

Police stop at river

By GEORGI STICKELS

The Yarra River, which divides Warrandyte in two, is serving as a new boundary now that police duties in North Warrandyte have been taken over by Eltham police.

Warrandyte police station ceased serving the residents of North Warrandyte on July 1. All areas north of Warrandyte bridge are now patrolled by officers from the Eltham police station.

The new boundary does not mean Warrandyte police will automatically shun North Warrandyte. "Just because it's not our area doesn't mean we won't enter it in an emergency," Sergeant Burge of Warrandyte police told the *Diary*.

Senior Sergeant McPhee, stationed at Eltham, reminds residents to call 11444 and not their local station in an emergency. Local police are powerless to act until they contact D24 first, he said.

A smaller Warrandyte district does not mean the station is in danger of closing outright. Officers stationed at Warrandyte have been assured by the Chief Com-

Nth Warrandyte goes to Eltham

missioner there are no plans to close their station.

Paradoxically, one reason for the change is Warrandyte's low crime rate. Sgt Burge believes this is largely due to police initiatives. These include police visibility, and targeting mini "crime waves" such as a recent graffiti gang.

He believes interaction with the community is also important, especially with young people. A police officer was president of the former Warrandyte youth coffee shop. "It's important to speak to them as people," he said. To speak "to them, not down to them".

Sgt Burge says the crime rate has dropped since he transferred to Warrandyte four years ago. He believes this alone justifies continued police presence in the area.

The change to police districts is part of a state-wide restructur-

ing of the force, which is designed to bring police districts in line with municipal boundaries. The change was first mooted in September 1988. At the time it was expected to be implemented in December that year.

In most places around the state this redistribution will not cause a problem. In many areas the new districts may be no different from the old. For Warrandyte, it means a further dividing of responsibilities within a small, united community.

Snr Sgt McPhee says this is one problem with the move. "I think the way it's been organised is a bit thoughtless because they (the Chief Commissioner's office) are not taking into account things like dividing a town," he said.

Snr Sgt McPhee also stressed that the change is "purely administrative". "It shouldn't affect the quality of policing in a town," he added.

Warrandyte's Sgt Burge agrees the move will not greatly disadvantage residents north of the bridge. On a day-to-day basis there will be very little change. Routine duties will be co-ordinated from a new base, but will not themselves change.

These duties include delivering summonses and attending burglaries, car accidents and other emergencies. Patrols in the area north of the river will also be carried out by Eltham police. Snr Sgt Burge says his officers have been assisting the local constables in this for some time.

"It's an awkward area to patrol because of the terrain," he concedes. But he doesn't see this as a major obstacle.

Response to emergency calls may pose a problem. It will take Eltham police about 10 minutes longer to reach most North Warrandyte homes because the station is further away.

However, the Eltham station is manned 24 hours a day. At least three of its 30 staff are on duty at all times. Warrandyte is manned by four constables and senior constables, headed by Sgt Burge. He and another officer live at the police residence, in case of emergency.

Changes at centre

In a surprise move early this month, Doncaster and Templestowe council recommended that the Warrandyte Citizens' Advice Bureau vacate the old post office and move to the new community centre, allowing the Warrandyte Historical Society to establish a museum in the old post office building.

This follows refusal by council of an application from the historical society for funds to assist in the development of an ambitious and quite extensive museum in the rear lower area of the centre.

The recommendation was moved by Dr Vern Denford, seconded by Cr Val Polley and carried unanimously.

It is understood council feels that the old post office could be developed as a museum with a lot less effort and expense and that the historic building would be more appropriate for this purpose

than its continuing use as a CAB office.

"We had resolved ourselves to the huge task of developing a museum at the centre," a society spokesman told the *Diary*. "But a museum at the old post office certainly makes a lot more sense."

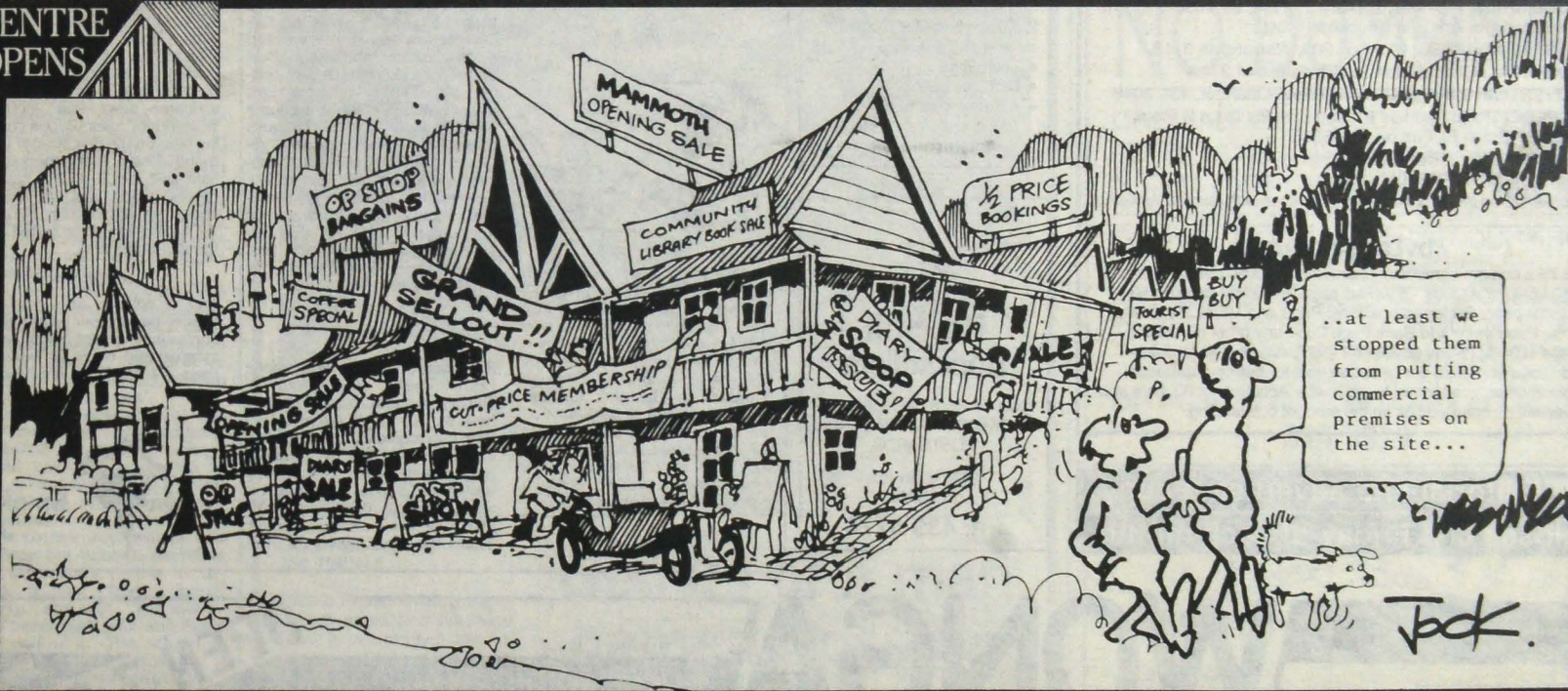
It is further believed that the CAB will be allocated the front lower office on the Webb Street corner of the centre. This space was originally reserved for the now defunct Warrandyte co-op.

A plan to establish this area as a community library and book exchange could be transferred to part of the larger lower rear area, with the remaining space used for the storage of historic and community archives.

Council further resolved to grant \$2000 to the CAB. An application by the historical society to council's municipal recreation fund was being considered as the *Diary* went to press.

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Damn lucky to get out with his pants!

To his considerable sorrow, Warrandyte Lions president Peter Egan can vouch for the super sales efficiency of the lovely ladies who run the club's Op Shop, now operating out of our plush new Community Centre. A couple of days after the move, Peter led a working bee to scrub and polish the floor. His mistake was to wear his magnificent new \$200 Puma tracksuit. Peter shed the top half of his navy blue, gold-trimmed beauty to get down to work and draped it over the back of a chair. One of the ladies put it on a coathanger for him — and another sold it for \$2! Peter would dearly like it back — so if you're the person who picked up the bargain of the year, be a good sport and phone him on 876 1004. Refund of at least \$2 is guaranteed.



We know a North Warrandyte bloke who has written west to Prince Leonard of Hutt for detailed instructions on how to secede from Australia. He and a lot of other folk on the green side of the river have heard grotesque rumours that the name of their Shangri-La is to be changed from "North Warrandyte" to "South Eltham". Couldn't be true, could it? The story spread like the February 25 bushfire after reports that the local police precinct was to be split at the bridge, duck-shoving North Warrandyte into far-neighbouring Eltham (speculation confirmed on our front page). But South Eltham? They couldn't... could they?



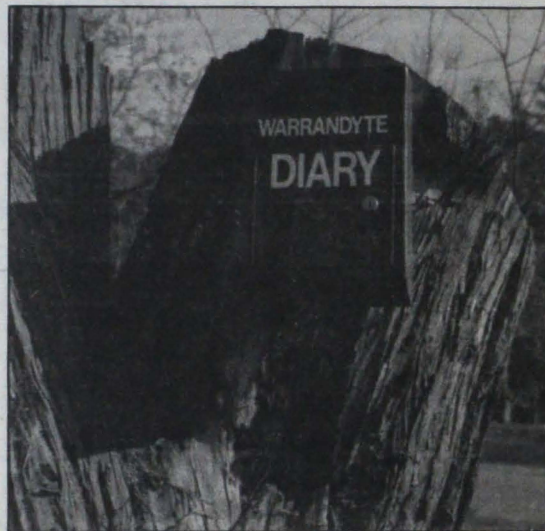
And we know a lady from South Eltham (North Warrandyte — see how quickly it gets to you?) who couldn't understand why the dishwashing liquid she'd used and trusted for years suddenly became all lack-lustre. Even an overdose in the sink left her dishes drab, dull, dreary. She was starting to feel like the loser in a TV commercial. Then she read the label all over again. Same brand, different product, different purpose. Toilet cleaner.

IN RED & WHITE

The funniest things happen to Monica Luttick, of Beauty Gully Road. Someone complained to the council that her backyard incinerator was emitting too much smoke — so a bylaws officer came around, deemed the lid to be ill-fitting and slapped an unroadworthy certificate on it! He must have been fresh out of "canaries" for incinerators. Monica says it didn't worry her all that much because she hadn't planned on driving the incinerator anywhere that day anyway.

lesville, where the place in the main drag is called the Just Him Barber Shop. Eat your heart out (or tear your hair out), Germaine Greer!

It wasn't one of your better PR efforts. First the circular arrived telling Warrandytians south of the river about the new DT council's paper recycling scheme. Great news. Collection days are zoned, so please look at the map. Some map! One of the boundaries is an MMBW pipeline. You'd



Power of the press: We may be out on a limb, but our branch office has been saved — yet again — from bureaucracy, aboreal disease and the chainsaw.

The disrobing artiste bit off more than she could chew, as the saying goes, when she nominated Adrian Mullens and Jimmy Burbridge for the audience participation part of her act at a stag night last month. Talk about a couple of lively local lads! No fall-guys these. Before you could say "gettyergearoff!" they had, totally upstaging the lady and leaving her performance in disarray. Someone should have warned her about the Warrandyte Fire Brigade table. She knows now that even on the coldest of nights, our firemen are hot stuff.

need a pick and shovel to find it. We couldn't find any vaguely familiar street names either, so Warrandyte obviously isn't included. A few days later another piece of paper arrived with the welcome news that good old Warrandyte Apex Club is collecting here on the first Sunday of the month. Leave your papers out by 6am and they'll do the rest. No cryptic maps, just an apology about the first circular. Forget it. We've already contributed it to the first collection.

And if anyone asks you why they've painted our beautiful new community centre such an unsympathetic color as blue, tell them it's not blue. It's bluegum green.

Real men drink pots and smoke Drum. They'll eat a Four 'n' Twenty without sauce if they have to, but they'd rather starve than cop a quiche. And they never, but never, go to a unisex hairdressing joint. No bloody way, mate. Blokes go to barbers and sheilas to the salon of Mr Pierre or Francois or whoever. That's the way, anyway, at Hea-



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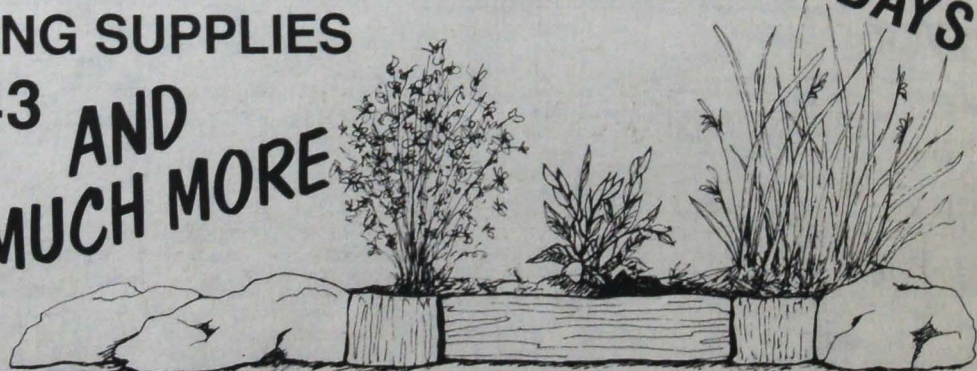
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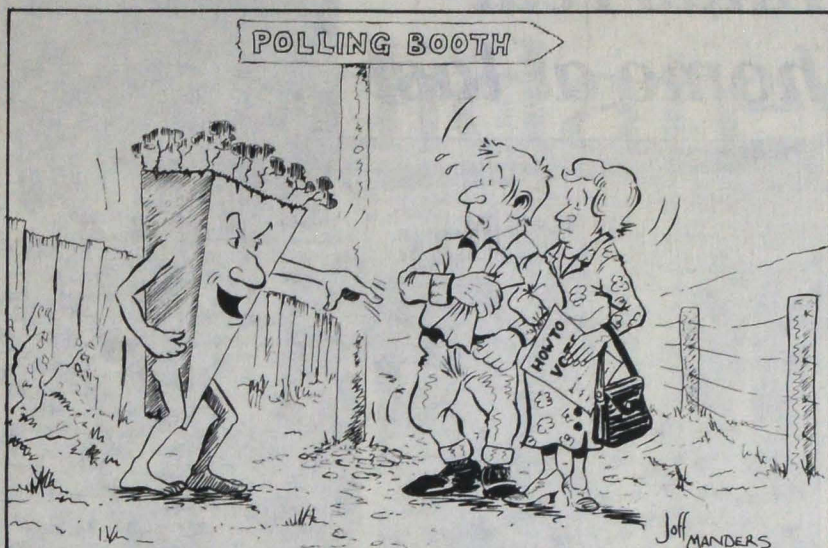
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The Wedge: have your say



"This Council Election, don't forget the 'Green Wedge'."

Doncaster and Templestowe council is offering you an opportunity to express your views on the environment through a series of studies being conducted in the Green Wedge area east of Mullum Mullum Creek.

The studies will cover botanical, visual and zoological aspects and the community is being asked to contribute by answering a simple questionnaire. Council is undertaking the studies to "give a sounder basis when considering development proposals".

Council officer Jane Marriott explained to the *Diary* that the original settlers in the area "dramatically altered the flora and fauna regime that had existed for centuries".

"The area east of Mullum Mullum Creek offers the opportunity to retain or restore the area to reflect its rural and natural origins, whilst at the same time allowing for the concerns of local landowners.

"Because of its rural character the area is now regarded as being very special to the Melbourne metropolitan region," Ms Marri-

Council invites views

ott said. "The fate of this magnificent area lies with the spirit of co-operation between council and the community. The studies aim to achieve this."

The purpose of the visual study is to rate the visual significance of landscapes and recommend planning measures to ensure protection and enable sympathetic development options.

The botanical study will identify sites of botanical significance and those under threat of degradation and will determine planning to ensure their long term conservation.

The zoological study aims to identify sites and species of zoological significance and plan to ensure their long term survival.

After completion, the following questionnaire should be sent to: Environmental Studies East of Mullum Mullum Creek, c/o Strategic Planning Unit, Freepost No. 18, Doncaster 3108. No postage is necessary.

Visual study

1. What visual characteristics (vegetation and land use pattern, variety, uniqueness, feeling of remoteness, etc.) attracted you to the study area?

2. Where is the most attractive spot/s in the study area? Why?

3. Where is the least attractive spot/s in the study area? Why?

Botanical study

4. Are there any areas which you find particularly interesting in the study area? If so, where?

Zoological study

5. Have you sighted any animals which appear interesting or unusual? If so, what were they and where did you see them?

Labelled photos may be sent in to illustrate your response.

Please include your name and address with your answers and forward them by Friday, July 29. For further information phone Jane Marriott (840 9418) or Maria Di Fazio (840 9285).

Drugs not major problem: police

By GEORGI STICKELS

Despite a recent local press report headlined "Drugs ban bites hard" and police intervention in events at Warrandyte High School, drugs are not considered a widespread problem among young people in our community.

Sergeant David Burge of Warrandyte police told the *Diary* that local young people are "average young kids, just the same as anywhere; no worse than anywhere else". "The school shouldn't tolerate drugs," he said, but to his knowledge there had been "no problem with hard drugs" in his four years at Warrandyte.

Doncaster CIB was called in to the school last month to deal with a small group of students who were allegedly consuming or trafficking marijuana at school. A letter was sent home to parents, sparking concerns that young people in the area have been corrupted by drugs.

However the problem was confined to a very small group of students. "We didn't know anything about it," said one Year 11 student. "The first we heard of the problem was on the six o'clock news".

Another senior student told the *Diary* that some students resented the way the school could have been labelled "a druggies' hangout" as a result of the tone of the front page headline.

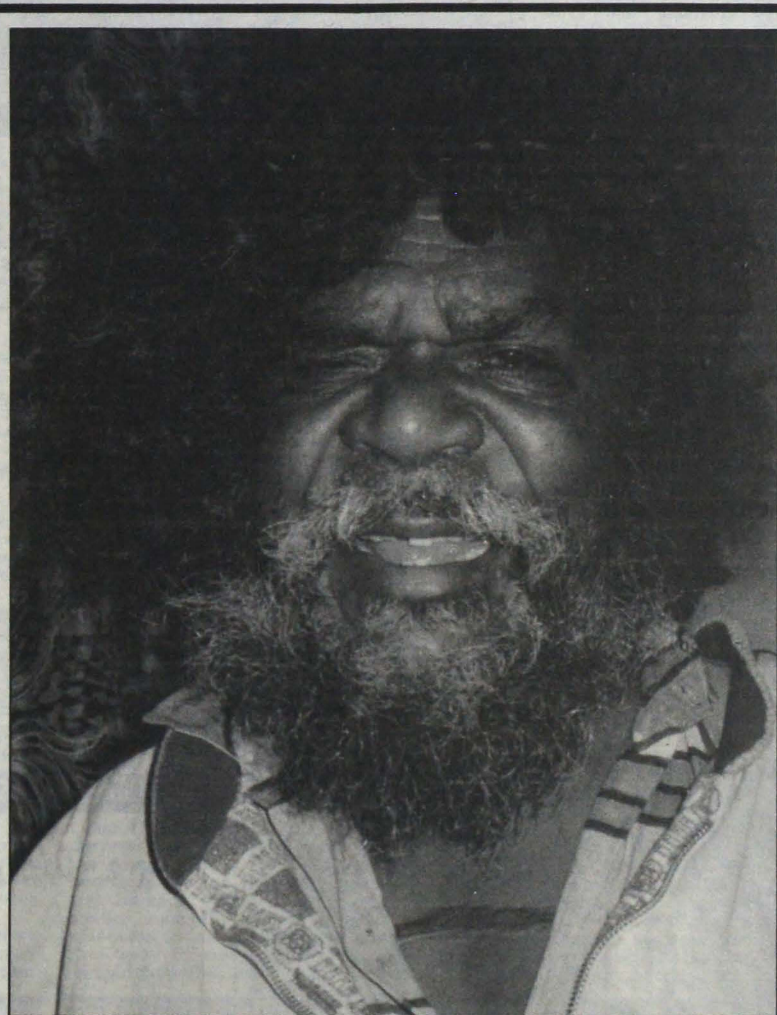
Cr Louise Joy, whose son attends the school, supports the principal's course of action. It was "just a small group," she said. "The matter has been dealt with and that's the end of it. The school is getting on with delivering a good, high quality education."

Mr Michael Blake, principal at Warrandyte High, said that the use of marijuana was "not a widespread problem among students at the school".

He pointed out that the school runs a health program which informs students about the hazards of drug use. Students also have opportunities for discussion in such subjects as English and Physical Education.

"What we need is to get a bit more co-ordination to make sure kids are getting information on (the dangers of) drugs," Mr Blake said. He added that marijuana itself "is a serious problem — and it is an offence".

However a single instance is "no real evidence" of a general problem, he added.



Picture and words by JAN TINDALE

Genius of a man named Possum

Clifford Possum has brought his big smile and his huge talent to Warrandyte. His full name is Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, and there has probably never been a better Aboriginal artist.

Clifford's home is the Western Desert and his works are as well known — perhaps known better — overseas as in Australia. He is regarded as a genius.

He speaks very little English, but his art speaks for itself. He is very camera-shy, and no amount of gentle coaxing could induce the grin that appeared the moment the photo thing was put away.

Milanka Sullivan, of Yarra Street, learnt a lot about this remarkable man on her way to a Bachelor of Education in Arts and Crafts degree. "He

was my hero," she said. Her post-graduate work took her to Alice Springs, where she met him.

Milanka opened a studio gallery in The Alice to help and encourage Aboriginal artists. She and Clifford became close friends. Special friends.

When the time came several weeks ago for Milanka to return to Warrandyte, Clifford said he wanted to come too.

"He has turned my dining room into his 'studio'," she said. "I am privileged to know him. I hope he stays."

Milanka said Clifford liked

Warrandyte very much. There is the inevitable question: How does he cope with mid-winter Warrandyte cold? "If you've experienced Western Desert nights you know what cold really is," Milanka said.

Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri was a stockman in his youth. He is now 48 or 56 or somewhere in between. Nobody knows.

He has translated Dreamtime sand figures on to canvas and his works grace some of the world's finest galleries.

Like his paintings, he is priceless.

Bushland doomed

Despite widespread community debate and protest, Eltham council has granted Eltham College a permit to clear pristine bushland to make way for sports ovals.

The land is opposite the college. It carries a large population of well-developed redbox trees which are "of high local and probable regional significance".

However, at a meeting of the council in early June, only three councillors voted against granting the permit. They were Crs Cohen, Mitchell and Marshall.

Cr Mitchell told the *Diary*

that she is bitterly disappointed. She believes council is not fulfilling its duty to protect the Green Wedge.

"The whole issue should have been deferred," she said. "We need to have more answers." She hopes local residents will appeal against the decision.

A spokesman for Eltham College, Mr Arthur Kirkwright, said the college was "very pleased" with council's decision. Construction is expected to begin as soon as the permit is obtained, although the college will be "making sure we manage the property very well".

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**Itinerant Op Shop
finds real
home at last**

By INGRID KLEINHENZ

It was a case of "first in, best dressed" with the opening of the new Warrandyte Opportunity Shop last month. "Yes we were lucky enough to get the biggest room downstairs in the new Community Centre," said Alice Watson, who has been actively involved in the operation of the Op Shop for 14 years.

For Alice the Op Shop is a "great love" and she is quick to point out that she is not the manageress but just "helps out" with the other girls. Other ladies who regularly volunteer their time to work in the shop include sisters Jean and Rita, little Lil, Rosemary, Joy and Sylvia.

Since the "big move" to the Community Centre they have been working with great gusto to set up shop. The result of their efforts is a very smart-looking display.

The Warrandyte Op Shop has done a lot of travelling before finally coming to rest at the Community Centre. First situated in the group of shops at the east end of town, it was opened in 1975 by the Lions Club and operated by Mary Huxtable and Erma Bawden.

When the rent became too high, Alice Watson and Joy Hook arranged to move the shop to a site on the corner of Webb Street. After the centre got the final go-ahead the Op Shop moved to the old Squatter's Hut in Yarra Street to await its new home.

In the past, those involved with the running of the Op Shop have had to cope with poor shop space, but as Alice told the *Diary*, they have "al-



Service with a smile at the new Op shop. Inset: Alice Watson.

ways made do". Rising damp and visits from water rats have been among the impediments.

It is a different matter now however with the new shop

space. There is a window display right out of a 1950s Vogue (or in the 1950s vogue) and the shop is very organised. "It's hard work but we love it," said Alice, who emphasised

that the need for used items continues. "We'll take it all — paintings, suits, reasonable clothes, magazines, kitchenware and so forth," she said. "All good things are used."

The new-look St Stephen's

By BRUCE BENCE

The long-held hopes of the Anglican congregation at Warrandyte were fulfilled last month with the blessing of the extension and renovation of St Stephen's church in Tarooma Avenue.

The original church and hall were totally destroyed during the fires of Black Friday, 1939. The replacement church, designed by Mr Louis Williams ARAIA, was dedicated on November 3, 1940. Real foresight was shown as it was built to be easily extended.

Part of the land was officially reserved for public worship as early as 1869. The rest was leased from Chris Blair for an annual rental of 1 Pound 10 Shillings (\$3). Interestingly, the lease required "that the lessee will not remove or suffer to be removed any trees and will give due care to their preservation".

The extension was designed by local architect and *Diary* cartoonist Jock Macneish, and everyone is most impressed with Jock's work. The interior is light and spacious, the large windows

bringing the outside bush into the church, giving it a real Warrandyte atmosphere.

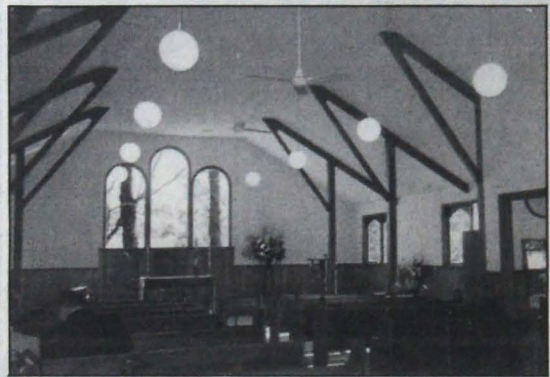
In what must be a minor Warrandyte miracle, the church was full before the starting time on Sunday, June 16 and there were no late arrivals.

The regional bishop, the Right Rev Robert Butters, knocked with his pastoral staff, the doors were opened, and the vicar, Father Russell Joyce, welcomed him. Jock Macneish handed the bishop the plans and drawings, a

representative of the builder handed him the keys and church warden John Pepper asked him to bless the extension and renovation.

Builder David Hobday, who grew up in Warrandyte, was interstate due to the death of his mother Jean Hobday.

At the conclusion of the service a bottle of champagne was broken over the belltower and those present were invited to join together in the parish hall for refreshments.



The renovated interior of St. Stephens.

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The candidates . . .

Warrandyte ratepayers go to the poll on August 3 for the annual council elections. When this edition of the Diary went to press, there were three declared candidates for Doncaster and Templestowe Council's Warrandyte Ward — sitting member Louise Joy, Daryl Cox (defeated by Mrs Joy last year) and Bob Cox. The Diary offered them space for policy statements. At press time, candidature for North Riding, in the Shire of Eltham, was not known.

Following the resignation of Rob Gell as a councillor for the Warrandyte Ward in 1990, I was subsequently elected in his place for a period of one year. I now seek your support for a further term, to pursue the important issues that have been initiated in the past 12 months.

Importantly, I have been able to work harmoniously with the other two Warrandyte Ward councillors. As a team, we endeavour to care for the unique communities of our ward, to improve their quality of life and to help solve their problems.

Our records of achievement in local affairs are established and proven.

Only recently I was involved in the dispute surrounding the Corriedale Drainage Scheme in Park Orchards where residents asked for and received a strong response from their councillors. Together we worked on a complex range of issues involving residents and council officers.

This level of consultation is vital in Warrandyte Ward where we have a diverse range of communities, from urban to rural.

I have been greatly motivated by the strong feelings of residents on issues that affect their quality of life and their natural environment. In our ward, I want to continue to support the preservation of the Green Wedge. Council's recent strategies reinforce that aim.

There are many other local issues and interests I wish to continue assisting. The preservation of pocket parks in East Doncaster, the strong interest and identity of the Park Orchards community in its One Hundred

Acres and Domeney Reserve, the work of the Hillcrest Association in Mitcham.

Donvale's Living and Learning Centre attracts a wide spectrum of residents and deserves my interest, as do the new community groups in the semi-rural areas of North Ringwood.

In Warrandyte itself there is a continuing need to maintain its bushland and semi-rural character as an amenity not only for visitors but also for the residents.

• LOUISE JOY

I want to give more attention to the fairness of funding community groups when council is pursuing a 'user-pays' policy. Council's attitude in terms of accommodation and operating costs for facilities for youth, historical groups, neighbourhood houses and advice bureaux needs further policy development.

As a councillor, and with my background in developing community services, I can continue my work as council's delegate to Doncare, the 808 Youth Resources Centre, the Disability Advisory Committee and most recently, the Municipal Health Plan Committee.

Overall, however, there is the paramount requirement for all councillors to act responsibly on behalf of their constituents.

There is a need to ensure that council's physical and financial resources are efficient and fairly applied in the broad community, and to ensure that council operates as an



efficient organisation with waste minimised.

There are added important responsibilities of caring for the aged and the disabled, catering for the special needs of families and protecting and enhancing our natural environments, both urban and rural.

I wish to continue acting on your behalf in these areas of responsibility and ask again for your support on August 3. Please feel free to telephone me on 844 3600 to discuss these or any other issues.

Loyalty to those thousands of residents who were almost many enough to vote me onto council last year is my main motivation for standing again in 1991.

I am also standing again because in this recession period it is more important than ever that the sitting councillors who have inflicted high rates upon us are replaced with fresh (lateral) thinking people who have a proven track record of economic management.

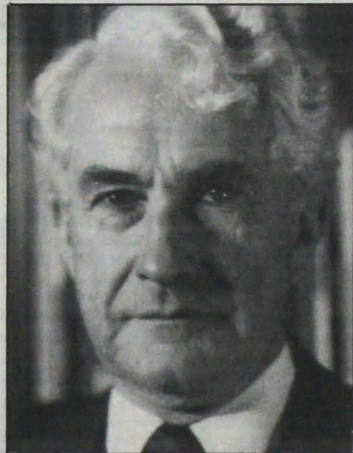
Victorians are paying excessively for their local government. It has been proven and publicised. The municipality of Doncaster and Templestowe is no exception. I raised this issue last year and said residents were also going to be inflicted with extra charges from the State Government. Unfortunately this has come to pass.

Even more regrettably for residents, our municipal rates are going to increase again this year. Yet the present councillors are continuing to spend our rate money on non-essentials like reserves, recreational facilities and buildings while we are still paying heavily for debt servicing. Furthermore, spending will be less on things that matter most, such as health, safety and roads.

I have old-fashioned values, like saving up for something before buying it so interest is avoided. Your rates could be reduced if council adopted this time-proven practice.

When it comes to economic management, the present Warrandyte Ward councillors do not even take costs into ac-

• DARYL COX



count. There are at least six questionable surveys being conducted in the Warrandyte Ward at the moment. They are the botanical, visual, zoological, archaeological, heritage and open space strategy studies, none of which contains any consideration for the economic effect of the findings on the community.

Apart from that, the cost to ratepayers

of the council staff involved to bring the surveys to completion will be hundreds of thousands of dollars.

I am as sensitive about the quality of life in our municipality as anybody else, and I certainly care for the environment, but not to the point where our living standards suffer or residents are caused hardship.

Traffic is part of our environment, yet our road system has not shown any sign of improvement. Daily the traffic through Warrandyte and Park Orchards increases because there has been no progress with either the Eastern Freeway or the Reynolds Road extension. The road surfaces in many places leave a lot to be desired. Accidents and pollution would be lessened if greater priority was given to the road "black spots". Ask any commuter who has to cope with the Stintons/Tindalls Road intersection, or the Milne/Warrandyte-Ringwood Road intersection.

In standing for council I am standing to represent all residents. I am not a single-issue candidate. In these difficult days I shall encourage self-reliance, initiative, private enterprise, progress and ventures that create jobs and opportunities.

I shall encourage incentive, incentives that will enthruse residents with co-operation rather than dissentation which, regrettably, the present councillors have allowed to prevail.

The Warrandyte Ward is a wonderful place to live, so let's keep our quality of life up and our council costs down. This you can do by voting for Daryl Cox.

"get my foot in the door" to ensure that Warrandyte is treated fairly in the 1992 valuations. The only way I can do this is to become a councillor. With your help I will do my best to achieve this.

Whilst you may feel that this is an obsession, and you may be right, I am interested and concerned with everything emanating from Council that affects Warrandyte Ward.

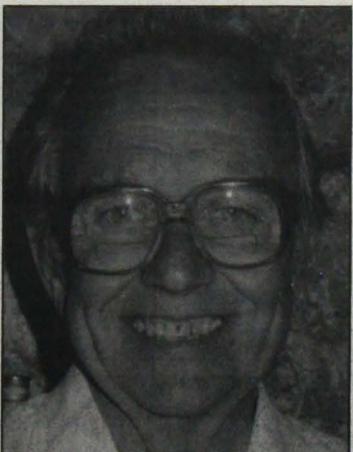
I am concerned about the blackberry problem and the failure of Council to resolve it.

I am particularly against the hiring of private security firms to patrol our streets to supplement the police. Community spirit, cooperation and neighbourhood watch would achieve more at a fraction of the cost.

Like most residents, the only land I have an interest in is the home site owned jointly with my wife. I have no ulterior motive in seeking election. I have been retired forcibly by Council simply because I am over 65 years old. I have plenty of energy, experience, the time and the desire to look after Warrandyte residents' interests as I have done in many aspects, behind the scenes, as Fire Prevention Officer.

I want to serve the residents of Warrandyte Ward and I know that if you choose me there will be frustrations. One Warrandyte Ward Councillor cannot carry a motion in Council on his/her own. If you don't choose me I will have many more restful nights, not having to worry about you — and the best garden in town.

• BOB COX



Bob Cox, 67, has lived in Brackenbury Street since 1971. A former wartime navigator, he retired from the permanent RAAF in 1974 with the rank of Wing Commander. In 1975 he was appointed Fire Prevention Officer by the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. He retired this year. He says:

Apart from my efforts over the last 16 years to take steps to keep Warrandyte Ward safe from fire I am possibly remembered best for my fight against the City Valuer during 1989 in regard to the overvaluation of Warrandyte properties.

Of the 38 appeals I fought on behalf of residents 21 were successful, resulting in an overall site valuation reduction of \$103,000. I considered this to be a sop and an appeal to the Appeals Tribunal in regard to all Warrandyte properties was made. This appeal was rejected on the grounds that the Tribunal was not empowered to hear it. The Tribunal unofficially advised me that as it appeared that the ratepayers of Warrandyte were paying a disproportionate amount of the cost of running the City the matter should be referred to the Valuer General. This aspect was referred to Mr Phil Honeywood, our State MP, who undertook to progress the matter. I await his advice.

As you may recall the Valuer responsible

for the inaccurate valuations resigned in April 1989. His successor conceded that errors had occurred and assured me that he would resolve the discrepancies in the 1992 valuations. Regrettably his assurances were worthless as he too has resigned and leaves this month.

As Freedom of Information procedures can't be used to obtain the necessary details to enable me to pursue this matter I must

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For further enquiries please phone enrolment officers:

Yarra View: Jenny Dawson **844 2899**

North Warrandyte: Janie Vagg **844 1457**

WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD IN THE

WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY CENTRE YARRA STREET, WARRANDYTE

AT 8.00 PM

WEDNESDAY, 7th AUGUST, 1991

ALL INTERESTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS INVITED TO ATTEND

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Young radio producers

Warrandyte Youth Services recently conducted a 13 week course in radio production. The course covered many facets of radio presentation and production and the energy level and enthusiasm of the participants was very high. In addition the young people were asked to participate in 3CR's annual radiothon during July, presenting and directing a midnight-to-dawn shift live to air. They were also involved in the production of a 'cartridge' advertisement for the radiothon. They made a guest appearance on the 'Media Moves' program, which looks at young people involved in media-related projects. The 'Airwaves' course was a pilot program for Warrandyte Youth Services and the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. Negotiations are underway for young people to gain access to 3INR (Inner North East Community Radio) and to be given the opportunity to present, produce and direct their own programs. Anyone interested in becoming involved should contact the co-ordinator, Agnes Fenech on 844 2985.

Pre-schools

Both our pre-schools north of the Yarra would welcome enquiries from parents interested in enrolling their children in 1992 and beyond. Parents should be aware that they don't need to live on that side of the river to be eligible. There will be some children missing out on a place at Tarroona Avenue kindergarten next year and spaces are available at both North Warrandyte and Yarra View kinders. They are situated in Research Road and most of their children move on to the Warrandyte Primary School. If you would like more information please phone the enrolment secretaries, Jenny Dawson (844 2899) for Yarra View and Janie Vagg (844 1457) for North Warrandyte.

Recycling

After a break of nearly two years the Apex Club of Warrandyte is pleased to announce the return of its monthly paper collection. Those familiar orange containers will be back at the Warrandyte football oval carpark on the first Sunday of every month for your newspapers, cardboard and other paper products. Apex members will be there during the morning to help unload. All monies raised by the collection go back to the community to fund various projects. Any enquiries call Darryl on 844 3215.

Revue

The North Warrandyte Fire Brigade will present 'Gone to Blazes', a night of fun and music on August 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10. Directed by Anita Baragwanath the evening includes a play 'If the Shoe Fits', written and directed



Conducted by JUDY GREEN

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

by Carol Cole. Proceedings start at 8pm sharp at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute. BYO basket supper and glasses. This is the brigade's major fund-raising event for the year and profits will help fit out their new fire vehicle before next summer. Bookings can be made on 844 1089.

Sale

On Sunday August 11, the Warrandyte Community Child Care Centre will be holding a garage sale at 2 Masonic Avenue. If you have anything you would like to donate, please drop it into the centre in the week prior to the sale. Profits will go to updating equipment at the centre. Further information from Pam or Jenny on 844 1205.

Advice

The Warrandyte Citizens Advice Bureau invites you to its Annual General Meeting on July 29 at 8pm at the Senior Citizens Centre in Tarroona Avenue. Speakers will include David Phillips on the bankruptcy act and Michael Hocking on registered liquidation. Further information from the bureau on 844 3082.

Graffiti

The churches of Warrandyte and Park Orchards have organised a dinner at St Anne's, Knees Road, Park Orchards on Friday, August 2 starting at 7 pm. Noel Buchanan will speak on graffiti gangs. Noel often rides the trains meeting the gang members and he is involved in counselling both members and their parents. For tickets contact Denis Wright on 876 1869 or Jill Howell on 844 3145.

Seniors

During June the Warrandyte Senior Citizens have enjoyed a film and luncheon at the Waverley Cinemas and have entertained residents at the Wattle Glen Nursing Home. On July 14 they are holding a mini-market at the centre in Tarroona Avenue commencing at 10am. Later in the month they have been invited to Frankston's senior citizens' centre. The annual general meeting of the club will be held at their centre on Thursday, August 3.

Further information concerning the club's activities can be obtained from the centre on 844 2437.

Youth

Warrandyte Youth Services, soon to be moving into its new premises in the community centre, is calling upon interested individuals who may be able to help by getting involved at a management level. They have a number of innovative programs already under way, such as radio production, job seekers and literacy and numeracy. Other projects planned include a youth rights forum and a canvas youth mural. Co-ordinator Agnes Fenech invites young people in the community to contribute ideas. Anyone interested can ring Agnes on 844 2985.

Ventilators

Local resident Anthony Giles-Peters is president of the newly-formed Australian Ventilator Users Network. The group provides counselling, self-help, lobbying and information gathering services for all users of mechanical ventilation. It seeks to assist people disabled by such problems as polio and post-polio syndrome, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis and sleep apnea. Information from Anthony on 844 2573.

Nursing mums

The Warrandyte group of the Nursing Mothers' Association holds regular coffee mornings and night meetings to discuss various topics of interest to mothers. They also provide a counselling service or just an opportunity to meet other mums. The next morning coffee is on Wednesday, July 24 at 10am at 22 Fossickers Way, Warrandyte. Any queries please contact Kristin on 431 1443.

Cake stall

The cake stall held by the Warrandyte Women's Hospital Auxiliary outside Harry Heath's on June 8 resulted in a profit of \$394.50. The auxiliary would like to thank all who contributed. The winner of the dinner was Mrs G. Burbridge. A further raffle of a box of groceries will be held outside Harry Heath's on August 2 and 3.

Alice

The Foote Street Youth Theatre will present 'Alice in Wonderland' at the Warrandyte High School theatre on August 15, 16, 17 and 18. The cast of 66 young performers (aged 20 and under) will promote the show with appearances in shopping centres. The Foote Street company, which has grown out of the Doncaster and Templestowe Youth Theatre, includes a theatre performing

company, the youth theatre and a touring community theatre. It also runs drama classes and workshops at both adult and junior levels. Information can be obtained from Ed Seppings on 846 1376.

Neighbours

Newly-located in our brand new community centre, Warrandyte Neighbourhood House has just issued its guide to term three courses and activities. Now that they have the room and facilities the House is excelling itself, offering a marvellous program of no fewer than 15 activities. They range from armchair travellers, through crafty cooking, garden design, jazz ballet-stretch and dance to a poets' corner, relaxation massage, yoga — and lots, lots more. Call in at the centre between 10am and 2pm on Tuesday or Wednesday, July 23 and 24, or phone them on 844 1839.

Workshops

Doncaster council, as part of their series of studies in the Green Wedge area east of Mullum Mullum Creek (see story elsewhere this issue) are conducting two workshops in September. The first is at St Anne's in Park Orchards on September 5 at 7.30pm, the second at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Monday, September 16 at 2pm. Further details next month.

Support

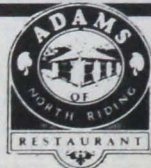
Supporters of Cr Louise Joy came from all over Warrandyte Ward to gather at the Mechanics' Institute on Saturday, June 1. They packed the hall, enjoyed a splendid array of local talent and expressed their backing for Louise in the forthcoming Doncaster and Templestowe council elections.

Ex-students

Calling all Warrandyte High School ex-students. Where are you? What are you doing? The school is establishing a record of past students and is hoping to organise a WHS reunion in 1992. They would like any past students to send them their addresses. If you know the whereabouts of any past students you may also be able to help. They hope to catch up on everyone. Beth Glasby or Greg Stewart can be contacted on 844 3300 or 844 2749.

Saddened

Many Warrandyte residents, especially members of the Women's Hospital Auxiliary, were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Jean Hobday at Palm Beach, Queensland, on June 12. The Hobdays were residents in Warrandyte for many years and Jean was a past treasurer of the auxiliary.



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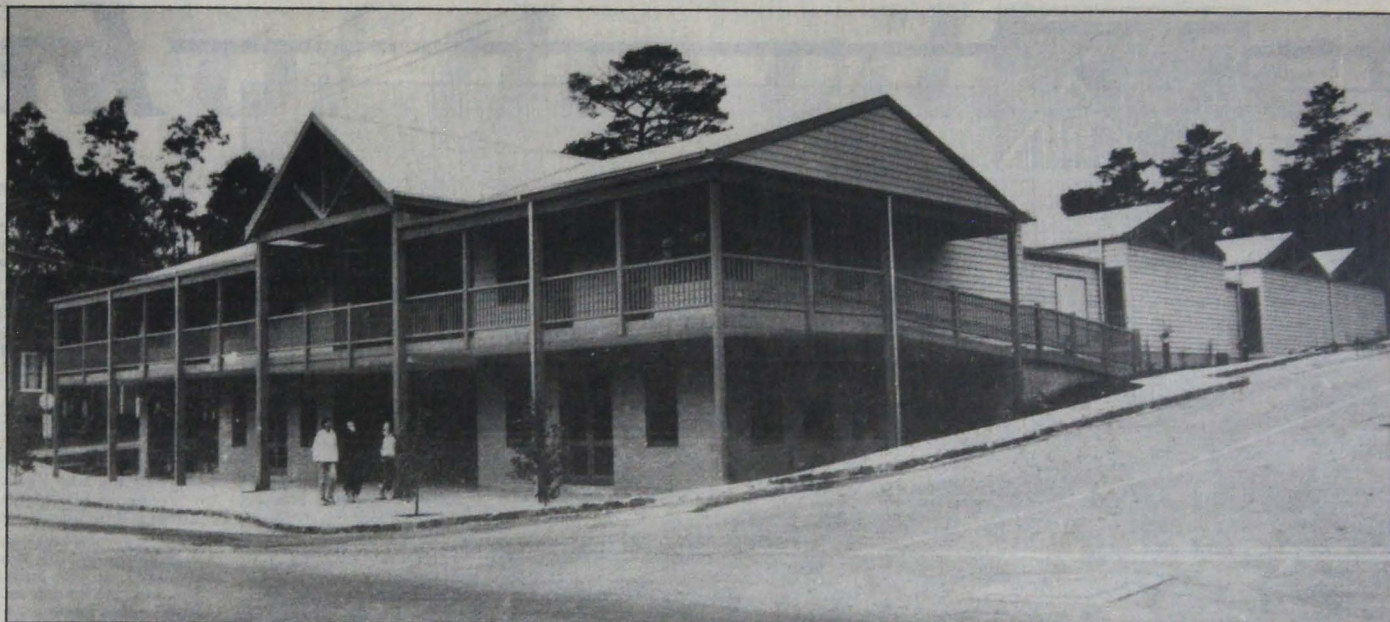
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This special place

These photographs by Ted Rotherham show how architects Whitford & Peck's beautiful building "at the real heart of Warrandyte" harmonises with both the streetscape and the natural environment. RIGHT: The Yarra Street frontage from the Webb Street corner. BELOW: The Mitchell Avenue corner. BELOW RIGHT: The courtyard at the rear of the building, showing something of Bev Hanson's landscape design.



Councils and town worked to build a success story

By CLIFF GREEN

We can thank the kids of Warrandyte for our new community centre. It happened at the end of March 1988 when Doncaster council decided to close the youth coffee shop on the old Getsons site because it was structurally unsafe.

The youngsters joined other Warrandyte folk lobbying council, prompting councillors to "consider options for the Getsons site" the land on which our beautiful centre now stands.

The story begins in 1980, when the land bounded by Yarra Street, Webb Street and Mitchell Avenue came on the market. It was intended for commercial development, but the Warrandyte community had other ideas.

One suggestion was to build a supermarket with a rooftop car-park. Describing it as "the real heart of Warrandyte" the Warrandyte Environment League moved at a public meeting that Doncaster council should acquire the land "for development as a village centre, serving the whole community".

The word was out that locals would oppose all attempts at commercial development and the land was twice passed in. Warrandyte Ward councillor John Scott supported the move, Eltham council said they'd help build the centre and Doncaster council purchased the site for the bargain price of \$200,000.

The Warrandyte Advisory Committee set up a sub-committee to work on the project under their chairman, local architect Peter Harkin. Council had pointed out that it could be ten years before finance was available for a new centre.

Meanwhile the existing buildings on the land were made available to local groups. The official opening of the temporary centre,



on Guy Fawkes night 1981, was the most spectacular public function Warrandyte has seen.

State Government decreed that this would be the last time fireworks would be available and WAC, with Lions and Apex, planned a grand celebration. As it turned out the local fire brigades gave the greatest assistance.

An errant catherine wheel broke loose and skittered into a bin of fireworks. The whole lot went up and a good time was had by all. We doubt if the official opening of the new centre this Saturday will be half as exciting.

Two years later WAC invited residents and groups to submit "suggestions and expressions of interest". They received one reply.

It was May 1987 before WAC and the *Diary* joined forces and began campaigning in earnest. Although council's ten year moratorium would soon expire, finance was still the problem. Perhaps community fundraising should be considered.

Martin Kyne headed up the project for WAC and people began discussing how the centre should look. It took architect and WAC member Kevin Parker to create a concept inspired by the old Warrandyte Hotel, formerly on the present site of the Mechanics' hall.

Inspiration for the style of the new centre can be seen in Kevin Parker's original concept.

Then came council's decision to close the youth coffee shop.

The community took up the challenge, lobbied hard and extracted a promise to "consider options" for the site. Among them was a suggestion that the entire Getson land should be commercially developed, with "an alternative site for a community centre".

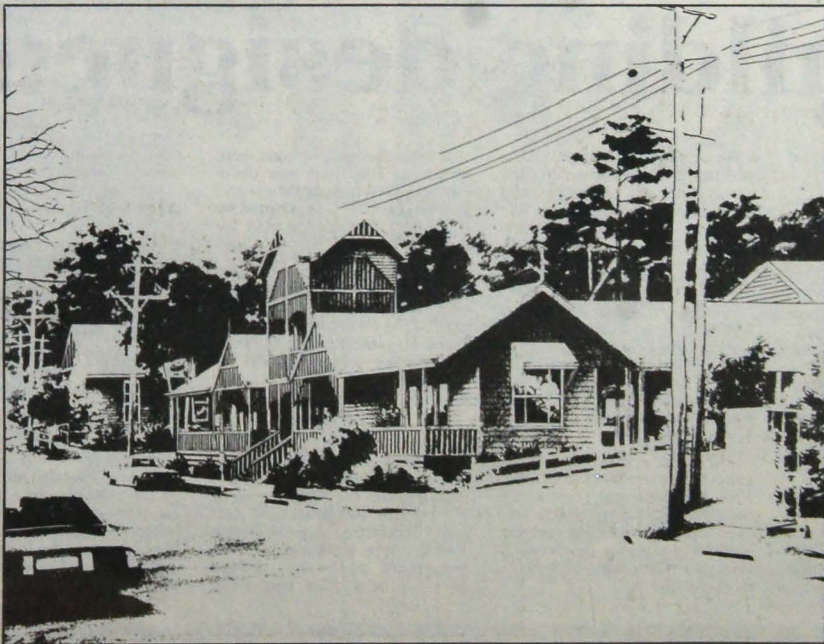
It didn't quite come to that, but some councillors were serious about financing the project with a big commercial component on the site. Cr Ken McKenzie revealed these fears in the *Diary*.

"I am staggered and bewildered to hear talk around council of six, eight or even 12 retail outlets proposed for this site," he said. "This land was purchased for a community centre in Warrandyte and it is imperative that the entire site be used solely for the benefit of the community."

By the end of 1988 council had agreed to build the centre, but with one third of the floorspace, at the rear, for commercial offices and possibly a restaurant. But no-one was interested in the commercial space so it was decided to proceed with the community complex.

Meanwhile the WAC group — which included Alan King and Glenn Martin — had been consulting with the community. The joint working party, chaired by Cr Vern Denford and including WAC, the City of Doncaster and Templestowe and the Shire of Eltham worked with the architects on the difficult, delicate and exciting task of bringing it all to fruition.

Everyone agrees that the best space in the centre has been reserved for Warrandyte Youth Services — the kids. And so it should be. They were the catalyst that finally made it all happen.



Complex designed to cater for all purposes

Our new community centre has been built for everyone. A wide variety of spaces are available for hire by groups, individuals and commercial organisations.

Almost any type of function — meetings, parties, receptions, even weddings — can be accommodated.

There are three multi-purpose rooms, each capable of seating 64 persons. Two of these rooms, which have highly-polished wooden floors suitable for dancing, can be opened into one large room with seating for 128 at tables of eight or 192 in meeting mode. A kitchen is located between the double and single rooms.

There is also a small meeting room which will seat 14 around a set of tables.

The large and dramatic foyer will be an ideal gathering place before receptions and meetings and can also be hired for art shows and exhibitions. The flagged outdoor courtyard will prove a pleasant adjunct to a function.

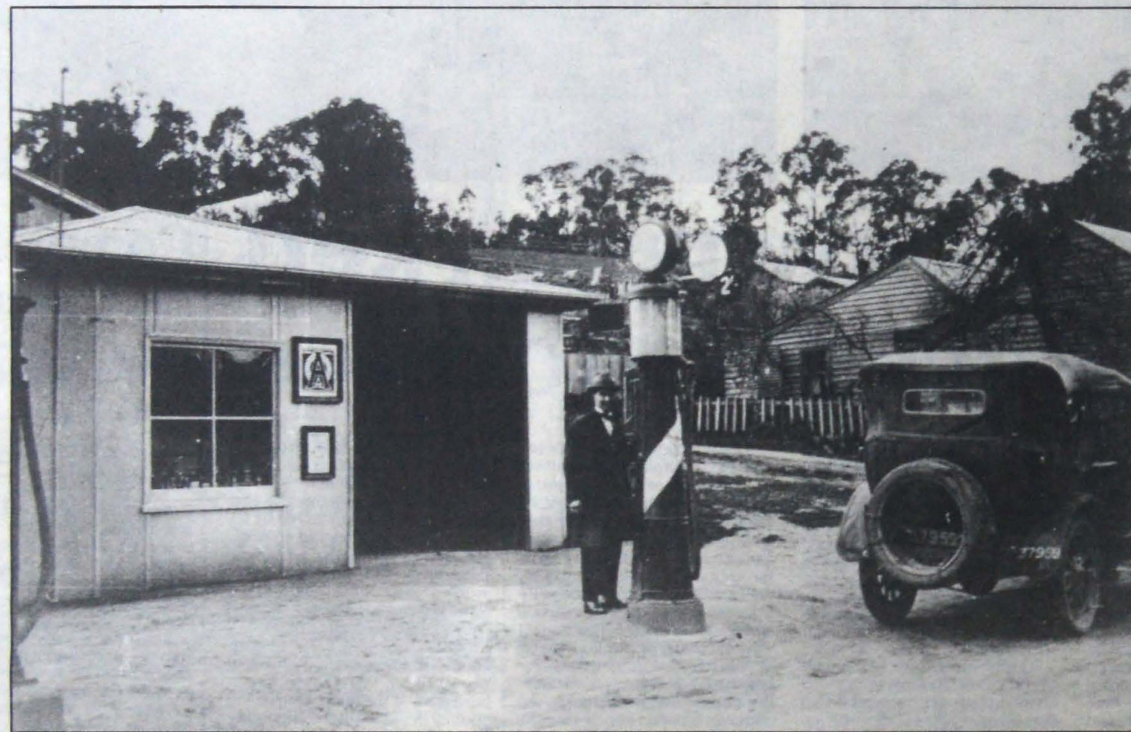
Special reduced rates are available to community groups. Some areas occupied by permanent groups may also be available by arrangement.

Everyone is welcome to stroll through the centre during the day, when it is usually open, or at night by arrangement. Enquiries on 844 4503, or after hours phone 844 2702.

COMMUNITY CENTRE OPENS



The Mitchell Avenue-Yarra Street corner. The community centre site was vacant at this time. Beyond is the Warrandyte Hotel, which burnt down in 1925. It helped inspire the design of the new centre.



Garage on the Webb Street-Yarra Street corner run by J.J. Moore and Len Retchford.

In the heart of the village

By BRUCE BENCE

Specimen Gully, the site of our new community centre, must have been a busy place following the discovery of gold here in 1851. The Surveyor General's map of Warrandyte, dated as early as October 30, 1856, shows the gully as "alluvial sinkings worked out".

The site remained crown land until October 28, 1937, when W.D. Moore became the first freehold owner. At that time the land was two separate allotments, divided by a drainage reserve.

A garage had been built on the site by W.D. Moore in 1923. He also built the shop and cafe known as the Central Tea Rooms which Miss A.C. Moore ran with her father Jack for 36 years.

J.J. Moore and Len Retchford operated a garage and hire car service from the site on the Webb Street corner. The large sign from the original garage is now

proudly displayed at the Hughes brothers' Holden museum in Bendigo.

Frank Nankivell bought the garage business in 1934. He later purchased the freehold from W.D. Moore.

Frank was a lieutenant in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, serving in the RMS (Rendering Mines Safe) division. He was awarded the MBE for his services. Mrs Nankivell ran the garage with the help of her daughter (Mrs Blair Smith) whilst Frank was away.

Alex Hughes started work at the garage in 1945. Gas producers were used to fuel cars during the period of petrol rationing which continued for several years after the war ended. Alex can remember lumping the bags of coke used in the gas producers. He continued working at the garage until 1966.

Another local lad who began his working life in the garage was Stan Jones, the famous racing driver.

Frank Nankivell sold the garage to Lloyd Holyoak, who ran a successful Holden dealership from the premises. He also began developing a four-wheel drive and accessory business.

Unable to expand the premises, he sold out to Getsons, who ultimately sold the property to the City of Doncaster and Templestowe.

Jack Moore's old weatherboard store, directly opposite the Grand Hotel in Yarra Street, was a local landmark and institution. According to artist and historian, the late Harry Hudson, "if the store was upright, then you were drunk".

The store burnt down early one foggy morning in 1961. The fog was so thick that people driving past failed to realise the old building had gone.

Jack Moore built a new store on the Specimen Gully land, at the corner of Yarra Street and Mitchell Avenue, directly opposite the side of

the Mechanics' Institute hall. Moving with the times, he established it as a self service grocery. After Jack's death it was used as a branch of the ES&A Bank for a number of years.

Aggie Moore lived on the premises behind the shop with her brothers Charlie and Harry. Harry never recovered from the treatment he received as a war prisoner of the Japanese. However he grew vegetables on land behind the buildings, doing all the work — including the heavy digging — by hand.

Following Doncaster council's purchase of the property in 1980, the buildings were used by the community for a number of years.

The Lions club opportunity shop, the historical society museum, the neighbourhood house, the Warrandyte co-op and the youth coffee shop all operated from the premises. The former grocery shop and bank was also used as a meeting room.



Aggie Moore's Central Tea Rooms in Yarra Street, midway between Webb Street and Mitchell Avenue.

A gift for a special place

This town holds a special place in the affections of artist Dale Marsh. Brisbane-born, he lived and worked in Warrandyte between 1970 and 1976. During this time he held his first major exhibitions. They were sell-out successes, and his future as a painter was secure.

When the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust approached Dale with the idea that he might like to paint a major work — a large mural for our proposed community centre — his reaction was immediate. He would love to do so, and the finished piece would be his gift to the town.

Then followed more than a year of sketches, designs, studies, consultations with the centre's architects and finally the painting of the mural itself.

Dale came to Warrandyte to research the project, then returned when the centre had been roofed to check how the light fell and to experience the ambience of the building.

The many months of work was done in the community arts centre on Bribe Island in Queensland, where Dale lives with his family. He enlisted the aid of a number of local student artists, who helped with the underpainting, but all the final overpainting and detailed finishing was done by Dale alone.

The Warrandyte festival was the starting point in Dale's search for a theme, but his ideas moved far beyond. Entitled 'Festival', the mural is, among many other things, a celebration of youth and

an impression of festival events around the world.

All costs associated with the work, including Dale's fares and materials, plus insurance and transport of the painting from Bribe Island to Warrandyte, have been met by the trust, publishers of the *Diary*.

Essentially, the work is in oils on canvas, but quite a large quantity of gold leaf has also been used. Dale Marsh trained at the Queensland National Gallery, Brisbane Technical College and RMIT. He is represented in the Queensland Gallery, the Benalla Regional Gallery, the BHP Collection, the Australian War Memorial and many other public, corpo-

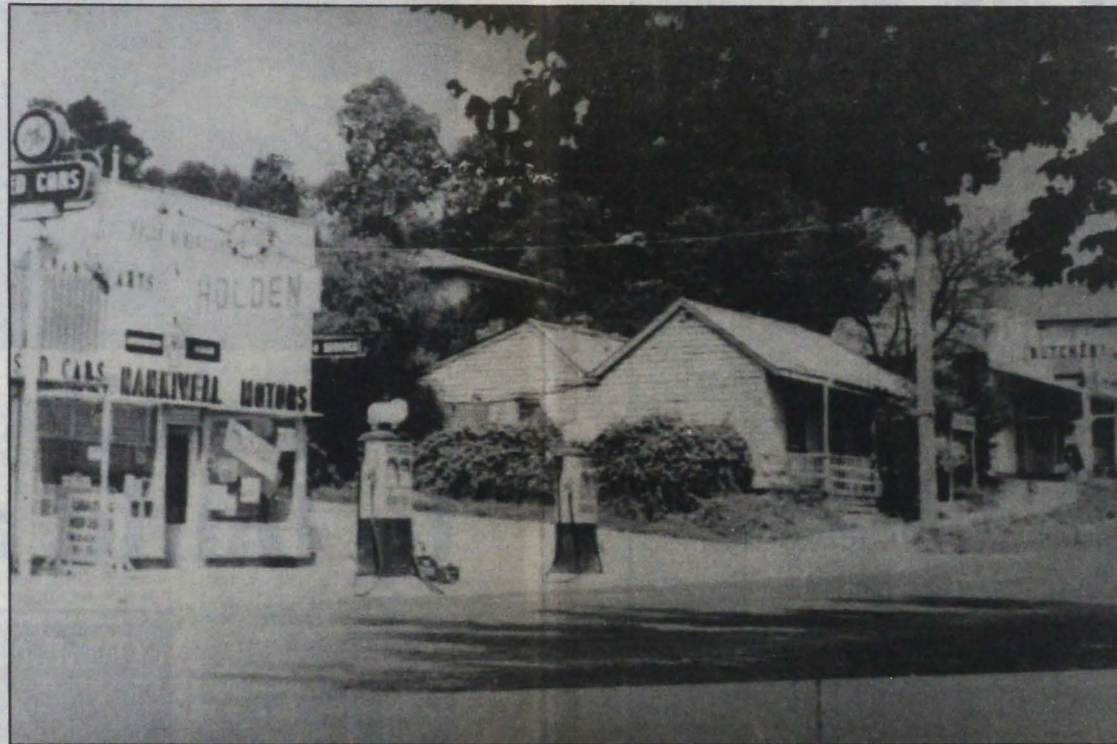
rate and private collections in Australia and beyond.

The Warrandyte mural is not his first. He has painted a very large outdoor mural at the entrance to Bribe Island and several major public commissions for new buildings in the city of Brisbane.

His painting, 'And spring still comes to Warrandyte' hangs in the royal collection in London.

In his book *The Way of the Painter* Dale wrote: "There is a good feeling about Warrandyte that is difficult to describe. For those who are part of the place it is a sense of belonging to something quite special".

CLIFF GREEN



The garage in later years, now Nankivell Motors and sporting a new facade.

Dale Marsh, whose mural 'Festival' is pictured at right.

A building designed for sharing

By KEN VIRTUE

The vision of a community centre integrated with the township of Warrandyte began with 'bubble diagrams' and concept drawings at an architects' firm in an old converted Albert Park house.

The men from Whitford and Peck Pty Ltd speak with obvious pride and enthusiasm about the building that is now a reality. "The whole project has gone extremely well," said project architect Alan Barford, "and we really did enjoy being part of the commitment of the joint working party."

The only major 'hiccup' was finding the numerous underground petrol tanks on the site and subsequently having to liaise with the EPA to dispose of tons of contaminated soil.

Firm's partner, Michael Peck, said that the work was completed on time and on budget and the builder performed well. "We were also delighted about the final landscape plan, modified with the very professional work of Bev Hanson," he said.

A brief history of the project highlights the architects' close working relationship with Doncaster council, prospective building users and the workers who built the structure which now looks 'so right' fronting Yarra Street.

After their appointment as architects to the project in October 1988, Whitford and Peck joined the working party, which had been working with both councils and the community developing a brief, the first stage towards a master plan.

Three schematic options were prepared. The third was developed to sketch design stage and in February 1989 was adopted by council as the master plan for the site.

In April 1989 a public meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute hall to present the sketch plan to the community. An application for planning approval from the Ministry of Planning and Environment was made at the same time.

Objection to the sketch designs related to the provision of carparking in Mitchell Avenue and the lack of childcare facilities in the centre. These matters were resolved by the deletion of car-parks in Mitchell Avenue (these spaces were incorporated with the carpark on the site) and the provision of a 'class two' child-

care centre in one of the multi-purpose rooms.

Michael Peck remembers the public meeting well. "We showed slides of many of the fine historic buildings in Warrandyte, and debated the design options at length."

The preferred option was to locate a two-level structure facing Yarra Street housing the daily activities of the multi-purpose groups with the multi-purpose rooms located along Webb Street.

The existing land form has been used to enable two of the multi-purpose rooms to open out to ground level and also provides 'at grade' entrances to both levels of the centre. The lower floor relates to Yarra Street footpath level and the upper floor to the ground level of the central level or public forum.

The building form created provides an outdoor area sheltered from the activity of Yarra Street and it is proposed to extend paving across Mitchell Avenue to connect with the Mechanics' Institute hall.

Carparking is provided at the rear of the site and is accessed via a ramp from Webb Street. The carpark provides 30 sealed spaces initially with a further area levelled for overflow parking.

In considering the impact of the structure on Yarra Street a two-level verandah building was believed to be in keeping with the streetscape scale and established historic patterns. The use of corrugated steel roofs, verandahs and weatherboard complement and reinforce the existing character of the town.

"We placed a lot of emphasis

on the 'pedestrian precinct' and public space available over the two levels," said Mr Peck.

Whitford and Peck first became involved in the project when they answered a council advertisement.

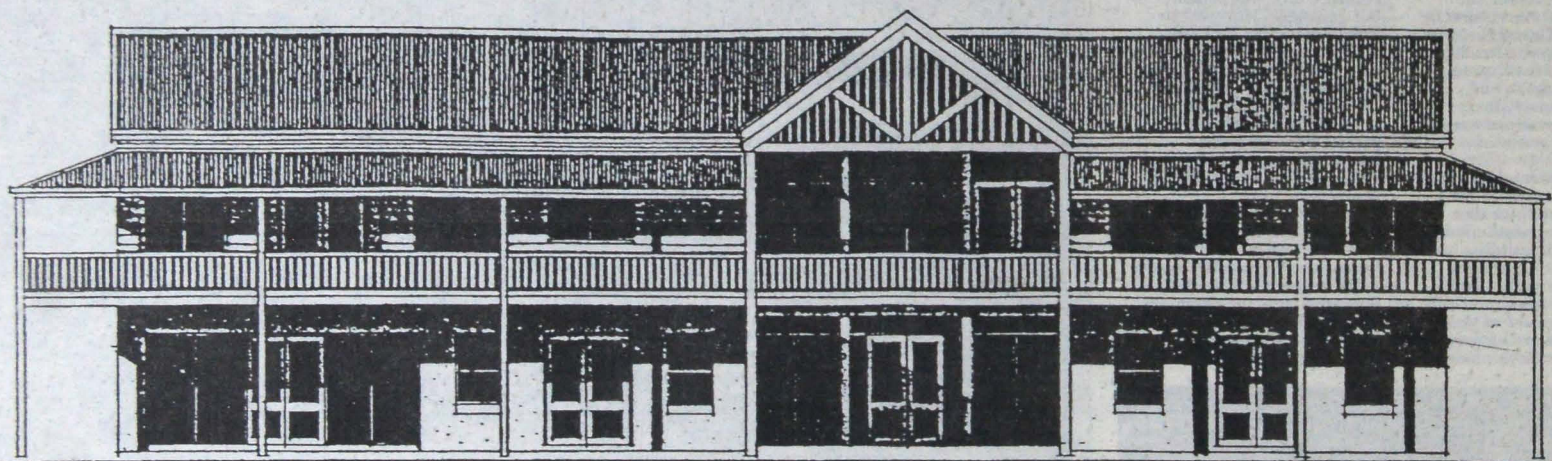
"We submitted an expression of interest, and were 'short-listed' with five other firms for interview," Mr Peck said. "We were very pleased to be chosen by the joint working party, as we had previously completed other community centres at Eltham, Mt Eliza and Melton."

Whitford and Peck began practising in 1962 with their early work concentrating on residences and local government buildings, as well as a multi-storied city building. From the 1970s they specialised in commercial architecture and community buildings.





THE CITY OF DONCASTER AND TEMPLESTOWE
WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY CENTRE



On behalf of the Council of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe I wish to congratulate the Warrandyte community on the opening of their new Warrandyte Community Centre.

This Council is proud to have been associated with this project both as the major sponsor and as a member of the Joint Working Party which developed the master plan for the redevelopment of the Community Centre.

Council's commitment to the project is represented by the overall contribution by Council of \$2.2 million towards the construction of the building and the associated road work and its very active membership of the various community consultations prior to the final design being agreed upon.

This Council also gratefully acknowledges the assistance and participation of the Shire of Eltham in the project.

Council congratulates the architects, Messrs Whitford and Peck and the builders, Norman Lothian Corporation Pty Ltd for providing such a fine building.

In addition, I personally would like to recognise the contribution of the various community groups who assisted with the community consultations.

I believe that these wide spread community consultations have resulted in a centre which will fulfil the wishes and desires of the Warrandyte community at large and of its various tenants.

This Community Centre will become the focal point of Warrandyte and we are proud to have played such an important part in the provision of this contribution to Warrandyte's future.

JOHN BRIDGE JP

MAYOR

CITY OF DONCASTER AND TEMPLESTOWE

Clod-hopping



THE WOODEN BRIDGE

By Eve Evans

I am afraid my furniture and packing cases cluttered up the passage for some time. I was too fascinated with our new surroundings, the sheer beauty of the ever-changing mountains and my dream of making a garden, to be bothered to unpack anything but the necessities, and that I did on wet winter days or at night by candlelight or kerosene lantern.

On the first evening my neighbors Watty and Patty walked over to bid us welcome. They brought a freshly baked loaf of bread and a pot of blackberry jam. I helped them thread their way past the clutter and into the kitchen, and pointing to the enormous black stove explained that I had no idea what to do with it. They promised to come over next day and show me its intricacies.

Before leaving they said I could expect a couple of visitors during the next day or so. Sure enough, the first one came the following morning.

There had been a light frost during the night, and the pale wintry sun was not yet warm enough to dissolve it. As I moved about the kitchen, making breakfast on a small primus stove, my eye caught a movement at the window. I looked to see fingers wiping away the frost.

Then the strangest little face peered in. I stood still a moment, hardly believing it could be human. It looked more like an elf or a gnome. Two rosy cheeks were framed in fluffy white hair. They looked like two shiny red winter apples wrapped in cotton wool. Bright blue eyes sparkled under bushy brows, and a small mouth widened in a toothless grin.

Well gnome or not, I plucked up courage and opened the door. The strangest little man stepped in. No more than four feet ten inches high and bandy-legged. Two short arms ended in gnarled hands, in each of which he held a dead rabbit.

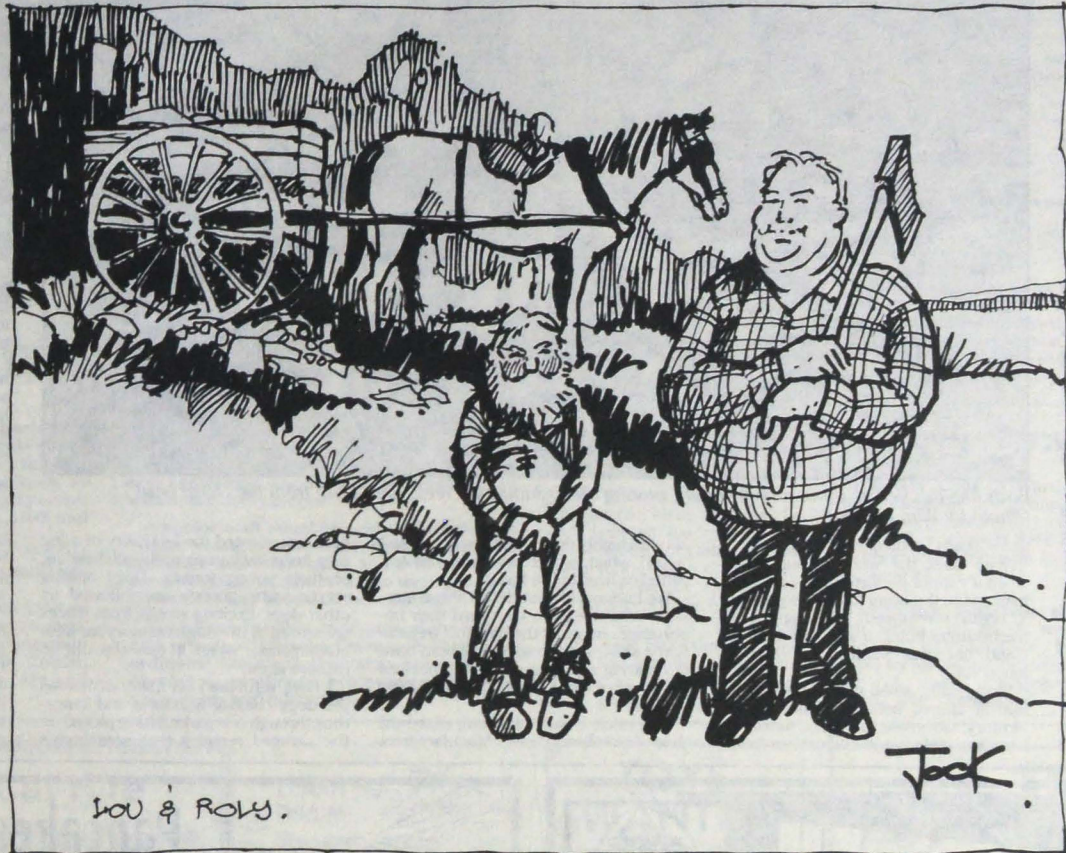
"Good day Mum, I'm Lou." He spoke in a thin reedy voice. "I 'eard you was here and brung a coup'la rabbits. It's not 'ard for me to bring a rabbit now and then. I traps, yer see." As he had no teeth and a minimum of words I could only vaguely gather what he was trying to tell me.

He picked his way along the cluttered passage to the kitchen and put the rabbits on the bench. He did not take the chair I offered but continued to stand, leaning his arms on the bench. The children had come at the sound of his voice. They sat on the floor staring, fascination mingling with apprehension.

"Thank you for the rabbits," I said. "Would you like some tea?" As he took the tea I asked if there were many rabbits.

"Undreds 'n' undreds." Pointing at the window he said, "There's gold 'n' rabbits 'n' me horse 'n' cart."

I looked out the window, not sure what I would see: A cart filled with gold? Certainly there were rabbits scuttling about as they did each morning. But nothing else.



LOU & ROLY.

Jack

Suddenly he said, "Silly people live in 'ouses." Then he eyed me suspiciously and abruptly changed the subject. Lifting the leg of his pants, he pointed to bracken leaves tied around his legs with bits of sacking and string. "For me rheum. The best cure." He brushed aside my sympathy: "They're orlright now." Then without more ado he walked out and away.

My kind neighbors came to show me how to deal with the stove a little later. I told them about Lou. "Oh yes," Watty said. "We saw him on the road. He's a strange character. But very kind."

"What did he mean when he pointed out the window and talked of gold and rabbits and silly people in houses?"

"That must have sounded crazy to you," Patty said. "I suppose, in a way, he is not quite the full shilling. He has been round these parts for many years. In the early days much gold was found in this district. Lou believes there is an undiscovered reef and spends his life looking for it."

"He lives by trapping and selling rabbits and their skins. He has a horse and cart, under which he sleeps, with sacking hung around it in bad weather. In summer he lies out under the stars."

They explained about the

stove, lit a fire, and told me it was extra large because water pipes ran through to supply hot water.

I had also been told that Roly, a wood cutter, would be sure to call. He must have seen the furniture vans passing because he lived in a mud hut halfway to the village. He came that first week.

I believe there had never been a name so appropriate. A huge man he literally rolled, from his head to his feet. He walked with a rolling gait. His several chins rolled like the waves on the edge of the seashore. He had no waist, his trousers hung precariously on his hips, and his enormous stomach rolled over the top of them.

He carried an axe over his shoulder. In fact, I hardly ever saw him without one. The hand that clutched the axe was thick and horny. He always wore a heavy grey flannel shirt and told me once that it kept out the cold in winter and the hot sun in summer.

But beneath that rugged exterior there dwelt a soul deeply appreciative of all things in nature. Like Lou, he had little or no education and had not the words to express himself easily; but his actions spoke volumes.

When there was a dead tree to be cut, and the purple sarsaparilla or the white wild clematis — 'old man's beard' — had climbed

around its trunk, I saw how tenderly he untwined the tendrils and rewound them around the trunk of a nearby living tree.

Long after the disastrous bush-fires it was difficult to distinguish a dead tree from a live one, until they put out new green shoots. But with a dirt-blackened thumbnail, Roly would score the bark, and if it still showed a sign of green beneath, he would leave the tree to recover. The great rough hands could be as gentle as any woman's when he tended a wounded animal or bird.

He lumbered up to me where I stood outside with the boys. "Morning' Missus, do yer need any wood cut?"

"You must be Roly," I replied. "There's still a lot of dead wood lying about, but I'd be glad if you will cut some for me when that's finished." I told him I had never used an axe but hoped to learn and that I was about to make some tea. "Come in and have a cup."

He pointed to Robert and Evan with their bandaged arms and legs. "What's wrong with the poor young-uns?" he asked.

I explained about the eczema and that I had to keep it covered or they would scratch and make it worse. Over several cups of strong black tea he told me he had a horse and cart and a few cows. But the cart was old and

he was saving up from the sale of calves to buy a new one. Didn't he make enough money from wood cutting to buy a new cart?

He explained that his mother had 15 children so had to be careful with money. She always put a bit by for this or that or something else. The 'bits' were never mixed up. So she never found herself short for something needed. She did not trust banks, but kept the money separately in tins on the mantle shelf, a label on each tin to say what it was for.

Roly followed her example. The money from the sale of calves was put by for a new cart, and what he earned from wood cutting was put by "To buy myself an acre or two of land, one of these days."

As he left he looked at the children again, and shook his head, saying, "Them poor young-uns," and for a long time, that was the way he referred to the children. I was always "Missus" to him and "Ma'am" to Lou.

Roly came again about two weeks later, leading a horse which was harnessed to a somewhat dilapidated cart. Behind the cart was tethered a small cow. He turned to me saying, "Them poor young-uns need fresh milk, I'll lend you this cow, Missus."

Adjoining the house block was a paddock that had once been an orchard. A wire fence ran across the width of it. He left the cow, Sally, loose in the paddock and took from his cart a bag of bran and one of chaff. "That's for feeding her," he said, and went to cut some wood.

I suppose it would never occur to Roly that an ignorant city dweller like me would have no idea how to milk a cow. In the late afternoon I took a bucket of feed in one hand, a billycan in the other, sat my children at a safe distance, and set off after Sally the cow.

She was standing quietly enough and I held the bucket up to her. She took a mouthful of feed. But as soon as I touched her teats she took off like a rocket, with me and my can and bucket after her. Each time I caught up with her she ran off, her teats swinging from side to side.

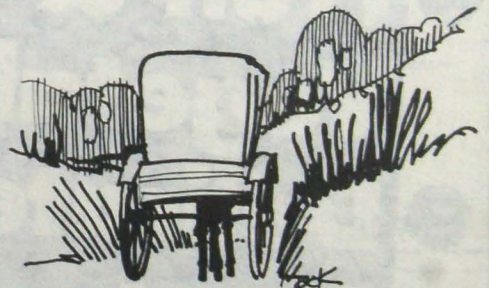
The orchard area had been ploughed at some time and the clay still rose in great clods and ridges, slithering now after rain. As I ran and jumped from one ridge to another after the elusive Sally I came to know the real meaning of the word "clod-hopping".

After some time, sweating and exhausted, I gave up and returned to the children. They were rocking with laughter. They thought the performance was especially for their benefit.

In the morning Roly came, having no doubt heard Sally's painful bellowing across the hills. He had brought some tools, and built a bail of rough bush timber. He put Sally in, placed a wooden box of food in front of her nose, and showed me what to do. He tied a length of rope round her neck so that I could catch her and lead her into the bail.

After some weeks, and with badly swollen wrists, I finally mastered the art of milking a cow.

To be continued.



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'Feral peril' threat to our forest

By GLEN JAMESON

Forests are living entities. Perhaps the biggest living thing on Earth. They function as all living organisms do, by a highly complex inter-reaction between many living components. Similarly, humans have a host of bacteria, fungus and microscopic animals that all make a living out of us and we from them.

The forest of Warrandyte is completely at the mercy of the behavior of human beings. The plants that we grow in our gardens ultimately affect the long term viability of the indigenous bush in the Warrandyte State Park and every other local reserve.

The animals we allow to use our yards have a direct impact on the future of all indigenous birds, mammals, reptiles and insects of the forest. Everything we do or allow to happen will decide the nature of the land around us.

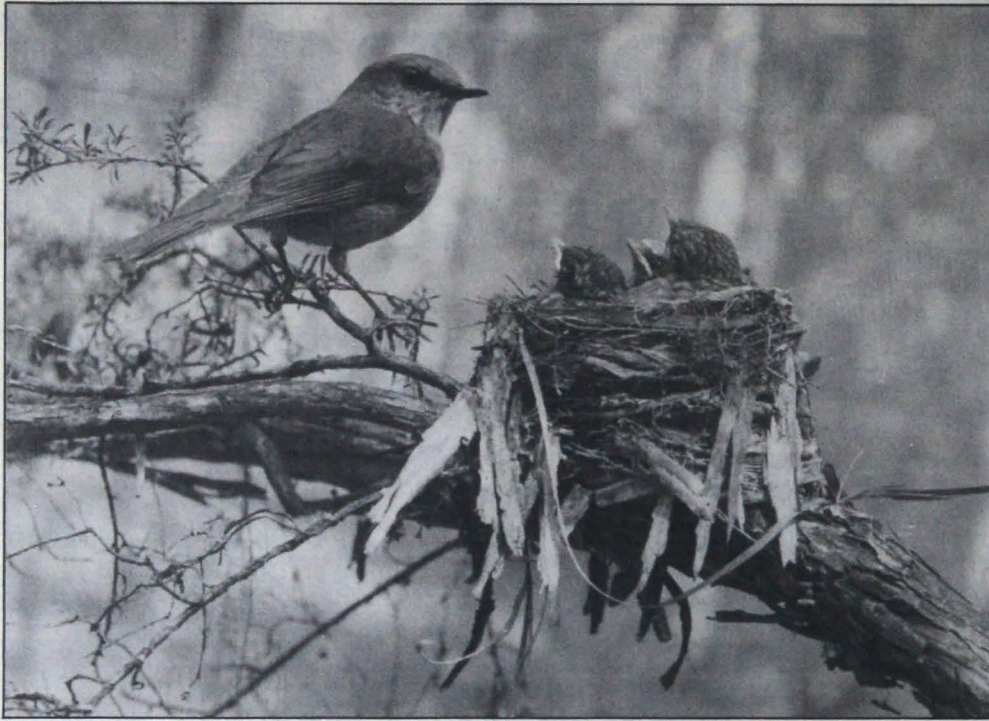
The fragmented nature of Warrandyte State Park means that it is vulnerable to any activity carried on around its boundary. Its linear nature means that breeding and refuge areas deep within the park are never far from the boundary.

Survival for many native animals is a precarious and difficult occupation. Invasion by pest plants and pest animals is constantly going on along the very long boundary. In many places these have penetrated deep into the heart of the bush and are beginning to tear the soul from the park forest.

Consider the population of antechinus that live on Fourth Hill. Antechinus are small mouse-size carnivorous mammals that hunt spiders, insects and lizards and eat fruits of indigenous shrubs.

A combination of fox, cat and dog could easily destroy the antechinus population and make them locally extinct. Fourth Hill is surrounded by roads, fences, houses, yards with cats and dogs. These act as barriers to stop antechinus moving back into the area to recolonize.

The antechinus has functions within the forest associated with its behavior and food gathering tasks. It keeps certain insect populations under control



Birds like this yellow robin and its family, nesting along Jumping Creek, are at risk from the "feral peril". (Photo by Wim Kerkhof.)

and spreads seeds of bushland fruits.

Who does the work of antechinus when it cannot perform its tasks? What happens to the living forest when one of its organs is removed? What happens to the health of humans when an organ or gland becomes imbalanced or non-functional?

Biologically, smell plays an essential role in animal behavior. Smells mark territory, advertise partners, warn off intruders and give identification. Animals

with highly developed sense of smell "read" when, where and who has travelled or lives in the forest.

We humans cannot detect these messages and therefore disregard their importance. Imagine though, the trepidation a small swamp wallaby would have in crossing a path or roadway that has the scent of some several hundred dogs upon it.

Dog urine is such a strong deterrent that Australian Paper Manufacturers

have investigated the feasibility of using it to keep kangaroos and wallabies out of their young forests. Dogs making scents within forests are followed by other dogs. Exciting smells from places are stored in the dog's memory for later investigation, when it can slip out to explore anew.

I have witnessed on many occasions pet dogs chasing wallabies and kangaroos through our parks. I have picked up the savaged remains that somebody's

pet has killed. It is not just an occasional event but a repetitive pattern and it destroys the refuge quality of our parks for our native animals.

The cat and fox problem across Australia is horrendous. Together with habitat alteration it is responsible for the demise of so many of our small native mammals.

Consider the introduced household snail which can only survive where introduced plants grow. Ordinarily the introduced snail cannot survive in our dry bushlands, but the populations we have bred up in our gardens are following the trail of exotic grasses that have also flowed from our garden into the bushlands.

Horses contribute considerably to the problems of pest plants through the weed seeds that grow from their manure once it is dropped into our bushland. Hard hooves destroy the soil profile, again opening it to the advance of weeds.

Feral birds such as the Indian mynah and starling are particularly destructive of the local native bird population. The blackbird who sweetly sings around our homes destroys valuable moss beds in the bush, exposing the ground to weed invasion. It also carries the seed of pest plants into the bush.

Consider the feral humans. In our own homes everything has a place, but the way we treat our bushlands and creeks is something else. We are so removed from the natural world that we are blind to the effects of our activities.

Lawn fertilizers choke the rivers, septic and sullage contaminates the creeks, lead from fishing sinkers, gunshot and car exhaust fumes poisons fish and fowl. Our garden plants destroy the delicate bush ecology. We erect barriers across our flowing land stopping animal movement and migration.

The largest part of the forest of Warrandyte lives in our backyard. There are many ways in which we can preserve its health and ecology and equally there are many ways in which we can destroy it forever. Pest plants and animals are a part of a real crisis going on in our own community and across the world.

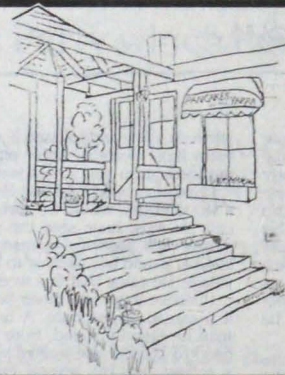
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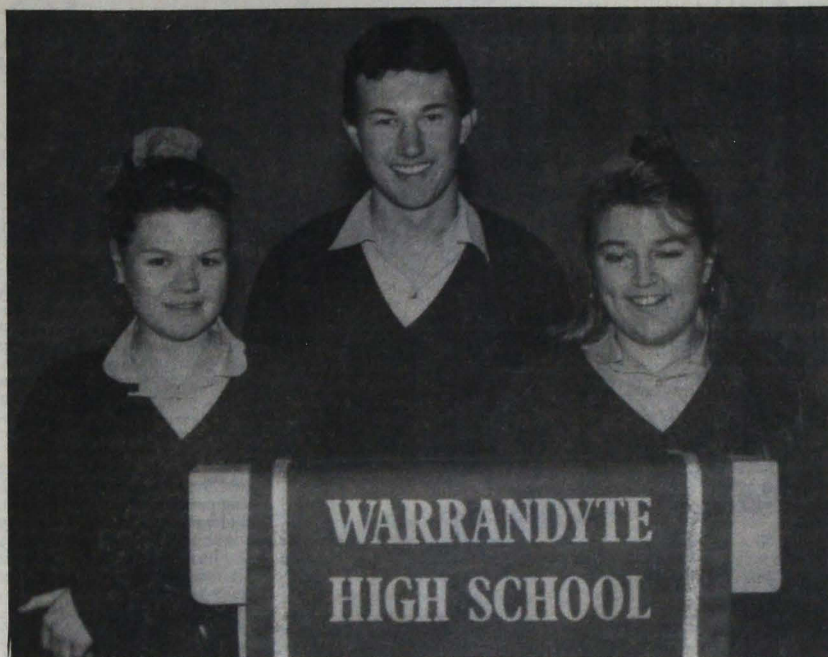
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Year 11 students Julie Byrne, left, Clinton Grybas and Simone Masenhelder at Warrandyte High's information night.

Life beyond sixth grade

Warrandyte High School recently hosted an information evening for current Grade 6 students and their parents. An expectant audience packed the school theatre, keen to learn about the opportunities and experiences Warrandyte High could offer in 1992 and beyond.

In planning the evening, the school decided to utilise its greatest asset to communicate this information to its students.

Key speakers were senior students Clinton Grybas (one of 70 outstanding young Australians selected to attend a recent leadership conference in Canberra), Georgina Colvin, Katherine Adcock, Simone Masenhelder and Julie Byrne.

Emma Symes presented a powerful performance of one of her VCE theatre studies projects and, under the baton of conductor Bob Egglestone, the school band entertained with some lively pieces.

A senior staff member said of the evening: "These young people were confident, highly articulate and informative and evoked an impressive image of students who were proud of themselves and proud of their school."

They were tangible examples of the values that principal, Michael Blake and Year 7 coordinator Christena Banitskas promoted all evening — excellence, achievement, success, self-esteem and fulfilment.

Use your school, says principal

Warrandyte High School principal Michael Blake has encouraged the community to make more use of the many first-class facilities available at the school.

As recent guest speaker of the Rotary Club of Warrandyte, he said facilities such as the theatre and arts and craft areas were presently under-utilised.

Mr Blake spoke to Rotarians and their wives on his job as principal and his role as both an educator and manager.

Although he was previously headmaster at Watsonia, he confided this had not fully prepared him for his promotion to Warrandyte, where the job involved not only education but such activities as barbecues, art shows, dinner dances and judging dog shows. Not included in the job brief, he said, was fundraiser, office manager, heating engineer, computer technician, maintenance engineer — and sometimes a teacher.

Mr Blake said he was pleased that new headmasters now had a training program introducing them into the problems of being a manager of hundreds of children and young adults.

The VCE was a major topic of his speech. Many parents, he said, believed the new system was reducing our children's education to the lowest common denominator, but he believed the reverse was actually happening.

The "bright kids" would perhaps benefit more than the average or less-enthusiastic students, he said, as students today were no longer spoonfed by the edu-

The Kakadu adventure

Thirty-nine students and four teachers from Warrandyte High School spent the July vacation exploring the outback attractions of Uluru, Devil's Marbles, Litchfield National Park and Kakadu.

The 18-day camp was organised by teacher Don Harrison, who said the students were encouraged to take jobs to raise their own money to pay for their

trip. That was done so it did not become an "elitist" camp for better-off students.

The camp provided a valuable educational experience in the social skills needed to live and work together in camping conditions as well as enabling students to see the exciting natural environments and meet people with different lifestyles.

catators and had to spend much more time researching and developing their assignments.

Mr Blake's concern was for the students actually taking the VCE now not having been trained to research their answers, while all new students in Year 7 were being schooled in the new system.

The principal saw the overall pursuit of excellence as the major goal for students attending the school and said staff were totally committed to the objective. He also reflected on the friendliness and involvement he had experienced from parents since he took up his position.

Rotary first off the mark

The Rotary Club of Warrandyte became the first group to use the new community centre facilities when it held its weekly meeting there on Tuesday, June 11.

Twenty-five Rotarians and their wives and guests were officially welcomed to the centre by Mr John Cox, secretary of the management group. He applauded the

work and involvement of many people and in particular praised the youth of Warrandyte, whose timely action finally resulted in the building of the new centre.

Mr Cox also thanked the Rotary Club for their donation of \$3333, which is being used for public area furnishings within the centre. The evening concluded with a guided tour of the new complex.

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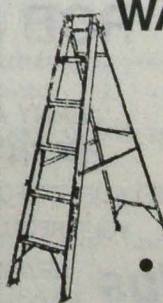
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Jewels of the winter

NATURE

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

I was surrounded by silent whiteness: isolated in a private lonely world, held in limbo by minute particles of water suspended in the atmosphere, known as white mist.

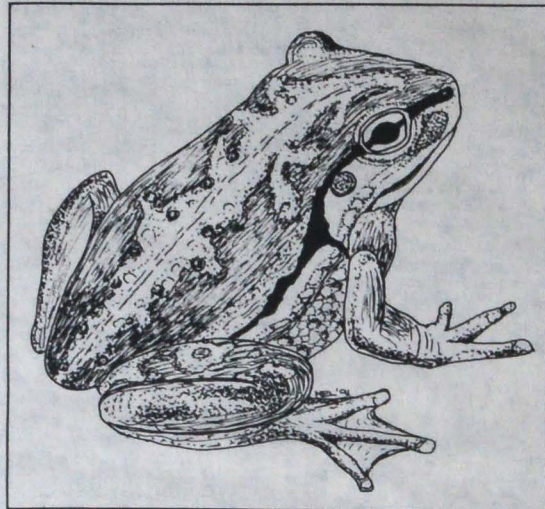
These mists, which hang like a shroud over the valley and hillsides, are typical of winter mornings in Warrandyte, when the temptation to remain in a warm bed is almost irresistible.

On this particular morning I left the comforts of home in search of fungi. Autumn this year and fungi have emerged later than usual, but now in midwinter there is little warmth retained in the ground for a good display.

Nevertheless, in the damper shady areas of the bush I saw a number of different toadstools, some with glistening sticky caps, others dry and powdery. One large orange toadstool especially interested me. Instead of gills under the cap it was spongy. This type is called a bolete.

Fungi are plants that do not contain the green pigment chlorophyll and therefore cannot make their own sugars. Instead they obtain their nourishment from dead and sometimes living plant material. In so doing they play an important role in returning nutrients to the soil.

In many parts of the world, including Australia, the frog population is declining. This is of grave concern because the presence of frogs is thought to indicate a healthy environment. The reasons for their decline are not fully known, but I pondered a few possibilities.



The green and golden Bell Frog

cooler weather. I watched as they strutted over the ground in search of insects and berries. Trusting, likeable birds, I envied them their powerful wings, but if they were mine I would fly north to where the sun radiates more warmth.

About this time every year, on bleak, grey days when the hours of daylight are at a premium, I become restless; like a migrating bird, I feel the urge to move on. Humans are not by nature nocturnal; it is a scientific fact that sunlight is essential for our physical and mental well-being.

As if on cue, a sudden burst of pale, watery sun pierced the thinning mist, transforming the bush, illuminating the delicate, lacy fronds of the maidenhair fern. Tiny droplets of water sparkled like sequins on the carpet of emerald moss.

On consideration, it would be best to stay in Warrandyte for the winter. At no other time is the bush in such green splendour. Mosses, lichens, fungi and ferns flourish in dim light and dampness. These small, primitive plants are the jewels of the season.

Wonders of the wild

Victoria's biggest wildflower display is on again soon at the Ringwood Convention Centre. The Melbourne Wildflower Show will be held on the weekend of August 10-11 and its theme is "Grow Beautiful - Grow Australia".

This year's show offers special treats, including native orchids and foliage displays, outdoor landscaping and flower arranging demonstrations.

There will also be book stalls, craft work and plant sales and a special display of the endangered bird, the helmeted honeyeater. And if you

think possums are a pest, be there between 2 and 4 pm either day to see and hear Yvonne Cowling change your mind.

Wildflower experts Roger and Gwen Elliott and Age gardening editor Anne Latrielle will be there to answer questions and give advice and 3LO's Saturday morning gardening session will be broadcast from the centre.

The hours are nine to five. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 concession. Children under 12 will be admitted free - and will take home a complimentary plant.

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Shopping for an identity

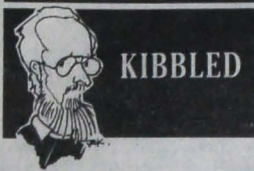
The sawdust may be an unaccustomed nuisance for ladies in high heels, but as I wantonly kicked small mountains of it, it brought back memories of the butcher's shops of my youth. Instantly an enjoyable effect was created.

The meat safe complete with flywire and scrubbed pine, the old photographs and the hand-written signs added to the memories. All this came to life with Rob Holbery, the friendly butcher, who took pains to tell me, not only of the shop and his pride in its history, but also about how he cuts the meat and the quality he insists upon. I was rapt!

I returned the following day to see if I had been overly romantic. I hadn't. The care he had taken to create an atmosphere, the attention to detail and the service given had made my shopping a pleasure, not an endurance.

I began thinking about the shops I use in Warrandyte and why. I am a creature of habit and tend to patronise certain shops. But why did I select them in the first place?

Convenience and price, not aesthetics, led me to Harry's. But I am drawn to the personalities, quality or atmosphere of the West End fruit shop, the milk bars in eastern and central War-



randy and Peter Maher's grog shop. Understandably, my relatives travel kilometres to indulge themselves at the Bridge Gallery.

There are many other shops that have their respective appeal. How wonderful it would be if we could bunch all these shops and call that Warrandyte Village.

Maling Road, South Yarra, Beechworth and Sandringham have identifiable atmospheres but what of Warrandyte? At the moment we have Siberian regions that are as appealing as Hypol on ice-cream. Shops whose facades are anything but sympathetic with the environment or more importantly with the ambience.

If by geography, nature and available land, the shopping areas need to be spread through the township, why is it compulsory for them to be developed with as little attention to stylistic uni-

formity as possible? Variety may be the spice of life but in Warrandyte's case it has resulted in an unpalatable curry.

Residents are attracted to Warrandyte for many reasons. They love the bush, their relatives live in a neighbouring suburb, they work nearby or they believed there was a community feeling in this suburb. Fortunately there still is, but inexorably it is being eroded by encroaching housing estates and the diverse nature of our shopping areas.

If our sense of community is to continue, we need to maintain the integrity of Warrandyte.

Perhaps our only hope of doing this is to rely on the tourist dollar. When they stop arriving we will have lost. Why waste a Sunday's drive visiting an amorphous replica of their own suburb? If they can't see any difference between their own utilitarian shopping drag and ours, how much of a drawcard will the Yarra be?

That's why I think we need to visit more of our local shops like the central butcher's to see what they have to offer as lessons.

The new community centre links well with the Mechanics' Institute hall, Sue Jones' chemist shop, the bakery and Folkart

work well. But after that we run into architectural and, I would argue, survival trouble.

The rapid turnover of occupants indicates that retail shop-keeping in Warrandyte is not the fast path to becoming a millionaire. If residents prefer to visit The Pines, Shoppingtown or Ringwood for their major purchases, it seems to me that all Warrandyte can do is what it does best; develop its idiosyncratic tourist potential.

I suggest that the preservation of the Warrandyte we once knew and loved will only occur by developing its potential to attract people, not just at the weekend, but all through the week because of its "quaintness" its "quality" and its friendly "atmospheric" shops.

Shops painted a similar color? No billboards? Quaint "olde" exteriors? Shopkeepers in period costume? I'm not sure.

But I am rapidly coming to the conclusion that unless we replace "individual - do - as - you - will" with "do - what - is - best - for - the - survival - of - Warrandyte" shops like Rob Holbery's butcher's shop will be the last valiant glimmerings of a rapidly extinguishing candle.

ROGER KIBELL



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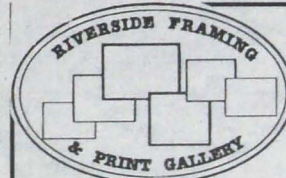
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Giant-killing Bloods are kicking on!

Warrandyte's thrust towards a berth in the East-ern Districts Football League finals has gathered momentum with consecutive wins over highly-rated Upper Ferntree Gully and Kilsyth.

The victories, which followed a narrow defeat by third division ladder leaders Fair Park, left the Bloods only a game adrift of the four, with seven wins and six losses and five rounds to go.

If they are to make the finals it will be at the expense of Kilsyth, who have the harder run home. Kilsyth meet the three top teams before the finals; Warrandyte play only one side above them on the ladder — Lilydale away in the last round.

Warrandyte downed second-placed Upper Ferntree Gully by five points in a thriller at home on June 29 and followed it up with a gutsy 21-point win in the Kilsyth mud a week later.

SPORT

The Kilsyth game was a real test of character and the Bloods came through it magnificently. Final score was 6.14 (50) to 4.5 (29).

It was clear from the outset that goals were going to be hard to come by in the conditions, but Dale Vitiritti drew first blood for Warrandyte with a goal after four minutes.

Warrandyte had the better of the early action, but the home team goaled against the pattern of play. It was the signal for Kilsyth to lift their game, and the Bloods defence came under plenty of pressure.

Joey Hassall, on a half-back flank, set the example for his teammates and Warrandyte held firm to take a one-point lead (1.2 to 1.1) into the second quarter.

The Bloods set up their victory in this term, outscoring Kilsyth 3.7 to 2.1 and locking the ball in their forward line. Schoolboy star Trent Ferguson was under notice up forward and Warrandyte were winning the battle of the packs.

It was not pretty football — mighty little science but a mighty lot of dash, as the bush bard would have said — but Warrandyte were tackling fiercely and refusing to concede an easy kick or handpass.

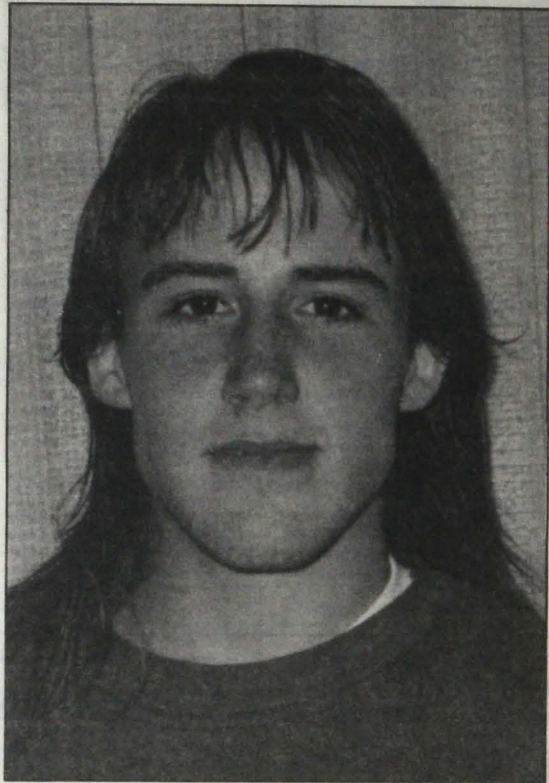
The third quarter produced more of the same — economical, uncompromising football, with goals at a premium. The term produced just one goal — to Warrandyte, after 17 minutes, when Blair Moxom cleverly played on after a free kick.

Warrandyte continued to team well and were still winning more than their fair share of the ball in the packs. Kimberley O'Connor was a tower of strength in the ruck and was getting support from young Ashley Grybas, recently promoted from the reserves.

Kilsyth's first score for the quarter — a point — came at the 26-minute mark, and the Bloods went into the last change with a 21-point advantage.

It looked a winning lead in the conditions, but captain-coach David Purcell assured his players the game was far from over.

Warrandyte put their seal on the match six minutes into the last quarter when Stuart McLean snapped a goal. Kilsyth regrouped for one last desperate effort and a goal with less than



Trent Ferguson — one of Bloods' best.

10 minutes remaining gave them just a flicker of hope. But Warrandyte steadied, added a couple of points and were still in attack at the siren.

"It was a total team effort," Warrandyte Football Club president Colin Bawden said after the match. "Obviously, we hope to sneak into the four. Our job now is simply to keep on winning, and

we want all our supporters to get right behind us."

The Bloods' best were Ferguson, Hassall, Purcell, Vitiritti and O'Connor.

• The club will hold a special fund-raising night at the pavilion on Saturday July 13. There will be plenty of attractions and all members and supporters are urged to attend.

Creekmen take the big one

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Andersons Creek has won Warrandyte Basketball Club's midweek men's competition for the first time, defeating Makeshift in the grand final.

Before a full house at the high school, Andersons Creek led from the start, despite having three players fouled out of the game.

Chris McIntosh piled in 25 points for Makeshift but that was not enough as Andersons Creek, led by Damien Thwaites with 16, hung on for a 52-43 win.

It was the greater experience of Andersons Creek down the stretch that won them the match.

The Division 2 grand final was a thriller, with Warrandyte edging out the Plastics by three points. Matthew Vincent starred for Warrandyte, scoring 29 points in a superb performance.

The Plastics, who won the Division 2 title last year, had a chance to force the match into overtime, but Warren Spargo's shot was short and Warrandyte snatched it 34-31 after trailing 15-18 at half-time.

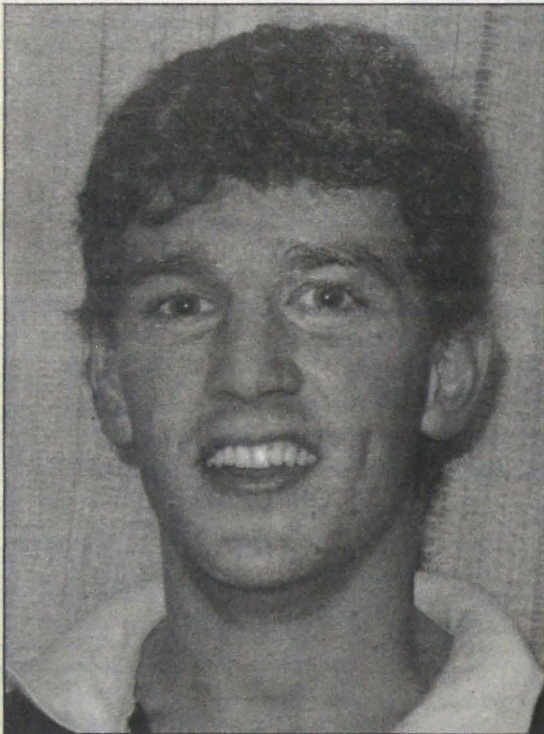
It rounded off a very good season for the midweek competition, with a vast improvement in the standard of play. There will be a change of format next season, with two competitions running — a non-competitive over-35 section as well as an open section.

During the Queen's birthday long weekend last month, the Warrandyte club sent four boys' teams down to compete in the Dandenong tournament. All played exceptionally well, losing just four games between them.

Because of the cut-throat nature of tournament, none of the Warrandyte teams made it through to the grand final.

The under-18s made the semi-final round after having three matches decided by three points or less. They lost 21-27 to Sale in the semi. The under-16s were unbeaten but did not qualify because they played a draw with Dandenong. They defeated another Dandenong team 103-19.

Warrandytes' under-14s won every game except their last and the under-12s won two, drew one and lost one.



Joey Hassall — a star in defence.

Cricket premiers feted

The premiership performance of Warrandyte Cricket Club's second eleven was recognised by Doncaster and Templestowe City Council this month.

The mayor, councillor John Bridge, presented captain Brett Kline and his team with certificates in recognition of their outstanding achievement in taking the Chandler Shield seconds pennant.

Cr Bridge made the presentations at a special ceremony in the council chamber after a dinner for the players with councillors and council officers.

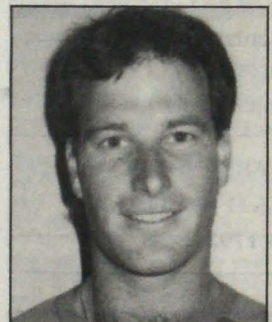
Warrandyte Cricket Club pres-

ident Mark Davis said that despite the loss of one or two players to higher competition the club was looking forward to a stronger showing in all grades in the 1991-92 season.

"The seconds have shown us all what can be done with a bit of the old 'G and D', and if the rest of the sides follow their example, we can all look forward to a much better season," he said.

Warrandyte showed considerable improvement under new captain-coach John Sharman last season, with four of the six senior sides making the RDCA finals.

Training for the new season will start next month.



Brett Kline

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