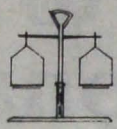


GOLDFIELDS PLAZA



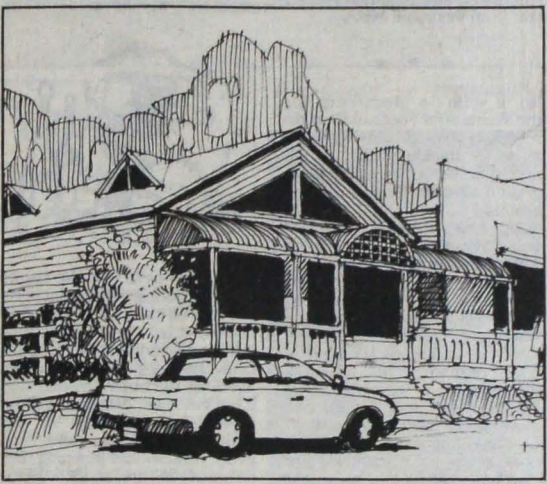
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No. 224, August 1991

Shop row re-opens



Our artist's impression of the proposed re-vamped butcher's shop.

By DAVID WYMAN

The controversial issue of more shops for Warrandyte has re-surfaced in recent weeks.

The building of seven new shops beside the Mechanics' Institute is presently before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, and new premises are planned for land beside the Claypot Gallery.

However, a proposal to redevelop the butcher's shop in the central shopping centre is causing residents most concern.

A council application has been made to turn the village butchery — which has operated continuously for over 88 years — into two shops, with a new frontage and roof.

The proposal by the owners involves extending the rear by about nine metres, to make two long narrow shops, each about four metres wide, with new shop-

front and doors. A new 'bullnose' verandah, timber posts and balustrade are proposed, with new access steps to the road.

The move would destroy the existing butcher's facilities, which were installed with the advent of refrigeration around 1927.

The shop was established in 1890 and is certainly one of Victoria's oldest operating butcher shops. The current butcher, Mr Rob Holberry, has added appropriate signwriting and fittings to the shop and has been building up a clientele for several months.

Plans for the proposed redevelopment show two shops with lettable space of 75.4 and 72 square metres with six parking spaces at the rear.

A number of changes have been made to the building during its lifetime. The east side was once a haberdashery shop, and the western side became a butcher's shop after the building was transferred to the site, apparently from Kangaroo Ground.

Bush timbers and wooden shingles are still in place on the roof section next to the licensed grocer's store.

Mr Frank Sloan, who lives in Webb Street immediately beyond the shop, owned and operated the butchery for many years. He recalled that originally the butchers rode to Box Hill to pick up their animals.

"They would then drive them back to Warrandyte. The animals were held in a paddock where we now live before being slaughtered on the block opposite, the site now of the quarry disaster cottages," he said.

A petition objecting to the proposal is circulating around the town.

Another shop, next to the Clay Pot Gallery at the north-east end of the town, may be built if council approves plans and parking requirements are satisfied. The owner of the land, a Warrandyte resident, has applied for a plan-

ning permit to build a shop with a verandah.

Meanwhile, Doncaster and Templestowe council is awaiting the findings of an appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, challenging council's decision to refuse a permit for seven shops on land in Yarra Street beside the Mechanics' Institute hall.

Council rejected the proposal for the shops for several reasons, including overdevelopment of the site, traffic safety problems in Yarra Street, Mitchell Avenue and adjoining streets, and loss of privacy for nearby residents.

Other concerns, such as the oversupply of shops in the town, and that it is "contrary to the orderly and proper planning of the Warrandyte township" were raised by residents and council.

Council then proposed that the land be rezoned from business to Warrandyte Residential zone. The owner subsequently appealed to the AAT against council's decision.

Louise wins in close call



Cr Louise Joy

Sitting councillor Louise Joy was returned in the Warrandyte Ward of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe elections earlier this month, defeating her second-time opponent Daryl Cox on preferences.

Cr Joy, of Warrandyte, stood on her record. She pledged to continue defending the Green Wedge, working for social welfare issues

and improving communication between citizens and council.

Daryl Cox, president of the Park Orchards Landowners Association, campaigned on a pro-freeway extension, financial management platform and managed to attract the highest primary vote, defeating Mrs Joy at every booth except Warrandyte Primary School.

The third candidate was Bob Cox, a retired council official, well known in Warrandyte for his successful campaigning for fairer property valuation and rate reform.

Bob Cox's preferences flowed strongly to Mrs Joy, ensuring her victory. Final figures after distribution of preferences were: Louise Joy, 6743; Daryl Cox, 6358.

This was Daryl Cox's third attempt to be elected to Doncaster council. He stood against Val Polley in 1989 and was soundly defeated. He came much closer last year when he opposed Mrs Joy for the first time. The difference then was 354 votes. This year it was 385 votes.

Across the river in the North Riding of the Shire of Eltham, Cr Gill Aussems was convincingly defeated by conservationist Bill Penrose. Final results were: Penrose, 3953; Aussems, 2617.



We take council elections very seriously in Warrandyte. Veronica (1) and Claire Bence (3) of Yarra Street braved last month's wintry weather helping letterbox leaflets. (Photo by Jan Tindale)

CYRIL BY PAUL W.




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● Editorial and advertising copy closes last Friday of each month

Shire of Eltham
 Planning and Environment Act 1987
ELTHAM PLANNING SCHEME
Notice of Approval of Amendment
Amendment L21

The Minister for Planning & Housing has approved Amendment L21 to the Eltham Planning Scheme.
 The amendment came into operation on 10 July, 1991.
 The amendment permits Crown Allotment 4E, Cowden Road, Warrandyte to be subdivided into 3 lots. The minimum lot size would be 1 hectare. The amendment will help to protect a nearby wedge tailed eagle nesting site.
 A copy of the amendment can be inspected, free of charge, during office hours, at the offices of the Shire of Eltham, 895 Main Road, Eltham and at the Department of Planning & Housing, 477 Collins Street, Melbourne.

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Here's cheers to council elections!

IN RED & WHITE

Bob Cox didn't win Warrandyte Ward in the council election on August 3 — but he thoroughly enjoyed his couple of weeks on the campaign trail. He particularly enjoyed the phone call from a lady who introduced herself and began to discuss a range of things which she considered to be of local governmental significance. After many minutes, Bob felt obliged to interrupt. "Look," he said, "I've got a glass of beer going flat. Do you mind if I fetch it?" Did she mind? Not at all. "Oh, while you're getting your beer, I'll get my glass of white wine," she said. Respective drinks collected, the resolution of civic problems continued.

northern half of his brand-new \$200 tracksuit before a working bee at the newly-located Op Shop and how one of the serving ladies managed to flog it for \$2. An appeal in this column produced quick results. The Puma part has been returned, Peter's looking a million dollars again and if that doesn't restore any faith you'd lost in human nature, you're an incurable cynic.

Greg and his hairdresser know for sure. Another line of thought at the local footy club is that his eggshell crewcut was inspired by sympathy for former president Kevin McLean. Or was it Jack Barr and Kevin Garrick, two very vocal supporters of whom we see too little these days?



No, it wasn't a premiership for the Warrandyte Football Club reserves, but you'd have been forgiven for thinking so. They gathered in the centre of the local ground after the August 3 game against Mt Evelyn, hugged, slapped backs, converged on the four-gallon drum of tinnies some appreciative, caring soul had arranged for them, and sang the club song with unprecedented gusto. They had just won their first game of the season. Gee, they cut it fine — the season ended next week. True followers of form were, however, prepared for the result. The Bloods had drawn with Ferntree Gully at their previous start. It turned out to be quite a day for Warrandyte. For the first time this season, the under-18s, reserves and seniors all won.



Anne Drew says yes, she knows Diary cartoonist Jock Macneish is a man of many talents, but tell him he should leave endurance cycling to enduring cyclists. Ms Drew saw Jock on the Research Road hill the other day and says it reminded her of something out of one of his cartoons. "He was pedalling uphill," she says, "and every muscle was straining. But he wasn't moving an inch. Worst case of wheel wobble I've ever seen!" Jock says not to worry, Anne, his cycling aspirations do not extend to next year's Tour De France.

It has come to our attention that Joey Hassall, who regularly performs heroic deeds on the half-back flank for Warrandyte, has a great fan up north in rugby country. His aunty, Nanette Bradley, of Red Rock, New South Wales. Nanette's brother Mark Hassall, who is mighty proud of his footballing sons, sent her a clip of Joey's picture from the back page of the July Diary, but she'd very much like something a little better than that. "If possible, I would like you to send me a photo of Joe," Nanette writes. "It was in the sports section, on page 16, was prior to July 13 and the report told there were five rounds to go in the Eastern Districts Football League. Those are all the clues I have." Not a problem, Nanette. A couple of blown-up prints will be on the way to you very soon, along with the \$10 you enclosed. We couldn't accept the money because it would endanger our amateur status.



If you'd read haphazardly between the lines, put two and two together and got five and let the imagination run riot, you might have suspected that the Warrandyte Fire Brigade had some part in organising a stag night referred to here last month. It didn't. The WFB has better things to do.

You hear few enough kind words about local councils, here or elsewhere, so it's refreshing when somebody says something like "job well done". Warrandyte Football Club secretary Norm Carrington can't say enough about the drainage work Doncaster and Templestowe council has put in at the local recreation ground. "They trenched and re-drained the entire ground at the start of the season and they've been back every week maintaining and improving the surface. They have given us one of the best wet-weather grounds in the competition and I'd like you to express our gratitude." Okay, Norm. Done.



Is Greg Creber about to sacrifice a local sporting career for a shot at the silver screen? And if so, does he aspire to be an Uncle Fester or a Yul Brynner? Only



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Chase saved: it's official

By GEORGI STICKELS

The Shire of Eltham and the owners have at last signed a deal which will preserve part of The Chase, in North Warrandyte, and protect the nest of a pair of wedge-tailed eagles.

Months of negotiations culminated late last month in a presentation to Friends of the Chase representatives and the first auction of land in the development.

Negotiations between the council and the owner, Scotch Forge Pty Ltd, represented by Bob Anderson, began last November last year. The outcome: 28 acres have been set aside as public open space of wildlife reserve and will provide the eagles with a 250-metre buffer zone. This is the minimum distance from human dwellings necessary for eagles to raise their young.

The building envelopes on each block were also moved to maximise this buffer zone. In addition, there are numerous restraints on clearing the land and connecting facilities which must be observed by buyers of each block.

Eltham council bought the pristine bushland in The Chase for just \$125,000, to be paid over two years from funds set aside for the purchase of public open space, and from council loan funds.

To compensate Scotch Forge, one of the biggest blocks adjoining the reserve has been rezoned to allow it to be subdivided into three five-acre blocks. This required approval from the State Government, and the associated redtape caused the lengthy delays to negotiations.

Money from the sale of these blocks will almost certainly cover any financial losses resulting from the sale of the reserve land.

The Minister for Conservation and the Environment Mr Steve Crabb, contributed to the successful conclusion of the deal by persuading the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works to waive all normal subdivision costs on this block. All other costs will also be kept to a minimum.

All parties were "extremely satisfied" with the result. Eltham councillor Robert Marshall, said



prospective buyers braved freezing conditions to attend. Before the auction, Marcel Cameron was presented with a plaque by Cr Marshall and Mr Ring on behalf of the developers to acknowledge his contribution to preserving The Chase.

Marcel, 16, began his campaign more than a year ago when he realised that proposed developments to untouched bushland would affect the habitat of many animals, of which the "jewel in the crown" was a pair of wedge-tailed eagles and their young.

The preserved land is expected to pass into council ownership later this year. Until then, an interim committee has "leased" it from the owners — for the sum of one peppercorn.

The committee has been established to maintain The Chase and protect the wildlife from weekend four-wheel drivers and off-road motor cyclists who have carved up the landscape and caused serious damage to wildlife habitats.

The committee — Marcel, Mr Schurmann, Julius Leisis and former Warrandyte Environment League president Gary McKelvie, hopes to fence the reserve and repair the damage.

It is hoped to form a long-term committee to control weed invasion, which is unavoidable in any development. Human invasion such as campfires and clearing for firewood will also be deterred as these can cause erosion.

The eagles, in the meantime, have left the nest until the next mating season. Naturalist David Cameron, Marcel's father, says this is quite normal. He is confident they will reuse the nest next season as the pair has been sighted in and around Warrandyte on several occasions.

the campaign to preserve The Chase had been very successful. "I think this shows how local government, the community, business and a real estate company can work together to achieve the best result and for the good of the community," he said.

Cr Marshall extended special thanks to environmentalists Marcel Cameron and Richard Schurmann, and Dennis Ring of McGorlick's Real Estate in Eltham. Mr Ring provided a vital liaison between the council, community representatives and Mr Anderson.

Thanks also went to Mr Anderson for being so prepared to negotiate once the value of the bush was pointed out. "We never had any resistance to finding a compromise. I think all parties have been satisfied," he said.

The first block adjoining the Chase was sold at auction on Saturday, July 27. More than 10

Pinder appeal booster

The appeal for crippled Warrandyte policeman Glenn Pinder has already raised almost \$5000.

A sportsmen's night last month boosted the total by \$3500 and the Warrandyte Primary School contributed \$483, the proceeds of a sausage sizzle.

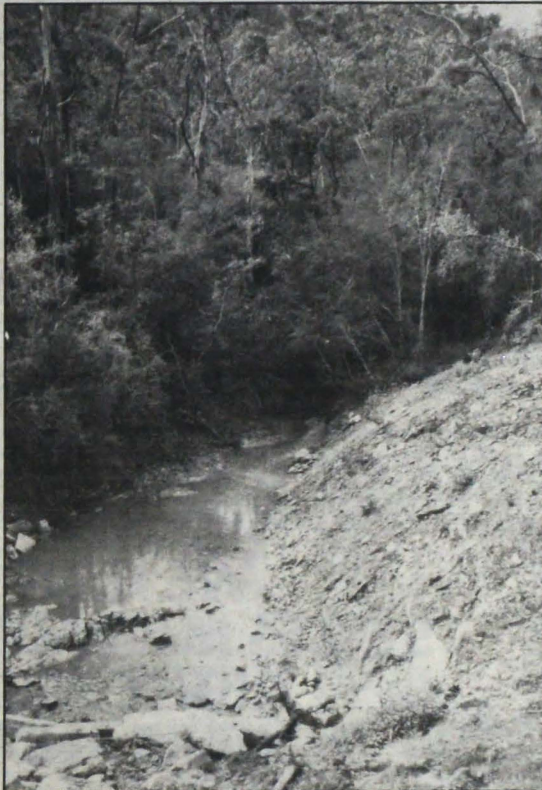
Senior Constable Pinder, 27, suffered severe spinal injuries on March 12 when his motorcycle collided with a van. He is a paraplegic.

The appeal for the Pinder family — Glenn, wife Annemarie and sons Sean and Jonathan — is being coordinated by Warrandyte police chief Sergeant David Burge. A major fund-raiser will be a raffle, with prizes of two "mystery tours" and a trip for two to the Gold Coast donated by Ansett and Australian airlines.

Sen Const Pinder was released from hospital late last month, but returns daily for treatment and therapy.

Appeal inquiries should be directed to Sgt Burge on 844 3231.

The Chase — preservation guaranteed in a deal signed to the satisfaction of all parties.



Eltham bushland is not lost yet!

I refer to your recent article on the Eltham College bushland which suggested that moves to protect this bushland were lost.

I am pleased to advise, however, that this is not the case.

When the fate of this bushland became apparent, many people and environment groups were dismayed at this unnecessary destruction particularly in the light of the continued degradation of



our environment — and the Redbox Protection Group was quickly formed.

The purpose of the Redbox Protection Group is to highlight

the plight of this bushland and to fight for its preservation.

The Redbox Protection Group and many individuals have submitted appeals against council's poorly conceived decision in favour of the College to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, with a hearing sometime in September.

Michael Dawson, Blooms Road, North Warrandyte



Glenn Pinder

The centre of attraction

They came from near and far to help Warrandyte celebrate the official opening of its beautiful new community centre last month.

They included old time residents, former councillors and local people who had worked so hard, first of all to save the land for the community, then to lobby and plan to have the centre designed, financed and finally built.

The mayor of Doncaster and Templestowe, Cr John Bridge, and the Eltham shire president, Cr Peter Graham, opened the centre and unveiled commemorative plaques.

Alan King told everyone of the long involvement of the community in the project, architect Michael Peck described how the building was conceived and artist Dale Marsh spoke about his mural. Cliff Green responded on behalf of the people of Warrandyte.

The function concluded with a splendid afternoon tea, catered for by the Warrandyte Historical Society.

• More on the opening: Page 5.



Margaret McKenzie (left) Jacqui Anderson and Doncaster-Templestowe mayor John Bridge at the opening of the Community Centre.



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I agree, we were strange bedfellows. You a lover of those with greater business value than I, like the fair Shoppingtown and the commercial Footscray Road face-of-the-east, Doncaster Road. I love the natural, country style.

However, the time was fraught with saving this and that and you pledged, I believed, to save my uniqueness; my visual delights and my rural charm.

Why then, dare I ask, did you let that space-ship landing site to be built over the bridge toilet block? Have you seen it at night? Why did you promise to tidy up the parking area down beside the village chemist shop, then leave it so that the once-pretty rural paddock which people parked beside has become a grassless quagmire with cars parking all over it, including under the elms?

No I don't want several acres of gravel thank you, but about the elms, the elms which you and your "planners" swore to a public meeting that you all revered? Don't you remember what parked cars did to the old cypress?

Why, I ask timidly, have you let the last tasteless erection occur? That is the portcullis effect of countless "reflected" posts — two feet apart — outside the other public toilets? Have you seen it at night?

Have you forgotten so soon your promises of natural and nice? Perhaps you should visit me one evening and see for yourself. I hate to

sound like a cast-off lover, but dear Council, I was the flavor of the month. Surely my wonderful new Community Centre was not given with the attitude, "Here it is, now shut up!"

Dear Council, I need your continued affection for my visual treasures. They are so vulnerable. Please don't suburbanise me or neglect my needs.

Yours Sincerely,
Warrandyte.

(Written and authorised by Judy Macdonald)

Horses plan 'needs work'

Despite local press reports, there are no plans to introduce permits for horse riders in Warrandyte State Park in the immediate future.

Head ranger Ian Roche has told the Diary that although there is a long term aim to develop such a scheme, its implementation is still some way off and a great deal more local consultation will take place before it is introduced.

Two young Phillip Institute students, Kim Rowe and Leah Vlek, have been testing the viability of a permit system for horse riders in the State Park over the past weeks. They envisage "using identification tags for all horse riders entering the park".

Kim and Leah are in their second year at the institute, completing their B.A. in Recreation. A prime aim, they told the Diary, was to "develop a code of practice in consultation with riding clubs and community groups.

"We wanted to gain some input from horse riders about how they felt about the system, and if they had any useful suggestions." To achieve this, they sent out information sheets to riding clubs and posted public notices at general stores, saddleries and fodder suppliers.

"The work done by Leah and Kim will be carefully studied and evaluated, and will contribute towards the way we tackle this situation," ranger Ian Roche said.

"Any rider permit system we finally introduce will not exist purely as a method of controlling horses and regimenting riders within the park. Its prime aim will be educational.

"We want to work with riders to develop an effective way that will both protect the environment of the park and the amenity of other users, and will also allow riders to enjoy the park and use it properly."



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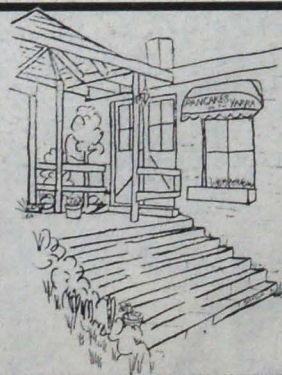
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Group functions a Specialty

The unsung heroes

By former Diary associate editor JAN LIDDICUT

I returned to Warrandyte on July 13 for the opening of the marvellous community centre. Justifiably a happy occasion, it was great to see familiar faces, friends and others and reflect on the efforts of so many people and feel pleasure at the co-operative spirit between the two councils that enabled the building to be constructed.

I would like to nominate some remarkable individuals who were not mentioned by name on Saturday but who played key roles at different times during the 10 years or so leading up to the building of the centre.

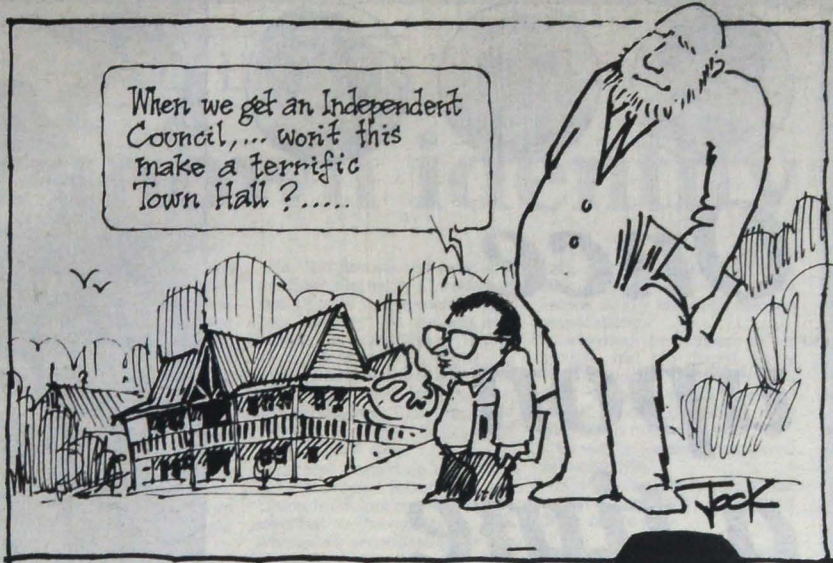
When the Getson site went up for sale, Jan Davies (McDonald) and Rosemary Tovey were the presidents of the Warrandyte Environment League and along with former councillor John Scott and others, they worked ceaselessly to persuade council to purchase the site for the community.

It was frenzied activity because time was short. Without their energy and tenacity at that time, it is questionable if the building that it is today might ever have been.

Jock Macneish lent his drawing talents to the fight, providing drawings that gave WEL's proposals a plausible visual image for the community to focus upon. His name discreetly appears on the magnificent Dale Marsh mural, a testament to his ongoing support for the project.

The last two people are Louise Joy and Jean Chapman who for years were a mighty duo of indomitable spirit. Through the auspices of the Co-op, they led the provision and maintenance of services that the old community centre housed and helped prove the continuing validity of the community aspirations for the new centre.

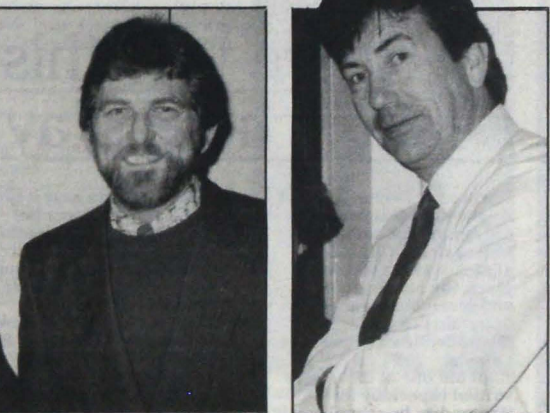
I personally felt a little sad that Jean is not working in the new building. She's a little



Reverend Helen Cox, wife of Community Centre secretary John Cox, and Dale Marsh, who painted the magnificent foyer mural, at the centre opening. Right: Jock Macneish.

lady who gave enormous dollops of emery to everything the old Co-op in the old community centre ever had anything to do with — a "salt of the earth" person too rare in life.

Could I make a suggestion which may sound intentionally facetious? Numerous people on hundreds of occasions helped wear out seats in the old community centre, especially the Co-op office. Some comfortable seating in the foyer of the new centre would make a pleasant milling point — and some seats dedicated to Jean and Louise would be fitting in a funny kind of way.



Judy Green and Gail McRae enjoy afternoon tea at the opening.

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- Monday 16th September at 8pm in the Warrandyte Community Centre

Inquiries to Jane Marriott 840 9418 or Maria Di Fazio 840 9285



CITY OF DONCASTER & TEMPLESTOWE

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO THE DONCASTER AND TEMPLESTOWE PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT L36

The City of Doncaster and Templestowe has prepared Amendment L36 to the Doncaster and Templestowe Planning Scheme.

The amendment proposes to change the Planning Scheme by rezoning from Residential D to Residential D1 the following areas:

1. north of Park Road, east of Mullum Mullum Creek, south of Rainbow Valley Road and west of the Board of Works Pipetrack and
2. north of Reynolds Road, east of Mullum Mullum Creek, Public Open Space and Proposed Public Open Space, south of Heidelberg/Warrandyte Road and west of Tindals Road and Wildflower Court.

The amendment can be inspected at:

- Doncaster and Templestowe Municipal Offices 899 Doncaster Road, DONCASTER
- The Department of Planning & Housing Ground Floor The Olderfleet Buildings 477 Collins Street, MELBOURNE
- Eastern Regional Office The Department of Planning & Housing Suite 4/38-42 Prospect Street, BOX HILL.

Submissions about the amendment must be sent to:

City of Doncaster and Templestowe, PO Box 1, DONCASTER 3108
Attention: Manager - Strategic Planning
By: 26 August 1991

ROGER COLLINS
Manager - Strategic Planning

Japan comes to local schools

By BETH GLASBY

"Tele", the Ancient Greek prefix meaning "from afar off" has become very familiar in twentieth century language. Now telematics, learning from afar, is set to be introduced in the Warrandyte district to teach Japanese in primary schools.

The teaching system is already used in some schools in country Victoria where Warrandyte High School deputy principal Graeme Doig and school community development officer Bob Poppins went to assess its relevance to Warrandyte.

Basically telematics is a link-up system where teachers and students communicate through telephones, computers and fax.

Japanese language coordinator at Warrandyte High School, Johan Elsmann, is enthusiastic about the program.

Johan introduced Japanese language studies at Warrandyte High in 1989 after a community survey chose it as the preferred language other than English. Last year he began teaching some classes at Warrandyte and Andersons Creek primary schools.

Using the telematic system Johan, along with Mrs Brenda Lorden and Mrs Prue Southern, will spread Japanese language studies to four primary schools

in the area, Warrandyte, Andersons Creek, Warrandyte South and Wonga Park with the possibility of expansion to link up other schools.

Johan explained that Japanese is increasingly the chosen language other than English studied throughout Australia due to our economic and tourist contacts.

However, he believes that language study is important because it develops skills of concentration, observation and careful listening. The other value he emphasises is that language study success comes through patience and perseverance.

"This provides a balance to the instant success, instant 'fixit' attitude which is prevalent in so many things today," he said.

Johan came to teaching as a career change after working in insurance and the army. He studied Japanese at Melbourne University, followed by two years furthering his studies in Japan.

This year he further increased his expertise by spending three months in Tokyo undertaking an intensive language study course. While there he found time to strengthen Warrandyte-Japanese links by being guest of honor at a reunion organised by the Japanese students who visited the school last year.



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Once upon a time

there was this beaut school play

Warrandyte Primary School's original musical productions are famous far and wide. As well as delighting local audiences for a number of years, the published scripts and scores have gone on to entertain folk all over Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

All but one of them were written especially for Warrandyte by school music teacher Kevin O'Mara and his "partners in rhyme" Lynne Bartlett and Mark Leehy.

Over the years Warrandyte children, teachers and parents have travelled on musical journeys from the outback to the Black Hole, battling dragons, space pirates and school bullies along the way, with interludes on a magical tropical island and the flower power kingdom of another age.

Last year's show, 'Kids in Paradise' was described by *Diary* writer Ken Virtue as "simply a remarkable phenomenon — almost the entire school involved in top class musical entertainment".

This year they travel to a place Long Ago and Far Away, to the ultimate fantasy land on a trip entitled 'Once Upon A Time'.

Kevin O'Mara says it is a "show that explores the boundaries of imagination — with no boundary umpires. An all-singing, all-dancing story of life, the universe and everything."

"It's a topsy-turvy view of bureaucracy versus the Big Picture."

As always, the authors manage to run a simple but compelling message behind their joyous words and music. This year it appears to be all about the freedom to achieve new heights through the power of dreams and the release of imagination.



According to Kevin, audiences will "see the residents of Nursery Town turning into cardboard cutouts; they will see our imaginations attacked by an army of Zombies led by the cool and calculating Captain Boredom."



Christine Redfern and Nerida Colvin study the script of 'Once Upon a Time', while props and costumes are prepared in the background.

"They will see what happens to the officious mayor, H. Dumpty; they will see Mother Goose fly off the handle at what happens to the land of our dreams; they will see what really happened to Bo-Peep's sheep and they will see where Goosey Gander really wandered."

Adam Beardall (Wee Willie Winkie), Robert Williamson (Humpty Dumpty), Carrie Stevenson (Wise Old Owl), Christine Redfern (Little Bo Peep) and Nerida Colvin (Fiddler).

Hickory and Dickory (the Dock Twins) will be played by Chris Liesis and Pieter Keuneman. Leigh Giampietro, Kristy Brown and Oliver Kas are the Three Blind Mice.

The premiere season of 'Once Upon a Time' will be staged at the Karralika Theatre, Mines Road, East Ringwood on September 17, 18 and 19. Tickets cost \$6.50 and \$3.50 (students and pensioners) and are available at the school, phone 844 3537.

Warrandyte Primary School's famous musical productions are understandably very popular and seats sell quickly, so be sure to book early.



And if that's not enough, "they will hear seven great new hit songs!"
 Featured in the cast will be Peter Williamson (Captain Boredom), Simon Robinson (Sergeant), Hilary Fairley (Mother Goose), Tim Chapman (Goosey Gander),



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RON BELZER

A well-known identity

Warrandyte was saddened by the death last month of Ron Belzer, one of our oldest and best known residents. Ron was born in the old post office on January 27, 1907. His mother was postmistress and his father was a miner.

He died on Sunday, July 16, 1991 and was buried at Warrandyte cemetery.

More recent residents will best remember Ron Belzer as the local taxi driver. He took over the Warrandyte Taxi Service in the mid 50s, operating it until his retirement in 1970.

The Belzer family came to live in Warrandyte not long after Philip Belzer married Harriet Marriott at Christ Church, Eltham on November 11, 1868. Philip was born in Beharheim, Prussia and came to Victoria around 1861. He was working on the Watts River aqueduct when he caught pneumonia and died in 1889, aged 51.

Philip and Harriet had eight children. A son, Robert, was born in 1879. He married Ethel Speers, the Warrandyte postmistress, in 1902 and they lived at the post office. They had two sons, Len and Ron.

The boys took it in turn to milk the family's two cows before and after school, delivering the surplus milk to neighbouring houses. They also grew vegetables on the land between the post office and the site of what is now the Gospel Chapel.

Living by the river, they learned to swim at an early age; perhaps earlier than their parents realised. Ron told how his parents forbade them going near the water until they could swim.

As this seemed a difficult feat to achieve, the boys developed their skill in secret, swimming naked to avoid the dangerous task of explaining away their wet clothes.

At first they swam in the swimming hole behind the Kia Ora Cafe (destroyed in the 1939 bushfire) just west of 207 Yarra Street. Later, when the deep hole behind the post office was favoured, the Belzer boys could almost dive in from their back verandah. The remains of the stage and diving platforms can still be seen.

Like his father before him, Ron left Warrandyte State School at 14, his formal education complete.

He helped his father with the heavy work of clearing land they owned in Whipstick Gully, cutting firewood into lengths and carrying it home to the post office.

At 16 Ron started work in the Warrandyte bakery. But this only lasted a short time, and he soon began to wander. He travelled the country, picking up work as far afield as Hamilton, Dookie and Griffith (NSW), before settling into a job in a bakery in Altona.

Whilst in the bakehouse at Altona, Ron worked right through each Friday night, then going without sleep, came home to play football for Warrandyte every Saturday afternoon. He continued playing in the local team for seven years.

But his cricket career lasted only one match, when he was asked to fill in when the team was one man short. The reason why he was never asked to play again has not been recorded.

Ron also worked at the Box Hill brickworks with his father Len, both riding Harley Davidson motorbikes to and fro.

He returned to Warrandyte to work when the local bakery was taken over by Jim Walsh in 1923. It was here that he met Jim's sister Cath Walsh. They were married at Port Melbourne on July 11, 1931. At first Cath and Ron lived with Cath's mother in Port Melbourne, where their first daughter Una was born. The little family moved to Warrandyte shortly after.

In 1934 Ron started work with the State Electricity Commission and became a linesman. In the late 30s-early 40s, he was employed on the Kiewa hydro-electric scheme, often working in freezing and hazardous conditions amid snow and ice on Mount Bogong. Cath and Una moved to Bright whilst Ron worked in the area.

He also worked on the power line from Mount Beauty via Lake Eildon to Melbourne. The family returned to Warrandyte in 1946 where their second daughter Kay was born.

Shortly after, whilst working on power lines for the Heidelberg City Council, Ron received a severe electric shock. Someone had failed to turn off the power. He lost his lower left leg and suffered burns to his hands. He was lucky to survive this accident and took a long time to recover.

After this, Ron took over the Warrandyte Taxi Service and became very well known around the district. Following his ultimate retirement, he and Cath travelled widely through Australia and New Zealand.

He suffered a severe stroke about 15 months ago and had been a patient at Amaroo Nursing Home in Ringwood since. Only a few days before his death,

Cath and Ron celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with friends, family and their beloved grandchildren.

Delivering the address at his funeral, his old friend Wally Walsh described Ron Belzer as "a good living man of the old school, who had worked hard and helped many people".

He will be fondly remembered in Warrandyte.
(Compiled from material supplied by Wally Walsh and Bruce Bence.)



Ron Belzer in later years.



Ron Belzer's father Robert and his brother Len, standing outside the Warrandyte post office in 1906. Ron was born here the following year.

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Life below floorboards

I dread the prospect of shifting house. It's not the thought of all that money going to the government and estate agents, but the horrific realisation that I would have to rifle through all our cupboards and — particularly — under this house!

When we were younger we had few possessions. Storage was irrelevant when we built our first house. We used fashionable recycled bricks on a concrete slab. We were more interested in style than where we could stow the array of products that quietly followed us home.

Our first child arrived and so did the steel shed in the yard. With our second child came the wall of cupboards in the family room. All this storage space was not for the children's gear but to stow the remnants of the grown-ups' hobbies.

Life was our craft shop and we bought big. We embraced whatever was going to be really crass when the rest of society caught up. Poverty is the mother of invention and onion sacks served us as upholstery fabric. We had



bought an old rocking chair in need of repair. A primary teacher friend let slip that they used onion sacks at school for weaving.

Before the time of plastic sacks, onions came to market in natural fibre. Not only did the unstitched sacks provide an existing warp and weft, but they were orange! What an opening for fashionable creativity. We bought carpet wool ends in appropriate autumnal colors, wove them through the webbing and — voila! — a decorator item fit to match our orange Le Creuset casserole.

Silkscreening hessian wall hangings came next. We had the gall to try to sell them to gift shops. They did not make our

fortune, but we still have the gear under the house. (We made sure our next house had lots of under-floor space.)

Next to the tins of dried shellac and handthrown, lopsided pottery and candlemaking detritus is the Fowler's bottling kit. With the revival of 'Hair' and encouraging signs in 'House and Garden' that clutter is on its way back, we may be sitting — literally — on a treasure trove. Particularly as the Fowler's bottling pan is orange with a yellow lid!

Children are difficult. There is only so much space under a house and with their bikes, old toys, kayak gear, horse tack, old school books and car bits and pieces, it's almost impossible to find a corner for the weaving looms. Bags of fleece lie eaten by — as yet — unidentified crawlies, whilst others languish in tea chests we kept, just in case.

I come from a long line of hoarders. I think it's genetic. My father didn't bother about an 'under the house', he bought a property with several sheds and used the largest for his collectibles.

My brother-in-law, on the other hand, is suited to a slab. He and his wife favor the revolving door approach. Their house is kept in equilibrium. Nothing comes in except to replace the out-of-fashion.

We, unfortunately, have adopted the Black Hole approach. Our house has an enormous gravitational pull on spur-of-the-moment, good idea objects. It forced herself and me to have golf lessons, buy two buggies stuffed with clubs and never to use them on a golf course. But they don't take up too much room down below and the buggies aren't orange.

I pity those without an under-house. Apart from being a treasure trove of vitally useful goodies, it's the family museum. Our photograph albums remember fleeting moments in time, but the under-house is our time capsule of tangible experiences.

To contemplate shifting without considering the resting place of those below would be sacrilege. Grave-robbing one's life.

ROGER KIBELL

A morning encounter



NATURE

By PAT COUPAR
 Drawings: MELANIE COUPAR

We stared at each other. For a full five minutes neither of us moved. How much, I wondered, could those myopic brown eyes really see in the soft morning light. A rosella flew past with a flurry of crimson feathers. Still neither of us moved.

Eventually, tired of remaining motionless, I crept a little nearer. I was obviously too close for comfort. The animal slowly and deliberately did an about turn and lumbered flat-footedly to the safety of its burrow.

When I inspected the hole there was no sign of the wombat. The entrance to its burrow was exceptionally large. Wide enough for a small child to crawl into. But parents beware! If your children ever show any inclination to wriggle down tunnels after wombats, these animals have a novel way of dealing with unwelcome visitors.

I've heard about dogs that have come to an untimely end when chasing wombats down their burrows. Once in a tunnel, the dog will endeavor to clamber over the wombat's body to reach its head.

The obliging wombat even squats down to allow the dog to climb on top. But then it uses its deadly weapon; a backside like cast-iron and so powerful that when the wombat stands up the



dog is brutally crushed against the roof of the burrow and killed.

This just goes to show that wombats are not at all muddle-headed. In fact their brain is proportionally larger than that of any other marsupial. In contrast, their nearest relative the koala has a poorly-developed brain.

For close relatives, wombats and koalas lead remarkably different lives. The wombat is supremely adapted to a life spent mostly underground. Its sturdy, rotund body with flattened head and rump is covered in thick fur

which exactly matches the color of the earth.

Its legs are short and armed with stout claws, the front pair ideally suited for digging, while the back pair acts as shovels to push the soil away.

Wombats construct two types of burrows. Some are about two to five metres long and are used as a temporary refuge. Others are up to 30 metres and contain bedding chambers; major tunnels in which the animals live.

The tunnels divide and connect and may have several en-

trances. In Warrandyte they are a common sight close to the river where the alluvial soil makes excavation easy.

During winter months, wombats usually emerge only at night. They feed on native grasses, sedges, rushes and the roots of trees. Like rodents, their teeth are rootless and continue growing throughout life. During winter they sometimes venture out to bask or graze during the daytime.

In late autumn or winter the female gives birth to one baby which she carries around in her pouch. Unlike kangaroos, the pouch opens towards the rear. This prevents youngster becoming covered with soil during its mother's earth-moving activities.

After about six months the young wombat leaves the pouch. The attentive mother continues to provide food by pulling up shoots of tender young swordgrass and laying them singly on the ground for her offspring to feed on.

I have often come upon wombat burrows beside many of the tracks that follow the river in Warrandyte State Park. I have seen evidence of their presence in the form of cube-shaped droppings, sometimes precariously perched on top of rocks and logs. But I have never encountered this animal in the wild before.

On a crisp winter's morning I came face to face with a wombat for the first time. I felt an immediate empathy with this shy, placid creature and I knew I had been allowed a rare privilege: to spend a few moments alone in the bush with a wild animal.

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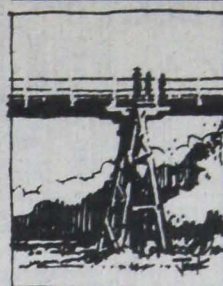
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Fingers in the earth



THE WOODEN BRIDGE

By Eve Evans



All day the wind had been murmuring softly, swaying the trees. Soft white clouds drifted playfully across a pale blue sky, gathering together to build castles; shaping animals and grotesque faces. Nonetheless there was a heaviness in the air, as of impending doom.

Towards mid-afternoon the wind stilled and the world grew darker. In place of the fluffy white, cotton wool clouds, there came up from the horizon frowning black storm clouds. Rabbits scuttled away to shelter and the birds were hushed. Far below, the river roared ominously.

As I watched, the mountains slowly disappeared, shrouded under storm clouds. Suddenly lightning split the sky, and the wind grew fiercer, battering the trees and the house. The clouds clanged together in an enormous bang of thunder.

Much as I always feel a passionate excitement standing out in a storm I knew I must step in and hold my children to quieten their fears. "It's alright," I told them. "Soon the rain will come and the storm will be over." As I spoke the rain came in great torrents. I could hear my water tanks spilling over, the surplus water rushing down the hill.

Almost as suddenly as it began the storm abated. The world was quiet. I learned that the storm had ripped a swathe of damage from the mountains down through the suburbs; unroofing houses, tearing up trees and disrupting traffic. But it was the last storm of that first winter.



An hour or so later my two neighbors from the herb farm came over to ask if we had sustained any damage. I told them I had not yet been out to look. They had lost a water tank. It had rolled off its stand and lay crushed, far down the hill.

"We will miss it in summer, when water is precious," they said. I could not imagine that water, with so much flowing by, could be precious. That I would learn later.

We sat in the small room off my kitchen, Patty upright in a chair, Watty on the floor, holding a boy on each arm.

"We've come," Patty said, "to tell you of a plan we have talked about. You have much land — 32 acres — but little of it worthwhile for growing plants. It's mostly stone, with no topsoil. You've not been down to the gully yet, but we have more than an acre of good soil there, all washed down from the hills. It belonged to this property, but Beth made it over to us — quite legally — to grow herbs. It has a good wire fence, proof against rabbits."

(I wondered why one should want to shut out rabbits. To me they were pretty

little furry creatures with white bobtails. That was something I would also learn over the years.)

Patty continued: "You can have part of this good land to grow vegetables, if you want it. Also, there is a dam. Water must be carried from it in buckets for the garden. If you're willing to help carry water you can have the use of a strip of this land."

Eagerly I agreed, but immediately saw a problem. "I know the gully is down at the bottom of my very steep hill," I said. "How can I reach it, with one little boy in a pushcart and the other stumbling along?"



I made tea and we discussed the problem. In the end it was decided that I would walk uphill to their place. They had cut some rough steps down to the gully. The steps would be easier to negotiate than my steep hill.

So began what has become for me my greatest pleasure: to have my fingers in the good earth. I learned from them how to save surplus vegetables. To put beans between salt in earthenware jars; to bury carrots in straw, then pull earth over; to dry peas on racks and to make jam and chutney.

Later, when I came to know the people in the village, I would exchange fresh vegetables for other goods I needed. So I began "bartering", sometimes with the

butter I made or jam, or home-baked bread.

As the days lengthened into spring I dreamed of making a garden around the house. On one or two occasions, friends came up from the city. Not often, because like my husband, they were frightened of the bad road and the damage it might do to their cars.

Knowing my love of gardening they brought me surplus plants from their own gardens. One even brought me four trees — a flowering almond, a crab apple, a silver birch and a Manchurian pear for its wonderful autumn color.

The morning after the arrival of the trees I rose early, made a hasty breakfast and taking the boys, set out in happy anticipation to start my garden. But by the end of that first day I had not been able to dig even one hole, so hard was the rock.

Then Roly came. I looked at him despairingly and told of the day's hard work with no result. "Missus," he said, "you need a crowbar," and went off to get his. He returned not only with his heavy iron crowbar, but two large bags of soil as well. He showed me how to chip and dig out rock, small pieces at a time, until I had a hole wide and deep enough, then fill it with soil.

Those first trees did well enough, but never reached their ultimate height. Having sent their roots below the level of the soil I gave them, they struck more stone. They were not exactly stunted, they flowered and colored well, but were never as robust as they should have been.

For years I worked this way, chipping rock and walking the roads with a kerosene tin to scrape up an inch or so of

topsoil. With the stone I dug out I started to build retaining walls to hold back more soil for flower beds.

If the children slept during the day I would hurry down the hill to the gully to fetch more soil; I could only carry half a tin at a time because the climb back up was too arduous. Some five years later, after I had acquired a car, the task was much easier. From then on I never went anywhere without taking bags for soil.



Rock was not the only difficulty. Rabbits and possums were an even greater menace. About an acre and a half of land surrounding the house had been fenced in with wire-netting. But fire had swept through, and now, rotted at the bottom it hung loose above the ground, making it easy for what seemed hordes of rabbits to come in.

I had no money to replace the fence, and so the rabbits — those charming little furry creatures — were free to do untold damage, seemingly overnight. They nibbled each new green leaf and stripped the bark off young trees. I made guards of hessian, but the wooden stakes I cut would not go firmly enough

into the stony ground and the first strong wind blew them over. I began to realise that Watty and Patty were right. Gardening would be almost impossible. But I was determined to keep on trying.

What the rabbits left because they could not reach high enough, the possums destroyed. The first time I heard the sound of possums in the night I was thoroughly alarmed. Their cry is a loud, deep-throated snarl, like a soul in agony. I went out to look and saw a pair of glittering, yellow-green eyes staring down from where it sat on a tree branch.

Possums work at night. They love the new green tips of trees and plants. I could think of no way of defeating them. But Lou knew what to do. "Dem nasty little buggers," he said. "Yer traps 'em." He left me half a dozen traps and showed me how to set them. But I could not bring myself to trap any animal; at first, that is.

After a couple of years of bitter struggle I trapped both rabbits and possums indeed for a long time rabbits were our main meat supply. First the ones Lou brought me, later the rabbits I trapped myself.

So the year marched on. Spring is always beautiful, full of rich promise, but that first spring on my hilltop was especially so.

I would be up before dawn had shaken the last sprinkle of stars from the sky. I watched the sun cast a tentative glance over the rim of the world, then climb to the top of a distant mountain. The sky replaced the wan look of morning with a deep blue arch, and the magpies carolled their greeting to the new day.



Here and there a wattle in bloom dusted the hills with gold. They are quick growing trees and had sprung up aplenty following the bushfires. They need the heat of a fire for their seeds to germinate, otherwise they can lie dormant in the ground for many years.

In the distance kookaburras began to laugh, first with a low throaty chuckle rising to an extravagance of joyous sound as more joined in, sounding like old men laughing uncontrollably a some huge joke.

The blackened trees began to put out tiny festoons of leaves. In a year, thought, they will be clothed again in their grey-green foliage, giving off the rich scent of eucalyptus. As the day grew, soft playful clouds threw purple shadows here and there on the sides of the mountains.

I pictured the kind of garden I would like to make and saw long happy years ahead working in it. When I had over come the problems of water shortage rabbits, possums, wallabies and mountain of stone that is.

To be continued.

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Spring festival plans

Winter will soon be behind us and the Anglican churches of St Stephen's in Warrandyte and Emmanuel in Park Orchards are celebrating with a jointly-organised Spring Festival. It will include a concert, fete and garage sale. The concert will be held at St Stephen's, Stiggant Street, Warrandyte on Friday, August 23, commencing at 8pm with an entertaining program featuring Johanna Selleck on flute, Jacinta Derrett playing harp and Peter Marks on horn. Tickets — which include supper — are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. They are available from Joan Golding on 844 3208 or Ann Ley on 844 3543. The fete will be held at St Stephen's on Saturday, August 31 starting at 9am. There will be a white elephant stall, lots of craft items, novelties like lucky bottles and a raffle as well as cakes, plants, books, sweets and so on. Hot food and light refreshments will be on sale. The garage sale will be held on Saturday, September 7 from 9am to 12noon and will highlight St Stephen's Open Day, giving everyone an excellent opportunity to see the newly-extended church. Further information from Ann Ley on 844 3543.

Merchant

The Warrandyte Arts Association drama group is busy rehearsing their production of William Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice' under the direction of Irving Reid. Following a special WAA gala night on September 5, performances will continue on September 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21 at the Warrandyte Mechanics' Institute hall. Telephone Clair Acres on 844 3276 for bookings.



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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.

Assisi House

The second annual general meeting of Assisi House will be held on Wednesday, August 14 at the Warrandyte Uniting Church in Tarooma Avenue, commencing at 8pm. Office bearers will be elected and there will be a guest speaker. This committee houses and supports homeless people, generally families, for up to six months. For further information contact the secretary, Stephen Watts, on 844 3903, or during business hours on 723 7661.

Mothering

The next night meeting of the Warrandyte group of the Nursing Mothers Association will be held at 9 Pound Road, Warrandyte on Tuesday, August 13 commencing at 8pm. The topic will be 'Nocturnal mothering — babies who wake at night'. Ideas on how to cope will be shared. There will be a morning coffee get-together at 20 Lorraine Avenue, Warrandyte on Wednesday, August 28 from 10am till 12noon.

Lions' share

The Lions Club of Warrandyte's opportunity shop is enjoying great success in its new premises in our new community centre. Funds raised by the club through the shop support many projects undertaken both within the local community and beyond. More than \$37,000 has been dispersed by the Warrandyte club during the past twelve months, including help for 18 special welfare cases, a computer for Gary Allsop, presentation of Christmas hampers, walking canes for the blind in Thailand, and donations to the Haemophilia Foundation. The club also contributed \$3,300 towards the cost of furnishings in the public area of the new community centre. A sub-committee has been appointed by new president Peter Egan to pursue the establishment of a Leo Club. Information regarding Warrandyte Lions can be obtained from club secretary John Penwill on 722 1775.

Classes

The Diamond Valley Arts Society has some vacancies in their Tuesday night oil painting classes run by Warrandyte artist Max Dimmack. Phone him on 435 3618. Shiela Brennan is considering taking design and tapestry classes. Anyone interested can ring her on 434 4603 or 773 2164. Classes are held in the society's centre at the old Greensborough school, corner Grimshaw Street and The Circuit, Greensborough. An acquisition show will be held at the centre on the last two weekends in August. Information from Jean Simmons on 469 2505.

Hire a trier

The *Diary*, in conjunction with the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, is re-introducing its service for job-seekers. If you need work done or have an employment vacancy, perhaps you could try one of these triers. This month we introduce Michael, aged 24. He is looking for any kind of outdoor work, cleaning up gardens, mowing, carting rubbish and so on. Jane, aged 25, wants work in a shop or bar. She has experience in these fields and is also willing to do housework. Anyone able to help or needing work is asked to contact Jean Chapman on 844 3326.

Facilities

A wide variety of spaces are available in our new community for hire by groups, individuals and commercial organisations, with special rates for community activities. Almost any type of function can be accommodated — meetings, parties, receptions, even weddings. 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.

WAC meets

The annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Advisory Committee will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Wednesday, August 28, commencing at 8pm.

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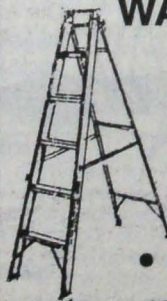
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The big squeeze! Tennis club cries out for space

Warrandyte Tennis Club, one of the oldest in the area and host to two prestigious tournaments each year, is seeking funds for badly-needed extensions.

Since 1984 Warrandyte has hosted the Goldtown Open, which each year attracts several hundred entrants, including many leading Victorian players. The club also holds the Australian Davis Cup Foundation Satellite final, the Masters tournament. Names such as Darren Cahill and John Frawley grace the competitors' lists each November.

Warrandyte sponsors, at its own expense, two juniors to the Peter MacNamara Tennis Camp. Teams are entered in the Shell and McDonald squad trials. They consistently perform well.

The club now has 740 members, who share the use of just five courts. Shortage of courts is causing severe overcrowding problems in one of Warrandyte's most popular sports.

Club membership is currently closed and families wanting to

GEORGIE STICKELS begins a Diary series on the sporting boom — and why Warrandyte is unable to cope with it.

join are put on a waiting list which is reviewed every six months. As more than half the current members are juniors, the number of applicants is unlikely to fall in the near future.

The tennis club is active in both junior and senior competition. Senior interclub competition runs on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, Sunday mornings and four nights a week. Altogether, 60 teams participate in seven interclub competitions.

Even this is not enough to meet the members' needs. Club championships are held to allow others to play competition tennis.

The juniors are further disadvantaged. Coaching runs five nights a week, before school and on Saturdays, but there is still a waiting list to receive coaching. To field its 12 teams in Saturday morning competitions, the club has to hire outside courts. It even uses private tennis courts at

members' homes for interclub competition.

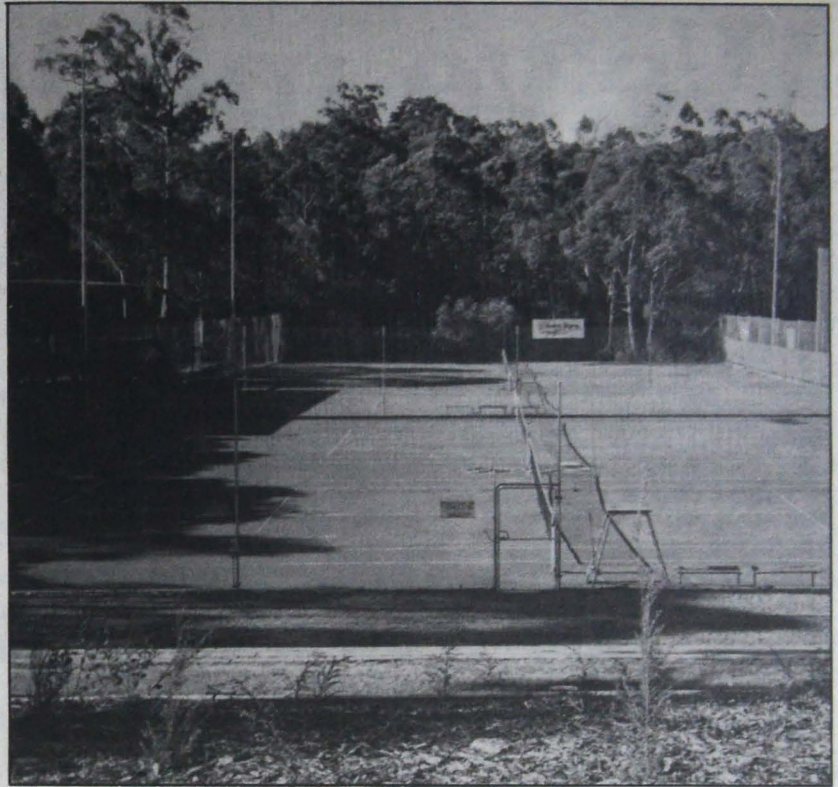
The club's junior co-ordination committee tries to provide extra activities, but many juniors still miss out on competition matches.

Senior team practice or recreational use by social players and families is almost non-existent, because there is simply not enough court space. This is something the club president, Mr Greg Lawrence, considers important.

The problem is not poor quality facilities, he says. Four of the five tennis courts have lights and all have automatic watering systems. But since the last court was added in 1982, the club has almost doubled in size.

The clubhouse is spacious and comfortable, but becoming too small for the growing numbers.

Mr Lawrence says the club needs at least two more courts with lighting and watering sys-



Warrandyte Tennis Club — more courts are urgently needed.

tems, an extension to the clubhouse and landscaping.

These improvements will cost more than the club alone can raise. Members have been appealing to Doncaster and Templestowe Council for assistance for almost two years. Mr Lawrence says he hopes the council will take into account the club's high standard of maintenance and their past efforts, which were made without grants.

The council has a large budget, which it tries to allocate to clubs which are already helping themselves. This is difficult because of the large number of sports and other interest groups in the region.

A "user pays" system is currently being drafted, whereby council will aim to match a club's own funding dollar-for-dollar.

Just one court — and the 1939 bushfire melted that

Warrandyte Tennis Club is believed to have been established in 1907. From the beginning the club was independent — it's first court, located west of the bridge, was built with volunteer labor.

The club first entered competition within the Box Hill Tennis Association during the 1920s. It later transferred to Ringwood and District Tennis Association and won several premierships.

The 1939 bushfire literally melted the club's asphalt court, which was replaced with one of concrete. Again, the court was built by a tennis club member. In the meantime, play continued on a member's private court.

All written records from 1948 to 1954 were later destroyed by bushfires. It is known however, that when the Warrandyte bridge was rebuilt at its existing site, the club gained valuable players from the ranks of the bridge builders.

The club often ran various tournaments and social events to raise money for "ever needed improvements". Members carried out most of these improvements themselves, at regular working bees.

Warrandyte was one of the worst-equipped clubs at the time, with only one court and an obsolete shed. In 1960 a second court was built. Despite the threat posed to the club's

usable land by plans to widen the road, a new clubhouse was built in 1964. Just before this, unsuccessful requests were made to Doncaster and Eltham councils to assist with the cost of relocating the club. Unable to fund the move alone, the club determined to make do where it was.

Efforts to relocate began again in earnest in 1967 as the club expanded rapidly. Road improvements constantly threatened the club with eviction. After long negotiations with the recreation ground committee, four courts were constructed at the present site in 1975.

However, the club still had no clubhouse. Afternoon tea was served at the Uniting

Church during competitions, and there were no toilets.

A huge fundraising effort ensured minimal borrowing to finance a clubhouse. Local labor was contracted and the building was opened in 1979. A watering system was installed in 1980, and a waiting list was introduced to deal with growing numbers.

In 1982 lights, a fifth court and new watering systems were added. The clubhouse was extended in 1985 and now boasts a kiosk, bar, lounge, balcony and toilets. However, the rapid growth of tennis popularity in Warrandyte has outstripped the ability of the facilities to cope with it.

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We've made it! Bloods in EDFL finals

Gearing up for Goldtown



Anne Minter

Local tennis fans are looking forward to a feast of high quality match play during the coming months as the Warrandyte Tennis Club gears up for its two big annual tournaments, the Goldtown Open and the Satellite Masters.

The Goldtown tournament will be staged over four days, from Thursday, September 12 through to Sunday, September 15. Previous winners have included Richard Fromberg, Anne Minter and Ian Peter-Budge.

Club president Greg Lawrence told the Diary that due to the large number of entries anticipated, qualifying rounds are scheduled for Sunday, September 8.

"The Goldtown Open attracts entries from many top players, male and female, from all over Victoria and interstate," Greg said. "With graded events as well, this has become one of the most popular tournaments on the VTA calendar."

This year, the Goldtown will be sponsored by Biscote-Britannia. "We're very proud to have them," Greg Lawrence said. "Biscote and Britannia are names synonymous with high quality fashion wear for both men and women."

The Goldtown Open will lead up to the Davis Cup Foundation Satellite Masters, again to be held in Warrandyte in late October.

First-year coach David Purcell has performed a minor football miracle by steering Warrandyte into the EDFL finals.

The Bloods' involvement in the business end of the season was confirmed in extraordinary circumstances on August 3, with one round of the home-and-away season to go.

Warrandyte were relying on beating Mt Evelyn — which they did comprehensively — at home and ladder leaders Fair Park downing Kilsyth, the only rivals for fourth spot.

Nobody had thought about a draw at Kilsyth, but the dead-heat there — after the home side had led by seven points at half-time and by two points late into the last quarter — was as good as a Fair Park win for Warrandyte. It locked them into the finals.

The Bloods meet Lilydale away on August 10 and will play them again in the first semi-final, at Scoresby, a week later.

It has been a remarkable season for the local club, who seemed destined for relegation to fourth division after losing their first two games by an aggregate 35 goals.

The credit for the turnaround must go to Purcell, recruited as playing coach from Diamond Valley premiers Heidelberg.

Strengthened by the return of a couple of key players who had sought clearances, Warrandyte were narrowly beaten by premiership fancies Upper Ferntree Gully in their third game — and have dropped only three of 14 since. The victory over Mt Evelyn, who had won the previous encounter, was their sixth on the trot.

Purcell would not speculate after the game on just how far the Bloods might go this season. "At this stage, we're not looking beyond Lilydale next week" he said.

Drawn-out drama sets up Purcell's heroes



"Obviously it would be very nice to beat Lilydale because we'll be meeting them again in the first semi. The boys have been up for a long time, but we just have to keep on winning".

Warrandyte Football Club president Colin Bawden agreed. "At the moment we have set our sights only on beating Lilydale next week," he said.

"Early this season our aims were to halve our financial deficit and avoid relegation. To be in the finals is a bit of a dream.

"Our sponsors and supporters have stuck with us, the committee has been just great and the club is now being rewarded for all the hard work that has been done."

It took Warrandyte 1½ quarters — much longer than the home crowd would have liked — to stamp their authority on the game against Mt Evelyn. They trailed by seven points — 3.3 to 4.4 at the first change, but shrugged off a lethargic and tentative approach to the ball with a strong breeze at their backs in the second term.

Cam Day, who was to be the star of the quarter, put Warrandyte back in front with a goal at the 14-minute mark, and it started to rain six-pointers at the Har-

ry Heath end. Terry Blytheman, Darren Lawrence, Stuart McLean and Trent Ferguson all chipped in — and Day delighted the crowd with two in a minute.

Having snapped a clever goal, Day grabbed the bounced ball in the centre and his long bomb bounced through.

Warrandyte kicked 9.7 to a solitary goal for the quarter and any worries about kicking into the breeze in the third term were not on because it died away to nothing during the interval.

The McLean boys — Stuart and Lachlan — extended the lead with goals early in the quarter and when Blair Moxom marked a kickout and goaled on the run, it was goodnight Mt Evelyn.

The Bloods led by 74 points at three-quarter time and Purcell told his players that nothing less than a 100-point win would be good enough.

While the Bloods were trying to achieve that, Warrandyte secretary Norm Carrington was making frantic phone calls to the Kilsyth ground for score updates. With a few minutes to go, Kilsyth had hit the front again and Warrandyte's agony looked like being extended.

God bless Fair Park.

Warrandyte won by 94 points, 22.19 (151) to 8.9 (57). Their best were Kimberley O'Connor, Cam Day, Moxom, Jamie Weatherly, Joey Hassall and Purcell.



David Purcell — architect of Bloods' success.

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Warrandyte Football Club's

annual players' talent night traditionally produces high farce — and this year's event will be no exception.

It's at the clubrooms on Saturday, August 24 — and be prepared for almost anything except the expected.

Basketball kids bomb out in semis

By CLINTON GRYBAS

The spectre of defeat hung over Warrandyte Basketball Club in the semi-finals of the elite Friday night junior championship competition.

Just two wins came from the six semi-final matches as the prospect of a record number of flags disappeared. Only the two under-12 boys teams made it through to the grand final after it appeared

that as many as five teams would be there for Warrandyte.

The news was bad even before the finals started when it became known that Ron McLellan's under-16 boys had missed out altogether, despite having been no worse than third on the ladder throughout. Opposition clubs had failed to submit all their scoresheets and this, along with a one-point loss in the final regular-season match,

denied the boys their chance.

On semi-final night, the 18B side of Wayne Peters looked like pulling off a win against Waverley, but foul trouble left them with just two on the court and they lost 37-44.

The 14EQ team coached by Jim Burbidge took on Lower Templestowe and lost 30-41 after drawing close several times, and the 12EQ boys of Clinton Grybas had a solid 42-28 win over Templestowe, the

side they are likely to meet again in the grand final.

Gavin Whitmore's 12B team were beaten 32-41 by Eltham in the semis but bounced back in a thriller in the preliminary final against Waverley. It was 39-all at the end of time, forcing five minutes of overtime in which Warrandyte ran away for a 50-41 win and a return bout with Eltham in the grand final.

In the girls' section, Warran-

dyte's only finalists, the 15B team coached by Chris McIntosh, went down 33-34 in a thriller against Blackburn, but were in with a second chance.

Two young local basketballers have been selected to represent Victoria. Kirsty Dench, from the under-11's, will play for her state in the primary schools championships in Darwin and Briony Clark (under-15s) is in the Victorian team for the netball titles in Melbourne.

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