

DIARY

No. 221, May 1991

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Drains plan causes stink

By CLIFF GREEN

A number of Park Orchards residents are bitterly opposed to an extensive drainage scheme being proposed by Doncaster and Templestowe council.

The scheme, involving mainly one-acre lots in the Corriedale Crescent, Brympton Avenue, Drayton Crescent, Alva Avenue and Rainbow Valley Road areas has been described as grossly over-priced and over-engineered.

Many residential lots in Park Orchards do not have formal drainage schemes and problems have usually been resolved through agreement between

neighbours. The present situation arose when a resident in Corriedale Crescent with a drainage problem approached council.

Council's response was to design what Park Orchards Ratepayers' Association president Mr Perry McNeilage describes as a "mega scheme" estimated to cost \$450,000. Cr Louise Joy has described the council proposal as "a sledgehammer to crack a nut".

"Community consultation prior to extensive planning is an important principle that councils must adopt to avoid the antagonism of residents and the introduction of inappropriate schemes," Cr Joy told the Diary.

Residents believe the original problem could have been solved

for between \$8,000 and \$20,000. It is claimed that council has already spent \$70,000 planning the proposed scheme.

"Why, in these difficult times, did council's engineering department consider that the cost burden of half a million dollars, to be paid for by some 75 residents, was fair, reasonable and acceptable?" Mr McNeilage said.

In a submission to council, Rainbow Valley Road resident Mr Allan Stark claims that new problems will be created by the council scheme. "As designed, all waste and runoff managed to be collected will be concentrated to one outlet," he said. It would then be discharged onto the one building block.

"This will put council in contravention of its own planning

scheme. Council has a responsibility to eliminate problems at source, not transport them further down the valley."

Mr McNeilage is also concerned about the way council officers "attempted to steamroller" the plan through council. They originally displayed the scheme to Park Orchards residents at an informal meeting organised by PORA in October 1989.

"However, it was clear that the solution was flawed and could not solve the problem that led to the resident's complaint," Mr McNeilage said.

The association and the ward councillors investigated the problem in January 1991 in an effort to "find a simpler, cost-effective solution."

Mr McNeilage claims this initiative was "favored and welcomed" by council officers. However, the original scheme came forward for ratification and approval at a council physical services meeting in April.

The ratepayers' association has resolved to oppose the present scheme and will support all affected residents who wish to oppose the scheme.

It seeks "an immediate stop to the wastage of ratepayers' money in proceeding with the scheme" and supports the investigation of a reduced scheme, "focusing on solving any identified problems".

"I am concerned that friction between neighbours is developing in the close community of Park Orchards," Cr Joy said. "This could have been avoided."



Cr Louise Joy: concerned friction has developed



Marcel Cameron: He battled development and red tape to help save the eagles' habitat. (Photo by Jan Tindale.)

Marcel wins one for the eagles

By INGRID KLEINHENZ

Marcel Cameron, 16, has won a Tattersall's award for enterprise and achievement, recognising his work to protect the Warrandyte environment.

He has been at the forefront of the campaign to save The Chase from development. The 100 acre bushland area is rich in wildlife and has provided a habitat for a family of wedge-tailed eagles.

Marcel said he was pleased to win the award, which was presented by MP for Greensborough, Sheryl Garbutt, at the North Warrandyte fire station last month. "I

have for a long time felt that places like The Chase are very special," Marcel said.

He encouraged others who felt strongly about environmental issues to become active, launch campaigns and form groups. He nominated the Warrandyte Environment League as beneficiary of the \$2500 cheque which came with the award.

WEL president Greg Stroot said that so long as Eltham council plans to purchase the land went ahead, the money would be used to help conserve The Chase. He said a committee of

management would be set up to carry out such work as fencing and weeding the area.

Marcel spent many hours collecting information and organising rallies to save the eagles' habitat. He was not afraid to exercise his democratic rights by contacting politicians and local councillors.

"A lot of people feel the same way as I do, but somebody had to stick up for things," Marcel said. "The hardest thing to deal with was the red tape. Very simple things became immensely complicated and there was a lot of 'signing on the dotted line'."

Marcel now joins 11 other winners who are eligible for the annual Tattersalls award, which carries a personal prize of \$5000 and a \$10,000 donation to their nominated organisation. Although modest about his achievements, Marcel added: "It'd be great if WEL could get the \$10,000."

If he did win the \$5000, Marcel might realise his dream of travelling to the Amazon. No-one would be surprised to see Marcel working to save the rainforests with the same gusto he used to save The Chase.

Doubts surround Whitehouse plans

The future homes of community groups formerly using the Whitehouse remain in doubt as talks for long-term accommodation for the organisations ground to a temporary halt last month.

This follows the shock demolition of the complex by Doncaster and Templestowe council after claims were made that it was unsafe. The building, in Tarooma Avenue adjacent to the recreation reserve, was one of Warrandyte's earliest.

Representatives of each of the groups which used to meet in the Whitehouse have been involved in discussions with council re-

garding their long-term accommodation.

The Brownies, Guides, dancers and martial arts students have all found temporary meeting places, at least until the end of this financial year.

A meeting was to be held in early May, as the Diary went to press, to resume discussions on the time and space requirements of these groups. Council will then decide whether a replacement hall needs to be built; and if so, where, by whom and at what cost.

The future of the Whitehouse site was also to be discussed.

GEORGI STICKELS

Injured policeman needs help

An appeal has been opened for Warrandyte policeman Glen Pinder, 27, tragically injured in a road accident.

Senior Constable Pinder, of Maggie Lane, suffered severe spinal injuries when his motorcycle collided with a van on the corner of Warrandyte and Milne Roads on March 12. He is now a paraplegic and confined to a wheelchair.

Warrandyte police chief Sergeant Dave Burge is coordinating the appeal for the Pinder family - Glen, wife Annemarie and sons, Sean (two) and Jonathan (one).

Sen Const Pinder has lived in Warrandyte for six years. He has been in the police force for nine years, the last three and a half of those stati-



Glen Pinder


oned locally. He was president of the Youth Coffee Shop for two years and is still on the committee.

Appeal inquiries should be directed to Sergeant Burge on 844 3231. Donations can be made at the local police station.

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Taking a lead from a young achiever

IN RED & WHITE

When you get to know kids like Clinton Grybas, you get the feeling that the future of this community is in the best of hands. Clinton, 16, is one of several young writers who regularly contribute to the *Diary*, allowing us to broaden our scope and coverage. He writes basketball for us each issue — and that's quite apart from editing the local basketball club's monthly magazine. Clinton is a fine all-round sportsman (football, cricket, basketball) and a bit of a prodigy with the video camera. He is also doing very well as a student at Warrandyte High. In short, he is a very busy and very committed young man. The Rotary movement has recognised his qualities by selecting him as one of 85 Year 11 students from all over Australia to take part in an "Adventure In Citizenship" seminar in Canberra from May 12-18. Selection is based on leadership potential and the week's activities will include visits to Parliament House and the Australian Institute of Sport. When he returns, Clinton will summarise the seminar in a speech to Warrandyte Rotary Club. And knowing him as we do, we're sure he'll handle that with great aplomb.

If you think you may have read about the preceding before, you're quite right. It was mentioned on the back page of the previous issue, but we feel the ongoing Gary Allsop appeal is a cause which thoroughly deserves premium space on page 2. We could well lose one miffed and jealous sporting editor over this.

Here's hoping it doesn't run in the family. Resident historian Bruce Bence recently stumbled across a report in 'The Evelyn Observer' detailing a case at Andersons Creek court. It appears that Samuel Painter of Wonga Park celebrated Christmas Day 1901 by lighting a fire on his property without notifying anyone, "nor had he ploughed up along the fence as required". When a neighbour took reasonable umbrage, Samuel said it was a splendid day to burn off and "I want to get the rabbits out of this". Needless to say it spread to other properties "causing considerable damage". Which was bad enough. But a few days later it "broke out with great force". And there was more to come. "A number of people called on Samuel who picked up an axe and threatened to use it if they did not clear out." Fined 20 pounds or three months imprisonment; with time to pay. So who was the late Samuel? Only *Diary* hackette Judy Green's grandfather, that's all. Now Cliff's wondering if he should look up the matches — and the axe.

We considerably envy Glenn and Virginia Pearson, late of Melbourne Hill. They just wander from one paradise to another. The Pearsons left one utopia (Warrandyte, of course) for another idyllic setting more than two years ago when Glenn, then a Board of Works engineer, was seconded to Fiji to improve the water supply there. Now they've gone again, to beautiful Bega, on the NSW coast, where Glenn has accepted a job as an executive engineer for the local council. They'll be living nearby at magnificent Tura Beach — and Smokey is certainly going to take up their offer of a bed if his travels should take him that way. He'll make sure they do.

Alley Oop are hot and they're doing it for Madge on Saturday, May 25. Translation: A very, very good local rock band have donated their services and talents to the appeal for former local footy star Gary (Madge) Allsop, who was crippled in a tragic on-field collision two years ago. The rock night is on at the recreation reserve pavilion, admission is \$5 and drinks (the sale of which will be strictly controlled) will be available at bar prices. Proceeds will go towards extending the Blackburn home of Madge's parents, where he is now living, to make life easier for him. Obviously, the night is aimed at the young folk, but the livelier oldies among you will have a ball, too. If you happened to see and hear Alley Oop performing at the festival in March you may have noticed a mature, uniformed policeman leading the foot-tapping. That's how good they are.

The sun (late-autumn, early-winter, whatever) was warming the enclosed verandah at the local the other day when Smokey shed the love-of-his-life long enough to sneak into the PubTAB for a furtive trifecta and he was quite taken by the couple sitting there studying their formguides and having a sip. Gee, they looked relaxed. Your columnist needs just such relaxation and is plotting to send the marriage partner off on a wild goose chase. Then he'll have pots and punts until his sobriety or money runs out, whichever comes first. And no letters, please. We've been old enough to vote for ages.

The treasures we find in the *Diary* box on the old tree. Take this one from 'A Local Lass' as a for instance: "Driving out of Warrandyte on Harris Gully Road last Thursday, when a McPhee van stopped almost dead in front of me. So my brakes squealed too! Why? Then I saw, to my amazement, Mademoiselle Duck, preening herself in all her alluring chocolate and turquoise finery, and with a warning toot, shaking herself into a final waddle across the road. Good on you, McPhee. One more for the road? No, the river."



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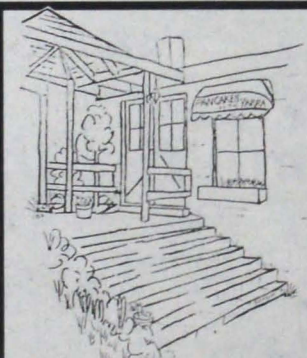
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Wedge study begins

By DAVID WYMAN

Preliminary work has begun on a study of the botanical resources of Green Wedge land east of Mullum Mullum Creek, in Park Orchards and Warrandyte. The work is being undertaken for Doncaster and Templestowe council by consultants Ecological Horticulture Pty Ltd.

Their survey and planning recommendations on the botanical content of the Green Wedge will be accompanied by similar studies on zoological and visual resources.

These studies stem from the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Environmental Working Party, established by council when it decided to halt subdivision threats to the Green Wedge in 1989.

The working party, which is representative of interest groups in the area, has been active in converting its terms of reference into the natural resource studies and looking at other ways of retaining the Green Wedge, such as rate reductions for broadacre landowners.

Cr Val Polley, who is chairperson of the working party, said the ultimate objective of the resource studies was the establishment of a conservation strategy for the Green Wedge. "The first part of that is to find out what we've got," she said.

"The botanical study is now starting, the visual resources study will be carried out by council staff led by its landscape architect, Jane Marriot, and we're hoping to have funds later for the zoological study," she told the *Diary*.

"The end result will be planning guidelines for council to manage the Green Wedge resources. If we can get it right we will be one of the few councils which have carried resource surveys right to the end — into planning management," Cr Polley said.

Mr Andrew McMahon, of Ecological Horticulture, said the botanical survey involved looking at vegetation remnants on public and private land to determine their status.

"Our task is to assess the significance of vegetation then look at various options for its retention, firstly, and conservation, secondly.

"A large component of the study is purely botanical assessment but the other important areas of our work involve the public. We will have to talk up public involvement so that there is a general appreciation of biological values in the area, the landscape, land degradation and the whole gambit of issues," Mr McMahon said.

"Field work will begin in spring, but by June-July the community will be advised of what we are doing, so they will fully appreciate the aims of the study, and so there will be no surprises," he said.



Ranger defends State park ban

Debate continues to rage in Warrandyte on the question of dog owners being permitted to walk their animals on leads in parts of the state park, following a ban imposed last month by the Department of Conservation and Environment.

Head ranger Ian Roche has responded strongly to opponents of the ban, claiming that "very few dog owners have co-operated with the old dogs-on-leads policy".

Meanwhile, the owners have formed a group called "Friends of Warrandyte Dogs" and have written to Conservation and Environment Minister Steve Crabb, requesting consultation and a change of policy.

They have informed him that two recent meetings of concerned dog owners at Whipstick Gully in the Fourth Hill area of the park have affirmed the community's opposition to the ban.

A departmental official has told the group that the dog ban can be altered or removed, as it is part of a management plan, and all management plans are flexible.

Responding to claims that there was insufficient community discussion of the issue, Ian Roche has told the *Diary* that the Warrandyte park management plan was the first to employ a community consultation officer.

"Consultation consisted of public meetings, a letter drop, as much media publicity as possi-

ble, a gala launch of the draft plan, and a 12 month period for comment," he said. "No comments regarding dogs in the park were received."

Ian Roche concedes that dogs on leads are less likely to directly harm wildlife, "however, they mark new territory by leaving their urine scent everywhere, attracting wandering dogs and encouraging them to enter the park."

Commenting on the claim that there is no wildlife on Fourth Hill to be protected, Ian Roche states that confirmed sightings include echidnas, lizards, snakes, ringtail and brushtail possums, sugar and feathered gliders, koalas, an occasional wallaby, Eastern Grey kangaroos, antechinus, bush rats and a large range of native birds.

"This area is in a degraded state and in need of careful management, but with care, wildlife can be encouraged to return," he said.

Dog owners have asked why horses are permitted whilst dogs are banned. Ian Roche points out that horses are restricted to through routes within some areas. "We are constantly monitoring their impact and will review the situation should their impact prove excessively detrimental."

Despite claims by owners that the park is too dangerous to walk in without their dogs, Ian Roche states that the only assaults in Warrandyte State Park "have been committed on rangers —

male and female — by dog owners when approached over not having their dogs on leads.

"One drug-related murder has occurred, but this park has a far higher degree of safety for users because of the visibility of rangers. We cannot, of course, guarantee anyone's safety, but neither can a dog walker."

Writing to Conservation and Environment Minister Crabb, on behalf of the Friends of Warrandyte Dogs group, Cr Louise Joy states that "the municipality of Doncaster and Templestowe contains approximately 10,000 registered dog owners, the overwhelming majority of whom have neither been consulted with nor informed about their recent loss of privileges."

"There needs to be a balance between conservation and recreation values in state parks. The Currawong Bush Park and Jumping Creek Reserve are exclusively (and appropriately) reserved for conservation. Balance requires that the Fourth Hill and Pound Bend areas should be reserved for recreation."

Cr Joy believes that the perceived threat of dogs on leads to wildlife needs a greater explanation for the community's benefit.

The Friends of Warrandyte Dogs are holding a "dog rally" on the last Sunday of every month at 3pm at the Whipstick Gully entrance to the park. The group can be contacted through Wendy Gedge, phone 844 3886.

Local dog owners are warned to keep an eye on their pets to avoid the risk of accidental poisoning. Over past months there have been several cases of Warrandyte dogs eating 'Baysol', 'Ratsak' and other pest controls.

The poisons cause vomiting, diarrhoea and internal bleeding and can kill dogs which swallow a large quantity. In several poisonings where dogs have almost died, the equivalent of one and half boxes have been eaten.

In cases where a dog hasn't consumed much poison it can regurgitate the material before it is absorbed into the bloodstream. The dogs are attracted to

Vet warns on poison

the pellets by the same flavoring which makes it appealing to pests.

Local vet, Dr Derek Fairley, advises owners to keep dogs on their own property and when exercising them, keep them on a leash or in clear view. If using pest control pellets, they should be spread over a large area and not left in an easy-to-eat pile.

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Anzac tribute paid

By NEIL PEARSON

The relentless passing of time may have thinned the ranks of those who served, but Warrandyte does not forget. The turnout on April 25 was testimony to that.

Anzac Day has always been a very special day in this town — as it is Australasia wide — and the 1991 event lived up to that.

To the haunting music of Piper Andrew Ogilvy, the march began at 10.30am from the old Gospel Hall carpark. It was led by Warrandyte RSL president Ken McKenzie and the numbers were bolstered by scouts, cubs, guides and brownies.

The commemorative service at the war memorial was conducted by the Reverend Syd Smale, of the Uniting Church,

and the Bible reading by Don Blackie.

The cenotaph guard was mounted by members of the 7th Field Engineer Regiment of Ringwood and the service concluded with The Lament played by the piper and The Last Post and Reveille by local trumpeter Chris Coates.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the RSL, Doncaster-Templestowe Council and the officiating regiment.

Refreshments, prepared and presented by the ladies (headed by the ever-reliable Hilda Mitchell), were served in the RSL clubrooms after the service.

A strange game played with two pennies became very popular later in the day.

The Warrandyte RSL Sub-Branch thanks all those who were involved in the day.



Warrandyte RSL president Ken McKenzie at the Anzac Day ceremony

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Artist Peter Daverington spent a weekend painting the bridge pylon mural

by KEN VIRTUE
 One of the more unusual happenings at the festival this year was the 'live action' mural under the Warrandyte bridge.

Peter Daverington, 17, of Boyd Street spent the whole weekend painting a remarkable three metre by ten metre nature-theme mural on the southside pylon.

"I was always interested in doing something with that area," Peter told the *Diary*. "It was rough and dirty and I thought I could do something colorful for little kids that would jazz it up."

Peter's enthusiasm was made known to the festival committee via Cr Louise Joy and Lyn Capelani. His color sketch was soon approved by the committee, as well as by Doncaster and Templestow council who provided an arts grant for the materials.

"They all stressed how keen they were for me to include the happy faces on the animals, and to do it in the spirit and feeling of the town," Peter said.

Mural transforms bridge

A small crowd of onlookers gathered as Peter began his spraypack art, but a lot of people passed by during the weekend. "There were no negative responses," Peter laughed. "Older people seemed to like it as much as the younger kids did."

The mural is cartoon-style, bordered in black, and began with light-colored outlines followed by the base colors, then the details and highlights. (If you haven't seen it, it's well worth the walk under the bridge!)

Peter is in Year 12 at Box Hill Technical College and has been doing his art course since Year 11. "I guess I started as an amateur graffiti artist, but that's all behind me now and I'm studying general art, including graphics, figures, pottery, sculpture and art appreciation," he said.

As a guest on 'Mal's Melbourne' TV show in 1990, Peter completed a truck mural, and has also toured major public mural sites in the USA, mainly in Los Angeles. He also completed a month's work experience with Scenic Studies, assisting with painted sets for 'The Phantom of the Opera'.

His latest large-scale work, however, is still in progress at the Blue Thunder Go Kart Centre in Kilsyth. There he has done a number of impressive paintings, including a six metre high portrait of singer Jim Morrison. Recently he added to his credits with a drawing award from the Doncaster youth arts exhibition.

Peter has been drawing most of his life. He often drew with his late father, who was a keen artist.

He was also encouraged by Chris White, art teacher at Warrandyte High School. He is keen to continue his studies at tertiary level.

"I'm working on my folio at the moment," he enthuses, "but there's really nowhere that specialises in mural art. My idol is Kent Twitchell in America, so I'd like to do work that's as good as his."

Twitchell is famous in LA for brilliant grand-scale public art, such as the Ed Ruschla monument. It took nine years to complete!

"I've decided art is the go and I like painting from feeling," adds Peter, "so I'm keen to get as much work as I can."

Now, if anyone has a large wall they'd like transformed into living art, the *Diary* can put you in touch with the right man for the job!

Shire boosts protection

Measures to protect and enhance historic buildings and significant trees have been introduced in the Shire of Eltham.

Cr Jenni Mitchell announced the approval of a planning scheme amendment which would require a planning permit for the demolition, or external alteration of any scheduled building or structure, or for the removal, lopping or destruction of a scheduled significant tree.

Included under the amendment is the Robins House at 18 Kangaroo Ground-Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte.

Also covered is Donaldson's

Oak on Donaldsons Road, Kangaroo Ground.

The buildings now protected by the planning scheme have been identified by the Australian Heritage Commission, the National Trust or the Historic Buildings Council as being of historical or architectural significance.

Cr Mitchell said that until now only those buildings on the Historic Building Register had any statutory protection, and the other scheduled buildings although well cared for at present may become subject to later threats.

She said that the council believed that it is important to identify structures of heritage signifi-

cance to the community well in advance of any possible development proposals so that their values could be taken into account when preparing those proposals.

The structures covered range from the Montsalvat complex to the "Monash" bridge over the Diamond Creek at Hurstbridge.

The new protective controls did not prohibit change to the significant buildings Cr Mitchell explained, but would require that any alterations were sympathetic and in harmony with the design of the original building.

Any demolition would have to

be justified in terms of the competing values of the building to the community and its owner. There would be a general presumption in favor of retaining the building.

Trees included under the protective measures are in the main already on the National Trust register of Significant Trees, supplemented by a number identified by a local study.

A majority of the trees are in council or other public authority ownership. They include Wipple's Oak near the CFA building at Kangaroo Ground, and the group of conifers within the Hurst Family Cemetery at Hurstbridge.

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DIARY

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 Diary postal address: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.

Tribunal rules against house

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal has supported the Shire of Eltham in disallowing the subdivision of environmentally sensitive land on Henley Road, Kangaroo Ground.

The owner, Mr Graeme Wells, applied to council for permission to subdivide his 43 hectare property into two lots. The land is situated about five kilometres east of Kangaroo Ground township, with one long boundary to Watsons Creek and a short one to the Yarra River.

Most of the land is zoned Conservation A and Landscape Interest C. Across the river to the south is the Warrandyte State Park.

Mr Wells told the tribunal that he wished to provide about 12 hectares of land on which his son could build a house. He pointed out that since he purchased the land many years ago, "the rules of the game had been changed".

"If the land was of such special significance, then the shire or the government should acquire it," Mr Wells said. He held that he had a "common law right" to subdivide his own land.

He argued that there would be no environmental damage and

Eltham backed

the objections were from people who lived outside the area.

Council said the land had long been recognised as a major natural link between the Kinglake National Park, Warrandyte State Park and other associated conservation areas.

Mr P. Vaughan, the shire's environmental officer, pointed out that because of Warrandyte State Park's "small size and fragmented and linear nature, it is dependent upon these associated bushland blocks to sustain the long term viability of native flora and fauna".

Twenty objections were received, including several from residents of Henley and Skyline roads, to the east of the proposed subdivision.

One of the objectors told the tribunal that "the real value of this land is that it provides the single most important link between the ecosystems of the Yarra Valley and those of the Kinglake National Park.

Subdivision plan altered

A property owner in North Warrandyte has been granted a permit to subdivide his Residential D1 zoned land, but only after enlarging the size of the blocks and agreeing to strict environmental controls.

Residential D1 zone allows a minimum allotment size of 0.4 hectare (one acre), but objectors to the subdivision argued that the steepness of much of the land demanded larger blocks.

After submissions to council and tribunal appeals, the permit to subdivide was granted with lot sizes ranging from 0.4 to 1.2 hectares (averaging about 0.6 hectare).

The land is on the north side of Research Road, just west of Blooms Road.

The permit has been granted subject to extensive environmental directives, including conservation of topsoil during construction, a prohibition on removal of native vegetation, strict waste water and sewerage controls and certain fire protection requirements.

Among the main objectors was the Warrandyte Environment League, represented by Mr Doug Seymour.

Mr Seymour said the league recognised the owner's right to subdivide the land in Residential D1 zone.

"The proposed allotments were too small, having regard to the steepness of the land and the type of soils," he told the *Diary*.

"Elsewhere, a discontinuous mosaic of bushland and farmland makes it virtually impossible for wildlife and plant communities to interact and thereby continue to survive into the future."

In making his decision, tribunal member Mr Ian Marsden said that in "zones where conservation is the primary thrust it is important to safeguard against the incremental effects of development. This is particularly so in areas which are in a relatively pristine state.

"It is not to the point that fragmented development was permitted in the past. Much of that type of development took place before there was a public awareness of environmental issues and prior to the introduction of conservation controls."

Mr Marsden said he believed "that the subdivision and . . . additional dwelling could not take place without causing detriment to the environment by the removal of significant vegetation resulting in a loss of landscape quality.

"The development would also have detrimental consequences for indigenous flora and fauna and the natural ecosystem," he said.

School hosts Chernobyl orphans

Warrandyte High School students paused to consider how lucky they are following a visit to the school by two Chernobyl orphans.

Students remembered the tragic disaster that, in April 1986, so dramatically disrupted the lives of the people living around the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant.

The Chernobyl orphans Natalia and Julia were members of the group brought to Melbourne by the Scout Association. They stayed with Warrandyte High School Year 8 students Irene Cohens and Stella Chris.

The daunting experience of spending a day in a strange school where the language is foreign was lessened with Ukrainian speaking teacher Ines Ulehla, acting as an interpreter.

The girls looked like any other 14 year olds but their situation was brought home to Warrandyte students when it was realised that they could not go out and play sport in the sunshine.

The Year 8 students presented Julia and Natalia with school windcheaters as a reminder of their visit.



Hosting Chernobyl visitors: from left Julia, Irene, Natalia and Stella

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Gardening, Holland and home

By BRUCE BENICE

Eve Evans was born Evelyn Cave in Ireland in 1909. She lived in South Africa then came to Australia in 1917. She married and had a daughter Louise, who died as a child, and two sons, Peter and Tony. She later adopted a daughter, Rosalind.

Peter and Tony suffered badly from eczema and on medical advice Eve sought a healthier environment for them. And so in July 1940 they came to Warrandyte to live. The boys were two years and nine months old at the time.

Initially Eve rented a house at the end of what is now Glyns Road. The land is now part of the Warrandyte State Park and the house is occupied by one of the rangers. The section of Glyns Road that runs past the North Warrandyte fire station was once called Evans Road.

The boys' father came at weekends, but these visits grew less and less frequent until they finally stopped. He also ceased sending money.

To survive, Eve grew vegetables, trapped rabbits and caught fish. When the boys got older they shot an occasional wallaby to add to their food supply. She collected and cut firewood, dragging it up the steep hills with a rope. Again, the boys took over as they grew older.

The house had no electricity or telephone and their only means of transport was walking.

A journey into the village meant a long walk by road or a scramble down the steep hill to the river, then a crossing by punt. This was hauled by a cable that had once been part of Pearson's suspension bridge, destroyed in the 1934 flood. Then followed the walk along Everard Drive to Yarra Street.

At first the boys crossed the river and walked to school, but later Eve obtained a horse which they both rode. When it rained they sheltered beneath a groundsheet. Fortunately the horse knew the way and when it stopped they emerged from beneath the sheet and slid off.



Eve Evans as she appears today

Eve often bartered with Jack Moore the storekeeper for supplies, swapping vegetables and jams, as well as butter and cheese, which she made by separating milk.

Jim Moss, Eve's half-brother, built Riverview Motors in Warrandyte after World War II. Later Tony began work at the garage and was paid 15 shillings (\$1.50) a week.

As well as rainwater collected in tanks they also pumped from the river. Carrying fuel down to the pump was a major feat as the hillside was so steep that in places the only way down was to sit and slide. The pump was so temperamental that starting could take up to three hours cranking. Occasionally, by the time they had climbed back up to

the house, it had stopped again!

Good soil for the garden was carried from the riverbank in buckets. In these unlikely conditions Eve developed an abiding interest in gardening. She later became a member of the Society for Growing Australian Plants.

She discovered a new grevillea during a trip to the Grampians. This was named

Grevillea Evansii in her honor. She set up the second native plant nursery in the entire Melbourne area, at Pottery Cottage.

One day the noted horticulturalist Edna Walling was brought to see Eve's garden. So impressed was she that she lent Eve books, gave her advice, encouraged her to study horticulture and later invited her to work with her.

Eve studied at Earnest Lord's School of Landscape Architecture for some years. She wrote a weekly column for one of the Melbourne dailies and contributed regularly to the Ringwood 'Mail'. She eventually became a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, London.

Ultimately Eve bought a house nearer the township, just across the bridge in Research Road. She later purchased artist Jo Sweetman's cottage, adjoining the new house. The cottage, now classified by the National Trust, owes its survival during the 1962 fires to the Evans family.

Eve was invited to join the Soroptimist Society (an organisation dedicated to helping people) and she represented Victoria at a world-wide conference in Rome in 1971.

It was here that she met Inge Lems from Holland. They became close friends and finally Eve went to Holland to live. She stayed 14 years, sharing a house in Dordrecht with Inge. Eve learned to speak Dutch and Inge encouraged her to write 'The Wooden Bridge'. They travelled widely in Europe and shared many adventurous trips, including one behind the Iron Curtain.

Meanwhile her son Peter had come to Europe and was running luxury barge tours on the canals and rivers. During winter, when the waterways were frozen, he lived in Dordrecht with Eve and Inge.

Finally Eve moved back to Australia, buying a home at Cape Patterson. After a long battle Inge was allowed to migrate to Australia, she died of cancer soon after her arrival.

Eve lived alone at Cape Patterson, but after a number of falls, resulting in broken bones and visits to hospital, moved into Templestowe Gardens, where she is enjoying an active life, indulging her love of gardening.

Eve Evans celebrated her 80th birthday in January 1989. She has five grandchildren, two of them living in Warrandyte, where Eve came to live more than 50 years ago.

A night of terror

This issue we begin a special new feature, 'The Wooden Bridge' by Eve Evans, a heart-warming, sometimes moving, often humorous account of the adventures of a young lone parent and her small children who came to live in Warrandyte in 1940.

So far as Eve Evans and her children were concerned, the Warrandyte of those years had changed little from the pioneering days of almost a century before. Isolated and lonely, with no electricity, water supply or telephone, their only contact with the outside world was a long walk over rough tracks to the village or a treacherous river crossing.

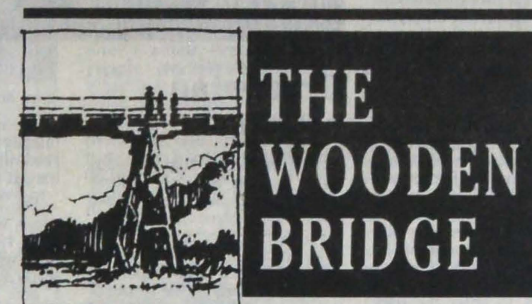
Yet Eve and her family survived and finally prospered, thanks to their resourcefulness,

their indomitable strength and courage and the support of their neighbors and, ultimately, of the little community that took them to their hearts.

Years later, by then living far from Warrandyte, Eve decided to write this account of that quarter of a century of life by the Yarra River. The Warrandyte that Eve Evans describes has long gone, but the spirit of its community lives on.

The *Diary* is privileged to be presenting 'The Wooden Bridge' in its first published form, and we'll be serialising Eve's story over the coming months. We know that you, our readers, are in for a rare treat.

CLIFF GREEN



By Eve Evans

One night after dark, longing for adult company, I put my two small children to bed, waited until they slept, then took a lantern and set out for a brief visit to my nearest neighbors, a mile away. They were two retired women school teachers, life-long friends. After retiring from work they had gone overseas and spent two years learning herb farming in the Weald of Kent in England.



Their piece of land, adjoining mine, stretched deep down into a gully where the soil was rich, having been washed down from the hills, leaving great exposed rock boulders behind. Here they grew their herbs, culinary and medicinal.

On top of the hill beside their cottage they grew an acre of English lavender, a plant that does not seem to mind poor soil and dry conditions. They worked outside all day, hoeing the weeds away from the herbs and from between the lavender rows. At night they sat rubbing down herbs by hand and husking lavender. So their tiny charming cottage was always filled with the sweet scent of herbs and lavender.

That night I came to the cottage somewhat out of breath after climbing the long steep hill. Now in winter it was a slithering, muddy track with great rocks protruding on either side. In the centre were deep ruts and ridges. I took time to sidestep the ruts, making the climb even more difficult.

A warm welcome always awaited me in that cottage, and so it was now. They put a chair for me and I sat down and looked around. This was the kitchen where they worked. One wall was all shelves, loaded with books in several languages, for both women had been linguists. As well there were many books on herbs and plants.

Under the casement window was a table covered with an old-fashioned red velvet cloth, bobbles

and all. Opposite was a small wood stove, black and shining. Faithfully polished every morning, you could see your reflection in its doors. Above the stove was a rack covered with hessian and always filled with herbs laid out to dry. Copper bedwarmers hung on either side and a large three-legged kettle stood on the floor.

The room was lit by a single kerosene lamp giving a soft rosy light. For a short time I watched them working and we chatted pleasantly. They gave me a gardening book and said I could borrow more. Then becoming anxious that the children might wake, I said goodnight and set off for home.

It was a pitch black night with a gusty wind blowing. I had not gone far when an extra strong gust of wind blew out my lantern. Dark has never bothered me, and I began to feel my way carefully along the rough track.

Suddenly from nowhere I heard the thump of what seemed giant footsteps, accompanied by heavy breathing. Fear rooted me to the spot. As I stopped the footsteps also stopped, but began again as I moved on. I wanted to turn and run back to the safety of the herb farm, but then I must pass whoever was behind me and I knew I must reach the children.

With terror clutching my heart and fear prickling my spine, I stumbled over rocks and ridges, trying desperately to hurry. I tripped and fell, losing my grip on the lantern and book. My throat was too dry to scream or utter a sound. Even my silent prayers had no coherence. Briefly I became aware of warm blood running down my legs where the gravel and stones had cut them.

Then I lost the track and stepped into the undergrowth beside it. In a moment of sheer panic I felt arms clutching me. Then I realized that I was caught in a twist of dodder vine. This vine has long, thin, strong wiry branches. It wraps itself around anything within reach; tree trunks and other shrubs. I pulled free and staggered on.

Falling again I cut my face on a tree stump. I stood up and listened. Suddenly sounds of feet and

breathing had gone. With another onrush of panic, I thought that whoever it was must have passed me and now would be in the house, where a second lantern, left burning, would show him the way.

At the end of what seemed an eternity I came to my gate. As I passed through I heard the children whimpering. I entered their room and they began to cry in earnest.

Now I must explain that both of them had a very unfortunate and irritating skin eczema that needed re-banding several times during the night. I always kept a tray of ointment and bandages on the kitchen bench. I knew I must reach it.

So with a brief prayer for help, and gathering what little courage I could muster, I took the lantern and went down the long wide passage to the kitchen, not daring to

look either side. But there was no sound except that of the children crying. He waits for daylight, I thought. As well as the tray I grabbed a poker, feeling comfort in some kind of weapon.

Returning, I bandaged the children, pushed both cots against the door and sat on the floor. The long night seemed never-ending. Blood dried on my face and legs and dreadful thoughts of what would happen to us spun round in my head. I made a futile attempt to pray.

With the first glimmer of daylight I took bandages and splints off the eldest child so he could walk and carried the young one, who was not yet walking. Not daring to go into the passage, I put the children out the window onto the verandah and climbed after them. We staggered up the long hill, not daring to

look back. I passed the abandoned lantern, but left it there, only picking up the book.

The children cried all the way, rebellious at this unaccustomed treatment. I knocked on the herb farm door and indeed must have presented a sorry picture when they opened it. They were both still in long flannel nightgowns, their hair in plaits hanging over their shoulders. They looked at us for a moment stunned. Then, almost in chorus asked, "Whatever happened?"

A flood of words poured out as I tried to explain the terrors of the night. A smile flickered over their faces.

"Oh! Oh, my dear," Watty said, "We should have told you, there has been a wallaby up and down the road for the past week or so, that must be what you heard."



"Suddenly from nowhere I heard the thump of what seemed giant footsteps, accompanied by heavy breathing."

I am in trouble. I will have to concentrate, so don't talk then."

As the hour approached, a change came over her. She went quite white. Her fingers stopped working. It seemed as if all her senses were stilled. She was like a person in a trance, and I became alarmed.

As I sat watching I felt a sudden cold draught on my back. Too petrified to move or turn around, I sat very still. Then to my great relief I felt my little dog brush against my legs. It was he who had pushed the door open behind me.

When Patty returned to normal we finished our work. I said, "I will make you some hot cocoa, then you go to bed. We have a long, sad day before us tomorrow."

When I made a move to go, she came over and put an arm across my shoulders.

"Evelyn," she said, her voice quivering, "the builders did a bad thing when they rebuilt your house."

"What was that?" I asked. The house I now owned and lived in with my children had been rebuilt after the bushfires. Beth, its owner, had died before it was finished. She died in the only room that was complete at that time.

"They made the passages too wide, taking space from that room we showed you where Beth died. Now Watty will be there too and there won't be room for both of them."

I had long suspected that Patty looked far over the horizon to a supernatural world. In no way did I want to become involved in such things, preferring to keep my feet firmly on the ground.

"Look, Patty, I don't believe in such things, nor do I believe there is any supernatural presence in my house. I must go now. You go to bed. I'll be over first thing in the morning to see that you have a good breakfast. Then I'll drive you down to Kew."

I am not by nature a very courageous person. I wanted to believe that the whole ghastly business had just been a dream. Nonetheless, I felt my heart beat a little faster as I approached the dark, lonely house and walked straight into the room Patty had spoken about.

Earlier in the evening I had promised I would help her with the herbs, weeding and rubbing down. Now I began to wonder what kind of situation I would find myself in. I decided that I must point out very firmly that I would have nothing to do with anything unnatural.

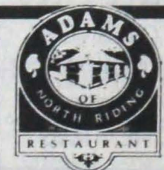
As we worked together in the lavender field and the herb gully, remarks that I thought were addressed to me, I found were, in fact, addressed to Watty. Protest as I might, I could not stop her. In the end I told her that we would take it in turns to work, she one day and I the next. So we did. Not long afterwards Patty succumbed to cancer. So that sad and unfortunate episode was ended.

To be continued.

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Rangers deserve support

Henry is our lovable and licking, big and bouncy family dog. He loves his home, his garden, and his walks along the township part of the river.

Henry's family has the privilege to live near remnant bushland that is now a refuge for communities of precious native animals and plants. These are formally protected for the enjoyment and inspiration, not just for the locals, but for all Victorians. The unique bush, so close to Melbourne, is the Warrandyte State Park.

Henry's family never take him to the park. They know that the scent that Henry and his mates leave behind can encourage unleashed dogs to enter the park where they have been known to kill eastern grey kangaroos and swamp wallabies and scare away koalas and ground nesting birds such as superb blue wrens and spotted pardalotes.

Henry's family know it is dog behavior to scrape and that this can unearth the delicate tubers of lilies and orchids. Fourth Hill, in particular has an outstanding display of wildflowers in Spring.

Henry and his mates cannot be expected to understand the consequences of their actions — but their owners definitely should. Unfortunately, too many dog owners have been too irresponsible and the only alternative left to the Department of Conservation and Environment has been to ban people from taking their dogs into the park.

The rangers deserve our full support as it is a measure that will help to protect our park. If we defy the new "no dogs" regulations, as some are planning to do, then rest assured, our unique bush environment and its treasures will eventually be lost.

The Coupur family
Brackenbury Street

LETTERS

Draconian action

On the subject of dogs on leads being banned from the Fourth Hill Reserve I would like to make the following observations.

I have probably used the area more than most people over the years. The area is an important part of the fabric of the whole of the Warrandyte community and has in part been responsible for giving the community its appreciation of the values that go to make Warrandyte the special place that it is.

To exclude many Warrandyte people from using the reserve is detrimental to the amenity that the area provides for its residents.

It was only due to the action of the residents that it was saved from subdivision in the first place when the government started selling up the land.

The ability to walk in the reserve provides a facility which is important for the health and wellbeing of the community as it has done for the past hundred years. As most people walking in the park are locals walking their dogs, prohibiting dogs on leads takes something of value from the Warrandyte community.

The only dog we ever owned belonged originally to our neighbor, Molly Logan. When she went into hospital where she finally died her dog, Fred, adopted us and came to stay.

Far from his scent upsetting the animals in the park he became accustomed to the State

Park's rabbits digging holes in our lawn and eating the plants.

The rabbits used to feed quite happily in full view of the dog. Fred obviously thought they belonged here and tolerated them.

The first time I met a ranger while walking with Fred in the park, he told me that in future dogs would be required to be on leads and explained the reasons. I and other responsible dog owners had no problem with this not unreasonable request.

This was the reason that dog owners did not make a great outcry at the time the park management plan was discussed. Most people regarded it as a reasonable approach. Now, however, the Department of Conservation and Environment have arbitrarily changed the rules.

This sudden change is a typically bureaucratic approach. It does nothing to address the real problem of foxes and unrestrained dogs, but imposes draconian penalties on the responsible people who have tried to cooperate.

Bruce Bence
Brackenbury Street

Locals ignored

Since coming to Warrandyte over eight years ago, walking our dog in Fourth Hill State Park has become part of our daily routine.

However as of April 11, 1991

this pleasure has been denied us by a law instigated by the Department of Conservation and Environment. Their reasons for banning dogs are on environmental grounds.

To quote Don Saunders, director of National Parks: "The Fourth Hill area provides habitat for mammals such as antechinus, kangaroos, possums and several species of bats. It also provides habitat for the diverse bird life."

Also it is stated: "The Department is attempting to protect and enhance conditions for mammals to survive in those areas close to Melbourne." This information was included in a letter dated March 20, 1991. On April 10, 1991, a day of significant pollution, the Department saw fit to control burn extensive parts of Fourth Hill, thus destroying much of the forest litter.

On previous occasions they had assured me the forest litter was not a fire risk and was essential for providing homes and protection for the many ground-dwelling birds and animals which our dogs supposedly threaten with their presence.

Much of this forest litter was in fact due to felled wattles, which according to the department are not indigenous to the area.

Locals have been chastised like naughty children for picking up the occasional twig, or stick, yet the department feels justified in burning acres of undergrowth.

It's about time the department realised the State Parks in Warrandyte exist today because the locals fought so hard to have them.

Why don't they consider the views of the people who really love and care about these areas?

Karen Tippett
Brackenbury St Warrandyte

Paula brings Lambada dance to high students

Warrandyte High School student Paula Guino is well-equipped to teach the popular Brazilian dance the Lambada to fellow students and teachers. Paula is an accomplished dancer and is teaching one of her favorite dances from her own country.

Paula, 17, comes from a small island 50 kms off the coast from Sao Paulo, one of Brazil's largest cities. She is in Australia for one year under the American Field Service Exchange Program and is teaching the Lambada as a VCE English communication project.

Mr and Mrs Allgood are hosting Paula while their daughter Danielle is on exchange in the USA. Paula's own family are hosting a Japanese student while she is in Australia.

Paula is seeing as much of the country as she can and over Easter went on an extended break for a 4-wheel drive expedition to Lake Eyre and Broken Hill, a part of Australia which she described as fascinating.

There are a number of differences between schooling in Brazil and Warrandyte.

In Brazil school hours are from 7am-12.30pm. In their final year students study 12 subjects with Brazilian history, geography and literature compulsory.

The school times meant Paula could attend a British school to study English in the afternoons.

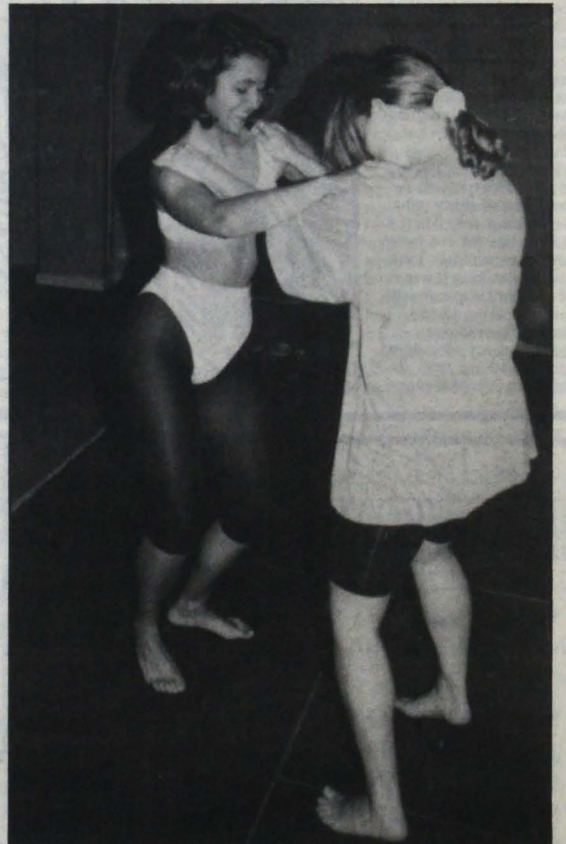
The evenings were taken up with dance lessons and specially organised study sessions where the work covered in school was reinforced.

Students who want to go to university have to work very hard to pass entrance examinations.

Paula is enthusiastic about Australian food. Being very fit and health conscious she loves the variety of fruit and vegetables.

"At home we have beans or rice every meal ... it gets very monotonous," she explained.

Although on occasions she



Brazilian exchange student Paula Guino teaches the Lambada

misses her home and family Paula thinks she is fortunate to have the opportunity to live and go to school in another country.

When she returns home in January she will sit university entrance exams.

She hopes to become a journalist and then travel around the world to meet again the friends

she has made as part of the exchange program.

At Warrandyte High Paula will leave not only some Lambada experts but many young people with a new-found knowledge and interest in Brazil.

In this way the student exchange programs enrich the lives of all those involved.

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All change — migration underway

The streets became straighter and the horizon lowered. The number of intersection lights increased as did the traffic. There were relatively few two-storied houses and not a lot of gum trees. Couch grass and paspalum lawns and the ubiquitous diosma plant appeared and I knew I was emotionally home.

I was on my way to a memorial service for one of our Easter group of friends who had unexpectedly died in England. She died in the London suburb in which she had lived until emigrating to Australia.

She had just written to say how happy and integrated she felt. She had slipped back into life as if the intervening 25 years had not existed. Ironically, she died in the same hospital as her mother — at the same age and of the same complaint. At least Helen died 'at home'.

As I drove down Warrigal Road to the service, I wondered why I had the same feeling that I was returning to my emotional home. My old home had been bulldozed and units erected in its place, but all those early years of imprinting cannot be demolished.



KIBBLED

Animal behavioralists postulate that migratory birds and animals can journey vast distances and return to their breeding grounds because they have some form of terrain map fixed in their memories. As I drove back into Warrandyte I knew what they meant.

I had driven back to the familiar dirt roads, the perpendicular driveways, the gibber plain gardens; but only to my summer nesting place.

Somehow, I have always known that Warrandyte will not be my final resting suburb. I'll probably have to travel a few continents, leap a few waterfalls and survive predatory politicians and waiting fates before returning to my particular spawning grounds.

I remember my mother wistfully talking about her

early life in Richmond. But when I went there I couldn't understand her obvious dementia. Here she was, living in a larger house with lots of land, yet she still hankered after a small, cramped pre- yuppie workman's cottage. What is it that makes such a solid impression?

What is it about Warrandyte that will, in 40 years time, see a migratory flood of fearful adults run, walk, amble or stagger up Yarra Boulevard to fall panting and spent on the steps of Harry Heath's multi-storey emporium or collapse on the commuter helipad where the Mechanics' Institute once stood?

Is there a single entity called Warrandyte? Certainly the block sizes, the housing designs, the domestic lifestyles and the expectations vary greatly, one from the other.

Apart from the small number of families who are already 'home', it's easy to see why we can't expect unanimity about how Warrandyte should look or 'feel'. If each of us is carrying, deep down in our subconscious, a map of what home really is, our conscious articulation

about our environment will be confused by our emotional needs.

I find it fascinating the way we react to those bewildered Warrandytians who have brainstormed and voluntarily decide to shift to another suburb. It's a bit like 'marrying out', but some brave souls do it.

The usual question on their return visit is, "But don't you miss Warrandyte?" Jaws drop when they reply, "Oh, not really. I miss some of the people, but I was surprised how quickly I forgot the actual place."

Naturally, for every departure there is a newcomer or a returnee. The newcomers have just begun their journey, but the returnees flock to Warrandyte, probably because they've just heard that David Attenborough is here with a film crew, eager to capture shots of the migratory homecoming.

As for me, well that's it. I'm out of the closet. My kids have always known it, my greenie friends have suspected it and nature has decreed it. At heart I'm south suburban.

ROGER KIBELL

Champagne opening

Warrandyte High School's 1991 art show will open with a champagne supper on Friday, May 24 at 8pm. The show will remain open through the weekend of May 25 and 26 and the work of many recognised painters, ceramicists and craftspeople will be on display — and for sale. Demonstrations will be given by Brian Armstrong, Reg Cox and Joan Golding. Other exhibiting artists include Walter Magilton, Ron Muller, Ron Reynolds, Bernard Rust, Alan Sartori, Gordon and Kevin Speary, Maxwell Wilks and wildlife sculptor Chris Stubbs. Running concurrently with the show is an exhibition of art by students of the high school and local primary schools. This major annual fund-raising event will be held at the school, corner of Warrandyte and Alexander Roads. Enquiries to 844 2100.



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.

Seniors

Members of the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Centre would like to thank the Lions Club of Warrandyte for providing a coach to take them to the Fitzroy Gardens on April 10. An enjoyable afternoon was spent in the sun, listening to music played by the military band. On April 13 a group from the centre set off on a seven-day trip to Wagga Wagga. They visited many places of interest in the area and attended a passing-out parade at the Kapooka army training camp. One member — Gallipoli veteran Tom Meagher — was invited to sit with representatives of the governor-general during the parade.

Anniversary

Louise and Stewart Joy recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary at an Indian dinner in aid of the medical college at Vellore, South India, where Louise's Aunt Adelaide and her parents Edna and Edward Gault gave medical service for many years before retiring to Warrandyte. Stewart Joy is treasurer of the Friends of Vellore. Louise and Stewart were joined at the dinner by 90 friends and family members.

Report

Warrandyte High School council's annual report meeting, held recently, took on a special note this year. The evening

highlighted the school's achievements during 1990. Master of ceremonies Don Harrison steered the audience through an entertaining blend of student presentations — music, dancing and gymnastics — and school council reports. Excerpts from the school's forthcoming musical production, 'My Fair Lady' (to run from September 11 to 21) were featured. School dux Jeremy Furyk was honored and swimming awards went to Jemima Coates and Andrew Cooper. Captains Jenny Morrison and Christo Ferguson received the champion house swimming trophy. Student representative council executive members — Simone Masenhelder, David Joy and Jo Yarwood — were presented with badges.

New hall

The new hall being added to the Warrandyte Uniting Church in Taroon Avenue is now finished and an official opening and dedication will take place on Sunday, May 26 at 2.30pm. Rev Graeme Bucknall, who opened the church building in 1963, will open the new hall and Rev Dr Alan Reid, Moderator of the Presbytery of Bourke, will dedicate the alterations in the church. The new hall is already being used by Sunday school and church youth groups as well as local Guides and Brownies. At the 10.15am service on Sunday, June 2 there will be a re-dedication of the church by the people. Thanks have been expressed to Bruce Gangell and Derek Humphreys for the many hours they spent planning and organising the hall construction, likewise builder John Chapman for his co-operation and extra work.

Marriage

Past students of Warrandyte High are congratulating Georgie Varellas and Wayne Clarke on their recent marriage. Georgie is the daughter of Mrs Maria Varellas, now living in Kalorama, and Wayne is the son of Mr and

Mrs Clarke of Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Georgie and Wayne were high school sweethearts.

Mouth-to-mouth

The Yarra River Lifeguards are starting free CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and 'mouth-to-mouth' courses next month. The classes will start each month and run for one night. The course will be intensive, with a maximum of six people per class. There will be a minimum of theory and lots of practical activity. The first course is on Thursday, June 6 commencing at 6pm. Participants seeking a certificate can attend an examination on a second night. The lifeguards are all locals who aim to educate the entire community in life-saving procedure. Enquiries to Russell Freemantle at the Canoe Shed, 844 2502.

Debutantes

Plans are well underway for the Warrandyte Lions Club's famous annual debutante ball. It will be held at the Heidelberg Town Hall on Friday, August 16. Any local girls interested in making their debut are asked to contact Eddy Hendricks, 842 5485 or Peter Watts, 844 3903; both after hours.

Tell us

We are still receiving items publicising events that will have passed by the time the *Diary* appears. Remember that we close copy on the last Friday of each month for the issue appearing on the second Friday of the month following. So please check your calendar and plan your publicity accordingly. Simply type (or write clearly) all the relevant details — including date, time, venue and contact telephone number — and drop it in the box on the tree. We'll do the rest. Personal items such as births, engagements, weddings and anniversaries are especially welcome.

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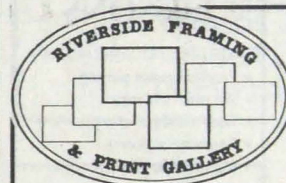
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Macabre tale of the enemy within

When I was first told, by a fellow naturalist, to look out for the vegetable caterpillars in Warrandyte, I must admit I didn't know if I should be searching for a plant or an animal!

It turned out to be neither, the vegetable caterpillar is in fact a fungus. The story of how it earned this somewhat incongruous name is fascinating and macabre.

The story is set in a secluded area of the Warrandyte State Park with the evocative name of Blue-tongue Bend.

It is late one autumn evening, the moon is keeping a secret vigil behind dark, moisture-laden clouds.

Shadowy trees, like silent sentinels, guard the bush; dangling leaves still drip from a recent shower of rain. The scent of peppermint and eucalyptus wait in the air mingling delicately with the sweet, earthy smell of fallen leaves and humus. Fragrances of



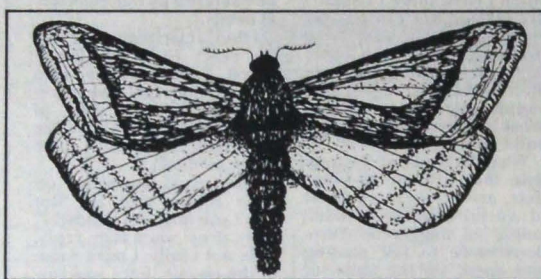
NATURE

By PAT COUPAR
Drawings: MELANIE COUPAR

the night; a sort of pot pourri of the Warrandyte bush.

Somewhere strewn among the damp grass and leaf litter lie the spores of cordyceps the "vegetable caterpillar". The spores which are dormant, require the presence of a particular type of caterpillar before they are able to grow into a fungus.

The heavy shower of rain has triggered a female swift moth to emerge from her underground cocoon. Free at last from the confines of her pupal case, she expands her wings; strong, brown-scaled wings that propel her heavy body into the air. From the moment of emergence she is



on a race against time: her sole endeavour, to find a mate.

Possessing no functional mouthparts, she can neither eat nor drink, she must rely on stores of fat within her body to sustain her over the next few nights.

But frantic flight uses energy fast so the female swift moth has devised a more efficient method of finding a mate. She attracts a male by emitting a scent called a pheromone which he can detect from a considerable distance with his large, feathered antennae.

After mating, the female moth scatters thousands of eggs over the ground. In a few days they hatch, most of the tiny caterpillars will not survive, but those that do burrow deep into the

rain-softened soil where they construct a silk-lined tunnel. This will be their home for the next two years. They return to the surface each night to feed on grass.

In spite of these safeguards some caterpillars are attacked. Not, as you might expect by a bird or other animals, but by a plant: none other than the cordyceps fungus.

It is not certain how the spores enter the caterpillar, they could be ingested along with the food-plant, or breathed in through small openings on either side of the body, called spiracles. The tiny spores may even penetrate the hard cuticle or "skin" of the caterpillar. But once inside, the take over begins.

From the spores grow mycelium, hollow feeding threads, which proliferate throughout the body of the caterpillar, consuming its internal tissues. Eventually all that remains is a mummified

shell filled with a dense mass of white mycelium.

When conditions are favorable, usually after autumn rains, cordyceps sends up a club-shaped fruiting body. Arising from the head of the dead caterpillar, this carries the spores, stands about 10cm above ground.

Vegetable caterpillars are not uncommon in Warrandyte. However, they look so much like broken twigs protruding from the grass and leaf litter, they largely go unnoticed. I was fortunate enough to see them for the first time in Warrandyte only a couple of years ago.

Their unremarkable appearance on the surface belies the gruesome annihilation that has taken place below ground.

A simple case of parasitism, perhaps. Nevertheless, the idea of animal matter being transformed into plant matter is, I think, an intriguing one.

By GLEN JAMESON

Creeks are a forgotten and neglected element of our local environment.

The Yarra River has been given a high profile by media campaigns, corporate clean-ups and major rejuvenation projects, but what about our creeks?

The river is also largely protected by large parks and private land, but creeks bear the brunt of our bad ecological habits.

It is the creeks, the Mullum Mullum, Andersons, Banyule, Ruffey, Diamond, that reach into the suburbs and pass by our back fences. They receive punishment from excess urban runoff, pollution, weeds, rubbish and city abuse.

It is a waste of time to clean up the

Attention turns to creeks

river but not look at the creeks that feed it.

It has not always been this way. Creeks are biological generators, nurseries for small fish, crustaceans, tortoises and mammals.

This year, World Environment Day will focus on the local creek.

The councils of Eltham, Doncaster and Templestowe and Heidelberg, together with Warrandyte State Park and Yarra Valley Metropolitan Park will focus their attention on local creeks.

On Sunday June 2 a range of activities is planned such as tree planting, rubbish removal, weeding and

interpretation of the role and function of creeks.

In Westerfolds Park, one week will be devoted to revegetation and interpreting Middle Creek which runs through Westerfolds to the Yarra.

A planting and story trail will run the full length of Middle Creek focusing on urban run-off problems (erosion), mammals, birds, water insects, fish and other water life, pollution and water quality.

The "Home Show Trail" which runs through the centre of Middle Creek features a nest box program the park has run for many years.

Visitors will be able to participate by planting, walking and learning

along the entire length of the creek. Once again it will generate life for all those who visit.

In Warrandyte, the people from Mopoke Court and surrounds will be working on Axe Head Creek, a small tributary of Andersons Creek.

Axe Head Creek runs along Harris Gully Road and the work done there to restore this stream to bushland environment has won the residents several awards.

Look for the signs and give them a hand between 10am and 1pm.

Work will also be done along Stony Creek and at Currawong Bush Park there will also be creek orientated activities.

Creeks cover a far larger area than the river they feed, thereby providing a special green web through the suburbs.

They are mostly within walking distance from our homes and therefore provide local character and ownership to the community.

Today, even more so than in the past, creeks provide a vital corridor for plants and animals.

There is a tremendous amount of pressure on these fragile fingers of life. It is important that we adopt a local creek and nurture it so that it doesn't degrade any further.

Sunday, June 2 1991 is the start of Creek Week. Let's make it the start of a concerted community push to reverse the years of neglect — or else we'll all be up the creek!

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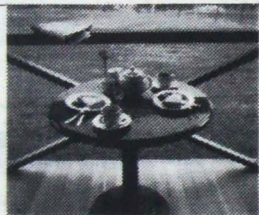
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Couples celebrate weddings



Rod Dawson and Jenny Jones (right) married in February and Narelle Dawson married Tim Winter (above) in March.

It was a busy start to the year for one Warrandyte family and for the folk from the Warrandyte Community Church.

David and Meryl Dawson from Jumping Creek Road saw their son Rod, and daughter Narelle, marry within seven weeks of each other.

On February 2 Rod Dawson married Jenny Jones from Box Hill in a beautiful ceremony at the church, located behind the squash centre.

Rod and Jenny honeymooned at South Molle Island in north Queensland.

On March 23, Narelle Dawson married Tim Winter from Boronia (Many readers will know Narelle as their hairdresser from Chantik salon).

Again the church was packed

to capacity for a very special service.

Narelle's dress was of ivory duchess satin, trimmed with lace. The four bridesmaids wore deep emerald green dresses, and carried bouquets of colorful rosebuds and gum tips. Tim and Narelle honeymooned in Bali.

Both couples will make their homes in Croydon Hills.

The Dawsons say that all of a sudden their household is strangely quiet with losing a son and daughter so close together!

Also celebrating a wedding are Jenny Hanson of Webb Street and Tom Drummond from Cambridge, England.

The couple were married in the Warrandyte Uniting Church during March by new minister Rev. Syd Smale.



Obituary

Warrandyte identity Sylvia Therese Garone passed away suddenly on Saturday March 16, 1991.

She was born in Brunswick in 1912, one of six children. In 1928 she met Jack, her husband, and they were constant companions for the next 63 years.

They were married at St Ambrose's Church, Brunswick in 1934 and had three children, Coralie, Peter and John.

In 1961 the family moved to Pound Road, Warrandyte, and over the years Sylvia worked with the local branches of the Red Cross and the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

She was an enthusiastic

member of the Warrandyte Senior Citizens' Club and was involved in many of their activities. She was an excellent bowler and for some years was a member of the club's pennant team.

Her greatest love was for the club's concert party and she performed with them in Warrandyte and at other venues around Melbourne.

She is survived by her husband, three children, six grandchildren and her beloved great granddaughter, Shani.

The family would like to thank all Sylvia's friends in Warrandyte for their messages of condolence. They are very much appreciated.

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The Bloods are back on track!

Warrandyte Football Club are back in business. They may not be on track for a premiership, or even the finals, but they have certainly risen above the prospect of a long, cold, miserable winter.

Consecutive victories have righted the Bloods' ship after defections of star players to other clubs and two early-season hidings had threatened to sink it.

Signs of recovery under new captain-coach David Purcell emerged in the third round when Warrandyte were narrowly beaten by Upper Ferntree Gully. The recovery was confirmed a week later when the Bloods downed unbeaten Kilsyth by 32 points, and a three-point win over The Basin on May 4 had supporters talking in terms of finals again.

Purcell believes Warrandyte can make it. "A few weeks ago we were talking about just playing out the season and thinking about next year," he told supporters after the game at The Basin. "Now we have a real chance."

"I think we can make the four. It is a very even competition and every game is up for grabs every week. I don't think there is anyone we should be in awe of."

Since a first-round thrashing by Templestowe, Warrandyte have regained the services of ruckman Kimberly O'Connor and half-forward Dale Vitiritti, who had sought clearances to East Ringwood.

They have also acquired former Melbourne and Heidelberg player Terry Blytheman. Significantly, those three were among the best against The Basin.

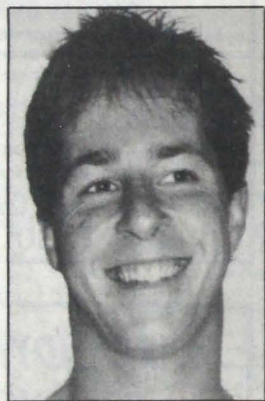
Purcell said he had expected Warrandyte to "crunch" The Basin, who had lost their first four games. "It wasn't nearly as easy as we had imagined," he said.

The Bloods started well, with goals to Greg Creber and Blytheman in the first four minutes, but The Basin were not going to allow themselves to be pushovers.

Their half-back line established early ascendancy, but many promising moves broke down on an indirect path to goal.

Stuart McLean converted a relayed free kick to make it 3.1 to

SPORT



Tony Sturesteps — great player in defence.

0.3 and the home side's only goal for the quarter came right on the siren.

The second quarter belonged to The Basin, who consistently won the ball out of the middle and put the Bloods under enormous pressure.

The Bloods can thank full-back Tony Sturesteps for the fact

that The Basin were unable to run away to a handy lead. Sturesteps was magnificent in the crunches as the home side kicked 6.7 to 5.3 to have the game all tied up at the interval.

The third quarter was all Warrandyte. Goals to Vitiritti and Matt Luttick gave the Bloods breathing space and when McLean and Blytheman snapped "impossible shots" the margin had been stretched to 25 points.

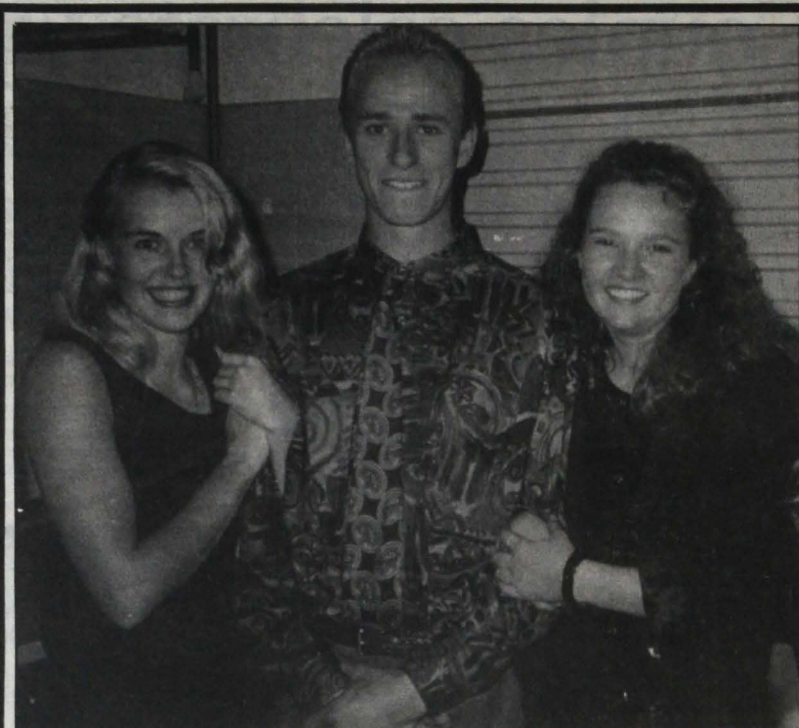
Warrandyte booted 7.4 to 3.2 for the quarter and the game looked safe — but The Basin had other ideas.

Two quick goals put them right back in it and despite relieving goals from Purcell and Darren Donald, they came again. A soccered goal, another on the run and a free in front reduced the margin to just three points, which became nine after Vitiritti marked in front.

It was nail-biting stuff which became even more so when a Warrandyte defender infringed in the goal square. The siren, which blew as The Basin were lining up the free right on the line, was blessed relief for the contingent of Bloods supporters.

Final score was Warrandyte 18.10 (118), The Basin 17.13 (115).

The Bloods' best in a very entertaining game of football were O'Connor, Glen McCartin, Sturesteps, Vitiritti, David Pike and Blytheman.



Above: Steve Brimacombe with girlfriend Melita Watkins (left) and Kate Farrell at his birthday party last month. Below: Steve belts out a number with the band.

A gifted young champ rocks on

Steve Brimacombe hired the local sports pavilion last month to celebrate a couple of very special occasions.

For one thing, it was his 20th birthday. For another, he'd had the chance to share with his lifelong friends the euphoria of his Stawell Gift win. "I'm still spinning out from Easter Monday," said the modest young man as he prepared to host what was quite a party.

As a member of local rock band Cold Shot, his musical talents were in demand — and Steve was happy to oblige.

Steve has found time since his triumph to return to his old school — Warrandyte High — to share with Year 11 physical education students the "secrets" of his training techniques.



Basketballers strive for new weights

By CLINTON GRYPAS

The new season is underway for players and coaches of the Warrandyte Basketball Club as they strive for glory in the EDJBA. Teams are now settled and grading games over as the players prepare for the winter season ahead. The challenge is on to beat last year's record of eight premierships and three runners-up.

Warrandyte has seven teams in the Friday night championship

season, which was well underway when this edition of the *Diary* went to press.

The under-18B2 boys were leading the way, losing just one of their first 10 games. There were two-fourth placed teams, the under-16B1s, with a seven win-two loss record and the 14EQs, with five and three.

The 12EQ and 12B1 teams were in sixth place, with a good chance of making the final four play-off positions.

The 14EQ and 14B1 boys trailed their field despite winning several matches.

The midweek competition was a thriller, with only one team out of contention for the final four. In the eight team competition, Andersons Creek, led by Stan Slabon and Damien Thwaites, were on top of the ladder with seven wins, one loss and one draw.

Makeshift were second, Chris McIntosh and Simon Appleby both piling on the points. Reign-

ing premiers the Hitmen were next, with the amazing Jonathon Moore at the helm.

In just four games, Moore shot an incredible 124 points, twice topping 36. The Peter Parkes were clinging to the four, just ahead of the CODAT Lakers, Plastics and the emerging Warrandyte team, just three points adrift. The Wobblers had yet to open their account.

With the basketball year now in full swing, the only thing hold-

ing the club back is lack of space. Many teams will have just two or three home games for the season at Warrandyte High School. They are entitled to about 10, the same as every team in the competition.

A new playing venue is urgently needed. There is one prime location, right where the Whitehouse once stood. It would be nice for all concerned to have the tennis, football, cricket and basketball clubs together in the one area.

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