

Bakery should re-open soon

By DAVID WYMAN

Warrandyte's restored bakery, which suddenly closed on July 27, is expected to reopen in a few days, with a baker and his family in charge.

This follows negotiations between Warrandyte Community Workshop Co-operative Ltd, former local Mrs Audrey Drechsler, owner of the building, and the Robb family of Lower Templestowe.

The Robbs are hoping to open for business on September 17. They will be leasing the premises direct from Mrs Drechsler.

Warrandyte's co-op, which runs the Neighbourhood House and other community projects, opened the bakery in December 1988 with financial help from a local benefactor and considerable voluntary support from individuals and organisations.

The co-op invested \$87,000 in facilities and restorative work, including reconditioning the wood-fired oven. But the project saw a succession of bakers and a diversion from its original function into a sandwich bar.

As the *Diary* went to press, bakery creditors were owed about \$11,000 and the co-op was confident of meeting its debts by selling its assets in the bakery to the incoming baker. To satisfy Corporate Affairs Office requirements, the co-op may have to go into voluntary liquidation.

However co-op chairman of directors, Mr Ken McKenzie, believes this may not be necessary. "And it would only be the bakery part of the co-op that would be liquidated," he said.

"We haven't lost any money and we believe we will be able to pay all our creditors," Mr McKenzie said the co-op was not in a position to realise its \$87,000 investment because the owner did not feel bound to reimburse the co-op for any of that investment. All the co-op could realise were the equipment and fittings.

"Our initial plans for the bakery were to produce two tonnes of bread per week. But sandwich-making was introduced and the managers were so excited at the additional turnover that they failed to look at the net benefit — it wasn't there," Mr McKenzie said.

"Our latest endeavour was to lease the bakery to a family but the owner, quite within her rights, decided she wanted to lease it directly. She wasn't happy with the way the co-op handled things."

Mr McKenzie said despite the problems the co-op had with the bakery, the aims of preserving an historic building and creating employment had been achieved. The building would now last at least another 50 years.

Secretary of the co-op, Mrs Jean Chapman, handled the business affairs of the bakery for its first six months of operation, "until it nearly killed me".

Mrs Chapman said the co-op came to the conclusion, after much trial and error and changes in bakery staff, that it could not be run as a business, paying award wages.

Mr McKenzie agreed: "It wasn't the type of enterprise that suited co-operative management. It needs hands-on management by the proprietor — the baker."

Mrs Audrey Drechsler said she was "really disappointed" that the co-op had not made a go of it. To help the project along, she had initially offered the property to the co-op rent free for five years to help get the bakery off the ground.

Her father, mother and brother came to Warrandyte in 1928 and operated the bakery from then until 1951. "My brother wanted to sell it and I didn't want to part with it, so I bought his share in 1984. It was my dream to reopen it as a bakery," she said.

Happily, it will reopen again, this time with a family back in charge — Neil Robb, the baker, his wife who is a pastrycook, and their two sons, who are also bakers.



Magic Green Wedge

By CLIFF GREEN

The Society of Green Wedge Owners — Benjamin Bear, Bob Bracken and Merv Mulga — were striding through their very own slice of Green Wedge. As usual, Bob Bracken was complaining.

"I'm sick of this Green Wedge," he whined. "It's full of dusty old bush and rabbits and blackberries and possums and all sorts of pests and rubbish."

"Like koalas," said Merv Mulga.

"Don't be personal," Benjamin Bear snapped.

"And we're not making any money out of it," Bob grumbled.

"That's because they won't let us cut it up," Merv replied. "Because they've got special rules for Green Wedges that say you can't cut them up."

"It's not fair," said Bob.

"No," said Merv. "Here we are, the Sacred Society of Green Wedge Owners, and we can't even cut up our own Green Wedge."

Bob nodded. "We're especially disadvantaged Green Wedgers that can't cut up."

Then Benjamin Bear had an idea. A sudden, brilliant idea. "How about if we told them," he said, "that this was a Magic Green Wedge. A magic cut-an'-come-again Green Wedge!"

"Come again?" Merv said.

"Well," Benjamin replied, his eyes gleaming at the thought, "the more you cut it up, the more it comes again!"

"Like you cut down all the trees and they come straight up again!" Merv shouted excitedly.

"And you cut through all the hills, build lots of roads and the country comes back just how it was!" Bob shrieked in ecstasy.

"And you cut holes in the ground," Benjamin shrieked, "and plant great big houses and swimming pools and tennis courts..."

"And it all comes back again," Bob swooned, "as good and as green as ever!"

"But who are you going to

sell this magic humbug to?" Merv asked. "Who's silly enough to believe you?"

"Why, the Mayor and Corporation of the town of Donkeydoo," Benjamin replied. "They're the ones who've made these foolish rules about Green Wedges."

"But how will you get into the Donkeydoo Town Hall? You've tried twice already and they won't let you in." Merv always asked the difficult questions.

"Well I'll try again, that's all," Benjamin replied. "Next August. When I tell them about the cut-an'-come-again Green Wedge they're sure to let me in and change the rules."

"And then we'll make lots of money," Bob Bracken grinned.

"But what about the koalas?" Merv Mulga asked.

"Will they come again?"

"Don't be personal," Benjamin Bear snapped.

(With abject apologies to the ghost of Norman Lindsay.)



Cr Val Polley: delighted at response

Village plan gets local nod

Local residents responded favorably to a revamped version of the Warrandyte townscape plan when it was presented to a well-attended public meeting earlier this month.

This followed community rejection last year of the original plan, which included such unacceptable features as the clearing of trees to provide vistas of the river from Yarra Street, lowered carparks and a multiplicity of horse, pedestrian and cycle paths along the river.

Landscape architect Jane Marriott opened her presentation to the meeting with an original poem, delightfully expressing her feelings about the local environment. This was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

As Ms Marriott continued, it became apparent that the undesirable aspects of the original report had been shredded and the emphasis was now on preservation.

Enhancements suggested included a reduction of car parking along the river bank, increased tree planting, underground power lines, a limit on garish advertising and the removal of blackberries and other weeds.

During discussion, a few residents expressed a desire to "leave it the way it is," but eloquent explanations by Cr Val Polley and Mr Alan King, chairman of the Warrandyte Advisory Committee, convinced most present of the need for guidelines to prevent unrestrained, ad hoc development.

It was emphasised that the townscape committee will continue on a permanent basis, acting as watchdog and advising council on the preservation of the character of our village.

In conclusion, chairperson Cr Val Polley said, "I am delighted that the meeting has been such a success and I am pleased that the committee's work has received such a positive response".

PAUL WILLIAMS

CYRIL — BY PAUL W.



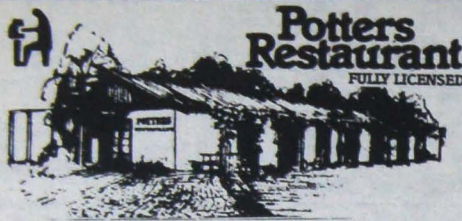
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"We wonder what the vintners buy, one half so precious as the goods they sell." So wrote Omar Khayyam in the good old days when the Middle East was Ancient Araby and Baghdad was a great place to spend a thousand and one nights. Said vintners on this occasion were the delightful Peter and Bernie Maher of our very own Warrandyte Cellars, and the knees-up in question was the great nosh and splosh night they ran over at Garibaldi's in Ringwood last month, paying homage to the celebrated laughing liquid of Bests of Great Western. Smokey was delighted to renew a nodding acquaintance with the Best product, first established more than 30 years ago when your columnist was an aspiring scribbler out in the thirsty Mallee. The FJ always ran heaps better after a half-hour spell at Great Western. Among guests noticed were Anthony (The Gnome) Giles-Peters and David Mitchell, undoubtedly cementing relations with Peter and Bernie, Warrandyte Football Club's major sponsors.

When the Shire of Eltham announced that, yes, Research Road would be upgraded, it admitted there could be difficulty making ends meet. And, by golly, it was right! Fourteen years down the track, the marriage is unconsummated. The thrill-seekers' utopia between the sweeping bend and Bradleys Lane — no more than a wind-assisted torpedo punt downhill — is a virgin yet. Royalauto magazine once saw fit to feature this stretch on its colour cover as one of the worst in Victoria — and nowt has changed save for truckloads of pothole filling which have been as useful as an ashtray on a motorbike. There's probably not a whit of basis to the suggestion that the National Trust is about to classify it. Eltham doesn't have a lot of luck with roadmaking, and for our next trick we'll take you on a fun ride past the Kangaroo Ground memorial. That'll shake you up, too.

IN RED & WHITE

Also noticed at Garibaldi's was *Diary* hack Cliff Green. Although 'noticed' is hardly strong enough. His joyous shouts echoed through the restaurant when he was judged runner-up in the name the mystery wine competition. The singing syrup in question was a 1980 Italian-style Great Western Dolcetto. Cliff claimed to have practised for the event during three days of dedicated research up and down Via Urbana, Roma, on a recent junket o.s. (see IR&W last month) and was last seen staggering through the watery dark of a Ringwood carpark clutching six free bottles of Bests' best. Anthony Giles-Peters, who was close behind in the pick the plonk contest, claimed it was a put-up job to get the Cellars free lineage in the *Diary*, and is demanding a re-run. But Smokey knows the Gnome paralysed his palette seven years ago, during the Great Lowenbrau Caper, and can barely tell the difference between Ken McKenzie's home brew and a discount scotch. Incidentally, the actual winner of the contest was John Heath.

Council elections tend to get a bit willing in this town — well, hell, it's a democracy, ain't it? — but personal rather than political pressure was brought to bear at the Warrandyte Primary School polling booth last month. The young bloke who bogged his car on the way out didn't know it was Vern Denford and his campaign assistant who pushed him free. Neither did the returning councillor nor his mate know who (whom? opinions vary) he had voted for. And may God forgive me for ending a sentence with a preposition! End of story.

Word comes from Europe of long-time former local Bob Trezise who, after many years' cajol-

ing, is doing the tourist thing with wife Val. "Bob is finding it very difficult to get a cold beer," writes Val in a postcard to these climes. "Had a great time in Nice, which has topless bathing. Bob told me he was watching the yachts."

It's almost one for the "Shame, Smokey, shame" file, and for jolting us back to reality we are indebted to "One who knows" who writes: "One feels you may be slipping badly. How come you missed, back in June, John 'Porky' Smith celebrating 50 years as a resident of Warrandyte?" How indeed. Fifty years! All his life, in other words. Can it be a decade ago that Smokey reported the 40th birthday of the cute, cuddly little guy he wrote into local folklore? We're going to make it up to Porky by re-establishing him as a cult figure. We hereby call for contributions on the adventures and misadventures of John Smith. Anonymity is guaranteed.

There is a good deal of previously-undiscovered talent in the Warrandyte Uniting Church congregation. Its Section 3 team has won a district church comp at its first attempt. Peter and Christine Hanson, Phil Jarvier and Wendy Rawlings beat the Blackburn North Baptists by two games in the grand final. We are almost tempted to say God bless them. Warrandyte Uniting's Section 5s — Marion Renn, Andrew Curwood, George Vlek and Jan King — were beaten by the Crydon Church of Christ.



**Smokey
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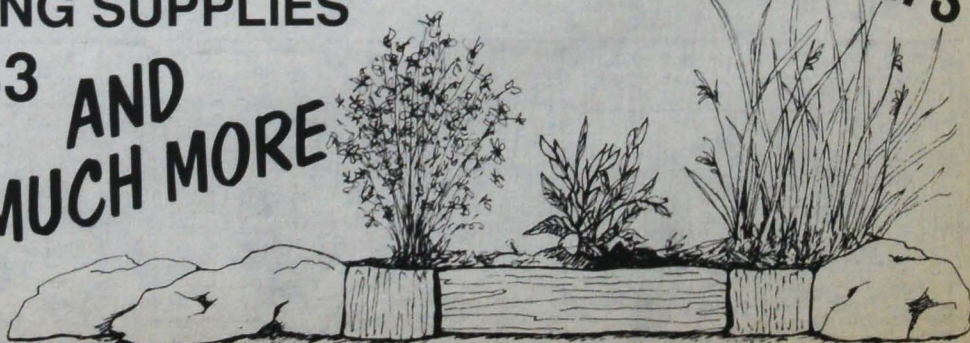
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I could never move back to suburbia after living in Warrandyte...

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Planning nightmare defies imagination

By DAVID WYMAN

Imagine living in a tranquil South Warrandyte location with hardly another house in view for 22 years.

And then imagine a three-storey house next door, 36 metres from your boundary. OK, you say, it's been council approved and it is centrally located on six and a half acres. It's not all that disastrous.

And then imagine having the new house construction starting just seven metres from your common boundary, and with the plan of the house completely reversed. Imagine a two-storey solid structure with a third-storey conical roof tower like a transplant from the Rhineland, staring into your northerly aspect.

But these are not the imaginations of the Beulke family of South Warrandyte. It has all happened despite their

urgent and sincere protests to Doncaster-Templestowe Council.

Coral and Lindsay Beulke live in a Landscape Interest A zone in Warrandyte Road. When they saw how close the footings of the new house were to their home they phoned the council but were told their neighbor's permit had been properly granted.

More enquiries were made to the council but only after some persistence by the Beulkes did council staff agree that the owner had not complied with the planning permit.

He was directed to stop all work immediately but by this time walls, framing and trusses were up.

The owner asked council permission to tile the roof which was conditionally granted.

The Beulkes lodged a formal objection to council, stating that the neighbor-builder

had, after being granted a permit, relocated the house and reversed the house plan.

The Beulkes objection of June 29 went before council's physical services committee which requested that the owner-builder, the objectors and town planning staff meet to arrive at a compromise solution. This did not happen.

In the meantime, the owner-builder applied for a new permit to build his house, overriding the objections lodged by his neighbors.

At the July 31 council meeting the new permit application was refused on the grounds that it was contrary to the original planning permit which had been granted.

Now, no doubt, it's off to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for the final saga.

And the question remains: Should any of it been allowed to happen?

Rule flouting sparks stiffer penalties

Flouting of rules in Green Wedge zones in the Warrandyte area highlights the need for stiffer penalties for deliberate damage to the environment.

This is the opinion of State MP for Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood who cites the recent clearing of land on Nelson Road, abutting the State Park, as a glaring example.

"If the owner was to be prosecuted under existing legislation for damage allegedly inflicted on Landscape Interest 'A' land, the maximum penalty could be \$4000," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*.

"For someone who has paid several hundreds of thousands of dollars for the land this provides little disincentive.

"In such cases, the local council only has the option of requiring revegetation to occur. Otherwise, if they successfully prosecute the landowner and he pays the fine, then he may be relieved of the requirement to revegetate

and the land could be left in a denuded state."

Mr Honeywood pointed out that during the past few months there had been a number of abuses of Green Wedge planning controls.

"Land clearers, home builders and even church groups have all disregarded clearly established planning schemes and zoning for Warrandyte and Park Orchards," Mr Honeywood said.

"With Melbourne's urban sprawl now on our doorstep, pressures will increase for so-called planning 'anomalies' to become the norm rather than the exception.

"If residents wish to retain any hope of saving the district's unique character, they will have to be vigilant in their defence of local and State Government planning controls."

In a recent landmark decision Doncaster Council ruled that a South Warrandyte property owner must demolish his new house, constructed outside the

area defined in his building permit.

"It now remains to be seen whether the Administrative Appeals Tribunal will support council's decision when the owner appeals," Mr Honeywood said.

"All too often, council has allowed contraventions to prevail as 'planning anomalies' on the basis of 'financial hardship'. Others have been excused as 'minor misdemeanours' not worthy of severe penalty.

"Doncaster-Templestowe councillors and officers have failed to realise over the years that each planning anomaly creates dangerous precedents. This can lead to a perception that 'anything goes' in the Green Wedge areas.

"Many of these owners and developers are prepared to pay a small fine as the price of a better view, or to facilitate some other agenda. Council's decision to uphold its original permit in the South Warrandyte case is thus all the more heartening."

However, this may not have happened if the immediate neighbors had not launched a concerted campaign, with support from the wider community.

"Such community support will also be required when the matter goes before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal," Mr Honeywood said.

"Any local resident who believes they are affected by a proposed development has a right to object before the tribunal."

Mr Honeywood believes there will always be instances where planning rules are broken through genuine misunderstandings by owners.

"However, there are just as many cases where unscrupulous property owners deliberately abuse planning rules for their own ends. Those who misuse the system in this manner should not be permitted to have it their way at the cost of everyone else's lifestyle amenity," Mr Honeywood concluded.

SES under threat

The local State Emergency Service unit's ability to attend road accidents is under threat.

According to the State MP for Warrandyte, Mr Phil Honeywood, this is a direct result of the government's 'rationalisation of units' policy and could result in delaying the arrival of emergency crews at accident sites.

Doncaster and Templestowe council and local politicians have been lobbying the government for months to ensure that the unit's capacity to attend road accidents is retained.

"Anyone involved in a severe road accident in the Warrandyte or Park Orchards area will now have to rely on the Metropolitan Fire Brigade at Nunawading," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*.

"It is no exaggeration to say that the time it will now take an emergency crew to reach our area from Nunawading could mean the difference between life and death.

Mr Honeywood argues that because of the many country-style laneways in Warrandyte and Park Orchards, being increasingly used as shortcuts by motorists, it is imperative that the local SES unit be retained.

Unit controller, Mr Alan Alder of Warrandyte, believes the problem of local accidents being attended from Nunawading relates more to availability than distance.

"The MFB rescue unit at Nunawading is responsible for an area covering seven municipalities," Mr Alder told the *Diary*.

Mr Alder was told that an appeal against the government's decision — lodged as the *Diary* went to press — could prove successful.

"This is the third appeal we've made," Mr Alder said. "This time we know we've assembled all the facts and figures necessary to prove our case and we are quietly confident."



Celebrating book week... children made masks and wore costumes as part of the festivities.

Book fantasy land brought to life

Children at Anderson's Creek Primary School made masks and took part in a parade as part of Book Week 1990 celebrations.

The theme was "Imagine If You Will..." and the students focused on the land of Narnia from C S Lewis "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe".

The library was decorated with huge displays made by

the children and a forest of plants.

The week was crammed with activities. Children bought books at the book fair, read madly to enter the readathon and tramped into the library at lunchtimes to watch "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" on video. They also made fantasy masks in the art room with Mrs Crohan.

On the Friday, the whole school families and friends, turned out for the parade.

The colorful masks and matching costumes reflected the time and effort people had put into them and lent a festive air to the sunny day.

After the parade, the children invited parents and guests to a fantasy lunch where all manner of food, from ice-

cream castles to savoury wombat's paws, was enjoyed.

The festivities ended with a visit from author, Michael Dugan, who amused the children with his humorous poems and stories.

It was an exciting week, thoroughly enjoyed by all. In the words of the the children, it was "grouse, tremendous, ace fun!"

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The spirit is willing, but the tail doesn't wag

The first thing you notice about the Worry Pub (apart from the broken glass panel in the front door, shattered by the impact of Scrap Metal George's head when his missus caught him giving Our Girl Pat a cuddle in the bottle shop) is the tail of a black cattle dog hanging on the wall behind the bar.

I notice it the first time I walk in but I keep my curiosity to myself until I get to know the regulars a bit. Eventually I ask Hookles, and he answers in a voice trembling with emotion.

"That," he says, "belongs to one of the best and smartest dogs that ever wagged a tail!"

"He couldn't have been too smart," say I, "or he wouldn't have left it behind."

Hookles ignores my wisecrack. "Yair," he says, "old Charlie was no run-of-the-mill dog. He was almost human. Him and his owner, The Lord Mayor, were two of my best customers."

"Hang on, Hookles," I say. "Are you trying to tell me this dog was actually a customer?"

"Yair," he replies. "Many's the time The Mayor would come in here with a cheque in his hand and old Charlie at his heels and grog on from 10 in the morning until closing time. Charlie had his own beer mug with a picture of Lassie on the side."

I suggest that Hookles is having me on. "Not at all," he says, obviously hurt by my lack of faith.

By THE WHIPPET

"The Mayor took the dog with him to see Lassie Come Home at the Bulleen drive-in and old Charlie got a king-sized crush on that Hollywood pooch. Love at first sight, it was."

"Come off it, mate," I say. "Are you trying to tell me this dog actually drank beer and fell in love with a bitch on the silver screen?"

"Well, not exactly in that order," says Hookles. "He fell in love with Lassie first and took up the grog later to drown his sorrows. The poor bugger really had it bad."

I'm starting to regret having raised the subject, but Hookles is so wrapped up in it I have to let him go on:

"Yair, if it hadn't been for a stupid remark that ginger-haired, half-witted, jumped-up, bat-eyed drongo Jackhammer Jeff made, Charlie would still be with us today."

"Oh," I say, a little surprised by Hookles' colourful description of my mate Jackhammer, "and what was it he said that had such a fatal effect on a lovesick dislicker?"

"Well," Hookles says, "like I said, Charlie was almost human. Matter of fact, after a night out on the beer with The Mayor, he'd trot down to Commodore Frank the chemist, flop down on the floor, put both paws on his head

and let out with a low moan. Norm, Commodore Frank's 21C, would slip out the back and mix him a hangover cure, which Charlie would lap up. Of course, he only did that on a particularly bad morning after. Normally, he'd just come into the bar here and I'd give him a headache pow-



der and a dish of strong black tea and he'd be right as rain again."

"Look," I say, "I'm not as silly as I look — and don't bother saying I wouldn't want to be. Next you'll be trying to tell me the dog had a driver's licence!"

"Struth no," Hookles says. "Charlie didn't have no licence, but many's the time he drove home when The Mayor was too full to take the wheel after a session in the pub. Mind you, I don't know who was the worse driver — The Mayor when he was sober or Charlie when he was full!"

A little impatiently, I remind Hookles that he is digressing, that he was going to tell me how Jackhammer Jeff was responsible

for sending Charlie to that Great Doghouse In The Sky.

"Sorry," he says. "I got a bit carried away. You see, Jackhammer happens to drop in one morning for a couple of beers just as Charlie is having his usual heart-starter. 'On the grog again, eh Charlie,' Jackhammer says, giving him a pat. Old Charlie gives his tail a couple of raps on the floor, which means yes in dog lingo."

"She's not worth it, you know," says Jackhammer. Those Hollywood stars are about as genuine as a three-dollar note."

"Well, Charlie growls deep down in his tonsils and it takes The Mayor and me and Scrap Metal George all our time to hold him down. He'd have sunk the fangs into Jackhammer for sure."

"You shouldn't have said that," The Mayor tells Jackhammer. "You know he's a bit touchy when he's got a hangover."

"Jackhammer apologises and Charlie calms down a bit and even offers his paw to show there are no hard feelings. And it would have been all right if Jackhammer had let it go at that, but a couple of beers later he gives George and me a knowing wink and says: 'I see in this morning's paper that they finally did it.'"

"Who did what," asks George, playing along with the gag.

"Lassie and Rin Tin Tin," says



Jackhammer. They ran off and got married!"

"Well, for a second or two there is deathly silence, then Charlie lets out this awful howl, races over to the scrubbing bucket in the corner, kicks it over with a hind leg, then drops down dead!"

"It takes us quite a while to get over the shock, but when we do we cut off his tail as a sort of keepsake to remember him by, wrap him up in an old Lassie movie poster and bury him."

Hookles blows his large red nose. "So that was the end of old

Charlie," I say, getting up to leave.

"Not exactly," says Hookles, with a loud sniff. "You see, it was a year ago yesterday that old Charlie kicked the bucket and last night his ghost floated into my bedroom and demanded his tail back."

"I see you never gave it back to him," I say, nodding at the hank of black hair hanging on the wall.

"No bloody fear!" Hookles replies. "You know as well as I do that it's against the law to retail spirits after hours!"

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Japanese welcomed



Warrandyte has found another focus for community involvement if recent events are anything to go by. The new focus is the people, culture and language of Japan.

The connection between Warrandyte and Japan began with the establishment of Japanese language studies at Warrandyte High School in 1989.

The school discovered in its Japanese language teacher, Mr Johan Elsmann, a person who was not only a good communicator of language skills but also had lived in Japan and had a good understanding of the people and culture.

At the start of the 1990 school year Warrandyte Primary School and Anderson's Creek Primary School expressed interest in establishing their own Japanese language program.

When, an application for Education Department funding for a language teacher did not succeed the two primaries then reached an agreement with Warrandyte High for Mr Elsmann to teach Japanese part-time at both primaries.

This ensured primary school students proceeding on to Warrandyte High already had good exposure to what many linguists regard as one of the most difficult languages in the world to master.

An extension of the language program has been a number of cultural exchanges between Japanese visitors and local residents.

The first of these was the recent ten day visit by 15-year-old school boy Kazuya Kawahara with Reg Cox's family in Pound Bend, Warrandyte.

Kazuya was one of 1000 young Japanese students to share their experiences with 2000 Victorians this year as part of a Youth Expo organised by World Window Japan.

Young Adam Cox was so keen to host a Japanese student that he delayed his dream of owning a trail motor bike to meet the expenses that his parents would incur to participate in the exchange.

Local businesses agreed to assist in sponsoring the exchange student's stay. These included State Bank of Warrandyte, Harry Heaths, Potter's Cottage, Spectrum Books of Croydon, Art Mart of Nunawading and Streets Ice Cream.

Adam Cox and his Japanese friend were joined by another Warrandyte High School student, Vanessa Keuneman (who hosted a Japanese country girl student as part of the program) in the ten day series of events that included camping, concerts and other activities.

Local State Member of Parliament, Phil Honeywood, and Cr Louise Joy also participated in the exchange by meeting with Kazuya and relaying messages of goodwill to his city and prefecture governments.

Since the Youth Expo exchange, Warrandyte High School has also hosted a further six Japanese students sponsored by Japan Travel Bureau and Victoria's sister Japanese prefecture Aichi Ken.

The students stayed with six Warrandyte High School families for three nights. During their stay participants were entertained by traditional songs and dances from both countries and exchange of gifts.

A third Japanese visit to the local community occurred when several Japanese school teachers sat in on class at Anderson's Creek Primary School. By all accounts, they were fascinated by the differences of approach between Japanese and Australian teaching methods.

Players needed

A festival band is to be established in Warrandyte.

A group of locals has noticed the dwindling number of bands and musical groups in the festival parade over past years and has decided to take action.

A festival band committee has been established, in conjunction with the festival committee, to develop the project.

The Warrandyte Festival Community Band is planned to be a central part of next year's parade.

A small group of "professionals" in the band will also perform as a "Show Band" in the Saturday afternoon music program.

The committee consists of Rick Gordon, David and Jane Stickels, and local musical notables John Byrne and Ray Haynes, aided by Barry McKimm and John Boyle.

The committee calling for expressions of interest from local musicians, of any age, particularly brass, wind and percussion players. The inaugural meeting will be held at the cricket club rooms, Warrandyte Reserve on October 14 from 10 am to noon.

The team stresses that volunteers need not be professionals, just able to hold a tune. Enquiries can be directed to Jane and David Stickels, on 844 2514.

Frightening spiders

A chat on animals that frighten us and how we should handle them inspired the following poem.

It's dedicated to Daniel Geoffrey Thomas, and "all children aged ... nearly 10".

But the poet says it is also a message to children of other age groups and their parents.

SNORING SPIDERS (In Winter)

In Winter, Children should always be quiet in the house,
For they frighten small spiders away.
Born in Summer. In Winter, in corners they hide,
And Snore. For that is their way.

In Summer Ma Spider her poor mate does eat
After the nuptials and play.
Then Autumn and Winter she protects her small brood,
And Snores. For that is her way.

Small children with jars, glass bottles and tops,
A Paint brush that's soft on the day.
Can prise the small things as they snore in their corners
Quietly. Then they won't run away.

Look long and look quick at those small hairy legs,
Small for the moment they seem.
But you wait till Summer and those long sticky nights
Long legs and Midsummer Nights Scream.

So Winter's the time to keep spiders away
From those hot sticky nights after Spring.
Catch small leggy things in jam jars as they snore,
And take them away from the din.

For Spiders sleep long but grow quickly, you see
They dream not a bit. As you would or me,
And when they wake up they think this place is home
And stay where you put them. There's no need to roam.

Then children should always be quiet in the house,
They should listen for Spiders that Snore
And quick as a flash catch them up in their jam jar,
And fling them out through the door.

By OCTOBESS

Right: Japanese student Kazuya Kawahara meets with Warrandyte MLA Phil Honeywood, Adam Cox and Cr Louise Joy.

Top: Taking time out from a busy schedule. Miyuki Inusuka and Vanessa Keuneman.

Middle: Students and Japanese students meet at Anderson's Creek Primary School.



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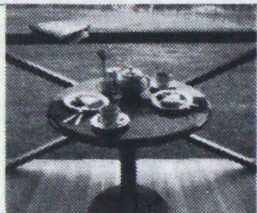
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Prodigals face changing tide

By ROGER KIBELL

"That's it! I've sworn off the grog forever. Ever since seeing that program on alcoholism. Now I look at the wine cask as the guests must have done when being offered food at a Borgia's dinner party."

"What program?"

"What? What were we talking about? Oh hell! That proves it. Short term memory loss!"

I don't know of any program recently that has had such a widespread and powerful effect among our generation as did the ABC program on alcoholism and its devastating effects on the brain.

It wasn't the story line or the acting that was remembered. The information that struck fear in our hearts was that permanent brain damage is done after two glasses of alcohol per day for women and four for men.

Blackouts, it appears, are bad news. I can't say that I've ever experienced one of these as the result of over indulgence but a certain female friend of mine was quite distraught about the implications of her one blackout binge. (She is now anxious about the knowing nods and winks when she passes her male neighbors. It's not so much that she can't remember the street party, it's that she can't remember what the nods and winks mean.)

Secretly, I have to admit that the program reassured me somewhat. It's not that I'm po-faced about drinking, but I've never quite understood the excitement engendered in Australia about "writing yourself off" — a legalised training ground for euthanasia.

Fortunately, my body and my logic seem to coincide. My body rather than my brain controls my hedonism.

Invariably, I fall asleep before alcoholic poisoning has a chance to batter down my social reserve.

For years I have regarded myself as a "write off" failure. Now I have been rescued.

The latest TV program seems to suggest that, all along, fate has been on my side. For once my logic and body seem to coincide.

Now if there is any justice in the world I will be alive and

quoting, by heart, the periodic table of elements at ninety, while all my long-envied dissolute friends will forget to remember by the age of fifty.

Given my luck, I'll probably get Alzheimer's instead. The recklessly self-indulgent will have triumphed again.

I've always hated the Prodigal Son. What a sleaze bag! Off he trundles, sowing his seed all over the world. At home his brother, old muggins, does the right thing by dad and lives an abstemious, ordered and respectable life, sowing his seeds literally.

The day dawns when Playboy grows tired of sowing anything that moves, of drinking anything that's liquid, of overspending all his stolen credit cards and decides he'd like some home cooking.

Meanwhile, back at the coal face, Saint Brother has been taking cold showers, studying hard for his third socially responsible and ideologically sound vocational course, has ensured that dad has provided for his retirement and has learnt how to make gourmet dinners from the smell of an Iraqi oil rag.

Playboy faxes dad that he needs some money to pay for the limo home. Dad, instead of cutting him out of his will, trashing his bedroom and sending all his old pairs of flairs to the Brotherhood, orders flowers from Kevin O'Neill and wonderful food from Mietta's for the welcome home party.

Photos of Playboy and dad, arm in arm appear in Mode. Saint Brother in the background, is slightly out-of-focus and selflessly resuscitating an over-indulged social pages reporter. Ironically, his mouth-to-mouth routine renders him HIV positive.

It just doesn't seem fair — but life's like that. You have just had a hysterectomy or a vasectomy and AIDS wipes the anticipatory smile off your face.

You resign from your secure but low-paid job to make your fortune and secure your future by signing a two-year work contract in Kuwait.

But take heart brother, it might just be our turn. There does seem to be an ebbing of the tide.

Had any good
Prods lately?...



Life's combine harvester, recently, has levelled a few of our Prodigal Poppies.

The ebb started with a shakeup of the paper money cowboys. Producing goods and services instead of shuffling papers and playing Snap with stocks and bonds may become fashionable again.

Bankers might start suggesting to potential borrowers that they must be able to afford their repayments before giving them a magic lamp with its interior decorator genie.

This is all sounding a bit radical! Next we'll see people questioning the very basis of capitalism — exponential materialism. The long lost words "no" and "don't" might be revived.

Thank You letters might become compulsory and chewing gum in public will invoke the death penalty. Veronica from The Big Gig must be made Prime Minister with Tom Sharpe as her Treasurer.

Saint Brother kept bleating "Everything in moderation!" but who listens to boring wowsers when you're on a winning streak?

Still, I've noticed a lot more mineral water and jugs of iced

water on dinner party tables these days.

Is it just my friends and age group or is everyone finding that you can have a great time at a d.p. without emptying the Brown Bros cellars before dessert?

Is this a sign we've passed adolescent excess and can now be a little less self-conscious about how to enjoy life?

Even wine companies are now exhorting us to enjoy wine in moderation. Pah! Out you Prodigal, your time's up!

It's nice to dream but it is impossible to organise the world into goodies and baddies, the Prodigals and the Saints. Most of us fall between two stools usually after a few too many.

All the same, it's fascinating to consider how every now and then a TV program is screened that sparks social debate among the viewing public.

It's appropriate that every so often we should be presented with a mirror, to see ourselves, as it were, served up on a platter. This is as it should be, but just to be on the safe side, let's make sure it's only twice per day for women and four for men!

Design project tackles school landscaping

Visits by landscape artist Ms Ashley Russell have inspired Year 9 students at Warrandyte High School.

Ms Russell has been working with communication teacher Ms Robyn Sykes and students as part of a joint Ministry of Education and Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Environmental Designers in Schools Program.

Warrandyte was selected as one of ten schools, participating in the program for 1990.

The project involved students looking at the school environment producing drawings showing their ideas for improvement.

Students will present their projects at an exhibition to be held at the Royal Australian Institute of Architects offices in October.

Construction of one of the plans is underway with the participants in Duke of Edinburgh Award continuing the project.



Preparing plans to improve the school environment. From left: Andrew Ramsay, Gordana Krstevski, teacher Robyn Sykes, landscape artist Ashley Russell, Jodie Arthur and Stuart Logan.

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Reflections highlight a job well done

By CLIFF GREEN

Rob Gell resigned from his position as a Warrandyte Ward representative on Doncaster and Templestowe council in July last, midway through his two-year term. He did so for pressing personal reasons.

Now that the fire and fury of the ensuing election has died down and Louise Joy has been declared elected to serve the final year of this term, it is fitting that we should step back and assess the contribution Rob made during this year and in the period leading to it.

Rob Gell's term of service to these communities and their environment did not begin when he was persuaded to stand for council in July, 1989. Indeed, this was a climax to the years of work that went before. It began some time ago when a neighbour, Bev Hanson, convinced Rob he should offer himself for a position on the Warrandyte Advisory Committee.

Given his academic qualifications and his well known passion for the environment, it was only natural that WAC should look to Rob to research and frame their response to the City of Doncaster and Templestowe's Warrandyte-Park Orchards Zoning Study, being conducted by Dr Dezzo Benko.

When this report ultimately appeared, some observers felt that Dr Benko was perhaps giving most credence to arguments calling for the rezoning of land east of Mullum Mullum Creek from Landscape Interest A to residential.

As Rob wrote in the *Diary* at that time (August 1988): "It... indicates the level of pressure being put on council by small interest groups to work to rezone the large allotments."

He also signalled his concern at council's timing in the matter: "Council's reasons for commissioning this report are not clear, particularly since the State Government as recently as last year reaffirmed its intention to maintain permanently the 'non-urban green wedges' in the metropolitan area."

As the months passed and the Benko report was debated at council and in the community, Rob Gell offered a series of eloquent, reasoned arguments why the Green Wedge should remain intact. Initially, he spoke for the Warrandyte community, but increasingly he was also seen to be expressing the feelings of the majority of Park Orchards residents.

For the bushland and open

country most threatened is closest to Park Orchards. Indeed, it is part of that special place's green buffer against the pressures of suburbia. The Park Orchards Ratepayers Association had already responded to this threat by resolving to oppose any rezoning of this land.

They stood in four-square opposition to the Park Orchards Landowners Association, formed to promote rezoning. The battle lines were drawn. The stakes were high.

Some landowners saw a solution to personal physical and economic problems. They also felt justified in anticipating considerable profits through the sale of their land. Conversely, the majority of residents saw in these aspirations a significant threat to the natural environment and to their lifestyle.

Rob Gell summed up this position in a later *Diary* article (March 1989) appealing directly to the people of Warrandyte and Park Orchards: "It is up to the community to ensure that the values of the Green Wedge are not lost. The fate of the environment must not be left solely in the hands of those most capable of destroying it."

And the threat was real. Although the State Government had reaffirmed its commitment to the Green Wedge as recently as 1987, the property boom was at its peak and many believed that pressure to release additional broad acres for building would prove irresistible.

At that time, Doncaster and Templestowe council was firmly in the hands of a pro-development, entrepreneurial faction, dedicated to raising greater revenue through new subdivisions and increased values.

Then two council seats in Warrandyte Ward fell vacant, one of them unexpectedly. Mr Daryl Cox, founding president of the Park Orchards Landowners Association, nominated for one of them. Suddenly the Green Wedge debate became an election issue.

Val Polley, a longtime local worker for conservation (she was a founding member of the Warrandyte Environment League) stood against Mr Cox. Rob Gell needed little persuasion to join her as running mate.



Rob Gell: fought for the Green Wedge.

Although Rob's high profile as a television personality assisted greatly in his resounding victory, his public position as an advocate for the environment was well known. People really did know who they were voting for.

Ironically, Mr Cox was defeated, almost as thoroughly, by a candidate with a much lower public profile. But again, a candidate clearly identified with the protection of the environment.

Within days of being elected the new councillors saw to it that all threats to the Green Wedge were removed. Council unanimously agreed that no applications "for further subdivision or additional residential land east of Mullum Mullum Creek" would be considered.

And what of the year that fol-

lowed? Few would deny that Val and Rob, working as a closeknit team with Cr Vern Denford, have given the ward — and the city — 12 months splendid service. One of Rob's fellow councillors told the *Diary* recently: "Rob Gell did more in council in 12 months than a lot of them do in three years. We're certainly missing him."

Thank you, Rob, for a battle well fought and a job well done. We know the pressures on you — professional and personal — over the past months have been enormous. Recent events suggest that the battle for the Green Wedge is far from over. But there are many in the Warrandyte and Park Orchards communities who will be working hard for its protection.

Team support brings poll victory

Congratulations to Vern Denford and Louise Joy on their election to council. Their victory resulted from the efforts of many people throughout the Warrandyte Ward who campaigned to ensure their election, in many cases starting early and working late, day after day.

During the campaign and well before, repeated attempts were made by Mr Daryl Cox, Louise Joy's opponent, to split the Warrandyte and Park Orchards com-



munities by stating that Park Orchards could only be adequately represented by a councillor from Park Orchards. Everyone who has seen these two places working together on joint issues over

the years knows that this is just not true.

Mr Cox also spent a lot of time and energy attacking Warrandyte people and their values, but this also failed.

The people of Warrandyte Ward are more concerned with being properly represented on council, regardless of where the councillor comes from. The support received by Cr Denford clearly demonstrated this. He has represented the entire ward so

well for a number of years, comes from neither Warrandyte or Park Orchards, but was well supported by both.

Heartfelt thanks to all those willing volunteers who helped so magnificently. Thanks also to those who offered but were not needed. The task of organising the campaign is so much easier when people across the community are so willing to help.

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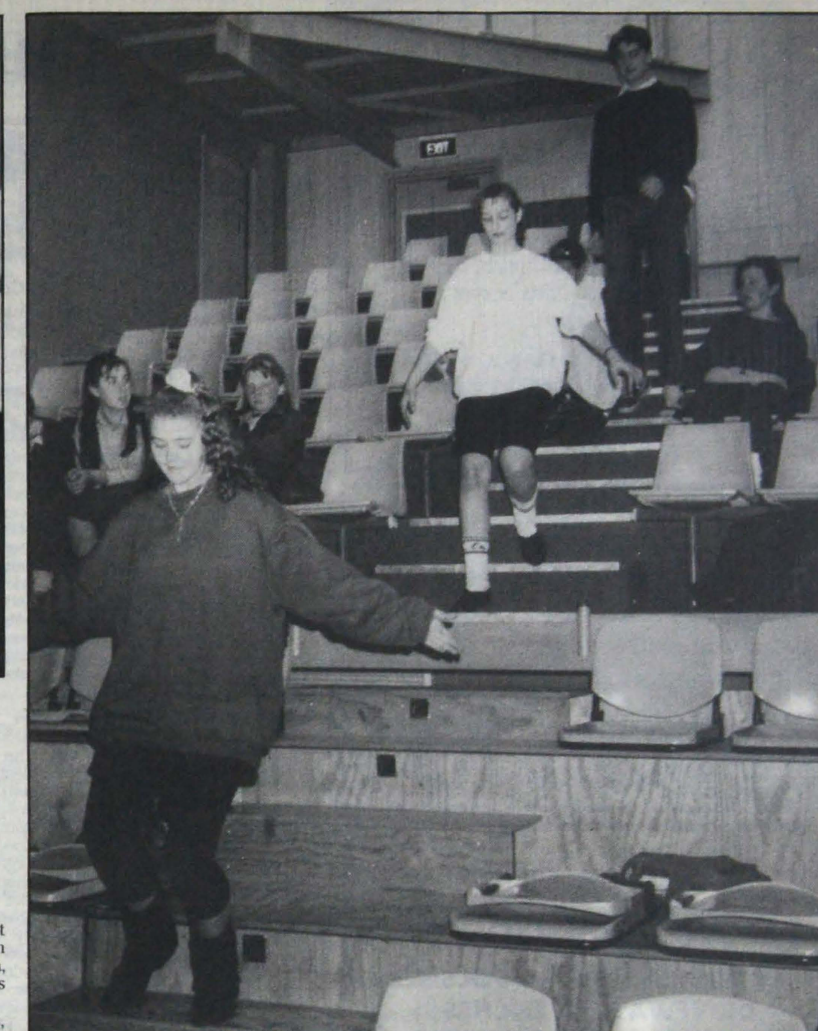
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Spotlight shines on Forum romp

Warrandyte High School is busy rehearsing for its sixth musical production, Stephen Sondheim's "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum".

The show is an outrageously funny romp through Rome's decadent history and contains some of Sondheim's earliest and perhaps most tuneful music including "Comedy Tonight" and "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid".

It marks a new direction in the

producer's choice of musicals. It places most of its dramatic and musical commitment on very few actors and in this case those actors and singers are mainly males.

The hilarious illogicalities of Latin comedy and the zany nonsense of vaudeville are wedded in this mad-cap show.

The story concerns the connivings of slave, Pseudolus (played by David Joy), to achieve his freedom. His young master, Hero (James

Egglestone), promises to grant Pseudolus freedom if he can obtain for Hero the beautiful girl Philia, (Katherine Adcock) who he has seen from a window.

Deliciously unsavory characters, parents, neighbors and even strangers are involved in the mounting confusion as the side-splitting comedy unfolds.

Unfortunately the girl has been bought by Miles Gloriosus (Don Harrison) — the mightiest captain of the Roman army. The scheming and plotting to undo this situation is basically the plot of the story.

The musical numbers in the show range from witty patter songs to ballads, and the score merrily underlines the comedy on the stage.

The great Latin master Plautus was the inspiration of the authors with the situations that kept the Romans laughing once again providing mirth in this riotous musical.

As with all Warrandyte High School productions the cast is a mix of adult and juvenile performers. It is being directed and produced by Chris White with Katherine Adcock as assistant director. Chris is also musical director and designer.

The show will be accompanied by a ten-piece orchestra, using music from the original Broadway score by arrangement with music publishers Warner-Chappell.

The show plays from October 10-13 and from October 1-20.

Tickets can be booked on 844 2749, but hurry — on past experience these shows are very popular.



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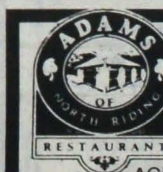
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Tree planting program begins

The first stage of a revegetation program recommended by the Warrandyte Townscape Study begins later this month with a Community Planting Day on Sunday, September 23, 1-4pm. The area being replanted is at the river end of Forbes Street. Everyone is welcome. Organiser Jane Marriott suggests you bring a spade, pick or mallet and a bucket or wheelbarrow (for spreading mulch). Damper will be provided by the Friends of the State Park. All inquiries to Jane at 840 9418.

Musical begins

Warrandyte High School's annual musical presentation has become one of the most eagerly awaited events on the local calendar. 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum' looks set to maintain that tradition. It is being staged in the school's splendid theatre over eight nights, in a season commencing Wednesday, October 10 at 8pm. Design and direction are by senior art teacher Chris White. In order to spread good news of the production around town, a special deal is being offered for the second and third performances, Thursday 11 and Friday 12 October. Normal prices are \$10 a ticket, with \$5 concession. But on these nights there will be one free seat for each group of ten tickets booked. For bookings and details phone 844 2749.

Ministering

A new minister has been appointed at Warrandyte Uniting Church, replacing Rev Stan Fishley. He is Rev Charles Marshall and can be contacted on 726 6408. Worship continues each Sunday at 10.15am at the church in Taroon Avenue, following Sunday school at 9am. The youth club program attracts many young people from the community and details of activities can be obtained from John Hanson, phone 844 3906. The church has set Saturday, November 17 as the date for this year's fete and they have already made a donation of \$500 to the Philippines earthquake relief fund.



Conducted by JUDY GREEN

Post your news in the box on the old cypress tree opposite the State Bank in Yarra Street, or send it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte, 3113

Meals for wheels

Snowy white tablecloths centred with a colorful array of pink and red camellias set a cheerful scene for the annual get-together of the meals-on-wheels volunteers from the Warrandyte area, held recently at the football and cricket clubrooms. About 50 men and women enjoyed a delightful hot lunch, appreciating the opportunity to meet with fellow volunteers. The annual general meeting followed.

Conflicting

The Eltham Community Health Centre is running a half-day forum on 'conflict resolution' on Sunday, September 16, 10am to 2pm, at the Eltham Community Room, 23 Dudley Street, Eltham. Organisers say that this workshop aims to help you turn conflict into an opportunity for change. Present will be community health worker Margaret Cant and counsellor Evelyn Neagle. Admission is free and there will be light refreshments. For enquiries and registration ring 431 1333.

Novel approach

'Contemporary World Visions' is the title of a series of six seminars being presented by the Box Hill-Doncaster Regional Library, commencing Wednesday, September 12 at 7pm. The series will take the form of combined lectures and discussions on six novels from around the world and will be held at the library theatre, 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. They will be presented

by Laurie Clancy, noted author, critic and senior lecturer at Latrobe University. Cost is \$40 for the six, or \$8 per seminar. Bookings and enquiries to Tracy Gibson or Alannah McCann, 890 1002.

Exam stress

The Health Promotion Unit at Box Hill Hospital is organising a seminar at the hospital, Nelson Road, Box Hill on Wednesday, October 3. The subject is 'Coping with Exam Stress Years 11 and 12'. The emphasis of the program is not on study, but on personal and positive coping techniques. It will run from 9.30am to 4pm and will cost \$35. Phone 895 3452 or 895 3142 for bookings.

Diamond pots

Diamond Valley Arts Society is holding a pottery demonstration by Irma Hitzler at their centre, cnr Grimshaw Street and The Circuit, Greensborough on Friday, September 21. Details from Jean Simmons, 469 2505.

Watch expands

It is good to report that Neighbourhood Watch is not only alive and well in Park Orchards, but is expanding into new areas. A further 60 homes have recently been included, and it is hoped another 40 or more will be added this year as zone leaders are recruited. Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the Community House.

Kids' gymkhana

Wyena Horse and Pony Club is holding a school holiday gymkhana at the club grounds in Croydon Road, South Warrandyte on Sunday, September 30. Riders under 21 can participate in open, topsy and pony club showjumping. Enquiries to 842 4311 or 844 2938.

In fashion

A reminder about the fashion parade being held to aid the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House

and the Citizens' Advice Bureau on Saturday, October 20 at 8pm at the Mechanics Institute. Local fashions will be paraded to the accompaniment of cello music by Jennifer Keuneman. Tickets at \$10 each, including supper and sherry, can be obtained from the CAB (844 3082) or the Neighbourhood House (844 1639).

Festival '91

Open next year's diary beside this month's Diary and prepare to pencil in some important dates. The Warrandyte Village Festival will take place on the weekend of March 16 and 17, 1991. It's not too early to begin planning those floats, banners, displays, billycarts, rafts and so on. If you have any ideas or enquiries, feel free to call festival chairman John Boyle on 844 3120.

Working friends

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park continue to hold their regular workdays at the nursery every Thursday. Other forthcoming activities include working bees, walks and a koala count. A handcrafts group, making handmade paper under the guidance of Gail Roche begins shortly. New members are always welcome. Just phone 844 1060.

Back to fun

Past and present children and their families are being invited to a 'back-to' reunion of the North Warrandyte kindergarten on Sunday, November 18, 11.30am to 3 pm. It will take the form of a BYO picnic lunch with tea, coffee and cordial provided. There will be a farewell presentation to Yvonne Manly at 2pm. Phone Gael Carter at 844 2547 for further information.

Strings

The Dorian Le Gallienne Music Society's string quartet will perform works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Haydn and Tchaikovsky on Sunday, September 23 at the Box Hill-Doncaster Library, 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, commencing at 1.45pm. Full details from Tracy Gibson, 890 1002.

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Artist 'here to stay'

Gus was born in Neerim South, East Gippsland, and lived there until he was eight when the Depression forced his family to move to the city, and the not-so-geelong suburb of Richmond.

"I guess I was a rather sensitive kid," said Gus. "The toughs of Richmond used to refer to me as 'sissy' or 'gussy'. Despite having been christened William George McLaren, I suppose the name 'Gus' came out of that."

Gus worked in a factory to pay for night art classes where he became a contemporary of another since famous cartoonist, William E Green — "WEG".

"When the war came I was a gunner in an anti-aircraft unit, and was stationed on Morotai at the end," Gus recalls.

"The army offered me a job teaching art, and some sergeants stripes, if I stayed on with army education. The troops were bored waiting for boats home, so needed all the diversions they could think of.

"I decorated a Red Cross hut with a cartoon history of the War — I think that mural is now in the war museum."

Later Gus was recruited to go to Japan and worked as a cartoonist on the BCON (British Commonwealth Occupation Newspaper).

There he met yet another cartoonist, Les Tanner, and the pair have been great friends ever since.

Back in 'Civvy Street' Gus worked at the Sydney Daily Telegraph.

"I earned 14 quid a week, a good salary then," he said.

"I took over a Womens Weekly comic strip called 'In and Out of Society' from William E Pigeon, 'WEP'. I think he won the Archi-

Gus McLaren, potter, animator, actor and bon vivant, is part of the recent history of Warrandyte. Described by friends as "one of the true characters around", Gus has made his presence felt in many ways over his past 37 years in town. He recently shared part of his life's story with *Diary* reporter, KEN VIRTUE.

bald Prize twice, so he was a pretty good artist!"

Once married, Gus moved to Brisbane to freelance for the Courier Mail, as well as retaining the comic strip.

He lived on a houseboat at McIntosh Island in the Nerang River where one of the residents told him to visit a relative in Warrandyte during a trip to Melbourne.

"I remember coming to Warrandyte in 1953 and saying 'that's where I want to build'," said Gus.

"I've been here ever since in the same house I built in Bradleys Lane."

Gus remembers reading a pottery book and deciding right then to make a pottery chess set.

"I've never finished that particular one but I've done many others," he laughs.

Gus was taught to make moulds by Reg Preston and started making pottery animals to sell.

"At the time I was making about 30 pounds a week at the Argus, and when I quit newspapers to become a full-time potter I ended up with about 5 pounds a week!"

Gus's pottery was exhibited in a Christmas sale at Reg Preston's studio, along with the work of other Warrandyte potters.

This was a successful event, repeated the next year. The group decided to start a weekend tourist gallery. This was the beginning of "Potters Cottage" based in John Hipwell's home at

the corner of Research and Kangaroo Ground Roads.

"It was opened by Professor Bourke from Melbourne University," said Gus.

"After two years it grew so quickly that we bought the seven acres which is the current Potters site."

During all this Gus accepted an offer he couldn't refuse from GTV9 to do animations for TV commercials and became animation director for Fanfare Films.

Later he started his own animation unit to do children's entertainment for Artrana Studios.

"Then during a lunch at Carlton, after the second or third bottle of red, a friend and I decided to open the 'Hot Pot Shop' restaurant," Gus said.

"We got pews from a closed Fitzroy church and used them in both the Hot Pot and Potters Cottage Restaurant."

Obviously this was not enough activity for an energetic artist and Gus became interested in the fledgling Warrandyte Drama Group.

"I was in their first play called the 'Happiest Days of our Lives', with Enid Bird (and Yvonne Reid and Jo Laurence — when they were both teenagers!). I played the juvenile lead role, a young man with a moustache..."

After a break of some years Gus returned to the stage in 1982 to play the lead role in *Out of the Question*.

There he met Denise Farran backstage, "my backstop ever since".

He went on to a lead role in *The Miser* and an unforgettable performance in *Travelling North*.

His animation work has included *King Arthur* and the *Square Knights of the Round Table*, many Hanna Barbara cartoons, *Grendel*, *Grendel*, *Grendel*, *Abra Cadabra*, some Paul Williams' films as well as the animation for the latest *Keep Vic Fit* TV ads.

Gus has held several pottery exhibitions and has pieces in the Perth Gallery, Tasmanian National Gallery and the National Gallery of Victoria, to name but a few.

His pottery work is seen as constantly changing, with a style that is earthy, gutsy and sculptural.

"It's certainly not delicate but I'm always looking for a new approach," he quips. "Denise has the greatest collections of seconds you've ever seen!"

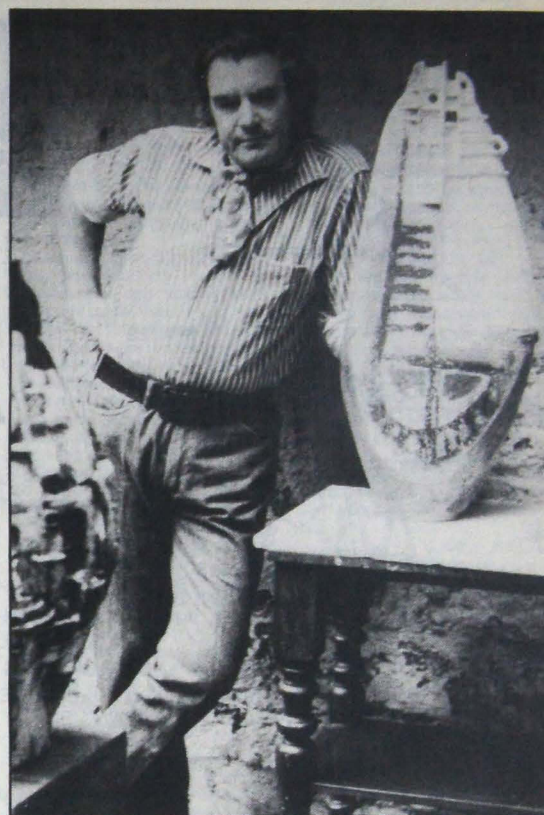
They laugh about having a retrospective of his work. Denise confides that Gus would like to do another exhibition and is "saving" some pieces.

"At the moment I'm mostly potting, when I'm not doing work for Denise," he says. (A good example is the ceramic mural for the 1988 Bicentenary at the Warrandyte Primary School.)

He has four children, Kirsty, John, Susan and Tim, with Tim still living 'at home' and Susan married in Warrandyte.

"I lived through a lot in this town, including a couple of bushfires, so it looks like I'm here to stay," he says.

Ah yes, "one of the true characters around!"



Gus McLaren, around 1970, with a piece now held by the Shepparton Gallery.

"When I quit newspapers to become a full-time potter I ended up with about 5 pounds a week."

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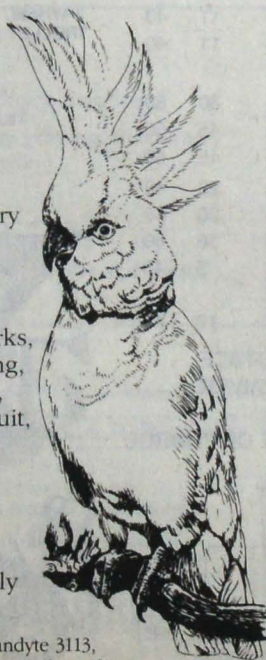
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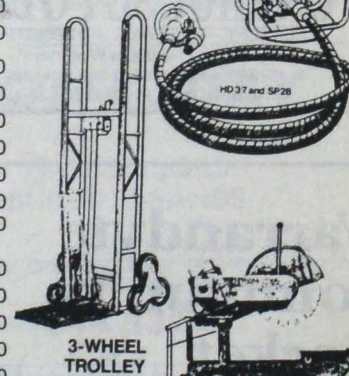
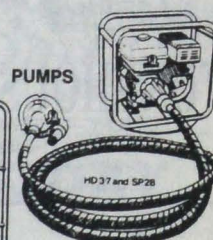
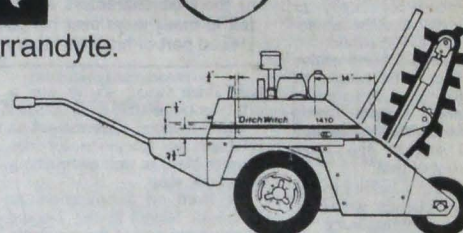
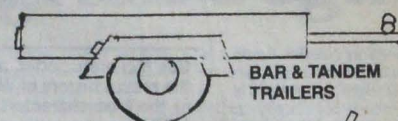
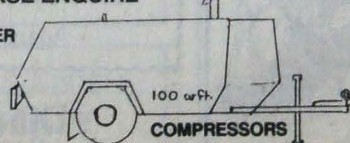
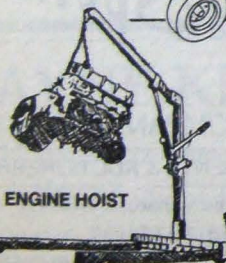
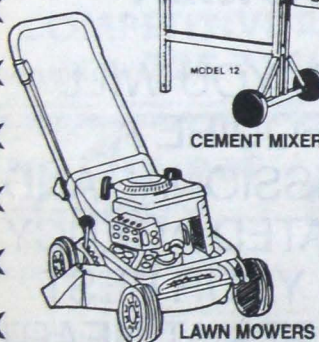
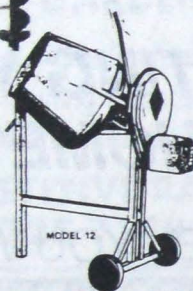
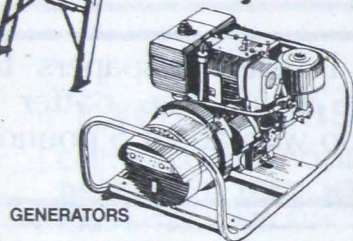
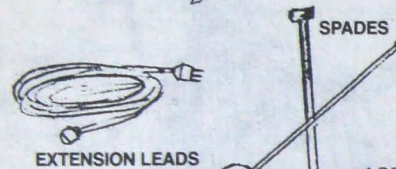
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Wattles back in bloom

Brilliant splashes of golden-yellow brighten our bushland, river banks and gardens during late winter and early spring.

These are the blooms of the familiar and widespread Australian wattle.

On close inspection the flowers appear either as cylindrical or globular, fluffy clusters of tiny stamens. Although petals and sepals are present in wattles, they are very much reduced; in eucalyptus flowers they are absent altogether.

Warrandyte has about twelve species of wattle native to the area.

They range from large trees up to 20 metres such as the magnificent Silver Wattles found along the river banks and in wet gullies, to low sprawling shrubs which rarely grow above half a metre. These include Heath Wattle and Thin-leaf Wattle thriving as ground covers in the drier regions of the Warrandyte State Park.

The majority of wattle species do not have true leaves. Instead they have phyllodes which are flattened stems modified to carry out the function of photosynthesis as do true leaves.

Phyllodes may be large and broad as on Golden Wattle and Blackwood, or narrow and spine-like such as those of Spreading Wattle.

True leaves are twice divided with a feathery appearance and generally occur on large trees such as Silver Wattle, Black Wattle and the non-indigenous Cootamundra Wattle.

All wattles produce true leaves initially but most change into phyllodes as the seedling matures.

Sometimes you may find a tree showing both types of leaf and occasionally you may discover a leaf that is half true leaf, half phyllode which makes you wonder if the tree is going through some adolescent crisis!

Wattle flowers are relatively short-lived and are at their brilliant best for only a few weeks of the year.

While the wattles are dominating the landscape at eye level and above, the understorey of the bush is also becoming illuminated with color.

The pink and white bells of the

NATURE

By PAT COUPAR

Common Heath and the greenish yellow bells of the Correa have been blooming throughout most of the winter.

These subtle colors are now joined by the blazing orange-red of the bush peas contrasting well with the deep rich purple of the Hardenbergia as it scrambles over the ground and twines up and around any shrub or tree in its way.

In addition the soft glowing tones of the Pink Bells blend superbly with the pale lilac, pea-like flowers of the little Hovea.

Tangled masses of Small-leaved Clematis cling tenaciously to anything that will give it support.

Its creamy, star-like flowers adorn the vegetation for a few weeks and as they die are replaced by downy plumes which carry the seeds. These are often referred to as Old Man's Beard.

Hidden among the grasses and leaf litter, you may find ground-dwelling orchids.

Orchids have the most highly specialised flower structure of any living plant. The diversity and beauty of orchid flowers

makes this group of plants one of the most popular.

The complex structure of the flower is used to attract and briefly trap insects for pollination.

Some are designed so it can be pollinated by only one type of insect.

The insects usually involved in this rather obscure plant-insect relationship are native bees, wasps or small flies.

However it is thought that in some instances butterflies may also be responsible for orchid pollination. They certainly pollinate many other flowering plants and as the weather warms these dainty, appealing insects are on the wing again.

One of the earliest butterflies to appear is the Painted Lady which migrates from warmer areas of New South Wales and Queensland aided by strong winds.

It is not until a couple of months later that butterflies from the cooler, Victorian regions emerge.

The Painted Lady is an attractive butterfly without being spectacular. Its wings are orange-brown with irregular markings of black and white, there are small blue dots on the edge of its hind wings which can be seen when the butterfly settles with its wings open.

Among the butterflies which delight us in early spring are the Meadow Argus and Australian

Admiral. Like the Painted Lady, they belong to the family Nymphalidae many of which have characteristic eye spots on the wings. These can be seen in the Browns and Xenicas, so common throughout the summer resting on the ground or low vegetation.

The Imperial White and Wood White are two closely related species from the family Pieridae.

They may be spotted flying amongst the tops of the trees where they are probably searching for clumps of mistletoe on which to lay their eggs.

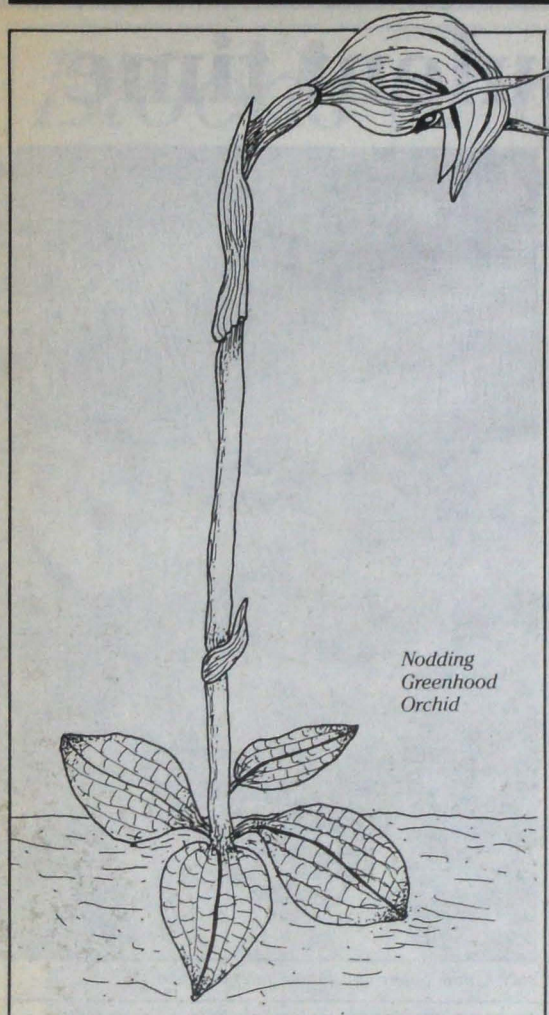
Warrandyte is fortunate in having relatively large tracts of remnant bushland, part of which was declared as State Park in 1975.

Since then several additions have been made including in 1981, an area known as Fourth Hill.

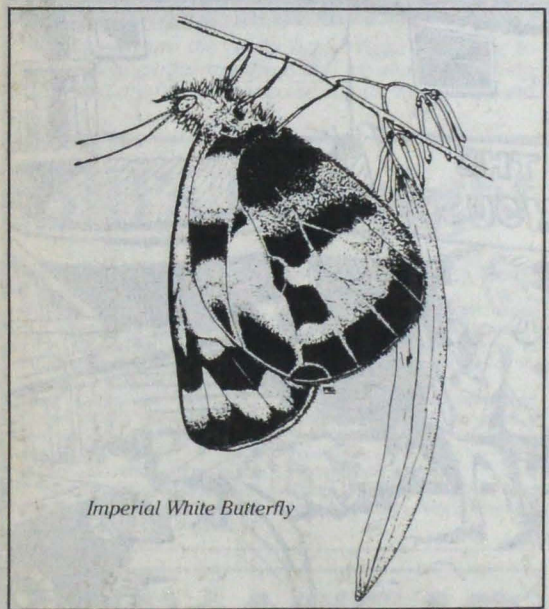
This section is fairly steep in parts with outcrops of coarse grained sandstones. It has a good cover of eucalypts, an excellent understorey of wattles and a superb display of wildflowers during the spring.

The vibrant colors of our bushland must be an inspiration for any artist to pick up a paint brush, for any photographer to reach for a camera or for anyone remotely interested in our natural heritage to simply take a stroll and give their perceptive human senses a treat.

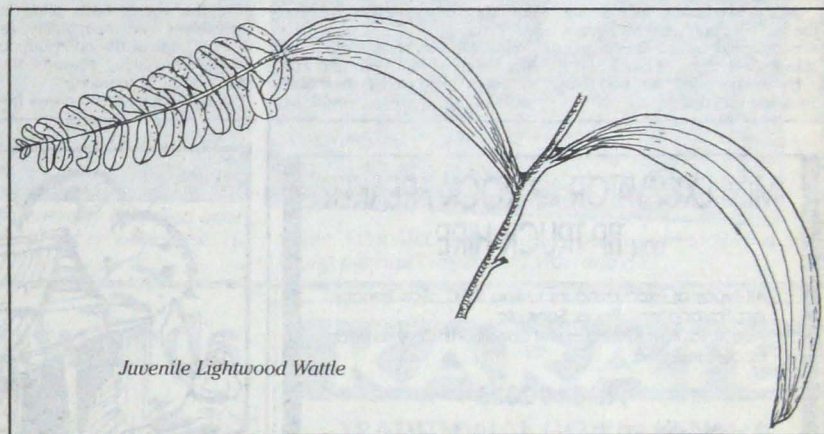
Drawings: MELANIE COUPAR



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Leading through a turbulent time

BRUCE BENCE continues his occasional series on former Warrandyte fire captains with a profile of Jack Cahill who held the position from February 26, 1951 to November 11, 1986.

The Cahill family has possibly lived in Warrandyte longer than any other.

Among those who held gold mining licences in the area in September 1851 is John Cahill — the only name out of 68 listed that can be identified as still being associated with the area today.

Jack was a foundation member of the Warrandyte Bush Fire Brigade when it was formed in 1938 and was one of the members who turned out to face the holocaust on Black Friday, January 13, 1939.

Jack was a superb bushman who had been fighting fires, which were a regular occurrence in the area, all his life.

He fought his first blaze at the age of six years when walking home from school. He came across a small fire burning in the grass, he took off his school cap and used it to put out the flames.

Jack came with his hands to anything. He worked at any jobs going in the area including fencing, digging drains, cutting firewood and felling trees during the siren wasp scare.

Jack worked in the open during the hottest summer days always accompanied by the bushman's standby of hot sweet black tea.

He and his wife "Min" had four sons and one daughter.

Jack was first elected brigade captain in February 1951, a position he retained until he retired in November 1986. By that time his health was so bad that he had collapsed while attending fires due to the heat and smoke.

Jack led the brigade through its most turbulent and hazardous years. He fought the 1927 and 1939 fires and led the brigade through the 1962 and 1965 fires.

During the years Jack led the brigade money was always a problem. Often when funds were needed to buy an essential piece of equipment the members would have to guarantee the overdraft.

After the 1962 fires the Warrandyte and Wonga Park brigades combined to form the Warrandyte Group to co-ordinate fire fighting operations in the area.

It soon became obvious that the group needed a headquarters. It was about this time that the brigades were offered a house for training purposes but, as it was in the Metropolitan Fire District it was not possible to use it. The house was demolished by Jack and the materials used to build the group headquarters and radio room behind the fire station in Mitchell Avenue.

Jack did most of the building helped by other brigade members. At the same time the brigades conducted road blocks collecting enough money to fit out the headquarters in one weekend.

Fire calls were answered by Mrs Cahill or Mrs Bellinger. The system worked well as invariably Jack of an evening would be

found yarning to his four sons and their mates as well as the neighbors lads. When a fire call came there was a crew ready to turn out immediately.

Jack passed on his vast knowledge and experience to these boys in the manner of earlier times when knowledge and skills were handed down from one generation to the next.

These lads were the backbone of the brigade and became very proficient firefighters under Jack's watchful eye.

Jack treated every fire as a lesson, watching the way those fighting it performed.

When the fire was controlled he would look for embers and hotspots and point out mistakes in a way that didn't antagonise the person concerned but also so they never forgot.

Jack knew all the features of the land and the bush creatures that lived on it and passed on this information.

Most of the firefighting was done using hand tools such as a branch torn from a tree, a knapsack, beaters and rakehoes. Jack always said that a good knapsack operator could get twice as much water out of a knapsack as could a mediocre operator.

The brigades carried out strategic fuel reduction burns and these were superb training for crew members. It gave them confidence to handle bush fires and gave the young boys pride in themselves and their ability, as well as pride in the contribution they were making towards the safety of the community.

In 1962 Jack spread crews be-

tween the road and the river to deal with spot fires. One group near the island thought they were going well when the fire swept down on them. There was an unearthly high-pitched roar and sparks were falling like rain. They held the spot fires on the north side of the road only to find when they looked around to the south that the whole hillside was a mass of flames due to sparks carried by the wind across the road.

The Warrandyte brigade, fighting under Jack's command, failed to hold the fire at the river but managed to reduce the front from about three miles to about half a mile.

In Jack's years as captain no fire that started in the area ever got out of control.

During his years as captain Jack fought off several challenges to his leadership. It was a tribute to him that in the finish it was his own choice that he resigned. His son-in-law Rod Ewing was elected by the brigade to take his place.

Jack served as captain for some 17 years, the longest time one person has held the position since the brigade was formed.

Not long after he resigned Jack was hospitalised. Country Fire Authority Regional Officer Arthur McPhan visited Jack in hospital and presented him with the authority's 30-year service badge. Jack died within a month of his resignation.

Thanks to Ian Domeyer for helping with the information for this article on Jack Cahill.



Jack Cahill: Superb bushman and firefighter

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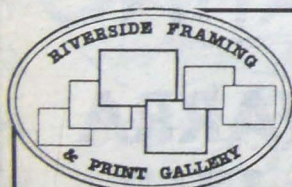
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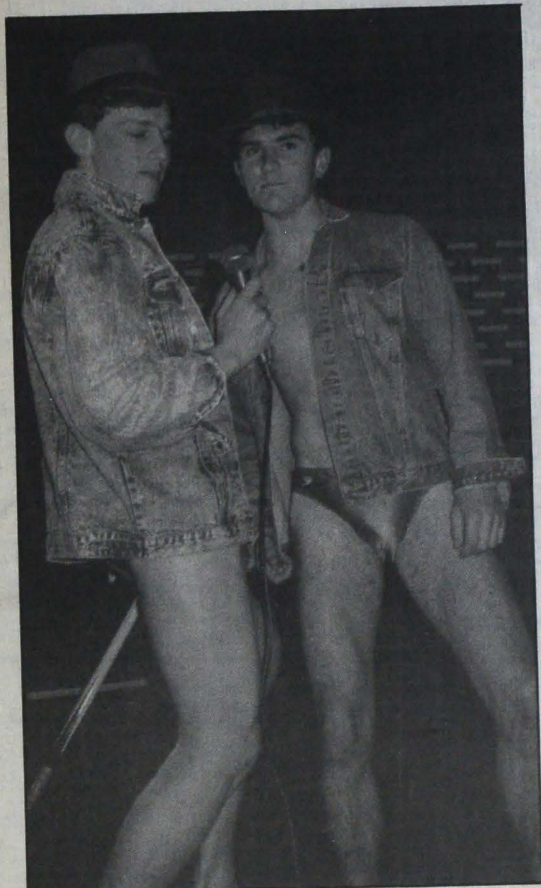
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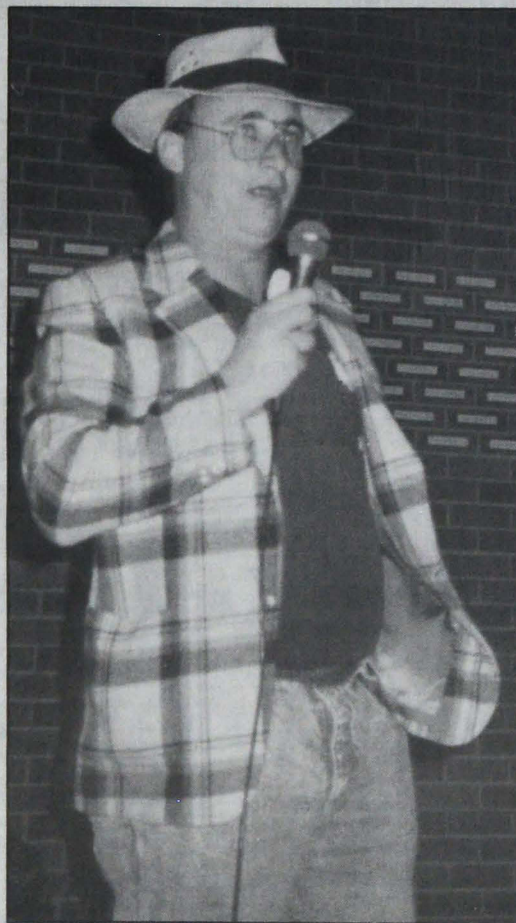
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Bloods of many talents



And who are the pretty boys? We're not going to publicly embarrass these two by identifying them — but they were ever so sensuous, hairy legs and all.



Robert "Noddy" Ireland can generally be relied upon for a performance — unrehearsed or otherwise. He was again in fine voice.



Wee John McCartin sings a rousing farewell to a long playing career with Warrandyte.

Bill's big night at footy awards

Outstanding schoolboy prospect Bill Hose made a personal "benefit night" of Warrandyte Football Club's junior presentations for the 1990 season.

Hose collected four trophies — under-14 best and fairest and leading goalkicker, the Gary "Madge" Allsop Best Clubman Award and the Len Woods Perpetual Shield.

It was also a big occasion for the Valentine family. Brad won the under-16 best and fairest and the Lions Club Perpetual Shield

and father Bill the Club Appreciation Award.

Bill, the under-16 team manager, won his award for many years' service to the junior cause, including past membership of the junior committee.

Mark Aspell survived a nail-biting count to win the under-18 best and fairest by a single vote from Frank Levey.

Junior award details:
Under-18: Best and fairest: Mark Aspell 1, Frank Levey 2, Guy Lees 3.

Under-16: Best and fairest: Brad Valentine 1, Ben Brisbane 2, Dale Versteegen 3.

Most Improved: John Prangley.

Coach's award: Shane Baker.

Most reliable: Troy Mangos.

Under-14: Best and fairest: Bill Hose 1, Matt Close 2, Chris Moloney, Tom Stuart 3.

Most improved: John Kusma.

Coach's award: Ben Dawson.

Training awards: Chris Moloney, Zan Nasser.

Leading goalkicker: Bill Hose.

Under-12: Best and fairest: Justin

Edwards 1, Ben Alchin 2, Nick Brisbane 3.

Most improved: Robert Mangos.

Coach's award: Ross Anderson.

Training awards: Geoff Hose, Luke Meehan.

Under-10: Best and fairest: Leigh Evans, Marcus Meade 1, Damien Johnston 2, Aidan Davey 3.

Most improved: Frank Lobosco.

Coach's award: Jeremy Selleck.

Training awards: Nathan Lear, Luke McKelvie.

Leading goalkicker: Marcus Meade (13).

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For Madge, it'll be on for young and old

The appeal for Gary "Madge" Allsop will be ongoing. Three major 1991 fund-raising events are already being planned for the Warrandyte footballer who broke his neck in an on-field collision 18 months ago.

Helen Revell, co-ordinator of the Gary Allsop Trust Fund, will be organising a disco, a dinner dance and a theatre restaurant night.

"The young people supporting the appeal have suggested a disco," Mrs Revell said. "We would hope to hold that at the clubrooms early in March."

"For us 'oldies', Potters Restaurant is keen to host a night for Madge, and we'd like to make that in May or June."

"And Terry Gill, who did such a wonderful job for us at his Naughty 90s theatre restaurant in July, has offered us a repeat performance. At this stage, we'd like to make that in late July or early August."

Mrs Revell said dates would be arranged after discussions with the incoming Warrandyte Football Club committee.

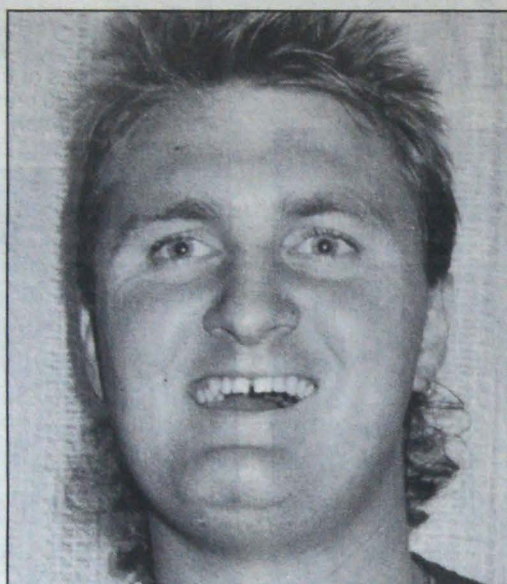
Contributions to the Allsop appeal should be addressed to PO Box 151, Warrandyte.

A grand way to watch it

The AFL grand final will even sound better this year. Warrandyte Football Club promises stereo on the big screen for its clubrooms presentation of the MCG event on October 6.

Doors open at noon and the \$15 charge includes a top meal. Even Collingwood supporters couldn't lose at that price.

The club's senior presentation night is on Show Eve, September 26. Tickets are \$25 and Norm Carrington (876 2613 AH) awaits your call.



John O'Brien, Warrandyte's best and fairest for 1990.

Sharp-shooting O'Brien our best

Full-forward John O'Brien is Warrandyte Football Club's best and fairest for 1990.

O'Brien, 23, polled 96 votes at last month's count to beat utility player Dale Vitritti by 11. Captain and ruck-rover Robin Golding, who won the award in 1984 and 1989 and has announced his retirement, was third, with 81.

O'Brien kicked 79 goals for the season, including a near-record 16 in the opening game. The fact that he spent time in the ruck and at centre half-forward, covering for the absence of injured team-mates, probably cost him the EDFL third division goalkicking award.

O'Brien, a product of the local juniors, has played more than 100 games for the Bloods. He also tried out with the Fitzroy under-19s.

John Furlong won the reserves best and fairest award by seven votes 36 to 29 from John Colenso. Michael Day was third, with 21.

Warrandyte finished eighth in the 10-team senior competition after a debilitating run of early-season injuries. They won seven of their 18 matches.

The club is already recruiting for 1991.

"A players meeting has approved of the committee contracting four senior players for next season," secretary Norm Carrington told the Diary.

"We are in something of a North Melbourne situation — a very young side in need of experienced players. Our oldest senior player, John Shalvey, is 28; the next oldest is just 23."

The club will hold its annual general meeting at the clubrooms on Monday, October 22. It has been brought forward this year to allow the incoming committee more time to prepare for the new season. All members are urged to attend.

New cricket coach calls in the recruits

The new broom of John Sharman is making sweeping changes at Warrandyte Cricket Club.

Sharman, 24, who succeeds Greg Tregear as captain-coach, has recruited three well-credentialed players to stiffen the senior ranks for the new season, which starts on October 6.

An all-rounder with District Club Waverley before coming to Warrandyte he has signed:

- Darren Carter, 24, a wicket-keeper and opening batsman. Carter previously played for Mt Waverley in Sub-District and has impressed Warrandyte officials with his work in the nets.

SPORT

- John Barker, 24, who has batted middle-order for the Glen Waverley Hawks in the first division of the Oakleigh competition.

- Andrew Hood, 23, a punishing opening batsman who has played District cricket with Hawthorn-East Melbourne seconds and Waverley-Dandenong firsts and seconds. The power of Hood's stroke play at practice is a talking point among Warrandyte's bowlers.

The club is also confident of recruiting a classy left-arm fast bowler who is well known to Sharman.

After disappointing recent seasons, Warrandyte approaches 1990-91 with new confidence.

Indoor practice has given way to outdoor sessions at the recreation reserve from 10 am each Sunday. Sharman has been impressed by the potential of several upcoming juniors but wants to see a lot more from some so-



John Sharman

called established senior players who hope to hold their places in the firsts and seconds.

Competition for berths in these teams will be very tough.

Warrandyte will play a practice match against a Waverley district side on Saturday, September 29, as a full-dress rehearsal for the season's opener.

It will convene a refreshing "4.30 Club" at each home game during the season.

Basketball kids mass for finals assault

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Finals tension is in the air at Warrandyte Basketball Club. When this edition of the *Diary* went to press, the club was counting on 20 teams making the play-offs in the Saturday junior competition.

Fourteen boys and six girls teams appeared to have made the finals, improving on last season's representation of 17.

Last season produced six premierships and two runners-up so the possibility of beating that figure was high.

The new Friday night season is under way and Warrandyte has started very well, with three consecutive home games for the under-11s, 13s, 15s and 17s transferring into some big wins.

The under 13s are in particularly good touch — as are the under-15s, who demoralised Broadmeadows with a 60-point win.

On the other hand, the under-17s have had early-season blues, losing their first few.

In the midweek men's competition, the Hitmen are well on the way to making it back-to-back premierships. They have comfortably won their first five games of the 17-week season.

The Wobblers, Peter Parkes and Codat Lakers round out the top four of the eight-team competition.

There have been some exciting matches, with two consecutive ties delighting the crowds, which have tripled in recent weeks.

On September 22 and 23, the club will compete in Albury Junior Basketball Tournament. Several local teams have high expectations in the round-robin events. Teams will play as many as six games in the two days.

• Junior footy awards — Page 15

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