

DIARY

No. 219, March 1991

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Worst fire for 22 years

And a grateful town says thanks to firefighters

By BRUCE BENCE

Warrandyte suffered its worst bushfire for 22 years on February 25, but thanks to the splendid efforts of the fire-fighting services, there was no loss of life and only minimal damage to property.

Warrandyte CFA brigade received a call at 2.50pm, alerting them to a fire on open ground at Pound Bend. Two units from each of the Warrandyte brigades immediately responded to find State park staff with their two small 4x4 units already at the blaze.

The fire was out of control when the first units arrived. Warrandyte captain Bob Bird was calling for assistance when the wind picked up the fire and carried it into the timber.

By 3.17, twelve CFA units were in action and a control point had been established at Wagner's front gate, using the South Warrandyte brigade's van.

Lower Yarra CFA group, working out of the Eltham Emergency Operations Centre at Kangaroo Ground, had placed a team on standby, called in more units and set up their mobile forward control.

At 3.26 the fire jumped the river into Bradleys Lane, creating a fire controller's nightmare — fire on both sides of the river.

Lower Yarra group set up a combined forward HQ, ensuring liaison for all the services and co-operation between them. The CFA threw 40 tankers and three pumpers into the attack. They were joined by some 12 units from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Mobile car phones proved a valuable asset in providing communication between the various command centres. The new electronic telephone exchange at

Warrandyte stood up well, and for the first time during a major fire the local telephone system did not fail.

A police helicopter patrolled the area, allowing Captain Bird to control operations from it by radio. Later, Deputy Group Officer Bernard Murray operated in a similar role.

The Department of Conservation and Environment provided a specially-equipped fixed wing aircraft which dropped foam on the fire. It was re-filled at Lilydale airport.

They also had a command helicopter, allowing head ranger Ian Roach to control C&E equipment, liaising with HQ by radio. This machine is fitted with an infra-red scanner, identifying hot spots on the ground, even inside buildings.

But the most spectacular piece of equipment employed was undoubtedly the water-bombing helicopter — the Helitak. Using its submersible pump and 1600 litre tank it was able to take up water from the river and drop it on the fire from as low an altitude as safety permitted.

The Helitak can take water from an area as shallow as 16 centimetres. Once again the Yarra proved to be Warrandyte's best natural friend during a fire.

Group HQ was able to continuously monitor the weather from fax reports coming in from the regional office and the weather bureau. Thus equipment could be moved into position in anticipation of a change of wind. A disastrous situation can result from fire unexpectedly changing direction due to the wind swinging around.

Some 70 hectares of country had been burnt by the time the fire was finally brought under control around 8pm. Firefighters had successfully defended a number of seriously threatened



The grey face of death: A spectral beauty touches bush in Brown's Gully the morning after the fire went through. (Photo by Jan Tindale)

homes in Bradleys Lane and Browns Road.

Then began the long job of patrolling and mopping-up. North Warrandyte brigade, which had 45 members and casualties at the fire, spent all day Tuesday mopping-up.

It is estimated that 360 CFA firefighters, 30 from C&E and 35 State Emergency Service personnel took part in the total operation.

In addition to the Pound Bend fire, the CFA group had to deal with two other outbreaks, one at Kinglake and the other at South Warrandyte. The latter was extinguished by three MFB units and two CFA units diverted from Bradleys Lane.

A spot fire broke out in the garden of the Hiscock property in Yarra Street, backing the river.

Almost certainly carried across from the main fire, it was extinguished as soon as it landed.

The only residence destroyed was the disused youth hostel at Pound Bend. A sad loss historically, as this building was Australia's first YHA hostel. The YHA canoe shed was also destroyed, as was a studio and a shed in Bradleys Lane.

The pioneer slab cottage at the corner of Kangaroo Ground Road and Castle Road was threatened, but quick action by the water-bombing helicopter and three fire units saved it. A further outbreak at this spot on Thursday, February 28 was extinguished by units from Warrandyte and North Warrandyte.

Police are investigating the cause of the main fire and the one which started at Castle Road.

Alan Alder, controller of Doncaster-Templestowe State Emergency Service, described the work his unit did as "absolutely first class".

The SES arranged evacuation centres at Kingswood College and Eltham Community Centre in anticipation of large-scale evacuation, had the fire crossed Research Road. They also provided inflatable rafts to take crews and their equipment down the river to attack inaccessible hot spots during the evening.

The SES was stood down at 10.30pm, but were back at 6.30 the following morning with chain saws, helping to mop up.

As always, the Salvation Army was at the scene, helping with mobile catering units in Bradleys Lane and at the North Warrandyte Community Centre.

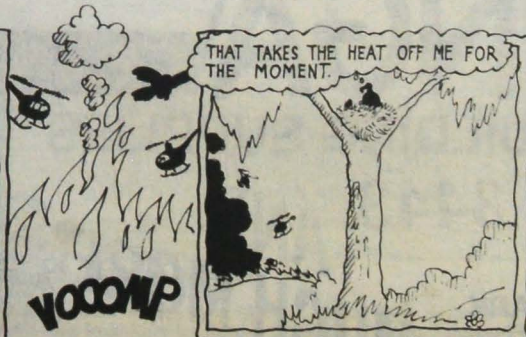
The profound gratitude of everyone in Warrandyte goes out to all who fought so hard; to those who backed them up and to those who have, through the years, worked to create the organisation that planned and led this successful battle to save our homes and lives.

It is more than 20 years since wildfire last brought havoc and destruction to Warrandyte. But now we all know — once more it has been reinforced — that it really will happen again.

Our best insurance policy is to treat seriously the threat of fire, take all possible precautions and support our volunteer brigades in whatever way we can.

More fire stories, pictures on pages 2, 6, 11.

CYRIL BY PAUL W.



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# Those magnificent men from the CFA

## IN RED & WHITE



Jim and Lorraine Harris are just two of many people singing the praises of the Country Fire Authority for its handling of the February 25 bushfire. The blaze started on the river flats behind the Harris property in Pound Bend Road and Jim has no doubt that the speed of the response from the volunteer brigades and the Warrandyte State Park rangers up the road saved his home. "They seemed to be here within minutes," he said. "Without them, the flames would have blown straight up the gully to the house. They were magnificent — and please tell them so." Consider it done, Jim.

\*\*\*

We'd love to have space to name and individually thank everyone — from the helicopter pilots to the Salvation Army relief workers — who contributed to the fire-fighting effort. We haven't, but we are darned sure going to identify and roundly thank the out-of-town CFA brigades who fought so hard and so long for us, alongside our own volunteers. They are: Eltham, Research, Pantom Hill, Hurstbridge, Kangaroo Ground, Wattle Glen, Warburton, East Warburton, Millgrove, Yellingbo, Selby, Upwey, Olinda, Boronia, Knox, The Basin, Coldstream, Mr Evelyn, Wonga Park, Lilydale, Mooroolbark, Mernda, Yarrambat, Plenty, Diamond Creek, Whittlesea, Fakenham and Beaconsfield. God only knows what would have happened without them.



\*\*\*

One of the casualties of the fire was Jim Harris's left boot, which parted company with his foot as he kicked a piece of burning wood into the flames. His grandkids retrieved it hours later when things had cooled off. It no longer fits — but if there's anyone out there who takes about a size two and needs a charred left boot, we can point you in the right direction.

\*\*\*

We can tell you that Warrandyte Fire Brigade captain Bob Bird does not live up to his surname. He is, in fact, a very poor flier. Because of his intimate knowledge of the area, Bob was chosen to go up in a helicopter and help direct operations from above. He was terribly airsick and very thankful when the compassionate pilot put him back on earth.

\*\*\*

Then there was the young lady sunbathing on the river bank when one of the 'copters came in to refill for the next water-bombing run. Just minding her own business, she was — and the updraught of the rotors whipped off her bikini top. We can't entire-

ly vouch for this story, but we liked it so much we couldn't resist it.

\*\*\*

It was certainly a day Margaret and George James would prefer to forget. For one thing, their house in Research Road was under threat and they weren't allowed up the hill to defend it. For another, George locked the car keys in the new Mitsubishi when he parked it at the post office to sit out the drama. And if they'd been allowed back home they wouldn't have got in anyway because the house keys just happened to be in Margaret's handbag which, of course, was in the car they couldn't unlock. Oh dear.

\*\*\*

Terry Liddell is a very bushfire-conscious lady and as the flames roared up from the river in the general direction of the family home, she decided that tree in the garden was a potential hazard which just had to go. She assigned the job of dropping it to daughter Bridget — and we can vouch that the young lady whose talents as a jeweller won her the inaugural Warrandyte Youth Arts Award two years ago is also a very deft hand with an axe.

\*\*\*

What's the first thing you grab when you're evacuating home in the face of a bushfire? Your pets, of course. But what do you do with them? A lot of people took them straight to local vet Derek Fairley. Simply because he is that sort of fellow, Derek said no worries, he'd take in as many as he could accommodate. There were many unpaying overnight guests at the Fairley household on February 25.

\*\*\*

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park, who are revegetating the old Wagner farm with native flora, lost their entire supply of pots as the blaze engulfed the property. But Doncaster-Templestowe council had come to the party almost before the ashes were cold. It has promised the friends 2000.

\*\*\*

Ripley would have dismissed it as unbelievable, but we assure you that the day after the bushfire, someone in Yarra Street was burning some very flammable stuff in a 44-gallon drum. The flames were quite high, as was the risk. No names, but we hope he reads this and mends his ways.

\*\*\*

Seen Doncaster and Templestowe council's latest art acquisition yet? It's a piece of statuary in a style that can only be called Modern Brutalism. Cleverly con-

ceived and well crafted it depicts the upper half of a pop-riveted male figure, mouth agape, arm stumps outstretched. Bruce Bence says it represents an irate citizen, emerging from doing battle with some petty bureaucrat, head flung back, pouring forth a tirade of frustrated anger and abuse. It doesn't have a label, but Bruce wants to call it "Bucket-mouth". We think old Bucket's just been in to pay his rates, and they've taken an arm and a leg. And another arm and another leg...



\*\*\*

Who's a lucky girl, then? Who's the Warrandyte lady who bought a winning first-division Tattslo to ticket at Seve Hobbs' newsagency last month? We don't know — and even if we did we wouldn't tell you because that's her business. But we can assure you that the rumours you heard about the big lotto win in this town were true. The envious lady was ever so nonchalant when she fronted a few days later to confirm her good fortune. "I think I've won a big prize," she said. How big? Well, big. And jolly good luck to her.

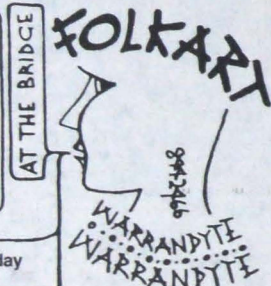
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Among the happy kids around Warrandyte fortunate enough to score their choice of study courses when the ex-year 12 academic places came out last month, there was none happier than Georgi Stickels. She'd applied for the full-time course in journalism at RMIT (or whatever that august institution is now called) and she got in. Of course Smokey went through the University of Melbourne on a push-bike and graduated from the school of hard knocks. You didn't need a piece of paper to work on a paper in Smokey's copyboy days. But you do now. Georgi says she cracked it because of her *Diary* bylines and her scrapbook of news stories. We suspect her 100 percent mark for English might have helped. But whichever way, we're proud of yer, Georgi!



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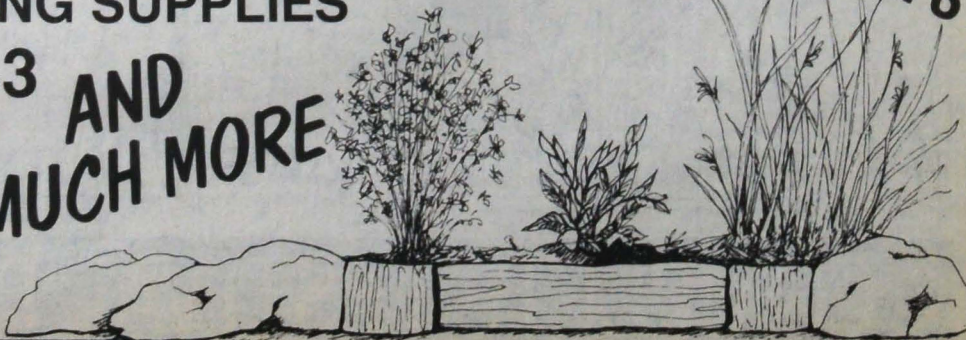
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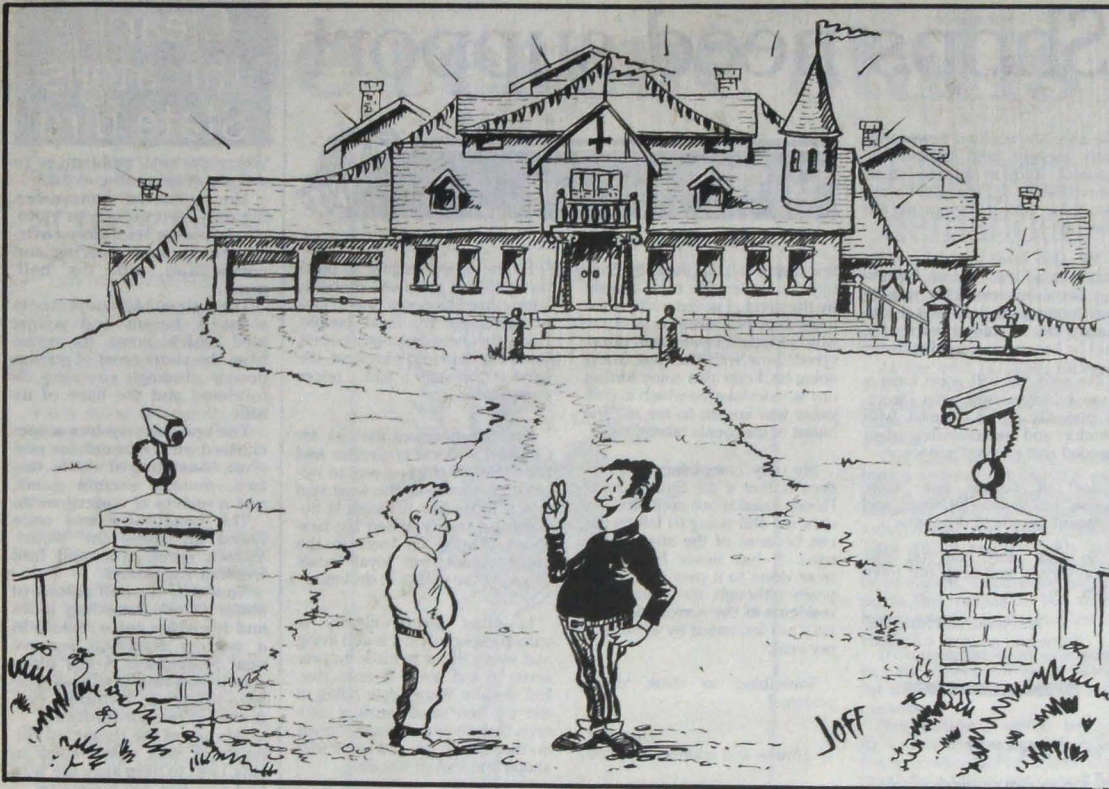
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"Ignore the council, put up the building, then appeal to a higher authority!"

# Tribunal reversal alarms residents

By DAVID WYMAN

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal has reversed a Doncaster and Templestowe council decision not to grant a permit for a partly-built house on Green Wedge land in South Warrandyte.

The three-level house at 543 Ringwood-Warrandyte Road had been relocated and its layout changed from plans originally approved by council. Last year, council rejected the owner's application for a new permit for what had already been built.

But on January 18 this year, the tribunal determined that the house could go ahead, subject to relocation of a four-car garage and certain other conditions, mainly in landscaping.

The tribunal decision has alarmed some local residents. One, who did not wish to be named, told the *Diary*, "We are all shocked by this. We now appear to have councillors who will

take a tough stand on people abusing permits and planning zones.

"Now the tribunal has quite possibly set a precedent for retrospective permits.

"The finding is totally concerned with the compatibility of the house with the neighbors. It says little about the owner flouting the conditions of his original permit, which really is the main issue. And the council staff, who oversaw the owner changing the location and layout of the house, are completely let off the hook."

The appeal to the tribunal was made by Mr P. Drijfhout, the owner-builder. Neighbors Mr and Mrs L. Beulke were the respondents-objectors.

Last year, the council refused a second permit application by Mr Drijfhout on the grounds that it was contrary to an existing planning permit, and was intrusive to the neighbors' environment.

In its determination, the tribunal noted that recently "there has been a tendency for large flamboyant houses which impose themselves on the landscape, to be constructed" in Landscape Interest A zones.

The tribunal said it did not accept that the objectors had any grounds to complain about the visual appearance of the proposed house.

"In general terms, the house will not be an intrusive element in the landscape," the tribunal determination said.

The tribunal directed that the four-car garage, now seven metres from the boundary, be relocated to the north side of the house. It further directed that the owner lodge a \$5000 bond with the council for three years to ensure the completion and maintenance of landscaped areas.

Meanwhile, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal is expected to

decide on the future of the partly-constructed building of Faithland Inc, also located in the Green Wedge, at the Warrandyte end of Reynolds Road.

Doncaster and Templestowe council, in a 12 to nil vote, rejected an application by Faithland for a permit to proceed with what had already been built, a structure two and a half times long and more than twice the area as shown in the approved plans.

Faithland appealed against council's decision to the tribunal, which completed five days of hearings on the case on February 20.

The tribunal chairman and two associates were expected to make a determination in two weeks.

It is believed that Faithland, which is associated with the Assemblies of God, have spent about \$700,000 on the site.

## Decision backs bushland values

By CLIFF GREEN

Residents north of the river will welcome an Administrative Appeals Tribunal ruling upholding an Eltham council decision to reject an application for a three lot subdivision in North Warrandyte.

Although all allotments would have been larger than the 0.4 hectare minimum allowed, the tribunal dismissed the appeal, rejecting "an automatic right to subdivide down to this size".

The proposed subdivision, on a wooded 2.5 hectare hilltop site in Kallaroo Court off Kruses Road, runs down to the Yarra River on one boundary and to the Warrandyte State Park on the other.

Last October, council refused the application from the owner, Mr Robert Jan, on the grounds that "the ... development ... would be visually intrusive and would be detrimental to the bushland values of the land".

Council also stated that "the proposal is not appropriate because of the proximity of the land to the Yarra River and the Warrandyte State Park".

Council argued that the "property contains a significant cover of indigenous vegetation with very little weed invasion".

Objections to the proposal were received from the Warrandyte Environment League and several nearby residents.

Asked to comment on the application, the Department of Conservation and Environment pointed out that the site borders the Koorong, Northern River Frontage and Blue Tongue Bend areas of the park.

"The Blue Tongue Bend area

provides diverse habitat for many species of mammals and birds and several plant species. Koorong is a small bushland block on the north bank of the Yarra River with a popular swimming area and pleasant river walks.

"The Northern River Frontage is a narrow strip of the park that is densely vegetated, steep and relatively inaccessible. ... The proposed subdivision lies within an environmentally sensitive area" containing some of "the most intact undisturbed indigenous vegetation in the Warrandyte area".

Following council's rejection of the proposed subdivision, the owner appealed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. This was heard on February 11 this year.

Mr Peter Merrigan, town planner, appeared for the owner. "The development is not a maximum yield proposal, but one that is designed to recognise the existing environment. The proximity of the land to the Yarra River and Warrandyte State Park are facts of life, but is insufficient reason to deny subdivision," he argued.

There was a strong response to this point: "The tribunal does not consider that the site's proximity to the Yarra River and the Warrandyte State Park can be dismissed as easily as contended. Intrusion into this sensitive location should be minimised as far as possible.

Eltham council has advised Mr Jan that it considers "a better development would result from a two lot subdivision, combining lots two and three and imposing stringent controls to ensure that the house on this lot is in the least intrusive location".

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## Film planned for brigade centenary

Kangaroo Ground Fire Brigade is planning production of a written history and documentary film to celebrate its centenary next February.

The material will feature incidents involving the brigade and the Kangaroo Ground people since European settlers arrived in the area.

It is possible that Kangaroo Ground formed the first bush fire brigade in Victoria, and even Australia.

Although bushfires were almost an annual event in the first 100 years of European settlement it was town brigades that were first formed in Victoria.

In 1854 Geelong, Sandhurst (Bendigo) and Creswick organised brigades, but it is believed that February 6, 1892 was the first time that a community got together to form a brigade to fight the bushfire menace.

That first Kangaroo Ground meeting was chaired by Ewen Hugh Cameron, described as an incredible character. He was the first postmaster at Warrandyte, mail contractor, an Eltham shire councillor for 50 years and the Evelyn



Fire fighting the hard way on Kangaroo Ground Road, 1927

member of parliament for 40 years.

The meeting had no previous experience to follow for forming a bushfire fighting brigade. It was resolved that in the event of a fire within a six mile radius of Kangaroo Ground members who

handed their names in at the meeting would pledge to turn out.

If unable to attend they would send a substitute and if they did neither would pay a five shilling fine. This was a considerable sum in those days.

The brigade is anxious to obtain more anecdotes, films and information to help celebrate the centenary.

If you are able to help phone 719 7513 or write to Nicholas Pelling, 170 Church Road, Pantom Hill 3759.

BRUCE BENCE

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"We Need Warrandyte"  
 (Name and address supplied)

## LETTERS

first time I walked (I usually drive by) down the wide road and sat by the creek. I never realised the most beautiful area around me which I would never have discovered. Now with the new works going on, I can also enjoy further our wonderful area which in past years was known to me as "the haunt of the locals bike track".

My only complaint as a resident is that if the Stony Creek/Floods Road is not upgraded our cars are still going to fall to pieces because of the state of the road. It has never had major work done to it over the last 20 years although the number of residents in the surrounding vicinity has increased by at least 50 per cent.

Something to think about, perhaps!

"Hopeful"  
 (Name and address supplied)

## Scenery discovered

Even though I had not thought of myself as a "Greenie" it was pointed out recently that in fact I am.

I love the local bush near our home in the Stony Creek/Floods Road area. I believe that the Eltham Council has purchased one of the properties on the estate to protect the eagles home and hopefully this will keep the eagles around for now and the future.

Lots of people may disapprove of the estate but last week for the

## Falling victim

Our village, which has survived for more than 140 years, looks like it will be another victim of this depression.

I'm talking about the real Warrandyte — the shops that were the heart of the community and that have been the meeting place for generations of people who live here and love the area.

By the time this goes to press the butcher's shop will probably have closed its doors due to lack of patronage by local people. Since the new butcher opened, the meat has been excellent, the service friendly and prices competitive.

The big dream of the late Mr Croxford — local councillor and later MMBW chief — was to relocate the town to the west end and it looks like his wish is becoming a reality. When the new shops opened up there in the yuppie end of town "loyal" locals deserted the village in droves.

In other places history is valued especially if it is still living and every effort is made to preserve it and make it attractive. But despite Warrandyte being in the top ten most wealthy suburbs there is not enough interest in the village to patronise the shops and keep them alive.

Once the buildings are pulled down and new ones erected, the soul will have gone from Warrandyte and another piece of living history gone forever.

The shops we need can only stay alive while local people patronise them. Do we need fancy new buildings for the interest of our wealthy inhabitants or can we retain a village with a feeling of roots and history? It's up to you. It can be done.

Shirley Rotherham  
 Tills Drive

## Clearing threatens State bird

Victoria's bird emblem is in danger of becoming extinct.

The helmeted honeyeater, the only bird unique to Victoria, is losing its native environment to land clearing and competition with the bell-myna.

The helmeted honeyeater is a small, brown and yellow bird which takes its name from the short crest of golden downy plumage covering its forehead and the base of its bill.

The species requires a specialised environment for survival, consisting of wattle, tea-tree, manna, swamp gums, and a variety of undergrowth.

The honeyeater was once found all along the Wooril-Yallock creek area and into western Gippsland.

Now only a small colony of about fifteen breeding pairs and ten older pairs remain in a narrow riverside reserve near Yellingboe. A few birds also live at Healesville sanctuary, where a breeding program has been introduced.

Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater was established in May 1989 to help save the bird and now has 300 members.

Together with landholders of lots adjacent to the honeyeater reserve, they are re-planting habitat and working in the reserve itself when required by the Department of Conservation and Environment. The group collects and propagates seed for planting in the area, and runs education programs in nearby primary and secondary schools.

The group is always on the lookout for new members. Contact president, Robert Anderson, on 844 3508 for more information.

GEORGI STICKELS

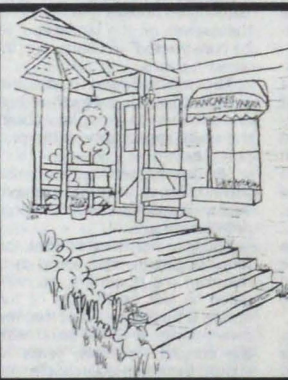
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# Eagle rescue stalls

## Awe inspired across ages

By GLEN JAMESON

When members of the newly-formed Ringwood Field Naturalist Club first laid eyes upon the wedge-tailed eagle's nest, they stood there in awe.

It was almost two metres deep and two metres wide and rested in a candlebark gum in a secret gully on the Yarra Brae estate in Wonga Park. It was the late 1950s.

Humans throughout the ages have been in awe of eagles. Countless cultures in different countries have used these magnificent birds as symbols of great importance.

In the Egyptian hieroglyphic alphabet, the letter A symbol is the eagle. Indian Vedic tradition has it as an important messenger.

In Christianity, the eagle plays the role of the messenger from heaven. Roman legions carried its symbol into war.

Generally, however, it was regarded as an apt expression of divine majesty.

The wedge-tailed eagle is one of the most powerful totems of the local Aboriginal tribe, the Wurrundjeri. Bunjil, as he is called, plays prominent parts in many local legends including that of the creator of the Yarra River and its plants, animals and people.

Using various sources, anecdotes and observations from local naturalists and residents, I will draw this rough sketch of our local eagle population. If you have something to add, please tell me.

Miraculously, the nest (or eyrie as it is rightly called) escaped damage from the 1962 fires that swept through the bushlands around it. That eyrie on Yarra Brae yielded chicks through the 1960s, which many people went to photograph and observe.

During the 1970s, Stane Brae, the property next to Yarra Brae, was sub-divided. Not only did this lead to the destruction of one of the best orchid sites in Victoria, but the building activity along Hartley Road probably caused the eagles to move.

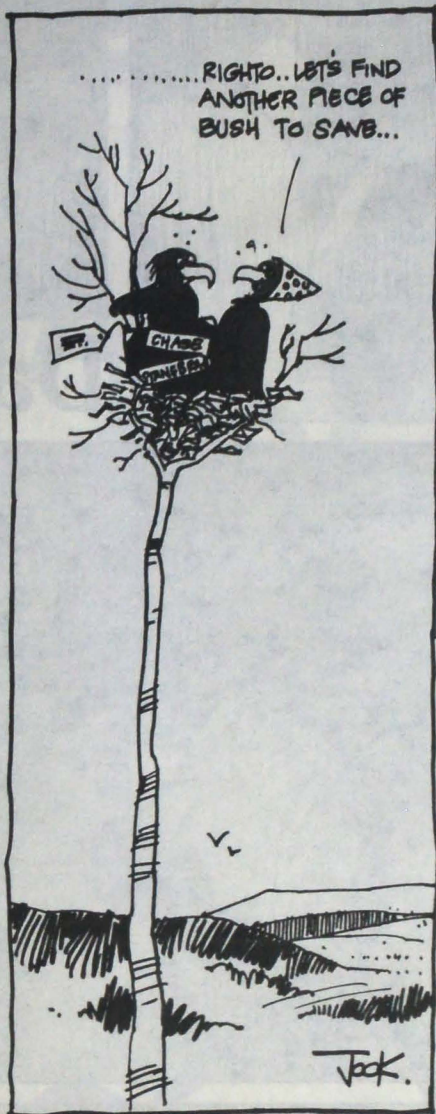
They built an eyrie in a giant yellow-box tree on Stoney Creek in the mid to late 1970s. They produced chicks in this nest until about 1980, when the female disappeared. The male stayed around for a year or so, then moved on.

By 1983, a pair of wedge-tailed eagles were often observed around Stane Brae. In 1985 their nest was discovered in another huge yellow box in a secluded gully. The eagles and their eyrie were the focal point for a campaign to put the property into the State Park. The area of the nest is now under a National Trust covenant.

Stane Brae, however, was further sub-divided and the subsequent building activity moved the eagles back to Stoney Creek. The huge limb of the yellow box, on which they had built their previous eyrie had fallen. They chose a big swamp gum in a quiet gully and by the late 1980s were raising a family again.

Was it the same male eagle? There is probably no way of knowing but one local who had watched over the eagle families of the 1970s along Stoney Creek, swears that it is the same bird.

In early October 1990, Marcel Cameron and I visited this latest eyrie, which now found itself, in a new sub-division called The Chase. We noticed something flapping about in the nest and a week later, it was confirmed that a chick was in the eyrie. So begins another campaign.



This time it took the vision and energy of this 16-year-old school boy to awaken the community to the possible demise of these wonderful creatures.

Where do they go from here? In our rush to live in these magical bushlands, we are forcing those creatures to simply leave or die. It is not just wedge-tailed eagles but vulnerable mammals such as the tuar or antechinus.

The indigenous plants of our red box forest are being destroyed and whole eco-systems pulled apart so we can have a room with a view and a garden that reminds us of England.

We have wonderful legislation such as the Flora and Fauna Guarantee designed to stop decline or demise of significant species. Where is it now?

I have observed these eagles from land in five municipalities. Eltham, Doncaster and Templestowe, Heidelberg, Healesville and Lilydale. A pooling of resources together with the Department of Conservation and Environment and the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works could possibly be an answer. Many people in these institutions look to these birds as a symbol of the freedom and spirituality of wildlife.

It is difficult to reconcile the use of public monies these days but I know how I would like to see some of it spent. Just the other day we viewed the young wedge-tailed, perched on a dead stag-tree in a quiet little valley in North Warrandyte. The stag-tree is a relic of the pre-1962 forest and commanded a magnificent view of the surrounding land.

The young eagle had lovely red-brown and chocolate coloring. It took to the air floating above the trees, sometimes a little shakily. It was a sight that brought such awe and joy to all those who watched it, that we all wished such moments would never end.

## High price demanded

Negotiations to save The Chase and protect the habitat of a pair of wedge-tailed eagles have become deadlocked.

At the end of 1990, Eltham shire council proposed to purchase 13 hectares of The Chase from the current owners.

The land was to be made into a reserve, giving the eagles a 250 metre buffer zone between their nest and the subdivision in The Chase. This would require only minor alterations to property boundaries. According to experts this radius is the minimum needed by the eagles to survive.

However, the deal was subject to agreement on a price by the council and the land owners.

Negotiations, which began in January revealed the owners want three times the maximum value proposed by council.

As no financial support has been offered by the Victorian Government, the figure demanded by the owners is beyond the means of the council.

It is believed this pair of eagles has already had to abandon nests in nearby Stane Brae and Westerfolds Park. There are few, if any, places for the eagles to go in the metropolitan area if forced from Warrandyte.

The Friends of The Chase, headed by Marcel Cameron, are uncertain what to do next. Further protest action may only anger the owners, and the State Government has refused to help. It seems there is little anyone can do but wait for an outcome from council negotiations.

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### Warrandyte Community Market

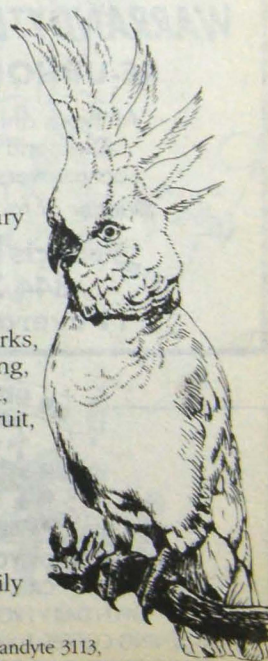
Under the Gum trees, beside the Yarra on Stiggants Reserve, Yarra St, Warrandyte  
1st Saturday of each month - except January  
9am-1pm

Come and join in!  
Hand crafted gifts of all kinds, toys, art works, pottery, plants, clothing, gift cards leatherwork, cakes, jams, honey, fruit, produce.

Ample Parking.  
Light refreshments available.

Bring along your family and friends.

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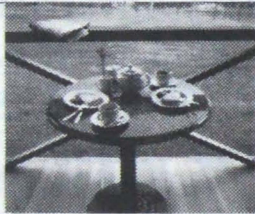
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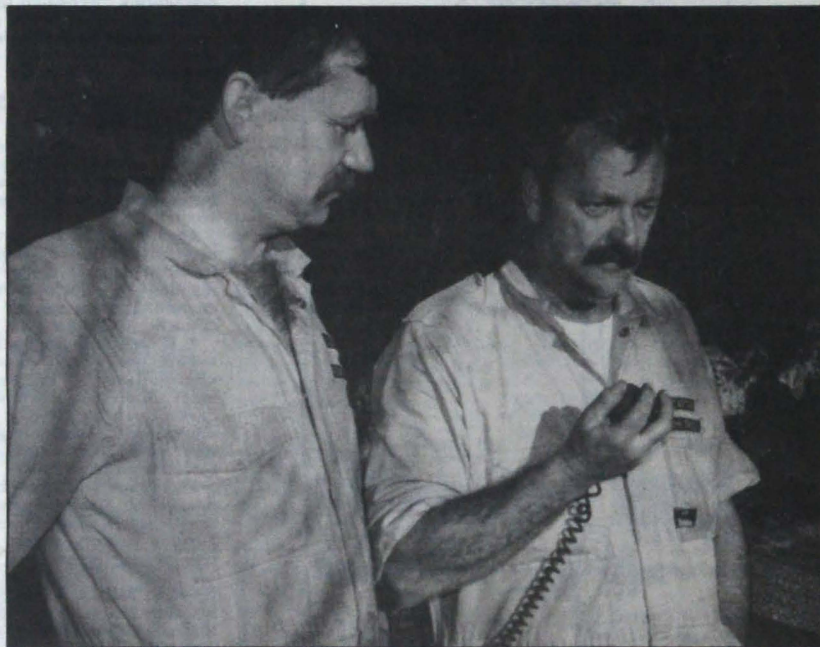
# Danger too

By LEE TINDALE

You're constantly aware of the danger when you live in bushfire-prone Warrandyte, but you kid yourself it could never happen to you. It can. And it damn near did to us on the afternoon of February 25.

For the fact that it didn't we are permanently and deeply indebted to the local and out-of-town Country Fire Authority volunteers who surrounded our home in Browns Road and refused to let it burn.

Having jumped the river from the State park and roared up the hill, the flames licked at the back door and, thwarted there, divided. Perhaps they wanted to encircle us, but the CFA men were superb. God bless 'em — and everyone else who had a hand in putting out this town's worst bushfire for 22 years.



Above: Richard Warwick (left) and John Swindley inspect the burnt terrain.

Right: Firemen (from left) Clive Thomas, Alan Walker and Paul Buck douse smouldering undergrowth.

Centre right: A helicopter takes water from the river to fight the fire.



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WARRANDYTE  
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# WARRANDYTE VILLAGE FESTIVAL PROGRAM 1991



*Warrandyte on parade!*

# Warrandyte on parade!

When those banners appear along Yarra Street, you know it's festival time! With lots of new activities, and all your favorites, the 1991 Warrandyte Village Festival will be a memorable event. There is something for everyone: concerts, markets, displays, tours, river activities, competitions and the ever-popular water slide.

Our new town band will lead the parade at 11.00am on Saturday, with commentaries by our 'raving reporters'. The schools have been working hard on their entries, helped by two visiting artists — and look out for the colorful ladies' pipe band.

The new lunchtime family concert will keep you entertained, with world champion busker Christof, a local jazz band, a follies revue and the Doncaster Concert Band. Kids can come in fancy dress — or decorate a bike — and maybe win a prize!

There'll be a separate rock stage, where they'll Rage Without Alcohol to local bands on Saturday, and from the main stage enjoy a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon with the best of jazz and popular music by big bands and a string quartet. The Indibudgee Aboriginal Dance Group and our favorite Paradiddle — followed by the fireworks — will complete the weekend.

A free bus service will take you round the town, and parking will be available off Forbes Street or at the school. The Cobb & Co stagecoach will be fun for the kids. There will be special displays at Earth Art, The Bridge, Gundulmirri Gallery, the Clay Pot and Leather Lasts. The Rotary Art Show will combine the best of local and district artists. Local aerosol artist Peter Daverington will be painting a mural on the pylon beneath the bridge.

Further information can be obtained from the caravan next to the main stage. The festival committee and the Warrandyte community wish you all a great weekend!



## IN THE HEART OF WARRANDYTE . . .



*Bernie and Peter are proud to support the Festival and would like to thank the people of Warrandyte for their continued support over the past five years*

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**THURSDAY 14 MARCH**

**4.00-6.00pm: EXPO '91.** Contest entries accepted at St Stephens Anglican Church, Stiggants Street. Enquiries: Ann Ley, 844 3543.

**8.00pm: RECITAL & REFRESHMENTS** at St Stephens, Stiggants Street. Enquiries and bookings: the Vicar, 844 3473.

**8.00pm: OLYMPIC FOLLIES.** Warrandyte Drama Group Revue. Mechanics' Institute Hall, Yarra Street. Cabaret, BYO food and drink. \$10 per head. Also March 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23. Bookings: Colleen Keating, 844 2918, 6-9pm Mon-Fri.

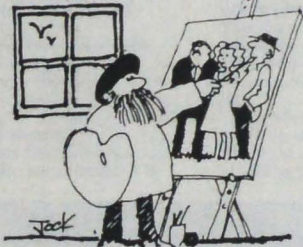


**FRIDAY 15 MARCH**

**9.30am-12noon: KIDS' FESTIVAL WARM-UP PARADE** at Warrandyte Primary School, with Christof, world champion busker. Enquiries: Denise Farran, 844 3537.

**6.30pm: OPENING OF EXPO '91** and prize-giving. St Stephens Anglican Church, Stiggants Street.

**7.00pm C.E.B.S. CARNIVAL FUN NIGHT.** Open to all. Hot food and refreshments. St Stephens, Stiggants Street. Enquiries: Barry Valentine, 844 3174.



**7.00-11.00pm: FESTIVAL ART SHOW** Gala Opening featuring some of Warrandyte's famous artists. In giant marquee behind squash courts. Sponsored by Rotary. Enquiries: 844 2500 (AH).

**8.00pm: OLYMPIC FOLLIES.** Warrandyte Drama Group Revue. Mechanics' Institute Hall, Yarra Street. Cabaret, BYO food and drink. \$10 per head. Also March 16, 20, 21, 22, 23. Bookings: Colleen Keating, 844 2918, 6-9pm Mon-Fri.

**SATURDAY 16 MARCH**

**9.00am-5.00pm: ALL DAY ACTIVITIES... STATIC DISPLAYS.** Conservation and Environment, Warrandyte Environment League, SES, MMBW, CFA, Stiggants Riverbank Reserve.

**DISPLAY AND ACTIVITIES.** Friends of Warrandyte State Park. 'Animal Art' (painting animals on children), painting the new tent, hands-on propagating, billy tea and damper, badge-making, paper-making display.

**OPEN AIR MARKETS.** A variety of stalls, including plants, homemade bread and cakes, toys, clothes, jewellery, leadlighting, novelties and handbuilt furniture. Stiggants Reserve.



**FOOD FIESTA.** Select from a large range of international stalls — Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Chinese, German and English. Eat there or take home. Stiggants Riverbank Reserve.

**COBB & CO Stagecoach Rides.** Take a ride back to the Gold Rush Era from Stiggants Reserve along Yarra Street to the bridge. \$1.00 each way.

**FESTIVAL ART SHOW.** Behind the squash courts. Run by Rotary. Enquiries: 844 2500 (AH).

**EXPO '91.** St Stephens Anglican Church, Stiggants Street. Light refreshments available.

**FLOWER & HARVEST FESTIVAL** at St Stephens, Stiggants Street.

**AEROSOL ART** under the Warrandyte bridge. Watch young Warrandyte artist Peter Daverington as he transforms the bridge pylon.

**POTTERS COTTAGE EXHIBITION.** Extensive range of Australian craft. Jumping Creek Road. And don't forget to visit all our other local galleries and craft shops.

**BRIDGE TRADERS' GALA.** Display of aboriginal arts, fashion parade, jewellery, flower arranging, Australian arts and crafts and galleries.



**8.30am: APEX FUN RUN.** Run by Warrandyte Apex Club from Stiggants Reserve. 9km course. Prizes given. Entries on the day. Be there at least 15 minutes before start. Enquiries: Dale Zeising, 844 3739.

**9.00-11.00am; 12noon-2.00pm: KIDS' MARKET.** Magnificent muddle of stalls, offering handmade goods produced by local kids. Stiggants Reserve. Contact: Carol, 844 2904.

**10.00am-12noon: WARRANDYTE WONDERS BY BUS.** See all the State Park has to offer, but with minimum walking. Enquiries and bookings: 844 2659.

**10.30am: MARSHALLING** of Festival Parade Floats. Pedestrians below the bridge, vehicles at Stonehouse, Tills Drive. Enquiries: Rick Gordon, 844 2242.

**11.00am: FESTIVAL PARADE.** From Warrandyte Bridge to Stiggants Reserve. Theme: 'Warrandyte on Parade'. Categories — Most Warrandytish, most colorful, elaborate, craziest, noisiest group. Marching bands (including our very own), floats, bikes, horses, clowns, carriages, vintage cars and more. Sponsored by Warrandyte Market Committee. Enquiries: Rick Gordon, 844 2242.



**12.00noon: LUNCHTIME FAMILY CONCERT.** Main stage. Superb entertainment, featuring world champion busker Christof, local jazz band, Festival Follies artists and Doncaster Concert Band. Compered by Peter 'Grubby' Stubbs and Greg Lawrence.

**12.00noon: FANCY DRESS & DECORATED BIKES.** Assemble near main stage for a parade across stage. Every entrant wins a prize, donated by the Lions Club.

**12noon: BIKE REGISTRATION.** Is your bike registered? If not, the Lions Club and the Victoria Police will register it for you free of charge. Stiggants Reserve.

**12noon: WATERSLIDE.** Run by Warrandyte Scout Group, Stiggants Reserve. Changing tent provided. Bring togs and towels. Enquiries: Ken Garrioch, 428 3846. \$1 for all day.

**12.30pm: CANOE & KAYAK RACES.** From Jumping Creek Reserve to Stiggants Reserve. Entries on the day. Prizes donated by Canoe Shed. Enquiries: Canoe Shed, 844 2502.

**1.00pm: BEV HANSON'S GARDEN & NURSERY.** 104 Webb Street, Warrandyte. Catch bus from Stiggants Reserve. Enquiries: 844 3906.

**1.00-3.00pm: WARRANDYTE WONDERS BY BUS.** See all the State Park has to offer, but with minimum walking. Enquiries and bookings: 844 2659.

**1.00-5.00pm: RAGE WITHOUT ALCOHOL CONCERT.** On riverbank between Anderson's Creek bridge and Stiggants Street carpark. Young bands on stage. Get high on the music of Cast of Strangers, Alley Oop, No More Faith, Scared Fretless and more. No alcohol. Enquiries: Lynne Cappellani, 844 2191.



**2.00pm: RAFT RACE.** See Warrandyte's mariners battle the raging rapids. Enquiries and entries: Canoe Shed, 844 2502.

**2.00pm: GOLD MINE TOUR.** Join our tour guide, John Hanson, for an hour and a half leisurely walk and visit an actual 1850s gold mine. Bring torch and wear flat shoes. Run by Uniting Church. Meet at 104 Webb Street or catch a free bus from Stiggants Reserve.

**3.00pm: ON STAGE AT STIGGANTS.** Continuous entertainment provided by local schools, Helen Briggs Dancers and other community groups. Compered by Martin Walker. Presentation of poster competition prizes.

**6.00-9.00pm: NOCTURNAL NATURE NIGHT.** If night-time is your scene, join the State Park rangers for a BYO picnic or BBQ tea, followed by billy tea, games and a spotlight walk. Enquiries and bookings: 844 2659.

**8.00pm: OLYMPIC FOLLIES.** Warrandyte Drama Group Revue. Mechanics' Institute Hall, Yarra Street. Cabaret, BYO food and drink. \$10 per head. Also March 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23. Bookings: Colleen Keating, 844 2918, 6-9pm Mon-Fri.

**SUNDAY 17 MARCH**

**9.00am-5.00pm: ALL DAY ACTIVITIES... STATIC DISPLAYS.** Conservation and Environment, Yarra River Lifeguards, Warrandyte Environment League, SES, MMBW, CFA, Stiggants Riverbank Reserve.

**DISPLAY AND ACTIVITIES.** Friends of Warrandyte State Park. 'Animal Art' (painting animals on children), painting the new tent, hands-on propagating, billy tea and damper, badge-making, paper-making display.

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**10.00am-5.00pm: AEROSOL ART** under the Warrandyte bridge. Watch young Warrandyte artist Peter Daverington as he transforms the bridge pylon.

**10.00am-5.00pm: POTTERS COTTAGE EXHIBITION.** Extensive range of Australian craft. Jumping Creek Road. And don't forget to visit all our other local galleries and craft shops.

**10.00am-5.00pm: BRIDGE TRADERS' GALA.** Display of aboriginal arts, fashion parade, jewellery, flower arranging. Australian arts and crafts and galleries.

**6.00-9.00am: EARLY BIRD DAWN WALK.** Join the State Park rangers for a peaceful walk along the riverside, hear the dawn chorus and breakfast on billy tea and damper. Enquiries and bookings: 844 2659.

**8.00am: LIONS CLUB GYMKHANA.** Wyena Pony Club Grounds, Croydon Road, South Warrandyte. Ribbons to 6th place. Entries \$2, vehicles \$5. Enquiries: Peter Egan, 876 1004.



**8.30am: BILLY CART DERBY.** Crash helmets, protective clothing compulsory. No go-carts, no commercial entries. Billy carts must satisfy marshalls. Forbes Street, outside the police station. Entries 50c on the day. Enquiries: George Nikakis, 712 0595.

**10.00am: WATERSLIDE.** Run by Warrandyte Scout Group, Stiggants Reserve. Changing tent provided. Bring togs and towels. Enquiries: Ken Garrioch, 438 3845. \$1 for all day.

**10.00am-12noon: WARRANDYTE WONDERS BY BUS.** See all the State Park has to offer, but with minimum walking. Enquiries and bookings: 844 2659.

**10.00am: FREE INTRODUCTORY ADULT YOGA CLASS.** Bhava School of Yoga, 5a West End Road. Enquiries: Lyn Colenso, 844 1128, 712 0610.

**10.00am-12.30pm: KOALA SURVEY.** Help the rangers monitor the koalas in the State Park. Enquiries and bookings: 844 2659.

**10.30am: INTER-BRIGADE COMPETITION.** See our three local rural fire brigades compete for the Yarra Bend Branch. Demonstration of skills. Stiggants Riverbank Reserve.



**10.30am: PET PARADE & DOG JUMP.** Run by Warrandyte High School. Bring your pet to Stiggants Reserve. All pets must be on a leash and under owner's control. After the pet judging, see if your dog can jump the hurdles. Enquiries: Judy Steele, 844 2249.

**11.00am-5.00pm: EXPO '91.** St Stephens Anglican Church, Stiggants Street. Light refreshments available.

**11.00am-5.00pm: FLOWER & HARVEST FESTIVAL** at St Stephens, Stiggants Street.

**11.30am: LILO RACE.** Have a go! You will need a lilo and sandals. Easy but exciting rapids from Forbes Street. Minimum age 10 years. Patrolled by Yarra River Lifeguards. Prizes donated by Canoe Shed. Enquiries: Canoe Shed, 844 2502.



**12noon: YARRA YOBBOBS.** Novelty activities on the riverbank at Stiggants Reserve. Gumbot throw, rolling-pin throw, egg throw, Otto bin races. Warrandyte Uniting Church. Prizes donated by Potters Cottage. Enquiries: Alan King, 844 3622.

**12.00noon: 50s & 60s ROCK** with Rock Ya Sox Off! Main stage, Stiggants Reserve.

**1.00pm: BEV HANSON'S GARDEN & NURSERY** open. Catch bus from Stiggants Reserve.

**1.00-2.00pm: TUG O' WAR.** 2.30pm: **FINALS.** Warrandyte fire brigades. Local groups compete for the trophy: fire brigades, Apex, Lions, sporting groups. Stiggants Riverbank Reserve. Entry on the day.

**1.00-3.00pm: WARRANDYTE WONDERS BY BUS.** See all the State Park has to offer, but with minimum walking. Enquiries and bookings: 844 2659.



**2.00pm: DUCK RACE.** Quack, quack, quack! Support your plastic duck. (After Yarra Yobbo finish.) Ducks available from schools, Canoe Shed or Gina, 844 2402.

**2.00pm: GOLD MINE TOUR.** Join our tour guide, John Hanson, for an hour and a half leisurely walk and visit an actual 1850s gold mine. Bring torch and wear flat shoes. Run by Uniting Church. Meet at 104 Webb Street or catch a free bus from Stiggants Reserve.

**2.10pm: FIRE JUGGLING & UNICYCLE COMEDY.** Nick Engleman, busker. Main stage, Stiggants Reserve.

**2.30pm: A PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON.** Relax and enjoy some fine music played by local and visiting musicians, including Good News Big Band, Girl's Own String Quartet, Southern Area Stage Jazz Band.

**2.30pm: FREE KIDS' PANTOMIME.** 'Kwui Koala and His Magic Tree'. Warrandyte Community Church (below squash courts). Magic Tree Theatre Company.

**3.30pm: ABORIGINAL SAND PAINTING** for kids. Near main stage, Stiggants Reserve.

**5.00pm: COLLECTION OF EXHIBITS** from Expo '91. St Stephens, Stiggants Street.

**6.00 pm: FESTIVAL FINALE CONCERT.** Main stage, Stiggants Reserve. Local Yokels, Indibudgee Aboriginal Dance Troupe, Paraddiddle. Bring your rugs, folding chairs, friends and family and join us on the grass. Enjoy a picnic or BBQ tea, or buy dinner from the Lions' fast food stall.



**8.45pm: FIREWORKS FINALE.** The weekend finishes in a blaze of color. After the concert, look skywards and see this glorious display of fireworks. Sponsored by Harry Heaths Supermarket, Warrandyte.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**WARRANDYTE VILLAGE FESTIVAL** gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, the Shire of Eltham, the Victorian Ministry of the Arts, the Apex Club of Warrandyte, Warrandyte Lions Club, Warrandyte Mechanics' Institute and Arts Association, Warrandyte Rotary Club and our many sponsors and friends, without whose unstinting support this weekend would not take place.

**SPECIAL THANKS** also to the CFA brigades, SES, St Johns Ambulance, Police, Yarra River Lifeguards, Doncaster

Council departments, the Warrandyte Diary, bus drivers, local schools and participating community groups.

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Far left: Firemen take a well-earned break late in the evening.

Centre: A tree believed to be 200 years old destroyed by the fire.

Left and below: Flames leapt through the Warrandyte bush leaving behind blackened trees.



# close to home

A lot of things — mostly irrational — gallop through the mind as you stand in Yarra Street and watch a major bushfire doing its work in your particular pocket of Warrandyte.

You know your home is right in the middle of it, but they won't let you cross the bridge and they're probably right. What can you do that trained firefighters can't, except maybe get in their way? You should be living in hope, but despair comes easier.

Remarkably, you start apportioning blame for the rupture of the ozone layer. It's their fault! They heated up this bloody planet! And the weather men. Sure they said today was going to be a scorcher, but why did they have to get lucky this time?

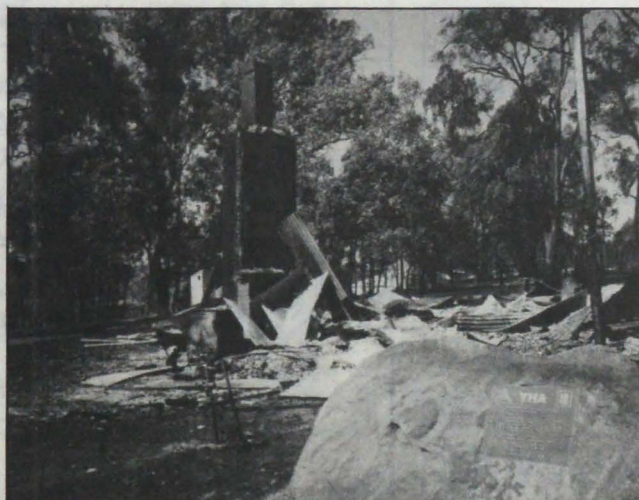
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You shorten stride a little as you reach the point where the dark grey roof should have into view . . . and, I'll be buggered, there it is!

We have survived. When you've abandoned hope, the sight of your home still standing is a huge bonus.



Above: The Warrandyte Youth Hostel was destroyed in the fire.

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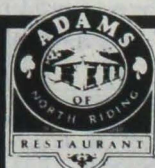
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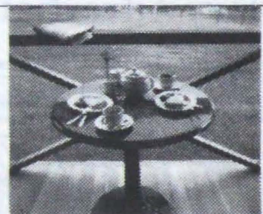
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Far left: Firemen take a well-earned break late in the evening.

Centre: A tree believed to be 200 years old destroyed by the fire.

Left and below: Flames leapt through the Warrandyte bush leaving behind blackened trees.



# Danger too close to home

By LEE TINDALE

You're constantly aware of the danger when you live in bushfire-prone Warrandyte, but you kid yourself it could never happen to you. It can. And it damn near did to us on the afternoon of February 25. For the fact that it didn't we are permanently and deeply indebted to the local and out-of-town Country Fire Authority volunteers who surrounded our home in Browns Road and refused to let it burn. Having jumped the river from the State park and roared up the hill, the flames licked at the back door and, thwarted there, divided. Perhaps they wanted to encircle us, but the CFA men were superb. God bless 'em — and everyone else who had a hand in putting out this town's worst bushfire for 22 years.

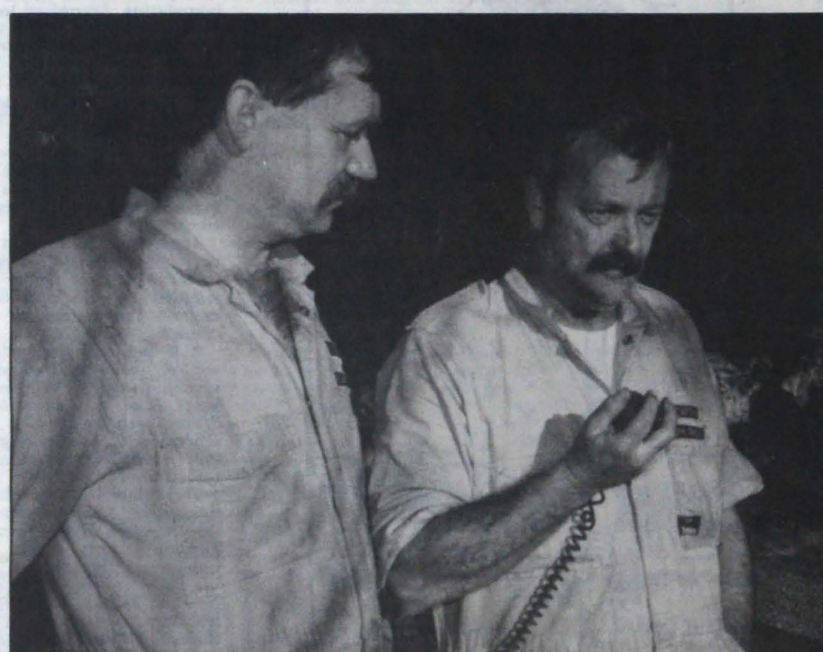
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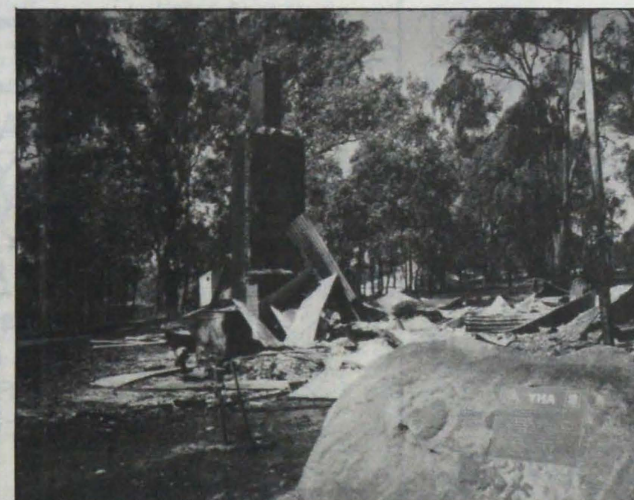
We have survived. When you've abandoned hope, the sight of your home still standing is a huge bonus.



Above: Richard Warwick (left) and John Suindley inspect the burnt terrain.

Right: Firemen (from left) Clive Thomas, Alan Walker and Paul Buck douse smouldering undergrowth.

Centre right: A helicopter takes water from the river to fight the fire.



Above: The Warrandyte Youth Hostel was destroyed in the fire.



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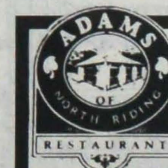
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# Together at barbecue

More than 150 parents, teachers and year 7 students met recently at Warrandyte High School for a "get together" barbecue, followed by a brief meeting in the school theatre where they were addressed by the new principal, Mr Michael Blake. Similar functions are being organised for the rest of the school. A number of Warrandyte High School students gained pleasing results in the recent VCE exams. Of special note is the achievement of Melissa Sloan who, despite a severe hearing impediment, has shown a great deal of determination in achieving her success. The annual report night of the school council will take place on Thursday, March 21. Anyone wishing to find out more about our local secondary school will be very welcome.



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.

and old to join them in an evening of fun and games at St Stephens in Stiggants Street on Friday, March 15, following the opening and prize giving of Expo '91 at 6.30pm. Hot food will be offered at moderate prices, a warm welcome comes absolutely free.

## Expo-sed

The folk at St Stephens church are again holding their annual Expo as part of the Warrandyte festival. A final reminder that contest categories include best glove puppet from an old sock (primary students only), best model and best iced biscuits for 12 years and under and 13 years and over, best table decoration (including a candle), best indoor plant, best photograph, best poem ("green" theme), best handcrafted toy and — wait for it — Warrandyte's longest marrow! Ann Ley has all the details on 844 3543.

## Fun and games

The Anglican Boys Society of Warrandyte and Park Orchards is extending an invitation to young

Beethoven, Haydn and Bach. Tickets are \$10 each, including refreshments, and are available from Pat and Barry Draper, phone 844 3369. Proceeds will help the church building fund.

## Butterflies

We are indebted to the Friends of the Warrandyte State Park, who, in the spirit of good neighborliness, tell us that the Friends of the Eltham Copper Butterfly are holding their next meeting on Sunday, March 24 at 10.00am. If you're interested in fluttering across, call Elaine Braby on 439 9015.

## Christmas win

Although the festive season is well and truly over, the ladies of the Warrandyte Women's Hospital Auxiliary have asked us to tell you all that their marvellous Christmas hamper was won by Mrs McNamara of Carlton. However, Mrs Burgess of Warrandyte saved the day for the locals, carrying off the Christmas cake as second prize. Auxiliary members thank all who participated, raising \$275 and completing the \$3600 needed for the stainless steel blanket warmer project. Well done!

## Lupus week

The Victorian Lupus Association is holding an Awareness Week from March 11 to 15 to help publicise this sadly neglected disease. Readers may like to ob-

tain further information from the association on 650 5348.

## Pottery

The Diamond Valley Arts Society still have vacancies in some of their classes, including pottery with Ernie Travis on Tuesday nights. The society is located at the Old Greensborough School, corner Grimshaw Street and The Circuit, in Greensborough. For further information ring 469 2505.

## Success

The Renn family of Lorraine Avenue is celebrating the success of their daughter Lisa, who has received an award as the most outstanding graduate in the Bachelor of Applied Science (Physical Education) course at Phillip Institute, Bundoora. The award was made by the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Lisa conducts body titan sessions twice a week at the Warrandyte Squash Centre.

## Tell us

If news of your group's activities is not in this issue, then the *Diary* is not doing its job — and you're not telling us! Simply type (or write clearly) all the relevant details, including date, time, venue and contact telephone number and drop it in the box. Remember, copy closes on the last Friday of the month and the paper appears on the second Friday of the following month — so plan your publicity accordingly.

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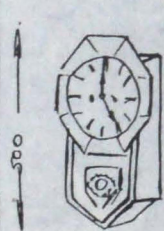
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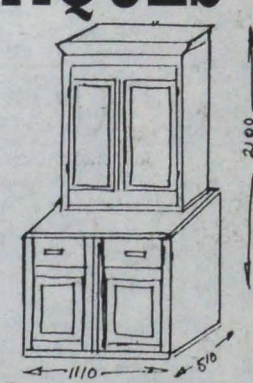
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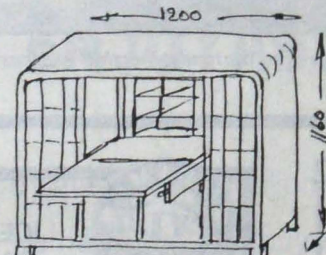
12-5 THUR-SUNDAY



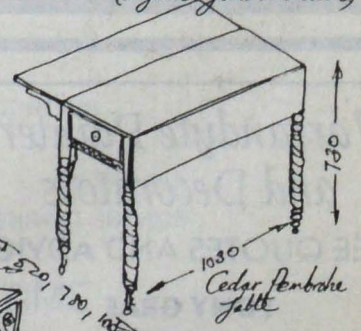
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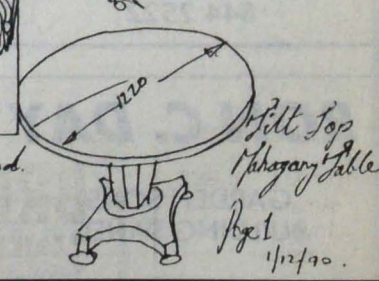
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Secretaire  
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2 above below)



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## Award honors artists

One of Warrandyte's special events takes place later this month. No, not the festival, although there is an association. This event is the second Warrandyte Youth Arts Award.

The award is valued at \$5000, donated by the Lions Club of Warrandyte and jointly organised with the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust, publishers of the *Diary*.

First presented in March 1989, the award is intended to honor a young artist "with a potential for outstanding achievement" aged between 18 and 25 years and living in Warrandyte.

Advertising for applicants began 12 months ago and applications closed last June.

Given that the award is open to artists in the broadest context of the term — painters, potters, dancers, singers, actors, musicians, craftspersons, designers, writers, filmmakers and so on — how then was this diverse range of talents and individuals to be judged.

The secret of judging the diverse range of artists lies in the definition. The search was on for a young artist with a potential for outstanding achievement.

All the candidates were rigorously assessed by 20 of the leading practitioners of these various art forms in Melbourne who freely gave their time.

The announcement of the winner (or winners) will be made at a dinner on Thursday, March 14 at Potters Restaurant. The award will be presented by Charles Tingwell, distinguished actor, director and producer.

The Lions' generous contribution brings this scholarship into line with the most prestigious national awards for young people in the country.

The candidates are: Phoebe Briggs (pianist) Andrea Cameron, (gold and silversmith), Rohann Clinick (graphic designer), Gabrielle Davidson (ballet dancer), Matthew Drew (graphic designer), Miles Geldard (painter), Erin Gill (dancer, singer and actress), Gigi Gould (choreographer), Andrew Horne (painter), Mary Thom (printmaker).

The final result will be publicly announced from the main stage during the festival. Full details of the awards night and interviews with the winner (or winners) and all the finalists, will appear next issue.

## Principal ready for action

Michael Blake is a man used to being accountable to a wide range of people: students, parents, staff, the Ministry of Education, professional bodies and the community.

He answers questions in a respectful, deliberated manner but one senses he would prefer action rather than words. This fits well with what he describes as his "hands on" form of leadership.

As principal of Watsonia High School (1988) his supportive attitude led to a dramatic turnaround in morale and a new sense of direction for students and the school.

I asked Michael Blake to what extent he felt students should be encouraged to take subjects which were more likely to guarantee employment in a technological age.

He replied that most students consider the purpose of education is "to get a job" but preferred to list "preparing people for life" as his key aim.

"A society in which we will have more leisure time and increased emphasis on technology and robotics is going to mean we need to pay closer attention to the needs of people in that society, otherwise we run the risk of

Warrandyte High School can expect "hands on" leadership from new principal Michael Blake. He spoke to MARION WINTON about his views on education.

creating a 'Brave New World mentality,'" he said.

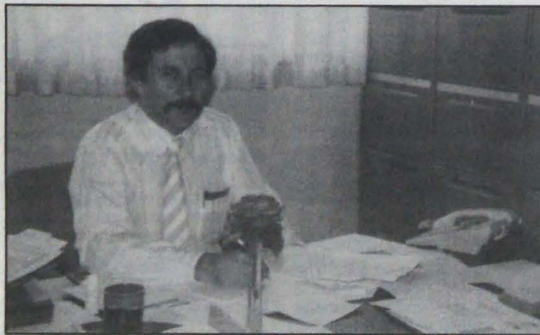
He emphasised the importance of humanities, particularly history, in acquiring a broad perspective of the world.

Mr Blake does not agree with the major criticism of the Victorian Certificate of Education, which says that it is "not academic".

He believes if subjects are handled correctly higher standards can be achieved.

"We need to show a more imaginative approach to curriculum. ('Imaginative' is a recurring word in Michael Blake's vocabulary.) VCE does not have all the answers but is heading in the right direction," he said.

"In the past you have been involved in formulating policies for district provision. Does this mean pooling of resources to offer a wider range of subjects at VCE level?"



Michael Blake: "Excellence in all things is a good motto".

Michael Blake: "Yes. This year Warrandyte High has been designated as a priority district school. It is in an area which includes Templestowe High and Templestowe Tech, the two Doncaster Highs and Warrandyte High.

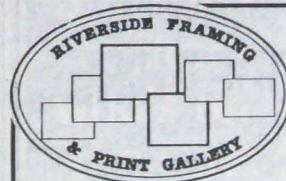
How do you regard the introduction of Japanese language at Warrandyte High?

Michael Blake: "In the past Australians have been complacent in their attitude towards learning other languages. I think the introduction of Japanese at Year 9 is excellent. It is very important we learn other lan-

guages and cultures; they do not have to be Asian; the school has currently chosen this. A strong directive has come from the business sector of the need for more effective communication with Asian countries, including Japan."

Michael Blake believes in the healthy encouragement of competitive attitudes.

"The notion of 'excellence in all things' is a good motto for all schools which should be applied to sport, academic work, school productions, all fields of endeavor," he said.



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# Choir sings for harvest

March 1891: A harvest thanksgiving service was held in the Church of England here on Sunday evening, the 8th inst. The choir sang hymns appropriate to the occasion. Mr. Hollow preached an admirable sermon. The weather was intensely hot, yet the service was fairly attended.

The second annual picnic in connection with our local Sunday school took place on Wednesday, the 11th inst. The children and a few friends met at the church at 10am, where a short service was held. Afterwards they

made to a very pretty, shaded nook near the junction of the Creek and Yarra, when the usual amusements, racing, &c, amongst the youngsters took place.

Towards the afternoon, the parents and friends, in considerable numbers, made their appearance. Abundance of good things in the shape of eatables and tea were provided, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The superintendent (Mr E. Squires) informs me there are 51 children on the roll, with an average attendance of 44.

I have heard nothing more re the tunnel contract. In fact, it was reported no tenders were received. Whether the local people were disgusted, or simply thought it not worth their while, it seems strange, with the present dearth of work, such an event should have occurred.

If the Watts River water supply is running it has not made any perceptible difference to the Yarra with us at present. The talk that it would take a third of our water must have been an error. (From the Newspaper Collection, State Library of Victoria.)

## HOW WE LIVED

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



# Battling rabbit havoc

The festival of Easter goes back thousands of years, long before the birth of Christ. Originally it was known as the feast of Eostre. Named after the goddess of spring, it was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox. Much later the name was changed to Easter and it became a festival of the Christian church, commemorating the resurrection of Christ.

Rabbits and hares have been associated with Easter from those early pagan rituals. The first Easter Bunny was in fact a hare, for this animal was the sacred companion of the spring goddess Eostre. Children believed the hare was magic and that it ran through the night delivering hens eggs as presents.

At this time of the year it seems appropriate to give some thought to the rabbit.

The rabbit was introduced in 1859 by the early settlers to satisfy their sporting needs. It was a disastrous mistake. The rabbits, which originated from the Mediterranean region, found conditions in south-eastern Australia very much to their liking and bred like flies - well rabbits, to be precise!

Rabbits are sexually mature at three to four months. Their gestation period is just 30 days and the average size of a litter is four or five young. A female rabbit may produce up to five litters per

## NATURE

By PAT COUPAR

Drawings: MELANIE COUPAR

year. Not surprisingly, 60 years after their introduction, rabbits had spread across the southern half of the continent in plague proportions.

Attempts were made to halt the invasion including the con-

struction of a 1832 kilometre fence, all to no avail. It was not until 1950 with the introduction of the myxomatosis virus that any control was achieved. The virus was incredibly effective and a 99 per cent reduction in the rabbit population was attained within a few months. Unfortunately the campaign was not followed up so that numbers escalated again. This time many of the population were resistant to the virus.

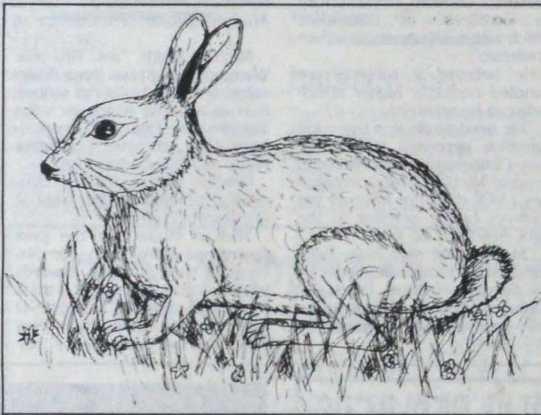
Here in Warrandyte, river valley, bushland and pasture make

perfect habitats for these unwelcome pests. The rangers at The Warrandyte State Park have particular problems controlling these animals, which are declared vermin. Shooting and poisoning are not permitted because the Park lies within the metropolitan area of Melbourne and close to residential development. This leaves only fencing and fumigation as an adequate means of control. Both methods are time consuming and expensive.

Rabbit control is not easy. Last year the rangers fumigated all known warrens in an area of Stane Brae before planting several hundred trees. The day after the planting the rangers were dismayed to find that the young trees had been grazed almost to the ground. The damage was done by perhaps less than a dozen rabbits which had escaped fumigation.

It is not all bad news. Research is still continuing into finding different strains of the myxomatosis virus and selective poisons which will not harm our native wildlife. However, that is for the future.

It began 131 years ago when early settler Thomas Austin released just 13 rabbits onto his property at Barwon, Victoria. What followed was a legacy of environmental degradation. We do not yet know when it will end.



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John Hassall (left), Andrew Hamer and Warrandyte High School football coach Don Harrison.

## These fledgling Magpies are two busy, busy boys

It is going to be a busy year indeed for Warrandyte High School Year 12 students John Hassall and Andrew Hamer. Apart from their VCE studies, they are training four nights a week with the Collingwood senior football team.

John, 17, of North Warrandyte, has represented Victoria at primary school and under-15 schoolboy level and was a member of last year's victorious Teal Cup team.

He joined the Collingwood under-19s in 1989 and in just six games collected enough votes to finish fourth in the best and fairest award.

A rover, John played both under-19s and reserves football for the Magpies last season. He finished third in the under-19s best and fairest voting.

He is working hard at improving his skills with the aim of playing as many reserves games as possible this season, then establishing a regular place in the senior team.

Andrew lived in Lakes Entrance and attended Bairnsdale High School last year. He was Collingwood's No 2 choice in the AFL's national draft in November, having impressed the talent scouts as a member of the Victorian schoolboys team.

His form in that carnival won him selection in the Australian under-17 team to tour Ireland.

Andrew is a 15-year-old ruck-rover. Like John, he has set his sights on senior selection in the near future.

# Local basketball kids in with many chances

By CLINTON GRYPAS

The preliminary matches are over and the finals remain for Warrandyte Basketball Club's campaign for glory in the Saturday EDJBA competition.

Over half of the club's 46 teams have made the finals with the series finishing on March 23.

In the last round, a lot of sides needed a win to make the finals. For many, the wait went on for

days, until the ladders and percentages were tabulated.

The Under-18A team, lost their last-round match, had to wait several days before they got the good news that they had made the finals by just two percent.

This is their last season for the basketball club so it would be good for them to go out on a high.

With the good there is also the bad and the Under-10AR boys, coached by Gavin Whitmore, ex-

### SPORT

perienced the other end of the scale, missing out by seven percent. There are teams from all age groups in the finals with the U-10s, 12s and 14s boys teams each having six in.

In the men's midweek competition, the team favored to win the title, the CODAT Lakers, have started badly.

They have won just one of their first three matches, despite

recruiting David Thwaites from Makeshift.

The best player from the finals series last year, former North Melbourne footballer David Dench, has steered the defending champions, the Hitmen, to top spot. They could be on the way to another premiership.

Paul Sleeth, from last year's Division 2 winners, the Plastics, has also started well.

Jonathon Moore, for the Hitmen, blew the CODAT team away with 36 points in one match while Steven McIntosh for Makeshift also turned in a great individual effort, scoring 24 points in one of the many early season highlights.

## Steve's a rocker who's on the run



Steve Brimacombe, well known at our festivals for his lead singing in local rock band Cold Shot, has had a busy summer pursuing one of his other interests — professional running.

On January 1, Steve, 19, was second in the Maryborough Gift, running off 7.25 metres. Four days later he won the Rye Gift, from the same mark, covering the 120 metres on a rain-soaked track in 12.40 seconds.

Steve won his heat and semi-final of the Torquay Gift on January 12 and finished third (off 5.75 metres) in the final and was third in the Wangaratta Gift on Australia Day.

He has always been a keen runner — not surprising because he has a very athletic back-

ground. Parents Diane and John (formerly of Winding Way and now of Eltham) are well known in the sport and are active in veterans' events throughout Victoria.

The pro running season finishes after the Stawell Gift at Easter and Steve concentrates in winter on weight training and other gym work.

He trains seven nights a week at the Albany Club under the direction of trainer Jim Bradley.

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# Much-improved Dytes in line for four flags

Warrandyte Cricket Club has four teams in the RDCA senior finals.

In a season which has seen vast improvement under the leadership of first-year captain-coach John Sharman, Warrandyte will be represented by the senior, second, third and fifth elevens.

When this edition of the Diary went to press, the fourths had not abandoned hope of scraping into the finals on a "countback" and there was still doubt about the standing of the women's



John Sharman — leader.



team. The result of the women's last game was in dispute because of scorebook indiscrepancies, but the outcome was unlikely to provide the local team with a finals berth.

The senior (Chandler Shield) eleven did it the hard way. It came from down the ladder, responding to the challenge of winning the last three matches to compete in the finals.

The goal was achieved with comfortable wins over Norwood, Croydon North and St Andrews, with all-rounder Tony Sturesteps playing starring roles in the last two games.

Big-hitting Sturesteps made an unbeaten 96 against Croydon North and took the bowling honours against St Andrews with 3/45.

Andrew Hood led the assault on the St Andrews bowling, compiling a fine 100, and Michael Day contributed 45 as Warrandyte amassed 7/307. St Andrews was bowled out 262 in reply.

The seconds rebounded from

a beating by Croydon North with a big win over St Andrews, Lachlan McLean hitting up 108 and veteran Steve Pascoe demolishing the Saints batting with figures of 7/42.

The third eleven maintained its consistency and finished the qualifying season with impressive wins. Greg Creber was in particularly fine touch with the bat, making 105 and 72 respectively.

Fifth eleven batsman Brad Valentine produced his best form at the business end of the season — 107 against Croydon North in a general run feast which took Warrandyte to 9/359.

WCC president Mark Davis gave captain-coach Sharman much credit for Warrandyte's improvement this season.

"Last year we didn't have a senior team in the final; this year we have four — and John has been the big difference," he said.

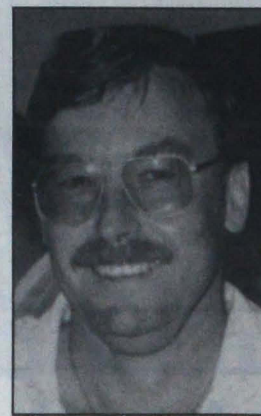
"He has led from the front and the players have responded. The results speak for themselves."

The juniors had a disappointing finish to their season after some promising performances before Christmas.

The club warmly thanks the local traders who supported its end-of-season special effort by donating prizes.



Tony Sturesteps — a star



Steve Pascoe — 7/42

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 249 (Sturesteps 96 n.o.) d Croydon North 217 (Walshe 4/83). Warrandyte 7/307 (Hood 100, Day 45) d St Andrews 262 (Sturesteps 3/45).

SECONDS: Warrandyte 134 lost to Croydon North 249 (English 5/50). Warrandyte 5/303 (McLean 108, Dorning 65, A. Snaidero 50 n.o.) and 4/161 (Dorning 92 n.o.) d St Andrews 106 (Pascoe 7/42, English 3/31).

THIRDS: Warrandyte 327 (Creber 105, Vitiritti 61, A. Snaidero 40) d Croydon North 92 (Hughes 3/44, Vitiritti 4/4) and 3/37. Warrandyte 6/335 (Creber 72, Brisbane 45, Vitiritti 89 n.o., Hughes 47) d St Andrews 280 (Vitiritti 4/58).

FOURTHS: Warrandyte 205 (Canty 49) lost to Croydon North 255 (Wall 6/62). Warrandyte 8/267 (Gathercole 57, Wall 45, Comrie 40, Valentine 47) lost to St Andrews 342 (Watts 4/84).

FIFTHS: Warrandyte 9/359 (Valentine 107, Utt 62, O'Connor 55) d Croydon North 80 (Warr 4/27, O'Connor 3/22) and 6/170. Warrandyte 208 (Haworth 40, Harbolt 42, King 46) d St Andrews 181 (Baker 4/62) and 5/144.

WOMEN: Warrandyte 197 (Tunbridge 68) lost to Montrose 237 and 8/73 (Tunbridge 4/53). Warrandyte 107 and 3/157 (Tunbridge 47) lost to Elwood 208 and 2/60.

JUNIORS UNDER-16: Warrandyte 47 and 121 lost to Templeton 2/134 and 1/37. Warrandyte 151 (C. Grybas 28, Haworth 22) lost to Kilsyth 7/194 (Punshon 3/45). Warrandyte 184 (Haworth 34, Punshon 25, Grybas 24) d Mooroolbark 98.

UNDER-14: Warrandyte 7/150 (Deleo 52 ret., Bell 29, A. Luttick 28, T. Gathercole 19 n.o.) lost to South Ringwood 9/243 (Luttick 3/37). Warrandyte 9/160 (Deleo 79 n.o., Luttick 27) lost to Ainslie Park 3/225 (Bell 2/34). Warrandyte 161 (Utt 34, Bell 34, Deleo 33, Luttick 23) d Lilydale 158 (Utt 5/17, Luttick 2/29).

UNDER-12(1): Warrandyte 25 and 3/121 (Moseley 33 ret., Edwards 30 ret., Greaves 20 n.o.) lost to Chirnside Park 1/110. Warrandyte 127 (Edwards 37 ret., Greaves 21, Russell 20) lost to North Ringwood 9/237 (Chapman 2/50).

## The TAB is back in town

They're racing in Yarra Street! Betting facilities returned to Warrandyte last month when the Grand Hotel opened a PubTAB in what used to be the bottle shop.

The hotel had applied for a PubTAB licence in June last year, following the closure of a short-lived agency at the Golden Gate Milk Bar in September, 1989.

The application was granted in August pending council approval, which was given in December.

Hotel licensee Michael Smith, who will run the agency with wife Margaret, told the *Diary* he saw it as a service to members of the community who did not necessarily frequent the hotel.

"It is also the first stage of extensive renovations to the Grand," he said.

"Our new walk-in bottle shop is nearing completion and the PubTAB is self-contained. You do not have to walk into the hotel itself to have a bet."

Mr Smith said the agency would operate from 11am to 10pm Monday to Friday and 10 to 10 on Saturday. Closing time on Tuesday and Wednesday might be reviewed, depending on demand.

# Signs all good for the Bloods

Warrandyte Football Club will launch its 1991 premiership campaign on April 6 after a pre-season which has delighted officials and close supporters.

The countdown to the new season begins in earnest on March 12, when the Bloods take on Mooroolbark in the first round of a sudden-death night competition at Upper Ferntree Gully.

"That game will give us a very early and very good indication of our prospects in EDFL third division because Mooroolbark were runners-up in second division

last year," said WFC secretary Norm Carrington.

"The build-up to the 1991 season has been tremendous. We've been training three nights a week since early February under new coach David Purcell and it's hard to imagine a better response from the players.

"We have averaged better than 30 senior players at each training session and when you take that over three nights a week it says a great deal for the level of enthusiasm."

Carrington said Purcell had

made a big impression on his "troops". "They know he is a very good player himself and they respect his professionalism and his training methods," he said.

"They like him as a playing-coach. It is a very happy feeling.

"The club has severely cut player payments this season, but at the same time we have recruited well. We have recruited from Heidelberg, Blackburn, Mitcham and Forest Hills and the new crop of players are happy with our payment scheme."

Two confirmed returnees to the Bloods are Eugene Hansen

and Lachlan McLean, who can be expected to show the benefit of their respective experience in the Fitzroy and Hawthorn under-19s. Former Fitzroy VFL player Darren Murphy, whom Warrandyte had hoped to sign, is now regarded as doubtful.

Warrandyte will play three practice matches before the season's start — against Kilsyth (at Kilsyth) on March 10, away to Montrose on March 17 and an intraclub game at home (where else?) on March 24.

• More sport on Page 15

## WARRANDYTE'S 1991 DRAW

April 6 — v Templestowe (A)  
 April 13 — v Fair Park (H)  
 April 20 — v Upper Ferntree Gully (A)  
 April 27 — v Kilsyth (H)  
 May 4 — v The Basin (A)  
 May 11 — v Forest Hill (H)  
 May 19 — v Ferntree Gully (A)  
 May 25 — v Mt Evelyn (A)  
 June 1 — v Lilydale (H)

June 15 — v Templestowe (H)  
 June 22 — v Fair Park (A)  
 June 29 — v Upper Ferntree Gully (H)  
 July 6 — v Kilsyth (A)  
 July 13 — v The Basin (H)  
 July 20 — v Forest Hill (A)  
 July 27 — v Ferntree Gully (H)  
 August 3 — v Mt Evelyn (H)  
 August 10 — v Lilydale (A)

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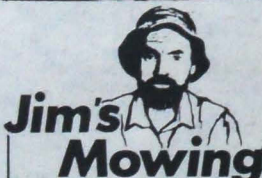
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