust of bread. I'm a bit like that with rice puddings.

It's interesting how families develop favorite, or at least habitual meals. The rice pudding was mum's staple. My wife finds this quaint.

She was not reared on such delicacies. Her gallant attempts to reproduce this culinary delight were doomed to failure from the start.

How can one learn the secrets of preparing this manna? If my memory serves me correctly, my mum had daily practice perfecting the correct pudding consistency and the correct amount of nutmeg for the skin atop the glutinous concoction. Complemented with a dollop of cream, but only on Sundays, the rice pudding filled the recesses of the stomach as yet unfilled by the half bullock and market garden consumed as a first course.

Dispirited and humbled, my wife has abandoned all attempts at trying to recapture haute cuisine. At least, I think that's why she hasn't made it for years.

In our childhood, exotic party food meant colored cocktail onions and "little boys". Sausage rolls and party pies were reminders that real food would be waiting for us the following day. Sophistication was a slice of pineapple on a lettuce and tomato salad. It was then called Hawaiian. Beetroot juice gave the required coloring and mayonnaise successfully masked the natural flavor of the vegetables. At the time, it was great.

Nowadays, world weary, we flit from one cuisine to another. Tonight Thai, tomorrow Mongolian. The sky's the limit, or if not the sky,

the Bankcard. The world has opened to us. No longer restricted to British menus we are able to approach food like cable television in America. We are offered a smorgasbord of styles. As Australia has become multi-cultural, our stomachs have been saved from a surfeit of stodge.

Remember French cooking. The coq au vin, the boeuf a la bourguignonne, the heavy red wines, the ubiquitous cheesecake, the after-dinner mints, strong coffee, port, a bloated stomach and a hang over. Then we went Italian, then Chinese, then nouvelle cuisine, then squeaky clean with Gabriel, then Malay, then...

Given our insatiable appetite for variety, we will have change. But to what? Nostalgia perhaps. I see it all. A diorama of our youth. As John said, imagine.

A grey, yellow, red and green linoleum-covered floor, no heating, bossy waitresses in aprons, a slightly off-station radio playing sensible ballads and a set menu, or preferably, no menu at all.

Stephanie has been on the right track, getting back to offal. But it's still too precious and tasty. Hers is delicately cooked and has flavor. Success with the new wave style will depend on properly cooked food. All the goodness of the vegies will need to be flushed down the sink and the monstrous slabs of meat will need to pass the Dunlop test or at best be suitable for carbon dating.

But the pieces de resistance will be the desserts. The gastronomic highlight will be the rice pudding. People will flock from miles around to savor the taste and texture of the rice sticking to the backs of their teeth.

The meal will be timed so that no one sits at the table longer than the first finished, and the plates will be whisked away to the sink whilst all the female patrons politely fight over who will wash and who will dry. The men will smile patronisingly and leave to talk about cars. All that's left is to name the restaurant. We need a name to suggest substance and solid flavorless food, the sort that made us what we are today.

"The Ritz"? No, too much like a biscuit. It has to be appropriate for the style and the current economic climate.

I've got it! We'll call it "Suburban survival". Move over ethnic food — the Spam revival is on its way!

But such is the stuff that dreams are made of. You can't look back. We've been there and done that. Inexorably, we must return to reality.

Now, let me see. Today's Tuesday so I guess that means Peruvian nosh. Here's the recipe book. Now, what do I really feel like?

I wonder. Does anyone know the Peruvian for trife and trifle?

Cricket results
PAGE 10

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