

# If fire comes stay at home

A bushfire expert has appealed to people in the fire-prone Warrandyte area to take all possible precautions, then stay and protect their homes if fire threatens this summer.

"Homes are destroyed by bushfires because people are evacuated," Joan Webster, author of the 'Complete Australian Bushfire Book' told the *Diary*.

"Stay in the shelter of your homes. Protect your homes. That is official CFA policy. But it is being ignored by many local authorities. Victorians have the right, under the Country Fire Act, to stay to protect their property. Police have no legal power to force them to leave."

Following Ash Wednesday, studies found that 60 percent of abandoned homes were destroyed. However, 100 percent of houses with three or more persons over the age of 10, and 82 percent with only one person at home, were saved.

"Bushfires are likely to happen on any day that has temperatures over 37C, winds of 30kph with gusts to 70kph, a relative humidity of 20 percent or less," Ms Webster warns.

"When a blow-up day is suspected, clear ground, subfloor and gutters of anything flammable. Re-mow, slash, prune, rake tidy and water. Strip loose bark and litter from trees, secure roofs, attach hoses to taps and place water containers with

dippers or mops at vulnerable places.

"Put stock in a refuge area. Place one ladder against the roof and another by the ceiling man-hole. Check if children are kept at school during a bushfire threat.

"If you see smoke, close doors, vents, and windows. Protect skylights and windows with metal shutters or fireproof cover. Block downpipes, fill gutters with water. Close inside doors and plug inside and outside keyholes. Pack doors and windows with non-combustible draught excluders.

"As embers start to fall, do not attempt to evacuate. There is no such thing as an 'escape route'. Spot fires can spring up in roadside vegetation, cutting off roads. At this point, put on protective clothing, smoke mask and goggles. Wet possible ignition sites.

"Pour or throw water onto burning matter as it lands, or douse with a wet mop, bag or green bough. Use a rake to push burning material onto burnt ground or push soil onto it. Aim hose or knapsack on the burning substance, not flames.

"Drink every ten minutes or eat juicy fruit. When you are uncomfortably hot, go inside. Avoid heat stroke.

"If you are away from home, return as soon as roads are safe. A fallen ember which may have entered your house can smoulder for hours."

Ms Webster strongly advises against trying to drive through a burning area to protect your home. "It may seem heroic, but it is as stupid as it is unnecessary."

## FIRE CALLS

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Information: 844 3673

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Information: 722 1732

## Thank you for 20 good years

The *Diary* was born 20 years ago this month. Thanks Warrandyte, for letting us join with you in two decades of life in our village. And thanks to the many people who produced our newspaper this year.

Reporters David Wyman and Judy Macdonald chased down many of our news stories, features were written by Ken Virtue, Roger Kibell and Bruce Bence, Smokey Joe relayed the gossip and Judy Green and Pauline Brooke compiled local group news. Pat Coupar wrote our splendid nature column.

We are indebted to occasional contributors Glen Jameson, Marion Winton, Coralie Souvatzis, Bob Cox, Ian Burke, Brian Lau-

rence and Gavin James and to our many letter writers and 'droppers-in-the-box'.

Black and white art is a feature of the paper. Cartoonists Jock Macneish, Paul Williams and Joff Manders and graphic designer Wayne Rankin are responsible. We are especially proud of our young 'cadets': reporters Georgi Stickels, Clinton Grybas, Ingrid Kleinhenz and Ewan Hall, and illustrator Melanie Coupar.

Jenny Southall and Diane Orlander sold advertising. Latterly, Diane has also looked after accounts, as did Pam Sharpe and Robin Ritter. Colin Davis handled 'corporate affairs'. Wilma and Bruce Bence delivered the bun-

dles each month and let's not forget Jill Howell our computer operator.

The paper was sub-edited and designed by Linda Scull, Wendy Pugh, Lee Tindale and Cliff Green. Lee continued as sports editor and Cliff as news editor. But the hardest working member of our team has been chief-of-staff Jan Tindale. Jan also took most of the photographs and Alan Lesheim processed them.

Finally, thanks must go to our advertisers, printers and typesetters, our distribution points, and especially to you, our loyal and valued readers.

The *Diary* is taking a holiday next month. See you in February.



**WARRANDYTE DIARY  
GOOD NEWS**

## CYRIL BY PAUL W.



\*\*\*\*\*

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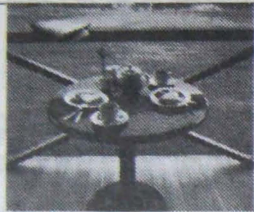
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**A fearless farrago of  
facts and foul deeds**

So it's 20 years up for the *Diary*. Much water under the Warrandyte bridge and very little of it drunk by a few past editors we could name (but won't, for fear of reprisals). It's fewer than 20 for Smokey Joe, who sulked and pouted in the wings for the first time and a half, waiting for his subtle, muck-raking talents to be discovered. We've covered a lot of ground and a lot of people since and it must be latent voyeurism which prompts the recurring recall of two subjects: The naked long-distance lady jogger of 1986 and the young thing who stripped in a local milk bar because she said her cappuccino wasn't hot enough. Remember where you read it first, folks.



Far less fleeting were the felicitous deeds of John (Porky) Smith, who will one day drop the facade and admit that Smokey made him the legend he is. We're working on making Smithy Readers Digest's most unforgettable character. That way, he'll eventually be known to every patient in every dentist's waiting room in the English-speaking world.

Two decades of *Diary* production have been a lot of fun, work, sleepless nights, frustration, trauma (which wasn't even an "in" word in our hot-metal days) and degrees of panic. The early production team - Cliff Green, Peter Lovett and Lee Tindale - found a little white or red wine soothed the savage stress on that one frantic night the paper was put to bed (as they used to say in the movies). Their financial reward ended abruptly when the marine dealers jacked up and cancelled the return on empty flacons.

The *Diary* has had its moments. There was the time Ken Virtue's dog demolished an entire issue before it was published. Editor Ken left it all under a rock late one night for printer Wal Cornhill to pick up early the next morning. Copy, page layouts, corrected galley proofs, the lot. Along came the pooch. He sniffed, snuffled, then snaffled. What he didn't eat he buried. The paper was a real dog's breakfast that month.

We only re-made the front page once in 20 years. That was June 1982. We were set to go to press the night they burned down the

**IN RED & WHITE**

old post office. People were crying in Yarra Street, we thumped out the angry words and the fluorescents burned late in Wal Cornhill's workshop on Kangaroo Ground Road. "Bad news is good news." That's the old journo's maxim. But we could have done without that particular sob story.

Then came the good news. Warrandyte won the footy grand final in 1983. Twice. Firsts and reserves. After 17 heartbreaking years. Sport actually cracked it onto the front page that month. But Smokey wasn't half as chuffed as Ken McKenzie. Then president of the club, Ken had ordered a special bottling of Warrandyte Premiership Port. Cases and cases of the stuff. Minutes before the siren, and the Bloods were still four points down. Ken and Anthony (The Gnome) Giles-Peters would've had to drink the lot if we'd lost. And it was absolute rotgut.

What the *Diary* had given, the *Diary* snatched back from the milk bars one Friday night in August, 1976. We managed to retrieve all but a few hot-off-the-press copies in which we'd transposed the chalk-and-cheese philosophies of two opposing Eltham council candidates. Oh gawd! Saturday was spent untransposing 3000 copies with little felt-tipped-penned arrows.



We were going to leak this to Channel 7 and let Derryn Hinch go national with "Shame, Jim Harris, shame!" Compassion got the better of us, though, and we're keeping it within the confines of the *Diary's* circulation territory. Mild-mannered golf addict Jim threw not one but THREE clubs when the easyish par-four 16th got the better of him at Healesville a couple of Saturdays ago. The missiles were, in order of tossage, a five wood, a seven iron and a nine iron, none of which was damaged as much as Jim's pride. He had an eight.

Veterans cricket is probably not the most swashbuckling version of the great game and on a rainy day the tempo of the occasion

has been known to become downright sluggish. Fitting then that a tortoise should make its way across the recreation reserve during a recent Warrandyte oldies' match. Spectators said they couldn't tell the difference.



The anti-smoking lobby is a potent force indeed - but you are sometimes led to wonder if the priorities of some of its adherents are in logical order. Local bloke who is not averse to a fag got a dirty, withering look from a woman when he dared light up as he waited for the Warrandyte bus in Russell Street the other day. Yet the lady turned not a hair when the bus in front revved up and enveloped the queue in foul diesel fumes. Frankly, Smokey prefers the whiff of a Winfield.

If you've enjoyed this column in 1990, imagine how tickled you'd be to see your own contribution on Page 2 in 1991. What we're saying is that too few people are dobbing in their mates, husbands, wives, et cetera. Apart from getting up the noses of bureaucrats and other bunglers occasionally, Smokey Joe is all about fun and foibles. So spare him a thought in your New Year resolutions and make someone you know a celebrity. And may your own Christmas and New Year be both joyous and foible-free.

LATE NEWS: We'd stop the presses only for Porky Smith and we're thrilled to report that he has risen above these trying economic times. Porky swept into the local pub the other Saturday flourishing a wad of notes as testimony to the success of his garage sale which, at that time, still had more than a day to run. His mates swear he'd actually been flogging bits of hard garbage he'd snaffled from kerbsides on his travels as a council vehicle jockey. But we know Honest John better than that, don't we?



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Joe**

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## Memo backs roof move

Moves are afoot to have the Whitehouse restored and rebuilt along lines suggested in the *Diary* last year. This was announced at the annual general meeting of the Whitehouse management committee, held recently.

Situated in Taroona Avenue beside the recreation reserve, the Whitehouse is now in a state of disrepair. A previous Doncaster council memo recommended that it should be demolished.

The committee has suggested that the \$35,000 set aside in the 1990-91 council budget should be used to develop the "Kevin Parker concept".

This proposes replacing the condemned top storey with a new roof and opening up the ceiling of the main hall. The overall scale and appearance of the building would be retained.

"New residents move to Warrandyte for the village atmosphere," Cr Louise Joy told the *Diary*. "There has been much

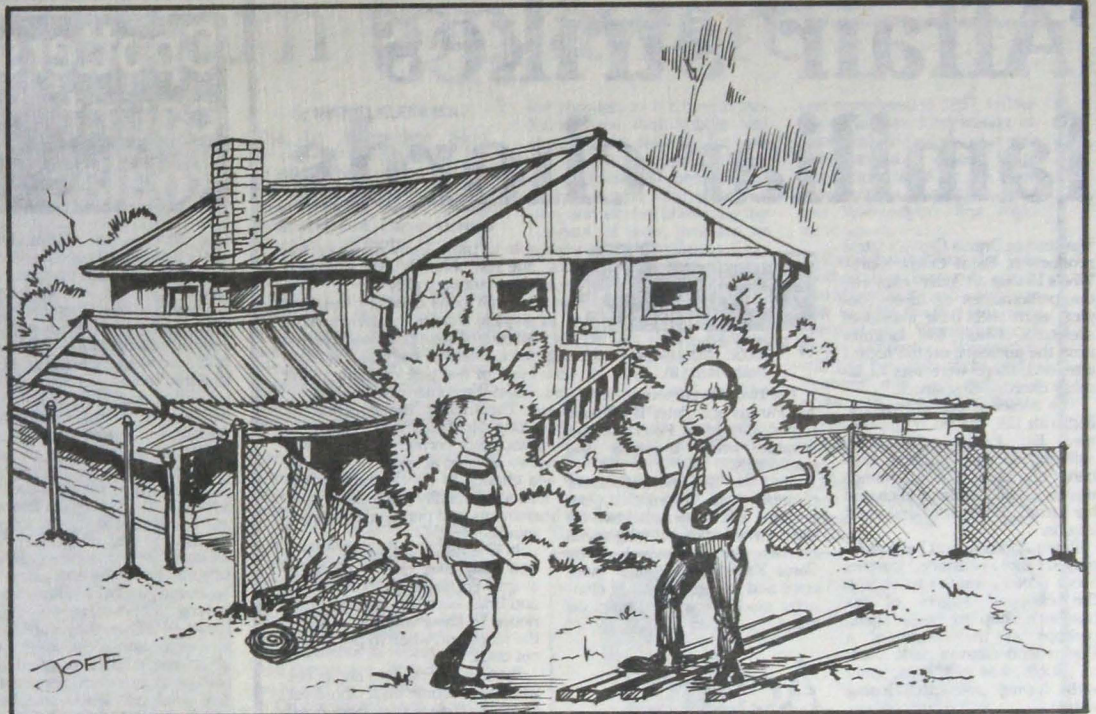
controversy surrounding the Whitehouse, but the old building continues to buzz with all sorts of activity.

"Ninety girl guides and brownies use it constantly, taekwondo classes are held regularly, there are 21st birthday parties and wedding receptions and the 50-50 dances have brought back the flavor of the 1950s.

"It is important that we work to preserve this character, so easily lost in creeping suburbanisation. The development of committee rooms at the new community centre was on the basis of a larger hall being retained at the Whitehouse for a different type of function."

A special Christmas dance will be held at the Whitehouse on Saturday, December 22, starting at 8pm.

"Family groups are welcome at \$10, so that children can learn to enjoy the lost art of ballroom dancing," Cr Joy said.



"Finish the fence, we'll get a National Trust classification, then hope someone comes by with a can of petrol and a box of matches!"

# Protesters rally to save eagles

By GEORGI STICKELS

Bulldozer operators were forced to stop work during a protest to save a family of wedge-tailed eagles.

Although local conservationists now believe the development of the Chase in North Warrandyte cannot be stopped, the fight is well underway to preserve the eagles' nest.

As reported last month, it is believed that this is the last pair of eagles nesting in the Melbourne urban area.

The Chase, of approximately 100 acres, is being subdivided into seven housing lots. It contains a myriad of wildlife. Of greatest concern is the fate of the nestbound young eagle. Naturalists fear that the development will scare away the parents, leaving the young to starve.

The debate escalated last month when concerned locals took action against clearing the land. Although none of the clearing was illegal, many deemed it excessive. The land straddles Stony Creek, which in one place has been almost totally diverted to a new course.

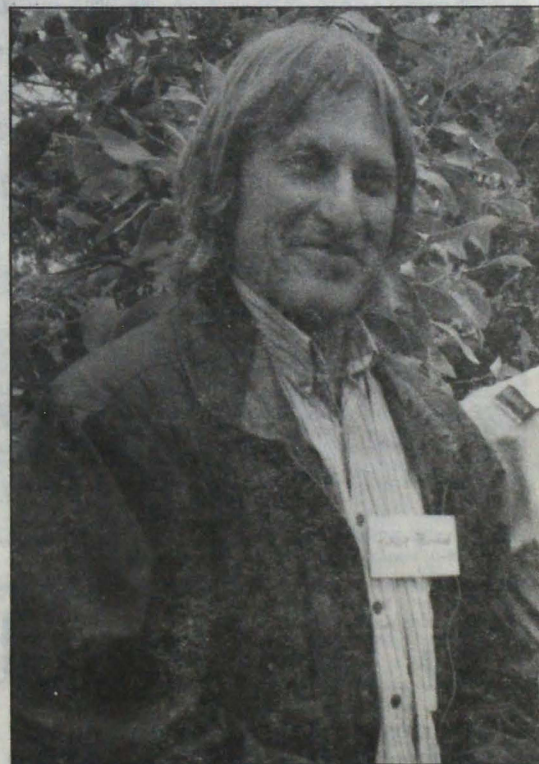
Part of the access road, leading to only four houses, widens to almost 40 metres at one point. During a rally held at the Chase last month, a news helicopter was able to land in the middle of this road.

The rally was called to muster support for the preservation of the land and the nest. More than 75 people, many of them children, gathered at the entrance to the Chase.

Sixteen year-old Research student Marcel Cameron and his naturalist father David, who both began the campaign carried a banner reading "Save Melbourne's last eagles". The two led marchers down the road towards the bulldozers. The machines had been working on Sundays. That morning, however, the only person present was one of the developers.

Residents who did not know of the march came out to take part. Many had been concerned for

## Deputation to see Minister



Cr Robert Marshall: Explained options to save eagles

the fate of the eagles, which one family has watched "nearly every day for four years". Other people came from further away. One man had ridden a pushbike from East Bentleigh.

People were angry over the "desecration of natural land" the road "like a freeway" and the fate of the eagles, traditionally at the top of the environmental food chain.

"It appears as though the developers are at the top of the food chain now," commented one man from Ringwood.

Also present were members of Children for Conservation. This group has several hundred members in Melbourne and Sydney.

In the week following the rally, the developers worked swiftly to clear more land than was expect-

ed. Access driveways to the blocks nearest the eagles' nest are now carved into the landscape.

The developers claim this was an "accident". Friends of the Chase do not believe it is a coincidence that the only driveways constructed are on blocks which directly affect the eagles.

Friends of the Chase reacted immediately, organising a second protest. With only four hours notice, 60 young people and their parents rallied at the Chase.

Led by Marcel Cameron, they marched towards the bulldozers, intent on stopping them. Watched by television news crews, the bulldozers shut down and were surrounded by protesters.

David Cameron, and Eltham councillor Robert Marshall informed everyone of the options available. One of them was a State government interim conservation order. This would bring work to an immediate, though temporary, halt and allow the young eagle to grow to adulthood in peace.

David Cameron and Richard Schurmann addressed Eltham council the following evening, requesting the protection of the eagles. Council agreed to discuss the possibility of buying some of the land around the nest and moving the building envelopes on the blocks at least 350 metres from the nest.

Experts believe that this could result in the birds using the nest again. However, all plans are subject to the approval of the developers.

As the *Diary* went to press, Marcel Cameron was leading a deputation to Minister for Conservation and the Environment Steve Crabb. This has been organised by local MP Ms Cheryl Garbutt. The group hopes to persuade the government to help finance the purchase of land in the Chase for the eagles.

For almost ten years, the Warrandyte Co-op Labor Exchange has been matching people looking for work with jobs available in the community, as well as creating job opportunities through various projects.

These include the community childcare centre, the after-school care program, the youth coffee shop, the sole parent support group, neighborhood house, the bakery, woodyard, mudbrick-making and secretarial service.

"With the opening next year of our office in the community centre and current rising unemployment, the co-op is keen to expand the labor exchange to meet this growing demand," a co-op spokesperson told the *Diary*.

## Exchange helpers wanted

"We are therefore seeking expressions of interest from people who may be willing to volunteer several hours each week to help with this project."

The secretarial service will also be available again from the new office. The service includes typing, photocopying, duplicating and stencil cutting. For more information, phone Jean on 844 3326.

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# 'Affair' strikes familiar chords

Warrandyte Drama Group's latest production, Carol Cole's 'Guess Who's Having an Affair', explored the personalities of three couples, each with their individual skeletons. Given the laughter from the audience on the night I attended, there were lots of familiar chords being struck.

The audience certainly identified with Bill, played by newcomer Jim Pasinis, the long-suffering doorman plumber husband of Helen (Carol Keating) whose social climbing alienated her from both husband and friends.

Robin Atkinson and Peter Bool played the 'ordinary' couple. Steve (Peter) wanted to escape the chopped fingers of his butcher's shop to begin again, perhaps as the owner of a Queensland caravan park. Diana (Robin) was more concerned with having fun and losing weight.

Beth (Yvonne Morey) and Vince (Rowen Bavinton) were obviously more vulnerable as a couple. Beth was the oppressed wife of nasty and unscrupulous estate agent Vince, whose 'insights' while trying to sell a house caused mayhem at the dinner party given by Helen to show off her sterile decorator home.

The three couples meet at a dinner party and it is here that all their warts are exposed, under the gentle prodding of alcohol and the hired help Nancy, played by Jenny Harkin.

The acting was excellent, particularly in the first half, where the couples had the chance to spark off each other and there was the opportunity for motivation and characterisation to develop.

## REVIEW

By ROGER KIBELL

The two newcomers to acting, Jim Pasinis and Peter Bool were remarkably good. Peter was believable, acting naturally and confidently.

Jim, as the down-to-sewer plumber, was disgruntled, but perhaps a little too assertive for the doorman of the nagging social climber, played convincingly by Carol Keating. Her stage presence and understanding of character made her a focal point on stage.

## Acting excellent

I was particularly impressed by Robin Atkinson's raunchy portrayal of Dianna. Robin is always prepared to play the role and forget about herself; letting it all hang out, if that's what the role requires.

Rowen Bavinton, too, has stage presence. He was sufficiently offensive and disturbed to make his role pivotal to the relationship he had with the controlled, understated performance of Yvonne Morey as his discontented wife.

It was pleasing to see the return of Jenny Harkin to the Warrandyte stage. Nancy was a difficult, perhaps overly stereotyped

role to play. Jenny managed the fine line between caricature and character very ably.

I still have difficulty watching plays in a cabaret setting with its attendant sore back and twisted neck. Staging the play at both ends of the hall certainly didn't assist the audience's comfort.

Theatricality, the direction by Doug McManus and Brian Laurence was correct, however. The two isolated acting areas gave us a chance to concentrate on the couples, readily fixing their environments and personalities in our minds.

It is a difficult task to take a new play and give it birth on stage. Fortunately, both Doug and Brian have had enough experience to know when to pull out the stops and when to prune and cut back.

By now, Warrandyte audiences will have become blasé about yet another original play performed by WDG. We are fortunate to have writers like Helen Cahill and Carol Cole amongst us.

Carol is mistress of the one-liner. I sometimes question the total direction of her plays and I'm not sure about the message of 'Guess Who's Having an Affair', but I am impressed by Carol's insights into people's personalities. Being in the audience of a Carol Cole play is like being in social therapy.

Plays can't run without a backstage crew and again we are fortunate to have people like Gail Macrae, Sue Dyring, Jock Macneish and Edwin Fall to work lights and sound.

However the show revolves around the stage manager and I know Phyl Swindley has done an excellent job. Phyl was helped by Raine Dinale and Carol Cole.

## Spotters count koalas

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park gave their services to park rangers for the annual koala count at Pound Bend, Warrandyte. On October 28, three groups of searchers set out to track down these elusive and hard to spot creatures. The children with us were most successful in finding koalas in the tall eucalypts. Koalas are an endangered species, and the object of the count is to assess their survival following the release of tagged animals several years ago. Of the 20 koalas seen only two were identified as tagged. The rest could be assumed as descendants of the original group. All the animals appeared to be healthy, and several had young on their backs. Whether they can survive as a colony depends mainly on the availability of food, disease that renders them infertile, road accidents, and the activity of predators. The majority of koalas spotted were confined to the areas where the original release took place. As there has been frequent sighting at other times well away from this area, rangers would appreciate hearing from local residents when they encounter any of these furry fellows.

IAN BURKE

Ryan Murphy scans the tree tops for koalas



The annual koala count was also a family day

## Tip plan rubbished

By INGRID KLEINHENZ

Concerned residents north of the river are urging Eltham council to abandon plans to establish a landfill tip on 220 acres of beautiful natural bushland on Pretty Hill at Kangaroo Ground.

About 90 people attended a meeting organised by the Kangaroo Ground Waste Management Group early last month. They were suspicious and critical that council had purchased the land without public consultation.

Shire plans for the land, which is adjacent to the existing tip at Kangaroo Ground, are said to include the ultimate development of a golf course and other public facilities.

North Riding councillor Robert Marshall told the meeting that both he and Cr Jenny Mitchell were opposed to the tip.

He pointed out that councillors who are supporting the destruction of the land did not understand the full adverse impact of the proposed landfill on the environment.

Not only would fauna and flora be destroyed, including thousands of trees, but polluted water containing leachates would flow straight into the Yarra River.

"This seems to be ridiculous," Cr Marshall said, "especially as the State Government is currently spending millions on cleaning up the Yarra."

Cr Marshall is not satisfied that the Environmental Protection Authority will approve using the land as a tip.

The meeting was reminded that the Minister for Planning and Urban Growth has stated his intention to exclude landfills from

the North Riding of the Shire of Eltham. The waste management group is urging him to use his powers to amend the shire's planning scheme.

It was suggested that council re-open negotiations with Diamond Valley and Doncaster and Templestowe councils with a view to constructing a garbage transfer station and recycling facility, such as existed at Nunawading.

Mr Max McDonald, MP for Whittlesea, appeared to support this proposal. He urged the community to convey their opinions to both council and the government.

Cr Marshall said using the numerous quarry holes already in existence would make more sense than ruining the natural bushland at Pretty Hill.



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# Venturers earn top award



Ventura leader Rainie Skinner congratulates Tania Curwood

By INGRID KLEINHENZ

The 1st Warrandyte Scout Troop was honored late last month when three of its members received the coveted Queen's Scout Award. Recipients were Tania Curwood, Sean Mueglitz and Robbie Gedge, all 17 year old members of the local Venturers unit.

Gaining the award involves reaching a high standard of achievement in 12 specific areas including citizenship, environment, expeditions, expression and fitness. Candidates are also required to attend leadership and initiative courses.

Warrandyte Venturers can claim only two previous Queen's Scouts. Emma Deeley and Jonathon Bartlett were honored last year.

At the awards ceremony, Venturers leader Rainie Skinner commented that Tania Curwood had "been a driving force in the success of the unit". She commended Tania on her organisational skills and her achievements in tennis, fitness and expression. Tania also acted as unit chairperson.

On presenting Sean Mueglitz with his award, Venturers leader Roger Skinner commended him on his work as unit treasurer and on his skill as a debater. "He displays a real ability to relate to other people's problems," Mr Skinner said.

To gain his expeditions badge, Sean spent up to 20 hours setting up a bike hike near the Murray, organising all the equipment, food and first aid supplies.

Robbie Gedge joined Warrandyte scouts as a cub, progress-

ing through to Venturers. Mrs Rainer said that Robbie had shown great aptitude for first aid. He also excelled at canoeing and chaired unit discussions on such vital issues as drug and alcohol abuse and the dangers of peer pressure in areas such as smoking.

Although each of the Queen's Scout awards stands alone, Robbie's award is of special historic interest. His grandfather, Mr Ken Gedge, founded the 1st Warrandyte Scout Troop in 1953. At that time, meetings were held on the bank of the Yarra.

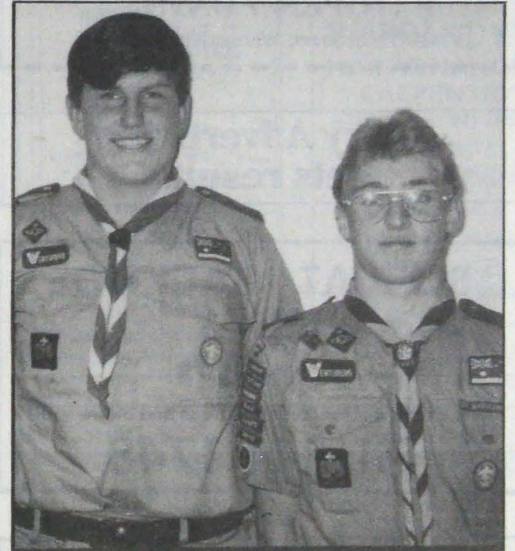
Also, along with Ken Gedge, Robbie's great grandmother Mrs Dorothy Johnstone revived the Warrandyte cub pack after its shaky beginnings in 1940 and its dissolution in 1941.

The scout hall in Yarra Street

was completed in 1957, following mammoth fund raising efforts and the work of much volunteer labor. Among those who helped were Mr Jim Horkings and his son Robin, who was Warrandyte's first registered scout.

Through the 1980s, 1st Warrandyte had two cub packs, two scout packs and a Venturer unit. In 1989, the first girls were enrolled in a Warrandyte cub pack. Currently, Warrandyte still has two cub packs and a Venturer unit, but only one scout unit, due to insufficient leaders.

Warrandyte Venturers meet every Friday night from 8 to 10.30pm. Their activities include bushwalking, abseiling, caving, canoeing and rock climbing.



Queen's Scout Award recipients Sean Mueglitz and Robbie Gedge

## Park control proposal sparks rate rise fears

By DAVID WYMAN

Local conservation groups and politicians have expressed deep concern that the government may hand control of state parks near Melbourne to the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works.

Warrandyte State Park would certainly be included in the plan, which surfaced in mid-November when Conservation and Environment Department staff contacted the media.

Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte, has warned local residents that higher water rates and a special parks levy on their rates would definitely result if the board took over state parks.

He told the *Diary*: "The Government has no logical reason for the plan other than to transfer the cost of all park management from being a general government revenue item to becoming an extra burden on the board's ratepayers."

"Because of the large allotments of land in Warrandyte and Park Orchards, most of us are

### Conservation groups seek consultation

subject to higher than average excess water rates and we could, therefore, bear the brunt of the board's rate increases.

"In all other states it is the State Government's responsibility to manage and care for national and state parks from general taxpayers' revenue. For the government to make the board of works into a taxing agent for public land management is not within its charter."

Mr Honeywood said the board had a good management record for open space metropolitan parks, but this was very different to the specialist management required of national and state parks with diverse flora and fauna priorities.

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park president, Margaret

Burke, has sought an assurance from the Minister for Conservation and Environment, Mr Crabb, that any study of options for management of Warrandyte State Park would include proper consultation with interested staff and community groups.

"We remind the government and departmental management that locally based and volunteer groups are now recognised as an important element in the infrastructure of park management," she said.

"The close working relationship between department staff at Warrandyte and the Friends would deteriorate if re-allocation of responsibility is made to an alternative management that has less concern and expertise in conservation."

Warrandyte Environment League, in a statement in its newsletter, said there was a potential for change of emphasis from conservation to recreation if the Board of Works took control.

"We also have concerns that there could be a deterioration of the close working relationship between Department of Conservation and Environment staff and local volunteer groups, such as the Friends and WEL."

"There has been absolutely no consultation with concerned groups and no official publication of the proposals," the league said.

Meanwhile, Warrandyte State Park was visited by the Melbourne Parks Advisory Committee on Friday, November 30. The bus load of committee members, mostly representing the department, the board and municipalities, stayed for about an hour and a half.

The committee visited other local parks, including those controlled by the board, on the same day. The *Diary* was told the visit was "routine".

## Pony course faces threat

Pony club members face the loss of their cross country course if a large area of publicly-owned land in South Warrandyte is rezoned and sold for housing.

In excess of seven hectares, the land has been reserved by the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works for future sewerage purposes, but has remained undeveloped.

The Rough family leases the land from the MMBW and has allowed the Wyena Horse and Pony Club to use it as a training area and cross country course over the past 13 years. But the

Board has now applied to Doncaster and Templestowe council to have the land rezoned so that it can be subdivided and sold for housing.

The Wyena club, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, is deeply disturbed at the loss of an important amenity for its young members.

In 1985, council commissioned a report on the availability of areas for horse riding in the municipality. "As a result, a horse riding trail network was suggested," Club secretary Mrs Pam Duggan told the *Diary*. "However,

this has never eventuated and over the years the land for riding has gradually diminished.

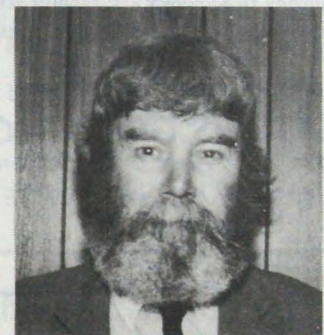
"The club has had a very successful year. Its games team has been undefeated at every level of competition during 1990 and is current Victorian state champion. The possible loss of our training land is the only cloud on the club's horizon.

"The land is not environmentally sensitive, as is land in the State Park. It has been used as a grazing property for many years and has been grazed and ridden on by horses for many years."

The *Diary* understands that due to Green Wedge restrictions the land, if rezoned residential, could only be subdivided into two housing sites. Council claims each allotment could fetch between \$400,000 and \$500,000 on the open market.

"The need for safe open spaces in which to ride is of vital importance to all horse riders, children and adult," Mrs Duggan said.

Wyena Pony Club is hoping the Board of Works will allow the club to lease the land in Husseys Lane to ensure the continued success of the club."



### Peter McDougall and Staff

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# Convict spirit surfaces

## LETTERS

Last week I inadvertently eavesdropped on a nearby conversation. Astoundingly, the speaker declared that the root of Australia's woes lay in the 'convict mentality' that we Australians have inherited and shouldered despite ourselves, much like our own distinctive accent.

Clearly, Australians must think smarter in order to rescue their country economically, ecologically and sociologically, but I had great difficulty accepting the view that I had overheard.

Two years ago my first push-bike was stolen and, much to my dismay, from the comparative safety of my own closed garage, past the doorways of 20 other unit-dwellers. Two weeks ago my much-prized and relatively new bike was stolen from the front porch in a very middle-class and "well-to-do" area. Despite this, I still categorically denied the possibility of a "ball-and-chain" syndrome.

Yesterday, a young friend trotted up to me, teary-eyed and distressed on her sweaty borrowed horse after long hours of frantic searching. She is well known locally as a keen and dedicated horseperson on a quite outstanding mare. People always approached her at competitions, impressed by her performance and anxious to buy her horse.

Recently this valuable mare was stolen from her Warrandyte property; the offenders no doubt known to her. The thieves cut a neat gateway in the fence and led the mare into a horse float before driving off with the precious cargo.

It seems that there is still little respect for private property, and the spirit of the horse thief has not yet been refined. Here's hoping that those with the convict spirit will slip on their ball and choke at the chain. They're not my Aussie mates, I hope!

Francine Pullman  
Bradleys Lane

### Time for goodwill

The past year has been extremely difficult for many local families. The severe downturn in both our national and state economies has caused not only a loss of confidence for many Victorians but, in some cases, loss of employment as well.

These people in particular deserve our thoughts and help in all possible ways at this time of

year. Our thoughts and support should also extend to those who are sick, disabled or have suffered the loss of loved ones.

The wonder of Christmas is that it does provide for many of us a special opportunity for healing, coming to terms with the problems that beset us, and renewal. Christmas is, after all, a celebration of the miracle of Christ's birth, a time of togetherness with family and friends, a time of goodwill and a welcome rest.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and a New Year, whenever possible, filled with hope and optimism.

Phillip Honeywood  
MLA for Warrandyte

### Market success

Warrandyte Community Market, which celebrates its 10th birthday next year, has had another very successful year with the markets held at Stiggants Reserve on the first Saturday of each month, except January.

The market was originally established to provide a regular meeting place for local residents and other interested people to display, sell and buy home-made wares and home-grown produce, and to provide support by way of donations to local community groups from funds raised from site fees.

This year, donations made to Warrandyte groups include the citizens advice bureau, the three local fire brigades, community childcare centre, festival committee, Friends of Warrandyte State Park, environment league, historical society, neighbourhood house, Safety House committees at both primary schools, State Emergency Service, Community Workshop Co-op, Warrandyte Youth Services and West End occasional childcare centre.

Thanks to all stallholders, visitors and local community members for their support of the market. We hope you'll join us again in 1991.

Priscilla Troedel  
President  
Market Committee



### Event moves earth

In the past 18 months the world has witnessed some of the most historic changes ever: the Berlin Wall coming down, the Soviets withdrawing from Afghanistan and Nelson Mandella's release. But the most remarkable event occurred on October 31, 1990 — Leber Street, Warrandyte was graded (well the bottom end anyway). The world is a-changing!

Michael Mackley

### So what happened?

An open letter to the vandal/vandals of Saturday, November 3, between 3.30am and 10am.

Pathetic little weasel! Your disgusting behavior this morning shocked me and has ruined my Saturday morning.

Fortunately, unlike you, my intelligence and good sense have prevailed and I am not too bitter. So your "objective" has not been achieved. By the way, I hope you can read.

I've learned that other people were also victims of your moronic activities. This makes the burden no easier to bear, only unites us in anger against you.

None of us is intimidated, scared or impressed. I'm sure the other people affected feel similarly to myself — that is, we almost pity you for your incredible stupidity, mindless destructiveness and utter worthlessness. You, however many of you there are, will probably not have to pay financially for the damage you have done.

Rest assured, however, that what you did on Saturday morning will always be in the back of your mind, and you will pay, many times, a price of guilt, shame and the realisation, if you make it to adulthood, that what you did will never become a fond memory, only a dark festering secret to be shared with no-one. See you in court scum.

A Superior Being.  
Name and address supplied

# Travel is no pipedream

By KEN VIRTUE

The next time Nicholas Frowd says "I'm the plumber and I've come to mend your pipes," he'll be saying it with an Aussie accent in the UK.

Nicholas, 22, of Magpie Lane was a 1990 scholarship winner in the Victorian Overseas Foundation 34th Awards.

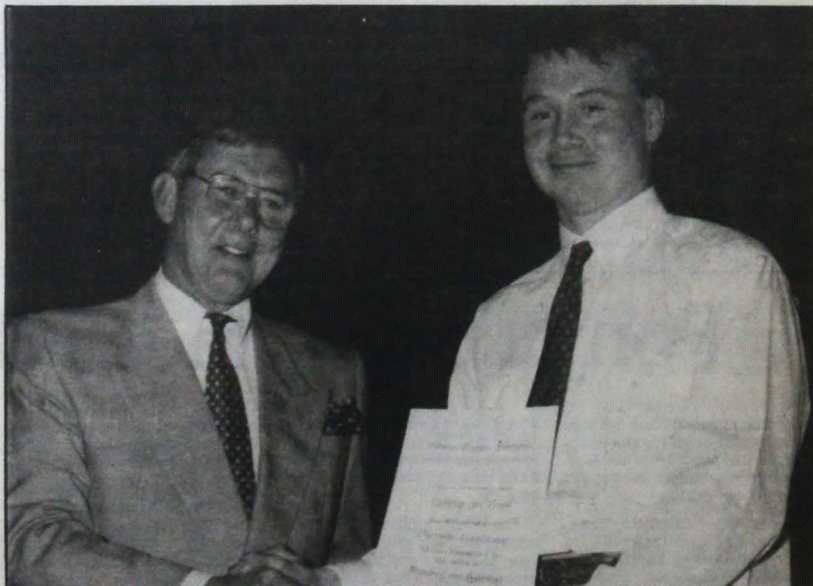
The VOF enable talented Australian tradespeople to work alongside highly-skilled master tradespeople in other countries, and 250 such scholarships have been awarded over the past 33 years.

Nicholas is no stranger to awards. In 1989 he received the Andrew Letten Gold Medal for the highest course results among apprentice plumbers. He also received the 1989 Don Pritchard Scholarship for outstanding drive and enthusiasm in his work, as well as an industry encouragement award from Hardie Energy Products.

The 1990 travel award from the VOF will give Nicholas the opportunity to view the application of new technology, as well as to extend his personal experience of different cultures over one or two years.

At the awards presentation VOFA chairman Samuel Marron gave further encouragement to Nicholas and the other five trades winners.

"Young people whose future



Ready for Europe. Nicholas Frowd receives his certificate

may have been somewhat confined to the ambit of their chosen craft, have returned from overseas with a broadened outlook and confident possession of increased skills and experience in

new techniques and methods," he said.

"A review of former scholarship winners reveals remarkable penetration of our members into positions of significant responsi-

bility in private enterprise, education and industry in general."

Congratulations, Nicholas Frowd! We're sure you'll be a fine ambassador for Warrandyte and Australia.

# Boundary proposals shake up electorates

The shape of Warrandyte is to be redrawn and Ringwood will disappear off the map. These changes are revealed in recently released draft boundaries for state electorates throughout Victoria.

The proposed new boundaries will involve a major shake-up of local seats. However, residents north of the river will still not be included in Warrandyte.

The Warrandyte electorate, held by Liberal Phil Honeywood, has been retained, but with major changes. The seat loses Wonga Park, Croydon, Mooroolbark and Chirnside Park to a new electorate to be called Mooroolbark.

The core areas of the revamped Warrandyte electorate will be Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Croydon Hills and all of Ringwood north of the railway line.

It was proposed that the electorate be expanded across the Yarra River to include North Warrandyte and Kangaroo Ground. However, the Electoral Boundaries Commission has decided to retain the river as the seat's northern boundary.

North Warrandyte and Kangaroo Ground will be transferred from Whittlesea electorate into a new electorate to be named El-

## Seat gains Ringwood

tham, which will also include the township of Eltham.

Mr Honeywood believes that Warrandyte electorate should become a slightly stronger Liberal seat as a result of the changes. "It was the only Lower House seat won by the Liberal Party at the last state election in 1988," he told the *Diary*.

Mr Honeywood has confirmed that he will stand for the seat at the next state election, due late next year.

In the Upper House, the local seat of Nunawading province has been abolished. Sitting Liberal member, Ms Rosemary Varty, has indicated that she will stand for the new Upper House seat of Silvan, which includes Warrandyte, but stretches out to include such areas as Monbulk and Silvan.

The seat of Ringwood, held since 1982 by Labor's Kay Setches, has been abolished and split between three other seats, including Warrandyte.

Commentators expect that Ms Setches will stand for either the



Phil Honeywood: hoping to hold Warrandyte

new seat of Bayswater (which incorporates most of her current Ringwood electorate) or she may seek a safer Labor seat elsewhere in Melbourne.

Electorate boundaries in Mel-

bourne's outer eastern suburbs have been radically altered in many previous state and federal redistributions. This is largely a result of high population growth in recent years.



## Rodney takes hat trick

Rodney Edwards of Yarra Street has taken the hat trick. For the third consecutive year he has won first prize in the restricted section at the Royal Melbourne Show for one of his famous hooked rugs.

But this year Rod has done two better. He has followed up his first at Melbourne with first prize certificates in the open class at both the Dandenong and Whittlesea shows.

Above: Rodney Edwards with his hooked rug.

## Christmas services

**Ecumenical Carol Service** — Stiggants Reserve, corner Yarra Street and Stiggants Street, Warrandyte on Sunday, December 16 at 8.30 pm.

**Anglican** — St Stephens, Stiggants Street, Warrandyte; Emmanuel Church, Hopetoun Road, Park Orchards, Christmas Eve: 11.30pm Holy Eucharist at Emmanuel. Christmas Day: 7am Holy Eucharist at St Stephens;

8am Holy Eucharist at St Stephens; 9.30am Holy Eucharist at Emmanuel.

**Catholic** — St Annes, Knees Road, Park Orchards; St Gerards, Cemetery Road, Warrandyte, Christmas Eve: 8pm Vigil (family service) at St Annes; 11.30pm Carol Singing followed by Midnight Mass at St Gerards. Christmas Day: 10am Christmas Mass at St Annes.

**Gospel Chapel** — Squash Courts, Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Sunday, December 23, 10am Christmas Presentation, Christmas Day: 9.30am Christmas Service.

**Uniting Church** — Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte. Sunday, December 23, 10.15am Service; Christmas Eve: 7.30pm Carol Service; Christmas Day: 9am Christmas Service.

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## Era ends for high students

By MARION WINTON

Teaching staff, parents and friends joined in an inspiring and at times moving ceremony at Warrandyte High School last month to farewell 68 Year 12 students.

Deputy principal Joe Ardley explained the importance of the valedictory function as the formal recognition of completion of secondary schooling.

He introduced David Hogg, president of the school council, who recommended students consider travel and participation in cross-cultural activities, as well as tertiary studies, as a part of their future education.

The School Council Award for Academic Achievement was presented to Jeremy Furyk, in recognition of his excellent results in mathematics and science subjects and his dedication and disciplined approach to study.

All outgoing students were presented with a printed profile of their achievements and involvements since starting at the high school.

The presentation by Nick Arnot of the Juliette Amott Memorial Award for Endeavour was an especially touching moment for all present. The award is intended as a perpetual reminder of Juliette's positive contribution to our community. Diane Woodhouse was this year's recipient.

Melissa Coutts displayed a formidable range of talents to win the Caltex All-rounder Award. As a student member of school council Melissa successfully lobbied for a Year 12 common room and for continuing finance for fittings and renovations to the room.

The special qualities of Mrs Ann Giddings, Year 12 coordinator, were recognised. Student enthusiasm for her warmth and assistance during a demanding year were evident.

Comfortable in the knowledge that they were shortly to leave, students took advantage of their imminent departure to present teachers with humorous observations of their teaching styles.

Finally, principal Graeme Doig spoke of the dedication of teachers at Warrandyte High and of the facilities provided by the school. He emphasised the opportunities for future students to reach their potential and of the excellent standards achieved at HSC-VCE level.

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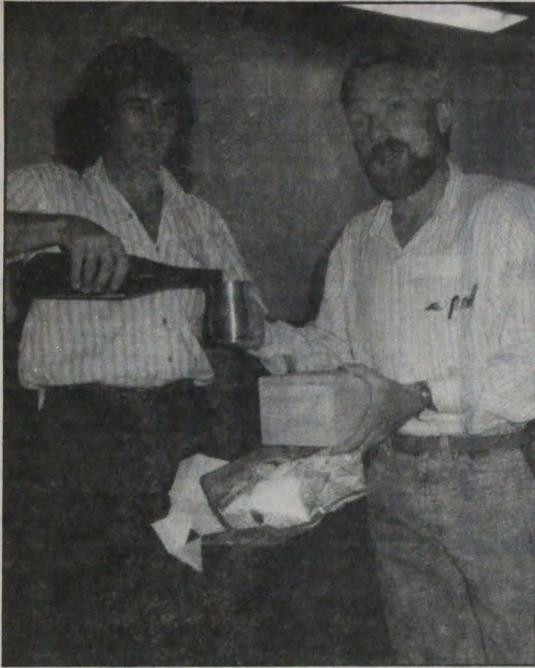


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**LIQUOR WISE**





Grey Stroot (left) pours a drink for Doug Seymour

## League holds agm

The Warrandyte Environment League annual general meeting was held at The Whitehouse last month.

Members were treated to a spit roast dinner and the occasion was well attended.

During the evening Environmental Protection Officer for Eltham Pat Vaughan spoke on the problems of satisfying the interests of a diverse community. His speech showed there are a daunting number of problems in the shire when it comes to explaining to such different people

as farmers, developers and householders the fragile nature of our environment, and how we can protect our natural heritage.

Well-known personality and committeeman Doug Seymour has decided to retire from his very busy and involved position in the league.

He has given many years of tireless service. He was presented with an engraved pewter mug by president Garry McKelvie. Greg Stroot will be new league president for 1991.

IAN BURKE

## Club fights death-knell

Warrandyte Apex Club has been sentenced to death by the organisation's governing body. The club has been advised by the national board of Apex that its charter is to be revoked.

Local members believe this "heavy-handed ultimatum" stems from a new rule about minimum membership, adopted by the national body on the advice of management consultants. The Warrandyte club, has

seven active members, falling three short of the prescribed minimum.

"We're not going to take this lying down," club president John McCutcheon told the *Diary*. "It's not right that this club, which has done such a lot for the local community, should receive this death sentence."

Over the past 14 years Warrandyte Apex has, among other things, built

both the community stage and picnic shelter at Stigants Reserve, donated funds to all three local fire brigades and to the community bus, run youth achievement awards, conducted an annual charity auction and provided a waste paper recycling service.

"The club has also been very active socially and in the self development of its members," John McCut-

cheon said. "Many enduring friendships have been formed through association with the club."

Plans are underway for a major relaunch of the club in the new year.

"However, if the club is to survive it will require significant community support," John McCutcheon said.

Anyone interested in helping can contact John on 844 2907 or Dale on 844 3739.

## Art offers solution to graffiti problem

By GEORGI STICKELS

The best way to reduce graffiti in the community is to encourage it as an art form. This was the main message at a meeting at Warrandyte High School early last month. The event was organised by the Citizens Advice Bureau, to discuss the causes of vandalism and graffiti and how to deal with them.

Different viewpoints were presented. Speakers included local MP Phil Honeywood, Sergeant Burge of Warrandyte police, Noel Buchanan from Ulmative Art and Doncaster council officer, Matt Miller. What motivated young people to commit vandalism and how to stop it were the main concerns of the estimated 30 people present.

According to Sergeant Pat Galway of the Transport Police,

vandalism cost the public millions of dollars each year.

"Many graffiti artists go on to commit more serious vandalism, even robbery and assault," she said. However, distinctions were drawn between plain graffiti and destructive vandalism.

The meeting was told that many teenagers today are bored, despite the numerous sports and activities available to them. Parental neglect is also partly to blame for some behavior. Young people suffering from low esteem often feel isolated from their families and turn to graffiti to lash out at their parents.

Noel Buchanan, a Christian Outreach worker, said many kids use graffiti to say "I really am here — will somebody for God's sake love me". The security they lack at home is found instead, in

graffiti gangs, with the company of their mates.

"Some kids have real talent," Matt Miller, council information manager, said. "They see graffiti as a creative outlet. For their sake, graffiti should be recognised as an alternative art form by the community." It is these people who would benefit most from the introduction of legal 'graffiti walls' in the community.

In the City of Knox, where graffiti posed a significant problem, the council has introduced several such walls and invited known "writers" to cover them with murals or "pieces".

The result of this has not only been a decrease in illegal graffiti on buildings, but also a drop in the number of codenames, or 'tags', scrawled illegibly on walls, bus stops, or any clean surface.

This is thought to be due to the influence of the more serious, talented writers on their peers.

Such "band aid" solutions as outlawing spray cans and textas on trains will do very little to reduce the problem. This point was made by Greg Nicolau, a Doncaster youth worker.

"Not until the community learns to accept graffiti as a legitimate art form will young people's attitudes towards graffiti change. If they feel good about themselves and their work, they are less likely to commit vandalism," he said.

It was suggested that the concrete supports for the Warrandyte bridge, already covered with unsightly tags, be transformed into a graffiti wall, with local talent commissioned by the council.

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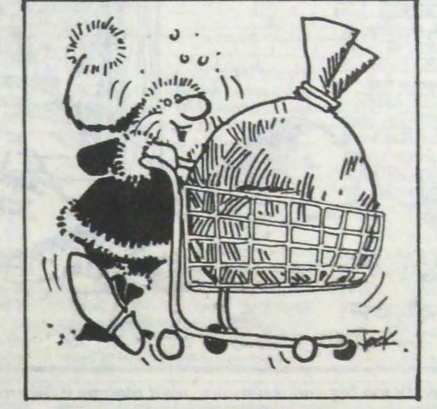


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# A paper and its people in action together

Since our first issue 20 years ago this month, the *Diary* has been the voice of the local people, working with the community for a better deal for this special place. News stories, editorials, cartoons, photographs, letters to the editor; they all played their part.

'Guard over the village we chose to live in!' we pleaded as early as July 1971. We were quoting from a cry for action by a group of locals who went on to form the Warrandyte Environment League. The continuing campaign against insensitive development in our township and the destruction of native bushland beyond has been a constant theme through every issue of the paper.

Founded by the Warrandyte Community Youth Club, the *Diary* has felt a special affinity with our young people. We campaigned — with the community — for a kindergarten in North Warrandyte, for both a second primary school and a high

school, for better sporting facilities, clubrooms for scouts, guides and other youth groups.

We continue to sponsor, along with the Lions Club, the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award.

Again during our first year we publicised the fight to have Doncaster and Templestowe council purchase the Whitehouse as a home for the youth club and the elderly citizens club. The struggle to save the old post office, then rebuild its fire-ravaged shell, featured in our pages month after month, year after year.

The garage and Holden agency on the Webb Street-Yarra Street corner was among our early advertisers. Originally owned by Lloyd Holyoak, it was later sold and renamed Getson Motors. The business closed some time around the end of the 1970s and the buildings and site were twice offered for sale.

The obvious intention was to develop the area as a retail complex. But the community had

other ideas. Led by the environment league and the recently-formed Warrandyte Advisory Committee, locals demonstrated at each of the two auction sales.

Apparently no developer was prepared to tread the minefield of local opposition and the property was passed in. Finally Doncaster council bought the site, for the bargain price of \$200,000. The old buildings were to serve as a temporary community centre with the promise of a brand new complex, when finance became available, 'possibly in ten years'.

WAC continued planning and the *Diary* continued campaigning. Then in May 1987 we decided we'd waited long enough. 'Community centre action needed now', our front page shouted. For a further year we joined with WAC, keeping up the pressure.

In April 1987 Warrandyte's big chance came. Council decided the old building on the Getson site, housing the young people's drop-in coffee shop, was unsafe. Time for a new centre. WAC had

spent months consulting with local groups and knew exactly what was needed.

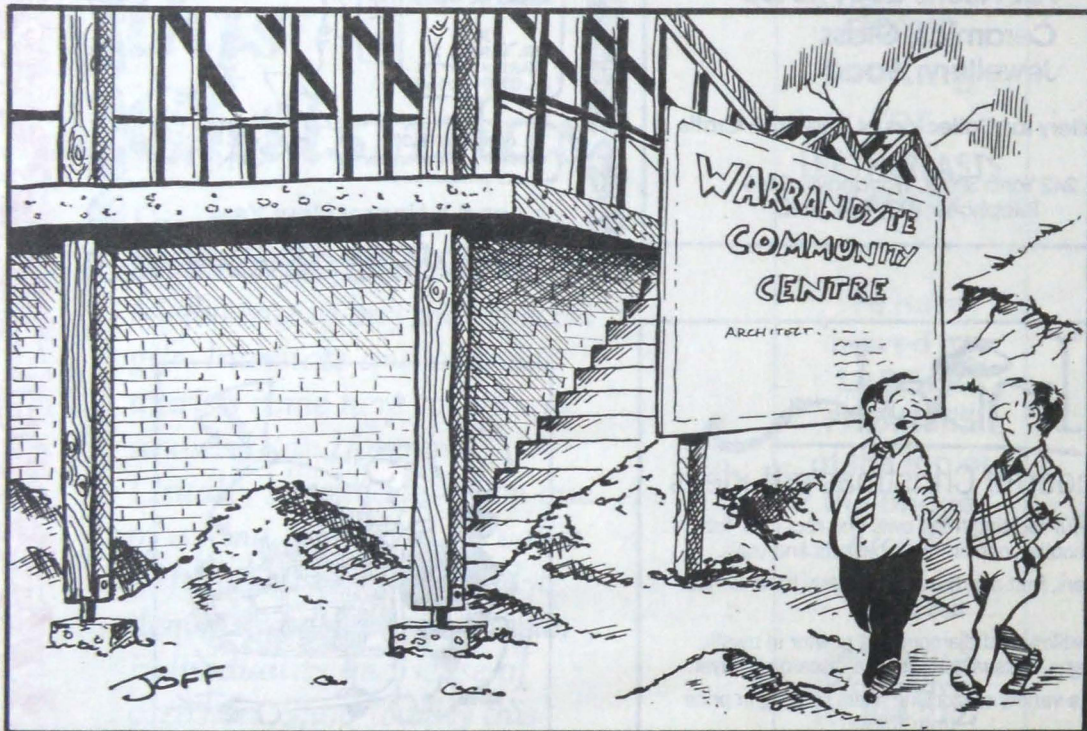
But Doncaster council was firmly in the hands of a pro-development entrepreneurial faction and they came up with a proposal that the new centre should be partly financed by a commercial complex on the site.

We reminded Warrandyte how this precious land was acquired in the first place and joined with others — including our ward councillors — insisting that the entire site should be used for community purposes.

Well there it stands, a reality in timber and brick, due to be opened some time around April next year.

For the first time we must declare a vested interest in one of our campaigns. The *Diary* is to have an office in the new building, right at the bus stop. After two decades we'll be hanging up our sign in Yarra Street. We'll see you there.

CLIFF GREEN



"Easy. If they say it's too big and insensitive, we'll rename it 'Warrandyte Central'."

## IT'S ALL 'GO' FOR GETSONS!

A public meeting will be held early in the new year to discuss community development of the Getson Motors site in Yarra Street.

Doncaster/Tempelstowe City Council bought the ground property last month for \$200,000. It is a controversially held site which has been passed on to another Council.

It is a controversially held site which has been passed on to another Council. Council had earlier announced a proposal to redevelop the site.

Members of the Warrandyte Environment League and other community groups will be invited to attend the meeting.

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Because of the holiday season, the Warrandyte Diary will not be published next month. Publication will resume in February. The Diary takes this opportunity to convey to readers and advertisers sincere best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR**

**WARRANDYTE Diary**  
A COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB PUBLICATION

Volume 18 No. 122 DECEMBER 1990 PRICELESS

NAUGHTY XMAS EDITION



The bloomer birds

The Christmas spirit arrived a little earlier than usual this year at the Warrandyte School Christmas Club. The children turned on a concert last month to celebrate their annual Christmas. The Christmas Club members sang and danced to the delight of their parents and friends.

**THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL!**  
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December 1980: Celebrating three good goers



Above: Our new community centre — reality in timber and brick

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# Twenty intrepid years as a Diary reporter



**WARRANDYTE Diary** LET'S RALLY ROUND THE RELIC!



**THAT LONELY LOO FINDS A FRIEND**

The mystery of the "Lonely Loo of Yarr Street" has been solved. Eighty-nine-year-old Olive Sinclair, of Elmwood Street, Croydon, saw the picture of our antiquated outhouse on the front of last month's Diary and remembered it well. She should — she was the original owner. The loo had been in a larger loo, in a main residence with a garden. Indeed I was partly responsible for its appearance in the first place. I was a member of the Warrandyte Historical Society during the 1970s.

## POST OFFICE MOVE GROWS

Warrandyte Historical Society has called for a community effort to save the old post office. Society secretary Jo Lawrence has volunteered to help coordinate any attempts to preserve the Yarr Street site. Her offer follows a letter published in last month's Diary and signed "The Relic" which called for the "relic" to be saved. The letter suggested that the people of Warrandyte take the names for repairs. Mrs. Lawrence said she was sure that the people of Warrandyte would be glad to help. She said: "The people of Warrandyte have been very generous in the past. They have made the 'Relic' a part of their history. I am sure they will do the same again."

By JUDY MACDONALD

"Take a light-hearted look at writing for the *Diary* for the last 20 years" was my assignment for the December issue. Light-hearted! It took me two weeks to emerge from the deep depression caused by the mere thought of 20 years of writing for anything!

The first series of articles I submitted appeared from December 1971 when, with small baby, large mortgage and huge confidence, we went through the trauma of building on what the agents called a 'sloping block'.

If it had sloped another degree it would have been perpendicular. However the problems which the slope and the rocky surface caused became humorous — if you didn't laugh you'd cry — and I wrote to the *Diary* about it.

I had been to a summer school of journalism and learned where to put my paper clip (a quarter inch from the left margin) and how to sharpen my pencil. Suddenly, there I was with the grand title of editor, albeit shared with Jan Liddicut, trying to put it all into practice.

The paste-up night at Lee Tindale's was worth all the effort. Many tiddy shrieks of laughter greeted suggested headlines which could never get into print. Lee was, and still is, master of the amusing phrase, second only to Smokey Joe.

During this period I suffered from what I called Yellow Box Disease, the symptoms of which were not being able to drive or walk past the old cypress tree without stopping and peering hopefully through the slot of the yellow *Diary* box. Usually it was empty, except for something with eight legs which was peering back.

At this time I was known around town for driving cars which burst into flames on the bridge, when we had to wait there for ten minutes pre-roundabout, or which burst into silence and had to be towed everywhere.

For several years, husband Don and I went everywhere together. One on each end of a towrope.

I never did get around to an article about that. In fact it didn't seem funny until a couple of years ago when we towed number one son's first car home over the bridge, and it all came flooding back. The flared tempers and wild signalling were the same. His language was perhaps more spectacular.

Today, my car still sulkily stalls if waiting on the bridge, and traffic all the way to Wallan wonders what the hold-up is. Recently, in this situation, I was able to do something which I've wanted to do for a long time. I got out of my stalled car and went back to the impatiently tooting driver behind.

"I'll sit in there and toot your horn," I said, "while you start my car!"

Life definitely goes in circles.

Wally Cornhill was printing the *Diary* in those days in his workshop up Kangaroo Ground Road and Wendy Cookes was organising the advertising. I'll never forget Wendy's Christmas pies with brandy sauce at the Christmas break-ups she hosted each year.

Wendy never would let me write about her waterbed which blew away into a blackberry patch.

At the end of this period of editing I became involved with the dear old post office, and that saga kept the *Diary* — and several government departments — in good copy for the next seven years.

The *Diary* has often sought to stir the community out of an apparent apathy over such issues as ring roads, tourist routes, tree removal — who said 'plums?' — slab huts and the building of roads through old post offices. But only because we love the essence of Warrandyte, which is so vulnerable.

Part of this essence is oddities like the abandoned 'dunny' that stood on the hill along from the pub for many years. We ran a story on that one month, wondering who owned it. A photo of the charming lady owner, who contacted us, appeared balanced nicely over headlines, "Rally round the relic" heading a plea for help for the old post office. Thank goodness she had a sense of humour.

In those days we used to type our copy on floppy copy paper using antique typewriters with floppy keys. Now the copy is put onto something called a floppy disc and typeset by a computer at Bandaid Productions in Fitzroy. I now have the important job of delivering finished material to Bandaid.

If you have seen what looks like a drug exchange outside the Grand Hotel at about 8 o'clock on some Monday mornings, it's not just because Jan Tindale arrives in her nightie and gumboots

some mornings doesn't mean anything sordid is going on.

Nor is anything strange going on if I'm seen kneeling on the footpath in Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, on that same morning, stuffing packages under a door marked 'Bandaid'. I've been given some funny looks, let me tell you!

Perhaps I would have given up writing for the *Diary* years ago if it wasn't for the constant encouragement from people like the ever-generous Bob Millington, and Cliff Green, who should have been a used-car salesman.

The *Diary* is known for its tenacity. I believe the values of residents haven't changed in the past 20 years. Outsiders still comment enviously on our community spirit. Councils are now very aware of it and of the determination which draws locals out to fight for those values to be upheld.

At last it's been realised that people only live in Warrandyte because they love it. Why else would you put up with no transport, unmade roads and the lack of other suburban 'niceties'?

The local advertisers have kept the paper going through thick and thin. Actually it was very thick when the Virtues were editors. In fact the Saturday 'Age' started to feel threatened by its bulk.

Talking of cycles, it's nice that my sons think of the *Diary* if something amusing happens.

"Hey, Mum," the fire-fighting one said the other day. "Here's a good story. Around at North Warrandyte fire brigade they have trestles which people borrow, writing their name on the board when they do. Recently this message appeared, 'Alan Walker has trestles this week', to which some bright spark had added, 'Really! Is it contagious?' 'It must be,' was the prompt response, 'I have trestles this week! Lydia.'"

Some people will go to any length to tell a story, especially for the *Diary* and even after 20 years. I suppose the editor's going to change all these 20s to 19s: 1971 from 1990 makes 19. But surely we're allowed poetic licence sometimes!

### Indeed, save the PO!

I had my first month in "Warrandyte" (the *Diary*) in the old post office. I am so pleased that a very important part of Warrandyte is to be saved. Many friends have been made in the old building. The first month I had to move a table. I am so pleased that the village is prepared to make a donation to help save the old building and the post office. "Warrandyte" is a "Warrandyte" and "Warrandyte" is a "Warrandyte". "Warrandyte" is a "Warrandyte" and "Warrandyte" is a "Warrandyte".

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Continued Page 3

July 1980: One of our more ambiguous front pages

**WARRANDYTE DIARY**  
**Editors**  
CLIFF GREEN 1970-1971  
CLIFF GREEN PETER LOVETT 1971-1974  
PETER LOVETT LEE TINDALE 1974-1975  
LEE TINDALE 1976-1979  
JUDY MACDONALD JANETTE VAGG 1979-1981  
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Victorian Christmas bush

# Festive season treasures bejewel our native forest

December, and again our thoughts turn to Christmas. In England, where I grew up, December meant weeks of preparation before the big day.

Weekends were spent gathering pine cones, strands of ivy and sprigs of holly bearing as many red berries as we could find. Mistletoe had to be purchased from the shops, although it occurs as a parasite on apple trees. I never saw mistletoe growing naturally. Christmas trees were bought early.

Schools, shops, houses, everything imaginable was decorated with brightly-colored streamers, sparkling tinsel and fairy lights. Rotund, red-suited Father Christmas seemed to be everywhere.

I remember waking up on chilly Christmas mornings, rushing to the window and peering through the darkness, desperately hoping for a white Christmas. More often than not we had to be content with a thin covering of glistening frost.

Lunch lasted for hours. Roast turkey with all the trimmings followed by Christmas pudding and

**NATURE**  
 By PAT COUPAR  
 Drawings: MELANIE COUPAR

in those days a tiny sixpence in every slice, at least for us kids.

Afterwards we would sit around the glittering Christmas tree like pagan worshippers. Gifts were exchanged, party games were played and it was all very traditional.

Looking back, I realise something was missing, something that to me has become a very important part of my life — a love of nature.

It strikes me as incongruous that at such a festive time of the year, in England and other parts of Europe, the countryside appears so cold and lifeless.

Leafless trees stand forlorn. Intrepid birds that have not migrated south are generally subdued, occasionally scratching at the frost-hardened earth in search of meagre scraps to eat. No flowers,

few insects, nature has virtually shut up shop for the winter. Winters here are never like that.

It is good to celebrate Christmas in the sun. I still enjoy Christmas with most of the trappings. It is a great time to get together with family and friends. In this southern land the natural world shares in the celebration of Christmas. We even have a flower named in its honour, the Victorian Christmas bush. It belongs to the mint family, a fact evident if you crush one of its dark, green leaves.

During December and early January this small tree is covered with tubular pale lilac or white flowers. The Victorian Christmas bush favors moist situations and is common around the Pound Bend area of Warrandyte State Park.

Christmas beetles are also named after the time of year when they are most common. In the cooler months the larvae feed underground on rotting wood or the roots of grasses and other plants.

During December the adults

emerge in large numbers to feed on the new growth of eucalyptus trees. The beetles are stout and shiny pale-brown or green in color. They fly surprisingly well and are often attracted to outside lights at night. Many land in backyard swimming pools.

Christmas beetles and the Victorian Christmas bush are just two examples of the wealth of fauna and flora that abounds in Warrandyte during December.

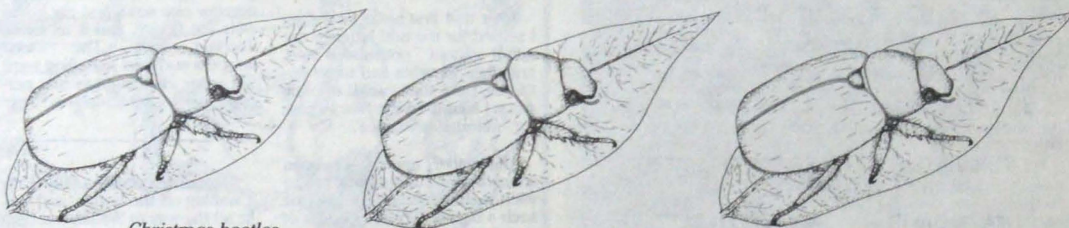
We may not have quite the same tradition of Christmas as people in the Northern Hemisphere.

Nevertheless we have pine trees, introduced from America, which make adequate Christmas trees.

We can also use ivy to decorate our homes. There is plenty around Warrandyte strangling many of our beautiful native trees.

Neither of these plants belong in our unique Warrandyte bushland.

This Christmas why not do the bush a favor — cut down a pine tree and pull out some ivy.



Christmas beetles

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# A Christmas celebration under martial law

By ROGER KIBELL

"I've never been able to come to terms with Christmas in Australia. It just seems all wrong. I'm used to closing the curtains and drinking warm tea. Not only that, but here, you seem to have all your ceremonies together. Come June and there's nothing to look forward to except the annual visit to the tax agent. I suppose I'll get used to it in time," she mused unconvincedly.

She's right in a way. Christmas in Australia is typical of the country as a whole. We never do anything by halves. Over the top we go and Christmas is a perfect example.

Take England as a comparison. The school year begins in July so the costs of schooling have separated from the rest of life's little financial disasters, like Christmas. Admittedly, the Poms have the cost of holidays to contend with, but even I could cope with those concurrent costs if I didn't have the expense of Christmas, rates and car registration to contend with as well.

I could be bitter and rationalise that all of our financial woes are just additional crosses we southern colonials have to bear.

I blame our forebears. Lumbered with such a disastrous set up, what did we colonials do to rectify the situation? Did we take heart from the June to July financial year, daylight saving and seeing mortgage interest rates and realise that events and ceremonies are not immovable? Did we use the shift to another hemisphere to forge a lifestyle that was traditional yet sensible?

No! The all-pervading horror of the festive season confirms my concern about our early settlers' gene pool.

Rapidly approaching is the Christmas Angst Fest — a time for frantic family feuding and of swapped turbo jet car cleaners.

Each family works out its own festive, tolerance-level arrangements. High on the list of most families' more insane conclusions is the Christmas day shuffle.

The day has to be planned with all the tactical cunning and courage of a World War I campaign. It begins at Reveille when parents are awakened by the clacking of a toy motor mower left in the stocking of a delighted neighbor's child.

It's important to be up early anyway. A 5am start is compulsory if the plum pudding and the roast are to be ready for the first wave of invaders from HIS side of the trenches.

Your own children, who are sensibly adolescent and slothful don't bother to emerge until 8am and then lose themselves in a froth of tissue paper and cardboard boxes.

"Oh! It's quite ... different, isn't it?"

"Didn't they have the other model available?"

"Thanks Mum and Dad." Yawn. "When will they be here? ... Good, that means I can go back to bed till 11."



The battle plan is obvious but never simple. It is an indisputable axiom that the fridge is never big enough and the weather will be unsuitable — boiling hot if you have a roast and Antarctic if you dare to serve a salad.

Discussions between the mother Major-General and her 2-L.C. usually include a controlled analysis of the need for "all this bloody stupidity". The usual reply centres around the notion that "if I didn't do something about the social activities of this family, nobody would!". Invariably this leads to a strategic retreat from the command post while the temperatures of oven and the boiling water under the puddings attempt to get within range of the Major-General's blood pressure.

The pudding water is replenished by tears and the morning settles to guerrilla warfare.

"Could somebody put themselves out and set the table or is that too much to ask?"

Icy glances ricochet around the command post as the first car of latent disaster pulls into the driveway.

"Hi! Merry Christmas. And you too. Good to see you ... Pardon! ... Yes, it is warm ... Yes, a roast ... About 5 o'clock ... No, no, no. Next door's ... What did Fa-

ther Christmas bring you then? ... Lovely! ... Me? I got the necklace I selected, some clothes I put on lay-by in September and the paperback version of the hardback I got last year. Oh! And some soap. You're right, it is the thought that counts. Anyway, come on in."

By 11.30am the clothes' baskets are emptied of presents and the wrapping paper is folded and stacked under the pile of exchanged goodies.

"I'm sure you can change it if it doesn't fit."

"No, really I love it. I suppose I've never thought of myself as a fluorescent green type of dresser."

"Please stop crying Jennifer. The shops are all closed. Mummy will get you some more batteries as soon as she can. I know he doesn't talk and his ears don't wiggle but, without batteries, there's nothing much anyone can do about it."

"Dinner everyone."

The troops cut a swathe through the debris of boxes, plastic and curling ribbon and gain possession of the table just as Jennifer upsets her glass of Pepsi into her Barbi Doll Starlet Glamor Trailer. The grenade burst lasts into the cracker, joke, plastic ring and funny hat manoeuvre.

Suitably camouflaged, to prevent them from being recognised as rational human adults, the troops, under the ever solicitous eye of the Major-General, consume rations designed to set them up for a ten-day route march across the Gobi desert.

Coffee, tea and other tidbits are to follow as the troops stagger to the lounge chairs under the weight of seasonal largesse.

Diplomacy breaks down when Uncle Bob and Aunt Jean have a disagreement about the reason for Uncle Bob's treading on what was left of Barbi Doll's Glamor Trailer.

By 1pm a truce is called while the troops collect what's theirs from the battleground. The campaign is declared a success when the last Ford Station wagon backs from the driveway, taking with it the letter box.

There is just time to throw the dishes into the dishwasher, collect the remaining presents, grab the recently-iced Christmas cake, half a dozen cold Fosters and waddle out to the car to continue the campaign, a hot forty minutes away at the Major-General's home base.

"Thanks dear. As usual, you did a marvellous job. I don't know how you do it. I'm sure they all appreciated it."

All this is lost, however, as the Major-General, head slumped across her blouse, snores.

They are the last car to arrive. They wake the M-G and disembark to see little Sean, zombied after twelve hours of over-indulgence, glass of red cordial in hand, cleaning up his "sickie" on the front path with Uncle John's new Sudsy Swirly Car Washer.

The platoon by-pass Sean and enter a scene of somnambulists. Everyone has been doing battle for at least thirteen hours with the prospect of another four ahead of them.

After a rugged day in the trenches, the new attack has lost some of its punch. The tissue paper seems flimsier, the crackers sillier, the brats brattier and the stomach fuller.

The campaign winds down towards 10.30 pm. Wearily, bodies are lifted into cars and the long journey home from the front line begins.

The Major-General is again contemplating the back of her eye lids.

"Another down!" you think to yourself.

"Roger!"

Reveille so soon? Eyes still closed.

"You wanted me to remind you about an early start. You'd better set the alarm for five if you intend to get away by seven. Did you remember to fix the leak in the Li-lo? ... We didn't have enough tent pegs last year ... Did you confirm our tent site? ... Have we got enough petrol? I doubt there'll be many stations open tomorrow ... Roger? Roger? ... Are you listening to me? ..."

Oh, to be in England now that April's there.

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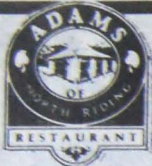
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Bring along your family and friends.

Enquiries to PO Box 8, Warrandyte 3113, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.



**Park friends take to water**

Last month, Friends of Warrandyte State Park took part in a clean-up of the Yarra River banks between Yarra Brae and Stane Brae.

Intrepid members hired canoes near Wonga Park, and armed with heavy gloves and large rubbish bags, set off on a three hour clean-up expedition. This was the Friends' contribution to the Bay Rivers Community Clean-up Day.

Initiated with great success by the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works last year, it included a beach clean-up on the same day.

The weather proved ideal, making the task a little more pleasant. However, the group

took many an unplanned bath while negotiating the many rapids in the river.

Finally the party arrived at Stane Brae with enough rubbish to fill two utility trucks. They were all tired and wet, but they appreciated the afternoon tea and damper, supplied by Gail Roche.

Phil Honeywood, MLA for Warrandyte, joined in the clean-up, proving to be a most enthusiastic worker.

Ian Roche, Warrandyte head ranger, helped everyone back to their cars at the end of the day, for which the weary rubbish gatherers were grateful.

IAN BURKE



**Noble public attends first concert**

December 1890: Our new Mechanics' Institute is now completed, passed by the Board of Health, and ready to do its share towards paying off its liabilities. That Anderson's Creek can boast of one of the best and most commodious halls in the district is mainly due to the indefatigable exertions of the committee.

It was thought by some that the near approach of the Christmas holidays would militate against a success. However, the public responded in a noble manner, a crowded audience, a good chairman, and talented ladies and gentlemen taking part in concert, farce, &c., carried to a very financial successful issue the first entertainment in the magnificent new hall.

Our old veteran friend Mr Wm. Collins took the chair and in both his opening and after speech thanked the audience for their patronage in well chosen language, showing no diminution in his talent in that respect.

Mr E. Squires, the hon. sec.,

**HOW WE LIVED**  
 Our town 100 years ago - as seen by the local correspondent of the Evelyn Observer

returned thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who gave their services, and at the same time this gentleman deserves all credit for his indefatigable exertions to make the affair what it was. To Mrs Trezise, who kindly lent the piano, thanks were also very properly given.

The hall was prettily decorat-

ed, the chairman's talent in that respect being pretty well known. The final returns have not as yet been made out, but something very handsome is expected to be netted.

Several gentlemen experts have, on viewing the hall, remarked on the beauty of the floor, the unanimous opinion being that it was unequalled in the district.

At the ball, the room being again crowded, the greatest satisfaction prevailed and the whole of the large party were delighted with it, and I am sure that in future we shall be well patronised in consequence. Dancing was very spiritedly kept up into the small hours, and everybody expressed their satisfaction with the whole of the proceedings.

The return cricket match played against Templestowe last Saturday at Templestowe resulted in a victory for the home team by 20 runs; Templestowe 43, Anderson's Creek 23. We play Croydon next Saturday at Croydon.

Locally things are still very dull. The weather is all that is desirable, and the fruit crop is very fair. At the Evelyn Tunnel surveys are taking place in connection with the Electric Company. They are very slow, however, to start their permanent works at the Tunnel, and always have plenty of excuses in answer to reasons. It is certain now that these works are to be *bona fide*, so for the sake of the Creek the sooner the better.

The years roll on and once again to the many readers of your paper I have the privilege of wishing them one and all "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year". We have now been a good many years acquainted, and I sincerely hope that yet as many years may be in store for us. Time is fleeting, but that should bring us closer together, and let us take the goods the gods provide and be satisfied. (From the Newspaper Collection, State Library of Victoria.)

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Jock's design for the 1991 festival logo

# Festival theme decided

The Warrandyte Festival Committee has announced that the theme for the 1991 festival will be 'Warrandyte On Parade'. Jock Macneish has designed a logo based on this idea, depicting a ribbon pennant that suggests the course of the Yarra as it flows through Warrandyte. Festival preparations continue at a frantic pace. Innovations this year include the new festival band, parade commentary by the inimitable Martin Walker, a lunchtime family concert following the parade and artists-in-residence working in local schools during the weeks leading up to the festival. The 1991 festival will take place on the weekend of March 16 and 17. All enquiries to John Boyle at 844 3120.



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.

by phone Lions Club secretary, 712 0326.

## Hamper chance

The first meeting of the Warrandyte Auxiliary of the Royal Women's Hospital meeting for 1991 will be held at the Senior Citizens clubrooms in Taroonna Avenue on Tuesday, January 15 at 1.30pm. New members will be made very welcome. The auxiliary held its last meeting for 1990 in November, concluding with afternoon tea with the senior citizens. Final arrangements were made for the Christmas hamper raffle. Tickets will be on sale outside Harry Heaths from December 13 to 15 inclusive, with the winning ticket drawn on Saturday 15. The auxiliary has asked us to express their thanks to Harry Heaths, both for their generous donation of goods and for permission to sell outside the store. Harry Heaths is certainly getting into the Warrandyte Christmas spirit, as this is only one of approximately ten hampers, each valued at around \$50, that they have donated to local groups.

## Nursing mums

The Warrandyte branch of the Nursing Mothers' Association holds regular meetings and coffee mornings for expectant mothers or for those who are either breast or bottle feeding their babies. At their meeting earlier this month members discussed the experience of breast feeding a baby and coping with a toddler. Further information about the association can be obtained from Kristin on 431 1443.

## Seniors' birthday

Warrandyte senior citizens celebrated their 28th birthday last month with a grand concert at the clubrooms. Members and guests were entertained with a first class show by the club's concert party performers. Donations of goods for

competitions and afternoon tea by local traders Sue Jones pharmacy, Warrandyte Cellars and Harry Heath's SSW store were much appreciated.

## Local gifts

An affordable and interesting array of items suitable for Christmas presents is on display at the Citizens Advice Bureau at the old post office in Yarra Street. This includes a range of books and booklets on various aspects of district history. As well, souvenir teaspoons depicting the old post office are available at \$5 each. Proceeds will aid a number of local organisations. UNICEF Christmas cards are also available.

## Family dance

A further reminder about the 50-50 dance being held at the Whitehouse, Taroonna Avenue, on Saturday, December 22. Flossie's three piece band strikes up at 8pm. The floor is good, and the low, low admission prices are \$10 a family or \$5 single. Bring a plate.

## Church thanks

Warrandyte Uniting Church has asked us to pass on a big thank you to the local community and traders for their support of the recent church fete, which raised more than \$5500. This will help finance the new hall, the slab of which was poured in time to be used for the fete. The hall should be finished by Easter. At the moment, the church is in the process of calling a new minister, who will hopefully commence in February. Rev Charles Marshall has been interim minister since Rev Fishley moved to Wedderburn, and the congregation is very grateful for his energetic and enthusiastic effort during the year.

## Holiday advice

The Citizens Advice Bureau will be closed from December 24 to January 28. For help with urgent personal problems, contact Lifeline or Doncare, as they will have trained volunteers available during this period. The Tourist Information Service will be open at the old post office during the holidays as volunteers (who are not trained CAB people) are available. Basil Holland (844 2197) is the contact person.

## Expo '91

The organisers suggest you plant your marrow now if you plan on winning the longest marrow

section at the St Stephen's Anglican Church 'Expo 91', being run in conjunction with the Warrandyte festival. Other categories of contest include best model, best hand puppet made from an old sock, best photograph (pets and animals), best dinner for two table decoration (including candle), best iced biscuits, best 'green' poem, best indoor plant and best handcrafted toy. Full details including age levels for junior entrants from Ann Ley, 844 3543.

## Pensions info

The Federal member for Casey, Mr Bob Halverson, has prepared two booklets to help pensioners understand the implications of some of the recent Budget changes, and to explain the conditions applying to age and other pension entitlements. Entitled 'Budget Changes for Pensioners' and 'A Guide to the Age Pension', they are available free of charge. The guide has been specially designed for use by age pensioners and is printed in large type, however the information it contains is also relevant to invalid, widows, sole-parent, carers and Veterans' Affairs service pensioners. Phone 723 7528 or 723 7532 during office hours.

## Carols performance

An ensemble from the Babirra Players will perform a selection of Christmas carols on Sunday, December 16 at the Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. Performances will begin at 1.45 and 2.45pm. Phone Therese Robin, 890 1002, for further details.

## Tell us

As always, the *Diary* is keen to publish news of your group's activities and forthcoming events. But do please plan ahead. Copy must close on the last Friday of the month, but we would appreciate it earlier if possible. We always come out on the second Friday of the month now, so please plan your publicity accordingly. We sometimes receive material we would love to print, but the dates will have passed by the time the paper appears. Typing or clear handwriting always please, and include all details of date, time and place, plus a contact name and phone number. There is no *Diary* in January, so we'll be back again in February.

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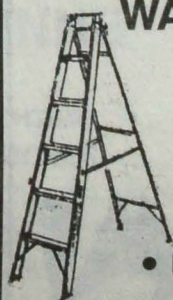
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# Bushland plays grand symphony



By GLEN JAMESON

At one time Aboriginal songlines spanned the length and breadth of this continent.

Songlines from Port Hedland to Sydney, Kakadu to the Nullabor, Broome to Melbourne, from the mouth to the source of the Yarra.

Each Aboriginal was responsible for a section of a songline.

The verses of each song within the songline described the flow and shape of the land, the trees, rocks, bushes, birds and animals that inhabited that land.

It explained how things were formed and was also a mechanism by which each Aboriginal person was owned by the land.

The land and those that lived on it were locked together in story and legend, in music and mythology, in culture and mutual ownership.

There is something songlike in the natural distribution of eucalypts across Australia. Perhaps it is more a symphony with its themes, movements and complexity.

Some eucalypts such as the river red cover vast areas of mainland Australia in one grand symphonic theme.

Others such as the red-flowered gum are more like a sonata. It is only found naturally in a small five hectare site in southwest Western Australia.

Some eucalypts have small discreet populations many miles apart, perhaps suggesting they were once more widespread.

Just near Melton, is a small forest of true Mallee.

It is suggested that it has remained in this exact spot since the last ice-age, some 25,000 ye-

ars ago. Then the Mallee probably stretched from Melbourne to north-west Victoria.

Warrandyte is dominated by the eucalypt red box. It is easy to identify because of the roundish shape of the leaves and its blue/green color. It has a brown/grey fine-textured bark.

There are a few young ones in the verge across from the Grand Hotel. Webb Street is full of them. The trees have lots of character and toughness.

Red box accounts for only three per cent of flora in the Yarra Valley, making Warrandyte a special place.

However red box is found in other places across Victoria. On the shores of Eildon Weir there are large areas dominated by red box, red stringybark and long-leaf box.

Correa reflexa, sarsparilla, trigger plants, blue brunonia and handsome flat pea are all part of the understorey, just as they are in Warrandyte.

Take a fast horse ride down the Snowy Mountains and you will pass kurrajong and native pine like the Man from Snowy River. You will also pass red box, bulbine lilies, blue bells, black wattle and cherry ballart as you would in Warrandyte.

Among the mullock heaps and quartz fragments in the old gold mining town of Yandoit (west of Daylesford) you will again find red box.

Perhaps you will find it growing in Mallee formation as a result of rough treatment from miners.

Underneath the grey/blue round leaves of red box you will find nodding greenhood orchids, early nancy, red anther, wallaby

grass, kangaroo grass, golden wattle and silver wattle. In moist gullies, messmate and candle-bark. A picture of Warrandyte without the river.

Vegetative themes weave their way across the continent, evolving, changing, responding to land forms, soils, local climate and the hand of humans. Themes appear and reappear.

Lyrical threads join dislocated patches of forest.

This epic story is still being pieced together by those interested in the indigenous symphony. Indigenous plants make up the bulk of my garden and connect me to the web of life that runs through the bushlands of Warrandyte.

It is a garden that is suited to the soils, climate and rainfall of Warrandyte.

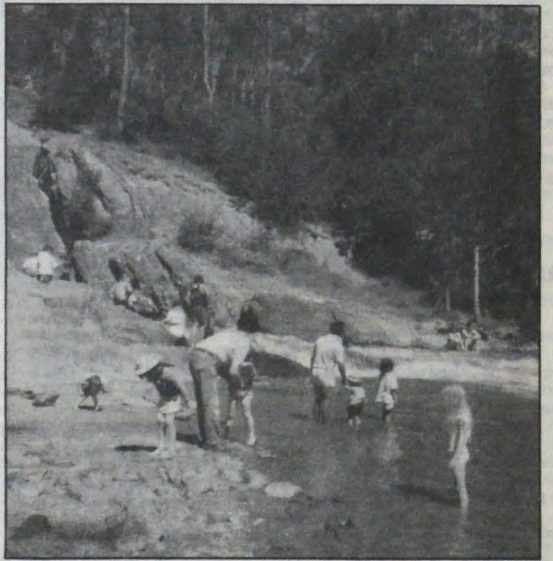
Indigenous plants show the limits of our land.

They show what it is capable of supporting without stress and degradation, without use of fertilizers, and excess water.

Close to the house we have roses, azaleas, camelias and other exotics which provide a lovely interlude from the major theme. We make sure that they cannot escape from the garden and become weeds in the nearby bush, thereby damaging the local ecology.

Indigenous plants provide a window into the natural world. They connect us with the beat of bird-wings, the rhythm of river and rain, the melody of mammal and man.

They connect us with a theme that is constant and stable and in harmony with a vast swag of this great island.



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## WBC set for new year of plenty

By CLINTON GRYPAS

With the competitive year winding down for the Christmas break, Warrandyte Basketball Club is excellently placed for an even bigger and brighter 1991.

The number of players is continually increasing and next year the club will field seven boys and two girls teams in the Friday night championship season to complement the 46 Saturday teams whose season also goes into recess over Christmas.

At the Whitehouse last month, NBL stars Bruce Bolden and Grant Cadee, of the Eastside Melbourne Spectres, were guests at a WBL pie night. More than 120 players were there for some great pies and some valuable coaching from the two stars.

In the mens' midweek competition the season is reaching a dramatic conclusion.

On the final night of the qualifying season the Codat Lakers had a thrilling 36-36 tie with Andersons' Creek, which left those teams tied with Peter Parkes on 37 points for the year, trailing the Hitmen by two. Percentages, however, see the Lakers get the double chance and they will play the Hitmen, the defending champions, for the right to go straight through to the grand final.

The four teams below these four will make up the division two finals series, with the Wobblers favourites to take the title. Their last-round loss to the Peter Parkes saw them miss the division one finals by one point.

The last round was highlighted by Jonathon Moore's 44 points for the Hitmen.

Moore made three-pointers from everywhere in the best display of the season.

However, he did not play enough games for the Hitmen to qualify for the finals series.

The season will culminate at Warrandyte High School on Wednesday, December 19, with the two grand finals.

All basketball fans are urged to be there. You are assured of non-stop action starting at 7.30pm.

# Neil Busse's home truths

Members and supporters of Warrandyte Tennis Club were treated to some provocative home truths about football at a highly successful sports night dinner held recently at the Taroon Avenue club-rooms.

AFL Tribunal chairman Neil Busse told the gathering that football administrators had to "tackle head on" the problem of fewer young boys playing football.

"We all face a big challenge to get children back playing football," he said. "We have a very real responsibility to keep the game a clean game."

"Club officials don't help. Players facing charges before the tribunal are not encouraged to tell the truth. Their club officials are only thinking about next week's game. They have a lot to answer for on the day."

Other football guests on the panel were Essendon skipper Tim Watson and Hawthorn player Andy Collins. Master of ceremonies for the night was Peter (Grubby) Stubbs.

Peter, who is a member of the club, introduced the guests and then went on to outline his career as a tennis player at Warrandyte. "I

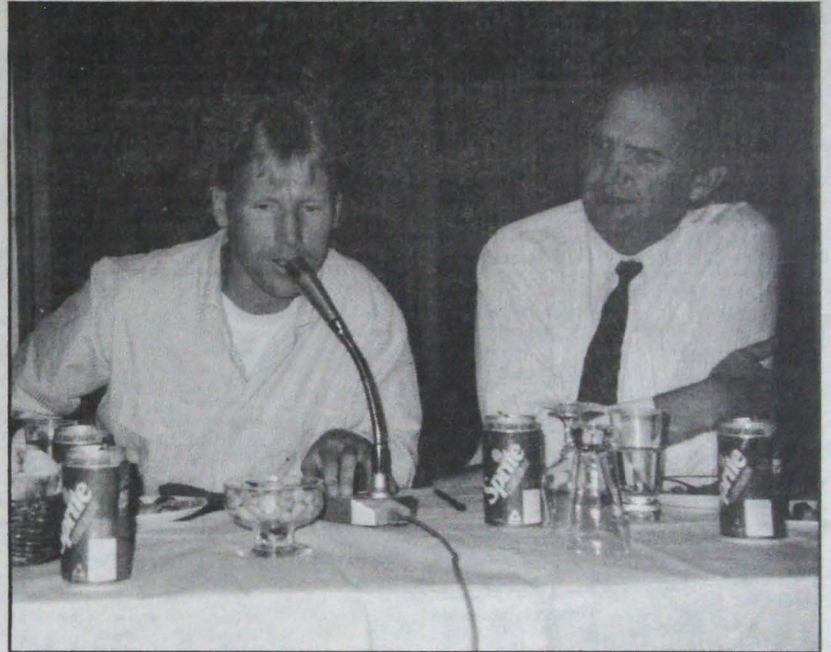
played level 54," he said. "Mixed, of course. Only the nubile young ladies I played with kept me at it." Peter's wife Jenny is one of the club's leading woman players.

Tim Watson said that Collingwood had done him a favor winning the grand final. "There's no better way to motivate a team than hatred for Collingwood," he said. "They beat us in the grand final, then they beat us again in London. Now my boys have really got something to achieve."

Andy Collins reminisced about his days playing junior football when he was coached by Kevin Close, now a member of Warrandyte Tennis Club. Kevin organised the sports night and the three panel members and the compe donated their time.

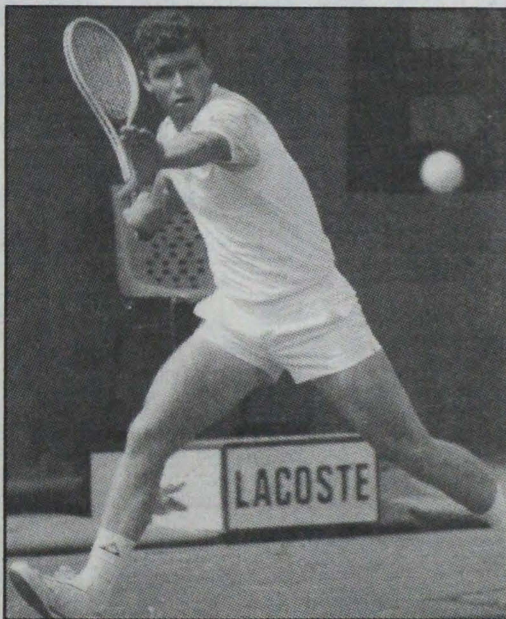
The sports night was held to honor the memory of highly-regarded club member Barry Scritchley, who died in September. Special guest of the evening was Barry's wife Margaret, who was also celebrating her birthday.

The night was catered for entirely by club members and a number of younger players performed splendid duty as waitresses.



Andy Collins (left) and Neil Busse at the sportsmen's night.

## Frawley undisputed master



The masterly style of John Frawley.

Queenslander John Frawley hammered his way to victory through the ranks of up-and-coming young tennis hopefuls at the Warrandyte Peters Ice Cream Masters tournament, staged at the Taroon Avenue courts last month.

Formerly one of Australia's top internationals, Frawley has been dogged by injuries over recent years. He took his first step along the comeback trail at Warrandyte, defeating rising Swedish star Lars Wahlgren, 6-1, 6-3.

The final score card gives no indication of the exciting standard of the match, which featured hard baseline exchanges and numerous long rallies.

Wahlgren later commented that he had played as well as at any time during the satellite series, but failed to break through Frawley's blistering attack and solid defence.

Earlier, Frawley defeated Sandon Stolle, son of Australian great Fred Stolle, in a hard-fought semi finals match, 6-3, 6-7, 6-4. David Adams and Peter Tramacchi overwhelmed Jason Cask and Jon Ireland in the doubles final, 6-4, 6-1.

This is the third time Warrandyte Tennis Club has hosted the Masters event, final leg on the Victorian satellite circuit. Players came from Germany, Sweden, USA and all parts of Australia. Many were billeted with local families for the duration of the tournament.

"The event is a good draw-card for locals and visitors to our area," club spokeswoman Val Mackintosh told the *Diary*. "It is hoped that our relationship with the Victorian Tennis Association and Tennis Australia can continue into the future."



Lars Wahlgren

## Wyena's four on the trot

Wyena Horse and Pony Club's games team lived up to their status as Victorian champions by taking the honours at the Wandin Park Horse Trials last month.

The November 11 event kept intact the team's undefeated 1990 record at all levels of competition.

This time there was a special bonus. The team — Lisa Duggan, Allison McDougall, Matthew Borghesi, Sophie Ritchie, Tracey Walker and Kirstie McMillan — were presented with their sashes and trophy by one of the world's best known equestrians, Captain Mark Phillips.

The Wyena riders began their clean sweep in May when they won the northern metropolitan section of the PCAV Zone Games Championship.

In June they took out the PCAV State Championship and in October the Brian Brennan Shield at the Upper Yarra Pony Club Teams Championship.

Wyena celebrated its 30th birthday with a progressive dinner on November 17.

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# Day's day a great day for Dytes

## Monkey business



Old cricketers never die — they just pull monkey muscles. Warrandyte Cricket Club president Mark Davis was on crutches last month after a return to active service in a veterans match. "I was merely walking back to my bowling mark and something snapped in my leg," he said. Old cricketers never learn, either. Mark, 39, says he'll be batting (or should that be battling?) on.

Warrandyte Cricket Club's first eleven moved into top gear for their assault on the RDCA Chandler Shield with a big win over competition leaders Vermont.

It took the Dytes' record in five matches this season to two wins, two losses and a draw and put them within striking distance of the four.

The 79-run victory over Vermont was set up on the first day by pace bowler Gerald Walshe and completed by a fine century by Michael Day.

Walshe took 5/32 as Vermont capitulated for 145 and Day made an unbeaten 107 to guide Warrandyte to 7/224.

It was the first century at any level of competition for Day, a product of the local juniors.

His performance has, however,

## SPORT

been upstaged by Jenny McLaws in the undefeated women's eleven. Jenny scored consecutive tons 102 against Tooronga and 103 against East Box Hill.

There have been other outstanding performances with the bat. Darren Peters really didn't need any help from his third eleven team-mates in accounting for Mooroolbark. Peters made 196 — three more than the entire Mooroolbark line-up could manage.

And evergreen Jim Gathercole was undefeated on 121 in the fourths' demolition of Lilydale.

Warrandyte's greater depth this season is reflected in im-

proved performances at all senior levels.

"Of the six men's teams, only the firsts are not in the four and they are improving all the time," club president Mark Davis told the Diary. "We are in excellent shape to make a big impact on the finals."

Fortunes continue to fluctuate for Warrandyte in the junior competition, but again there have been some outstanding individual contributions.

Justin Edwards showed true all-rounder qualities in the under-12(1) match against Templeton, with 33 not out, 3/20 and three great catches.

Clinton Grybas retired on 86 in the under-16's match against Ainslie Park in a fifth round highlighted by a last-ball-of-the-day win by the under-12(1) eleven over Croydon.



New coaches Glen Walsh (left) and David Purcell.

## Valley star to coach Bloods

Diamond Valley premiership player David Purcell is Warrandyte Football Club's new playing coach. In a package deal, the Bloods have signed Purcell and his Heidelberg teammate Glen Walsh.

Walsh will coach the reserves and play for the seniors.

Purcell, a 26-year-old ruck-rover, and Walsh, a rover, were members of Heidelberg's premiership team this year in the first division of the strong DVFL competition.

"Obviously, Glen and I want to take Warrandyte to the 1991 premiership," he told the Diary. "We will be looking first at cementing a place in the four, then making the grand final and winning the grand final."

"We would expect obstacles to arise during the course of the season, but we must never lose sight of those objectives."

Purcell's appointment — his first coaching job — brings Warrandyte into line with the policy of most Eastern Districts Football League clubs of appointing playing coaches. The last "genuine" player-coach here was current president Colin Bawden, in 1980.

The Bloods have singled out the Diamond Valley league as their major recruiting ground for next season. As many as five players from that competition could line up in the red and white. The recruiting "net" has also been cast elsewhere.

Purcell, who at one stage trained with Collingwood, took the Bloods on the road for the first time on November 4.

Bill Luttick is expected to coach the under-18s again next season. Kevin Close has been reappointed chairman of selectors for the seniors.

## THE DETAILS

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 5/276 (M. Day 70, Hughes 52, Tregear 43, Sharman 39, C. Day 33 no) d Lilydale 191 (Sharman 3/59). Warrandyte 8/243 (Tregear 81, Sharman 58) lost to Mooroolbark 9/256. Warrandyte 7/224 (M. Day 107 no) d Vermont 145 (Walshe 5/32).

SECONDS: Warrandyte 220 (Sturesteps 91, Fisher 57) d Lilydale 143 (Graf 3/48, Rogers 3/25). Warrandyte 189 (Sturesteps 53) d Mooroolbark 188 (Pascoe 3/23). Warrandyte 186 (Graf 45 no) and 3/111 (Fisher 53 no) lost to Vermont 254 (Jungwirth 4/86) (Graf 3/84).

THIRDS: Warrandyte 9/311 (Comrie 65, Brisbane 52, Vitiritti 69) d Lilydale 152 (Snaidero 3/25, Peters 3/28, Hughes 3/22). Warrandyte 294 (Peters 196) d Mooroolbark 193. Warrandyte 232 (Stevens 45, Vitiritti 54) lost to Vermont 272.

FOURTHS: Warrandyte 9/272 (Gathercole 121 no, Utt 58) d Lilydale 94 (Stevens 3/29, Wall 3/18) and 6/22 (Blackburn 3/7). War-

randyte 214 (Gathercole 71, Utt 42) and 3/176 (Valentine 78, Mooney 73) d Mooroolbark 136 (Blackburn 4/18). Warrandyte 7/212 (McLean 52, Vitiritti 77 no) d Vermont 197.

FIFTHS: Warrandyte 263 (King 54) d Mooroolbark 141. Warrandyte 8/308 (King 49, Weatherley 89 no) d Vermont 148 (Baker 4/44, Hamilton 3/21).

WOMEN: Warrandyte 2/110 (Tunbridge 61) drew with South Croydon 210 (McLaws 5/46). Warrandyte 5/238 (McLaws 102, Tunbridge 69, McGhee 64, Chapman 61) d Tooronga 55 (Egeberg 4/5) and 7/203. Warrandyte 238 (McLaws 103, Tunbridge 39) d East Box Hill 203 (Farrelly 3/58, Egeberg 3/37).

UNDER-16: Warrandyte 82 (P. Bernard 51) d Montrose 67 (S. Logan 3/22, S. Baker 2/12). Warrandyte 7/141 (C. Grybas 28, S. Howarth 25, R. Punshon 24, J. Nasser 24 no) lost to Lilydale 216 (Bernard 2/38, B. Wilmott 3/21). Warrandyte 9/280 (Grybas

86 ret, Howarth 58, B. Wilmott 58, Nasser 42, H. McAdam 20 no) lost to Ainslie Park 6/324 (Punshon 2/41, Bernard 2/50).

UNDER-14: Warrandyte 183 (A. White 51 ret, M. Chapman 36 no, A. Mangos 28) d North Croydon 174. Warrandyte 127 (A. Luttick 52 ret, S. Bell 30) lost to Croydon 198 (J. Logan 4/36, White 2/32). Warrandyte 4/217 (Logan 51 ret, A. Deleo 53 ret, White 29, D. Nightingale 14) d North Ringwood 145 (Bell, 4/20, Chapman 2/33, Logan 2/8).

UNDER-12(1): Warrandyte 142 (J. Edwards 33 no, C. Parsons 19) d Templeton 114 (N. Raby 3/8, Edwards 3/20, J. Moseley 2/14). Warrandyte 99 (Raby 34 no) and 2/113 (Moseley 31 no, Edwards 31 no) lost to Mt Evelyn 132 (Raby 2/19, J. Russell 2/13, T. Davies 2/10). Warrandyte 7/169 (N. Brisbane 33 ret, Raby 31 ret, Moseley 33 ret, Edwards 34 ret) d Croydon 8/164 (Brisbane 2/30, T. Chapman 1/5 from five overs).

UNDER-12(2): Warrandyte 13 and 9/32 lost to Vermont 261.

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