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No. 225, September 1991

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# Locals probe fire faults

## CFA praised

By GEORGI STICKELS

North Warrandyte residents are preparing a submission to the coronial inquest being held into the February 25 bushfire.

The submission will address problems arising from the fire, including roadblocks, water supply and evacuation. This follows a public meeting, attended by local CFA and police officers and more than 40 residents, held at North Warrandyte community centre last month.

The meeting centred on events surrounding the fire which swept through parts of North Warrandyte on February 25 this year. Residents were full of praise for the efficiency of the CFA in controlling the fire.

It was pointed out that the prime difficulty on the day was meeting the needs of emergency workers fighting the fire and those of residents seeking to protect their homes and families.

During the fire, many residents were cut off from their homes and even their children by roadblocks surrounding the fire area. Other residents who wanted to defend their homes were told to evacuate.

Under the CFA Act, police and firefighters cannot evacuate people who have a "pecuniary interest" such as their home, in the area. However, they can prevent residents from returning to their home during a fire.

It is rumored police want this changed to allow them to evacuate people whose homes are poorly defended. However, the CFA contends that people who stay with their home have an excellent chance of saving it, provided they have prepared a fire plan.

Several residents claimed the Warrandyte mains water system is inadequate. Complete loss of water was reported at various times during the fire. Concern was expressed about the water tank on Growler's Hill. Appeals to the MMBW for information have not brought forth an acceptable response.

A coronial inquiry will be held in November to review State emergency procedures (DISPLAN) used in a fire in a densely populated area. The current disaster plan was drawn up after Ash Wednesday in 1983. February's fire was the first time it had been used.

The coroner, Mr Hal Hallenstein, visited the area on the night of the fire. In March, the coroner's office invited submissions from local groups, CFA and police.

Residents at the public meeting decided to prepare a separate submission to present local views. The Warrandyte Advisory Committee is also preparing a submission.

A working party of five residents, including fire brigade and police representatives, will submit residents' main concerns to the enquiry. Recommendations will include:

- Establishing a resident-based community education program involving North Warrandyte CFA, Shire of Eltham and police;
- Placing roadblocks on the outskirts of Warrandyte to divert through traffic around the town, not just at the bridge.
- Manning roadblocks with local police.
- MMBW to review the water supply to Warrandyte.



Cr Val Polley, Doncaster-Templestowe's new mayor

# Congrats, Mayor Val!

By CLIFF GREEN

For Val Polley, Doncaster and Templestowe's first "green" mayor, the road to the city's top elected job has been long and hard.

Val and her husband Austin have lived in Hutchinson Avenue, Warrandyte, for 25 years. A founding member of the Warrandyte Environment League, she first stood for council in 1973. She was defeated by John Scott, also of Warrandyte.

Val's commitment to the environment goes back to her earliest years in Warrandyte. A member of the Yarra Valley Conservation League and the Doncaster and Templestowe Conservation Society, she campaigned to stop the development of Westerfolds.

She remained closely involved in community activities throughout, serving on kindergarten and primary school parent bodies and as president of the Warrandyte High School Council for several years.

Val was founding president of the Doncaster-Templestowe Spinners and Weavers Group and a founding member of the Friends of the Warrandyte State Park. She was this newspaper's first chief of staff, coordinating production of the *Diary* during 1987 and 1988.

The campaign to save Green Wedge land in the Park Orchards-Warrandyte area from subdivision reached its peak during the

1989 Doncaster-Templestowe council elections. Rob Gell and Val Polley stood as a team, pledging their total opposition to such development.

They both won resounding victories and council immediately responded, throwing out all proposals for rezoning the Green Wedge. Cr Polley became chairperson of the council committee, newly-created to report on ways to ensure the continuing preservation and rehabilitation of the area.

Val has also served on the Middle Yarra Advisory Committee and on council bodies dealing with the Warrandyte townscape, open space in the city, pest plants and the heritage study.

Cr Polley is a policy officer with the Department of Conservation and Environment. When her two daughters reached their teens she returned to study, graduating as a mature age student in geography and visual arts at Monash University.

Austin Polley is production manager of a Nunawading manufacturing company, and both their daughters are now working overseas.

Cr Polley is only the third woman to be elected mayor of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe and is the first Warrandyte Ward councillor to become mayor since Cr John Scott's election in 1976.

# Road hazard relief close

A traffic hazard at the intersection of Stintons Road and Tindals Road should soon be eliminated with the extension of Reynolds Road through old orchard land, linking it with Stintons Road.

This follows advice received by Mr Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte, from Mr Andrew McCutcheon, Minister for Planning and Housing, supporting a council planning scheme amendment allowing the extension through property owned by Mr and Mrs Ivan Peter-Budge.

"According to Vic Roads' own figures, some 8,370 cars drive past the Peter-Budge property each day," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*. "Many of these vehicles have to traverse the dangerous dog-leg bend where Stintons Road intersects with Tindals Road."

Mr Honeywood has made a number of representations over the past three years, attempting to find a solution to the intersection problem and ensure that Mr and Mrs Peter-Budge achieve fair settlement for that portion of their property affected.

The planned extension is an important part of the proposed Northern Route, diverting through traffic away from Warrandyte and Park Orchards.

Doncaster and Templestowe council has amended its local planning scheme, permitting a section of the Peter-Budge property to be classified as a proposed main roads reservation.

"Now that Vic Roads has been given the go-ahead to negotiate the purchase of the relevant section of the Peter-Budge property, it remains to be seen if the government will complete the necessary roadworks poste haste," Mr Honeywood said.



Phil Honeywood: worked for solution.

**CYRIL**

By PAUL WILLIAMS



\*\*\*\*\*

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# Neil goes belly-dancing across a crowded room

## IN RED & WHITE

What had started a few weeks ago as a table for 10 at the opening night of Pasta Mania ended in an impromptu belly-dancing extravaganza starring Neil Pearson. It was "Heavy" Harry Southall's idea to try out our new West End nosher, but he forgot to confirm the table booking, didn't he. By the time the news got through to Neil, he had going-out clobber on and there was no turning back; and by the time he and Bub arrived at Pasta Mania, Vic and Sandra Grybas had talked the jovial host into improvising a table for two, which became a crowded table for six and eight with the arrival of Billy Norman and Siobhan Hedderman, and Graeme and Bev Riddell, in that order. To say a good (if somewhat cramped) time was had by all is a considerable understatement. And the best time of all was had by Neil, who did a prize-winning double act with the resident belly-dancer. Heavy Harry, who had scurried home in disgrace to a scrambled-eggs dinner, doesn't know what he missed.

In The Gondoliers. He wed Katharine a couple of years later in Oklahoma (the musical, that is) and was her boss in Annie in 1989. This year he's Katharine's gravel-voiced dustman father Doolittle in My Fair Lady.

two dangers in relating this story: that Norm will never speak to Smokey again; and that the non-bettors of this town won't understand a word of it anyway. A columnist's life is riddled with peril.

And talking of theatrical families, WAA drama group long-timer Irving Reid appeared in the group's 1959 presentation of A Midsummer Night's Dream. The play was directed by Harold Baigent, whose wife was pregnant with son Donald at the time. Now Donald Baigent is appearing as the Prince of Morocco in the current WAA production, The Merchant of Venice, directed by Irving Reid.

The PR people at Doncaster and Templestowe council have asked us to explain that the late arrival of the special election issue of their newsletter Update was not their fault and they're not wearing it. Most folk around here received their copy on the Monday after the election. Which was a big help. The D&T minions are hanging the blame right on Australia Post. They say they posted the copies with days to spare, but they went to the wrong post office, or something. The Diary knows how it feels. A couple of months ago we thought we'd lost the original copy for a complete issue. It took almost a week to get from Melbourne to little old Warrandyte. For a while it looked like we'd be filling up the pages with Gas & Fuel Corporation recipes. Heaven forbid.



They're a hardy lot, our Friends of the Warrandyte State Park. On August 8, the coldest day of the year, when the rain was coming down sideways and the brass monkeys had run for cover clutching their nether regions, where were the Friends? Up on Fourth Hill, pulling sweet pittosporums. What? Sweet pittosporums, a most undesirable weed which can grow into a tree 14 metres high and just about take over the bush if you let it. Hundreds of sweet pittosporums bit the dust (for "dust" read "mud") that day, and did the Friends whinge at all about the blizzard, the rain and the hail? No. They are all-weather warriors.

This town has hosted some great grand gargle giggles in years past. Gus McLaren's ALP rough red bottlings still stand supreme. The roughest reds for miles turned up, the parties were great but the plonk was diabolical. Other lousy local laughing liquids spring corrosively to mind — or what's left of it. Such as Ken McKenzie's infamous home brew and the Warrandyte Football Club Premiership Port. And don't even mention Anthony (The Gnome) Giles-Peters and the notorious Lowenbrau caper. But now those are just hungover hiccups from a fume-filled past. No more rotgut. Out goes the paint-stripper. Now something very tasty is about to be uncorked upon the local landscape. What are we talking about? Sorry folks — as the captain of the Titanic said when they filled the last lifeboat — you'll have to wait till next time.

Warrandyte footy club secretary Norm Carrington makes no secret of his pride in part-ownership of a smarter-than-average hayburner named Staincross Fella. He reckons it's a good 'un and he'll tell you so — which is a refreshing change from a lot of horsey people who tell you their nag couldn't run a drum in a one-horse race. Honesty like Norm's deserves more than he got when The Fella bolted in at Bendigo on August 27, having performed similarly at Werribee five days earlier. Norm took his stake along to the Pub-Tab at The Grand, backed his horse each-way, but cancelled that when the on-screen tote update suggested a bit of a move for the place and that on the nose was the way to go, value-wise. It would have been, too, had he filled out the card correctly. For "win" Norm read "place" and it cost him \$700. There are

We know our newspaper's price-less, but we didn't think our box on the tree was on the way to being declared a national treasure. But there it is, provisionally listed in the Doncaster-Templestowe Heritage Study: "The Diary Tree, Yarra Street, opposite State Bank, Warrandyte". What's left of it, anyway. And while we're on the subject, it really isn't a very smart idea to leave money for advertising in the self-same box. Someone around this town has very long light fingers.



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# Test star Rodney ready to bowl over customers

The Test batsmen he terrorised for a lot of years would feel much more at ease if they could see Rodney Hogg now. Instead of keeping the shine on a cricket ball, he's polishing apples.

One of Australia's most feared and successful postwar fast bowlers Rodney has taken over the greengrocery at the Goldfield Plaza shopping centre.

It's a long, long way from the members' end in, say, Kingston, Jamaica, to the West End of Warrandyte, but the man who had the world's top batsmen ducking for cover is enthusiastic about his new business venture.

"This is my first experience of the greengrocery business, but I hope to maintain the high standards of freshness and service that Warrandyte has come to expect," he said.

Rodney and Denise Hogg have lived in Warrandyte for five years — a fact that has escaped a lot of local cricket fans. They have

two children, Matthew, 7, and Lauren, 3.

Rodney was "just another Sheffield Shield bowler" until he was thrust into the Australian team after the defection of Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson to Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket in 1978.

In his first Test season, he claimed 41 England wickets at an average of 12.65. It is still a record for an Ashes series.

Rodney had the classic fast bowler's temperament — that is, he regarded every opposing batsman as the sworn enemy. An asthmatic, he rarely warmed up before opening an attack and his first couple of overs were often at less than medium pace. But when he fired up he was capable of sustaining fearsome speed.

He took 123 wickets in eight years of Test cricket and retired this year after District coaching stints at Waverley and Northcote.



Rodney Hogg on the cricket field (left) and set for success in the greengrocer trade.

# Housing site leased

By DAVID WYMAN

Warrandyte looks set to get its first public housing on the site of the old "quarry disaster" houses in Webb Street. After almost two years of deferrals, the Ministry of Housing has just signed a lease for the one-acre site with the Warrandyte Quarry Disaster Trust.

It is expected that the old houses, built in 1936 for the families of two men killed in a quarry accident and now in a state of disrepair, will be demolished. Four houses will be built on the land and rented to families which pass the ministry's eligibility criteria.

The Warrandyte community, through a committee yet to be established, will be able to nominate tenants for two of the houses.

The ministry, which has full responsibility for the land, will pay \$1 per annum rent for the site to the trust. The site is bounded by Webb Street, Brackenbury Street and Sloans Road.

Trustees signed the lease about mid-August and the ministry signed on August 27. The lease is for 55 years, after which

The two men who were killed in 1934 in a quarry slide in Hussey Lane, South Warrandyte, were working for sustenance at the time. Each left a wife and five children.

Their deaths in such tragic circumstances became major news in Melbourne and parliamentary and public support was promptly forthcoming.

A public meeting held in Warrandyte at the time resulted in an appeal for money and materials to build houses for the families.

The two houses were built and used by the families, but as the children grew up they moved on and the houses were eventually rented to other families in need.

the property will revert back to the trust. If the ministry wishes to extend the lease and upgrade the houses, the trust probably would agree, according to trustee Peter Harkin.

Mr Harkin told the *Diary* that the whole aim of the project was to provide emergency housing stock in the Warrandyte area. "It's not costing the community anything. We believe it's a good deal," he said. "It satisfies the original intent of the trust to the letter."

Mr Harkin said he had a meeting on August 21 with the ministry's zone and region managers at which he expressed the trust's

desire for the public housing project to go ahead as soon as possible.

"It's taken the ministry a very long time to do their feasibility study. The public meeting in Warrandyte where this project was first unveiled was held on October 4, 1989," he recalled.

The zone and region managers had said they perceived a need for public housing in Warrandyte and "they want to give it top priority and kick it along".

The trustees held about \$18,000 in 1989 in the Quarry Disaster Trust Fund, but this had been depleted by payment of rates and other charges. From

now on, however, the interest on this fund will be distributed to worthy local causes.

In the meantime, one of the houses is being used under a sub-leasing arrangement with local emergency housing group, Assisi House. The other house is not habitable and is being used by the three local fire brigades for training exercises. Ultimately, this house will be destroyed in fire exercises by the brigades.

Mr Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte, said he had been "very frustrated by the handling of the project by the bureaucracy". The government had appeared to have made a commitment to public housing in Warrandyte, but the Ministry of Housing had constantly delayed and deferred a resolution on the lease agreement.

"Given that the department will be obtaining the land for a peppercorn rental, the only cost to the taxpayers will be the cost of constructing the proposed units," Mr Honeywood said.

"I am appalled that in the midst of a recession, with many needing public housing, it has taken so long to get a final commitment from the ministry."

# Pavilion robbed

The Warrandyte recreation reserve pavilion was robbed last month for the fourth time in two years.

Thieves who jemmied open the front door of the rooms shared by the local football and cricket clubs escaped with cash, a television set, video recorder, liquor and cigarettes. Losses are estimated at thousands of dollars. Most of the property is covered by insurance.

The thieves struck on the night of Monday, August 26, and the robbery was discovered by assistant bar manager Kim Mulcahy the following afternoon.

Warrandyte Football Club offi-

cialists had blamed "young amateurs" for the previous robberies, but said the latest raid appeared to have been the work of professionals.

"They took only the packaged beer. They didn't bother with the loose bottles and cans," said WFC vice-president Geoff Feltham. "They even took food out of the freezer and we believe they left the microwave only because it was bolted down."

Security at the clubrooms is certain to be upgraded in the wake of last month's theft.

"We are looking at burglar alarms, among other things," Mr Feltham said.



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"It's a disaster, all right!"

# Campaigners thank team

With one more election campaign behind us and as campaign manager for Louise Joy, I would like to thank each and every member of the team, on Louise's behalf.

This one was hard and unpredictable, and in the final analysis, after primary votes were counted, Louise had to get an incredible 67 per cent of Bob Cox's preferences. Louise got the 67 per cent — and more — to emerge victorious.

While the team comprised some 80 people across the whole Warrandyte Ward, with each person contributing to the total effort, some deserve special mention.

David Wyman did a splendid job on publicity, arranging printing of the brochures and how-to-vote cards within the limited time available. Jacky Law and her team were once more our star fundraisers. With husband Simon, Jacky also made her home available for the post election get-together.

Graham Atkinson was always there to do anything that needed doing throughout the campaign. Councillors Val Polley and Vern Denford supported Louise at the polling booths throughout the day. Thanks also to Lil White-

head who brought the early shift at Warrandyte Primary School a welcome flask of coffee.

Special thanks must go to Bob Cox, who exchanged preferences with Louise, thus ensuring her victory. Louise supported the team throughout the day, spending long hours meeting people at the polling booths.

In the spirit of our communities, two people handing out how-to-vote cards for rival candidates were overheard arranging to adjourn for a couple of well-earned beers together when their shift finished.

Our congratulations must go to Richard Schurmann and his team on their superb effort north of the river, getting their candidate Bill Penrose home with such a large margin.

Finally, it was nice to see so many young people taking part in the campaign, as the day will come when it will be their turn to run the team.

**Bruce Bence,**  
Brackenbury Street

## LETTERS

### Hard work behind win

I would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank the team who worked so hard to achieve the win for Warrandyte in the recent local government election.

Bruce Bence as campaign manager organised the letter box drops and polling booth duty with 80 helpers involved. Although election day was fine, there were many people tramping the streets in the rain during the previous week. David Wyman prepared the pamphlet. Robina and Tony Summers of Pigeon Bank Studios took the photo.

I would also like to pay my respects to Bob Cox who raised the important issues of valua-

tions from his personal experience, and to salute my second time opponent Daryl Cox in our democratic struggle through the ballot box.

Of most importance I would like to thank the voters who fought this close election in Warrandyte Ward for the City of Doncaster and Templestowe.

Thanks to Lee Tindale, Cliff Green, Jan Tindale and the *Diary* team for the even handed coverage of the candidates.

Thanks also to Jackie Law, Roger Kibell and all performers at the fund raising pre-election concert.

**Louise Joy,**  
Brackenbury Street

Street footpaths from Stiggants Reserve to the bridge shops and down to Harry Heaths.

The doctor has told me to walk because of my arthritis, but all the stones on the footpath are getting washed away and it's very rough.

I think we should have proper footpaths sealed with tar like they have done in Research. They should also fix up the roads because the bus drivers are going mad about the pot holes.

**Beryl Stanes**  
Stiggants Street  
Warrandyte

### Money buys equipment

On behalf of the Warrandyte Community Child Care Co-operative, through the *Diary*, I would like to thank the Warrandyte market for the generous donation of \$200.

We are a "parent run" organisation and rely on fund raising activities to buy equipment for our centre. The money will gratefully be used to purchase new manipulative equipment for our children.

**Pam Booth,**  
Warrandyte Community Child Care Co-operative Ltd.

### Women play vital role

As far back as the first white settlement in Australia, women were there working with men, and though their contribution was unrecorded and unassessed, it was vital to the family existence and a major part of the making of Australia. What we as

Australians owe these women, may never be known.

Today women have the choice of staying home or going out to "paid" work, or combining the two. Whatever the choice, women realise that a job well done ("paid" or not) is a chance to convey identity, prestige and self respect.

Depending upon personal values, some regard work as; a mere livelihood or the most significant part of their lives; or an expression of self or a duty.

To others yet again, it is the chance to make a worthwhile contribution to society. The women who work as volunteers at the local opportunity shop are an example of this.

As a regular customer, the one worker that springs most readily to mind is Lil. Lil, a local resident for 30 years, and a volunteer for six years, currently works at the shop three days a week. The hours are long and the work is demanding, and all with no monetary gain to herself. Why, one asks, does she work so hard? The answer lies in the fact that historically Warrandyte has a strong sense of community, and is intent on helping residents who may fall behind in life's opportunities for one reason or another.

Lil is a living example of this supportive spirit. As a regular customer, this is a chance to publicly thank Lil and the other workers for their efforts. Who else would have worked at the two previous establishments in such poor conditions, simply to help others in need.

Thank you Lil, and may you enjoy your time in your rather luxurious surroundings at the new Community Centre. So often in the past, women's vital role in history and society has been overlooked. Don't let this be the case with these tireless workers. Drop in and say "thanks" because I shudder to think where we would be without them and the service they so generously offer.

**Melissa Pritchard,**  
Yarra Street.

## Top marks earned

If every picture tells a story then this photo is a tale of academic achievement.

Pictured are Warrandyte High School students (from left) Chris Condos, Julie Byrne, Karen Bolden and Melita Watkins who are proof that the demands of the new VCE can be met with hard work, dedication and enthusiasm.

Each of the high-flying students received mostly A grades in their mid-year results and are looking towards even greater things in semester two.

Year 12 students, Chris, Kar-

en and Melita are tackling a course which is a mixture of old and new VCE subjects while Julie Byrne and another top student Chris Scott (not pictured), are studying the new year 11 VCE course.

With their respective goals in mind, the students have clearly listed their priorities accordingly and, in doing so, appear to have set course for a very successful and rewarding future. Their efforts are to be commended.

**Kym Smith**



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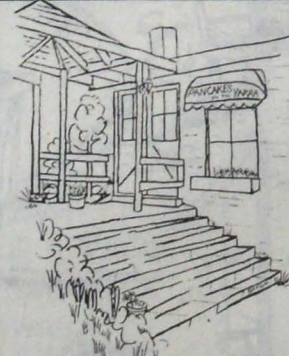
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# Yokels draw crowds

A growing number of acoustic and semi-acoustic bands, balladeers, poets, comics and raconteurs (accomplished and not-so-accomplished) are getting together with friends and admirers for Sunday afternoon Local Yokels at Warrandyte's Grand Hotel.

"Yokels" organiser, Jonathan Ashley, says it all started more than a year ago for budding artists and "old farts" to encourage each other and trade ideas over a "cool one" in the local pub. But it has also become an opportunity for people to hear live local acts and share a drink with friends at the end of a busy weekend.

Jonathan told the *Diary*: "The place is packed out every time "Local Yokels" is on. All sorts turn up; toddlers to grannies. Everyone has a great time and it's free.

"The increasing success of the thing has meant that the pub has been trying to talk us into holding it upstairs where there is more room. We've been reluctant to meddle with a winning formula but renovations downstairs over the next couple of months has finally forced the inevitable."

A regular at Yokels said, "It's got so popular now that you've got to get there early for a seat. It will be so much better upstairs. Everyone will be able to get in on the action."

For Jonathan one of the most satisfying things is watching artists develop their craft and grow as performers with each show.

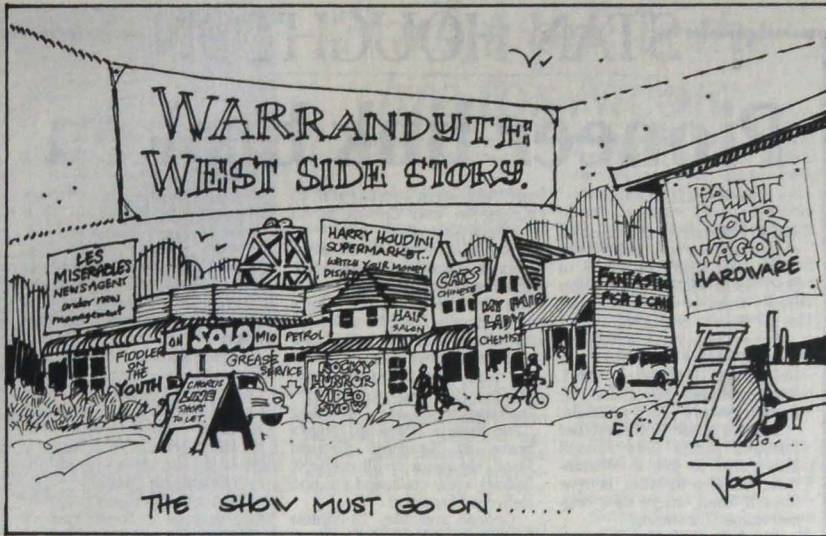
"Some names are well known around town, but some of our most exciting stuff is coming from people whose talent was relatively unknown in Warrandyte before Yokels," he said.

There is something for everyone. Acapalandyb produces some of the finest harmonies; Craig Woodward is the wizard of Frailing Ole-time Banjo; Paterson's Curse has that Celtic/High lonesome sound; Platform Souls is great country/swing; Bill and Joy present original country songs; Rosie Gardner is a polished singer/songwriter; Jock McNeish is the stand-up cartoonist and Richard Schurmann a bush raconteur.

Finer Times does mellow covers; Alex Barlas' Jazz 'n' Swing Band is big and brassy; Loose Ends is a 50s rock duo; Mark Leehy and Kevin McNamara — our favorite Australian bush maestros; Febrile Magenta is a high taste classical guitar quartet; Craig Horne plays rhythm 'n' blues standards and originals; and Jonathan Ashley performs traditional folk ballads.

If you're an acoustic/semi-acoustic act, poet, raconteur or comic and would like to perform free of charge to a live crowd, contact Jonathan Ashley on 844 3953 (AH).

"Local Yokels" happens three more times this year from 2.30 to 5.30pm on September 15, October 20 and November 24.



THE SHOW MUST GO ON.....

# Problems plague West End shops

By GEORGI STICKELS

Improving the roads at Warrandyte's West End solves just one of several problems at the shopping centre, say residents, shop owners and the Doncaster and Templestowe City Council.

Local residents will be well aware of the road-works undertaken in Colin Avenue, Drysdale Road and Leber Street, seen by many as a much needed improvement. Before construction began the roads were described by one council worker as steep and rutted with severe dust and drainage problems.

The roadworks, scheduled for completion in four months, will seal the roads and provide kerbs, footpaths and better drainage. Access to Anderson's Creek Primary School and nearby homes will be cleaner and safer, especially for children walking to and from school.

Councillor Val Polley welcomed the improvements but said they were not enough.

"The potholes in Melbourne Hill Road are appalling and parking and circulation very poor, especially at Goldfields Plaza," she said. "I hate having to fiddle through carparks to reach shops."

Cr Polley criticised the "very poor layout" of blocks of shops in the area and said the owners of each complex had "wasted opportunities" by not working together. She said she "feels sorry for the shopkeepers... it proba-

bly hampers trade." Unfortunately it is too late to change.

The shops most severely affected are the six constructed off Colin Avenue. Despite more than adequate parking, each shop has seen several businesses come and go since opening a few years ago and one shop is still vacant.

Tenants say the distance from mainstream traffic and dust from Colin Avenue are the main problems.

Owner of the shops Edmund Ng said he has difficulty keeping all leases filled. The situation is not yet serious enough for him to consider closing the shops and he hopes the completed road-works and boosted advertising will solve the problem.

Tenants in other shops also hope business will improve after Colin Avenue is completed. The Warrandyte Flower Basket and Needles and Pins, which front Colin Avenue and Melbourne Hill Road both say dust during summer damaged their stock and made a "shocking" mess. They say poor parking facilities and potholes on Melbourne Hill Road also affect their businesses.

Mr Milton Karis, who runs the hardware store, agrees. He said Melbourne Hill Road was "an annoying series of potholes" and also dangerous.

He said drain covers were becoming exposed as the road weathered away, posing a risk to customers' tyres and parking was inadequate.

However, like Colin Avenue,

Melbourne Hill Road is a private road so council street repairs must be paid for by residents who in this case are the shop owners. Mr Karis said these costs will be passed on to tenants like himself, who already face some hardship.

Theo Niakalous, at Doncaster and Templestowe council offices, explained private roads to 'the *Diary*'.

He said when Warrandyte was originally subdivided the owners of each subdivision did not have to service roads on their property and those left unserved were called private roads.

Properties on serviced roads, with drains, footpaths and a sealed surface, are worth more than unserved lots. Mr Niakalous said people who bought land in private roads should have paid \$18,000 - 20,000 less for their land. "They're mugs if they paid more," he said.

A private road is still a public thoroughfare and the council can decide when and how it will be serviced. Residents must bear the costs but the council may contribute some funding to the project, and offers loans to residents who can't afford to pay the required \$18,000 or so "up front". Mr Niakalous said the council tried to avoid unnecessary work which costs ratepayers. "We are not in the habit of bulldozing things unnecessarily," he said.

It became necessary to service the West End area for environmental reasons. Dust affects air quality and poor drainage can cause excessive silt and rubbish to run into the Yarra. Long-term noise and erosion are also minimised by the road development.

Mr Niakalous said the council planning committees "try to be aware of people's needs" placing safety and the environment before aesthetics. About complaints that gutters and footpaths create suburbia in Warrandyte, he said residents had to remember "it's not really bush in Warrandyte but it's in the greater metropolitan area". Safe roads are of greatest importance.

There are no plans yet to service Melbourne Hill Road, but the project will be considered after current works are completed.



Work underway at Colin Avenue

# Office dispute nears resolution

The dispute over occupancy of the old post office in Yarra Street may be approaching some sort of resolution. A meeting was held on August 12 at which members of Doncaster and Templestowe council met with representatives of local groups to try to determine future occupancy.

It had been suggested that the Citizens Advice Bureau may be more appropriately housed in the new community centre with the Warrandyte Historical Society taking over the entire post office building.

Members of the Post Office

Preservation Group attended, putting their case that they were happy with the present "dual" occupancy, as the daily attendance by the CAB meant that the building was always in use and accessible and the CAB benefited from the interest in the building which brought people inside.

The CAB representatives expressed some concern about the additional cost to them with the suggested move, finding it curious that anyone would want to change something that was working so well.

Historical society representa-

tives put a strong case for taking over the old post office. They argued that the historic building is an obvious venue for a local museum.

They were without adequate funds to establish a museum in the community centre and felt the society would dissolve completely unless they were able to have more than the present two rooms in the post office.

The meeting, chaired by the new mayor, Cr Val Polley, reached no agreement and councillors and council officers are

faced with making a difficult decision which may not suit all parties.

The *Diary* understands that since the meeting, the Citizens Advice Bureau has decided to relocate in the new community centre on the understanding that council will help finance the move.

It is also believed that the tourist information service, operated as an adjunct to the CAB, could remain at the old post office, thus allowing the building to be open more often.

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There are still small areas in which "Update" is not being received. Residents, who are not receiving the newsletter and wish to do so, should notify the editor by writing to:

The Editor  
"Update"  
PO Box 1  
Doncaster 3108.

Residents who are receiving copies both by mail and household delivery would assist by notifying us and we will remove them from the mailing list.

Patrick McDonnell  
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# STAN HOUGHTON

## Pioneer link broken

By BRUCE BENICE

A link with one of the district's oldest families was broken with the sudden death, on July 8, of Stan Houghton. The Houghton family story is very much part of the Warrandyte story.

James Houghton arrived in Victoria from Boarhurst in Hampshire, England in 1854, coming almost immediately to the Anderson's Creek goldfield.

James's sister Ruth and her husband James Grey Russell also came to live in Warrandyte, settling in what is now Russell Road, where their original home still stands.

Another of James's sisters, Miriam, also came to Warrandyte with her husband, Henry Stiggant. The Stiggant family struck it lucky almost immediately with the discovery of rich gold reefs, among them the Masterton and the Pigtail.

The Houghton family bought land opposite the Anderson's Creek cemetery gates.

George Houghton's first job was at the Victory mine in Whipstick Gully. With his brother Harry, he was among a number of young Warrandyte

men who went seeking gold to Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie in Western Australia.

In between trips to the west, George married a Warrandyte girl, May Forden. They lived in the residence in the school grounds, then built a house on the corner of Harris Gully Road.

Later George worked clearing trees and filling old mine shafts. He also worked on buildings in the area, including "The Robins" Penleigh Boyd's home in Kangaroo Ground Road. He ran a small orchard, milked a few cows and cut and delivered firewood.

George and May Houghton had ten children. They all attended school at Warrandyte Primary, with Stan completing his education at Richmond Technical School.

Stan Houghton was the youngest. Each Saturday he had to clean his brothers' cricket gear, using white clay dug from the gully that runs beside Blair Street. The Houghtons had at least one member playing cricket for Warrandyte for 40 years.

Two of Stan's brothers — Alan and Eddie — captained

the Warrandyte football team. Stan played football for Ringwood and East Ringwood.

Stan's parents, George and May Houghton, lost their house and all their possessions in the 1939 bushfire. Aged in their late 50s, they were forced to start again.

Upon leaving school, Stan worked on a poultry farm at Cheltenham. He also worked in the taxation department before joining the police force in 1950, shortly after marrying Fay. He achieved top marks during his recruit training course.

Stan and Fay Houghton lived in a cottage in South Warrandyte before moving to the present family home in Sunbeam Avenue, East Ringwood.

During Stan's early career in the police force he was stationed at various city locations, including three and a half years at Victoria Docks where he received a commendation. Following a second commendation, he transferred to the CIB at Russell Street, then to Kew CIB where he was officer in charge.

In 1971, Stan was promoted to Nunawading CIB as officer in



Stan Houghton

charge with the rank of senior sergeant. In February 1977, after 27 years service, he was discharged from the force because of ill health.

He spent a number of his retirement years researching his family background. Stan was a valued member of the Warrandyte Historical Society. He had a vast knowledge of local history. Those who attended the society's seminar last year will recall Stan's tales of old Warrandyte and its people.

Stan and Fay had four children and 11 grandchildren. Stan is buried in the Anderson's Creek cemetery, where so many of his ancestors and relations have found their last resting place.

## Project improves beach

Story and picture by  
INGRID KLEINHENZ

The Sandy Bay beach in Jumping Creek Reserve has been developed to stop erosion and degradation caused by overuse.

Over the past six months Warrandyte State Park employees have worked to rejuvenate the area.

"The aim was to make it all look natural because there is a danger in over-developing the site," ranger Ian Roach told the *Diary*.

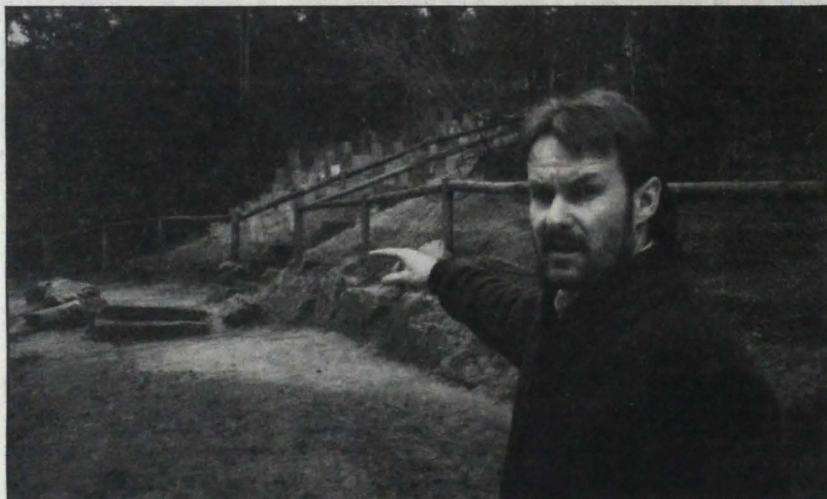
The works include provision of more than 30 car spaces to stop visitors "parking everywhere".

A system of underground drainage has also been constructed to prevent storm water from the road flooding the river bank and causing erosion.

The second stage of development involved regeneration of the river bank. Tracks between the information shelter, the river and other facilities have been constructed to promote flora growth.

Access to the river bank has also been simplified by a stone stairway.

With assistance from Friends of the Warrandyte State Park, employees have created a vegetation buffer zone between the car park and the river.



Ranger Ian Roach points out recent upgrading.

This regeneration plot was fenced to prevent rabbit sabotage, and growth is stabilising the river bank.

Willow trees on the opposite side of the river that were causing erosion have been uprooted so the river flows its natural

course instead of being deflected on to the bank.

Imported granitic sand has strengthened the Sandy Bay area and there are signs that the river is depositing silt and building up the river bank.

Work is still to be completed on the information booth,

grasses will be planted in the spring, and a viewing platform is to be constructed.

However after many months of labor Warrandyte State Park has its own beach, and it is hoped the delicate bush area will withstand the test of summer and its many visitors.

## BARBARA BALL

### Artistic, kindly friend

All who knew Barbara Ball will be saddened to hear of her passing. Barbara and her family came to Warrandyte from Tasmania more than 30 years ago.

She will be remembered as a true friend, a gentle, kindly and artistic woman who loved nature and as a wonderful wife and mother.

She also wrote short stories which have been published in *The Sun* newspaper, *The Bulletin* and other Australian and overseas periodicals.

Her memory will be treasured by her family and friends and her passing mourned by all who had contact with her.

## Program changed

Eltham council has changed the timing of its North Warrandyte grading program.

The council's existing road maintenance program for the area has been completed annually from June to August, but the results can often be unsatisfactory at this time of year.

Consequently the shire has decided to reschedule its grading program for February and March. This year's grading works in

North Warrandyte have been restricted as much as possible to light maintenance, with a more comprehensive treatment proposed for early 1992.

The shire's program aims to provide government and private unsealed roads with an annual maintenance grade.

The new schedule will be completed by October with details available from the shire's engineering office, 430 1289.

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Nicole ready for work in the state park

## Park work is the life for Nicole

Story and picture by  
INGRID KLEINHENZ

Former jillaroo and contract musterer Nicole Howey is proving her versatility at Warrandyte State Park.

Nicole is filling in for David Van Bokle for three months as a technical assistant or TA 1 ranger, after starting at the park five years ago as a volunteer.

She is now the only park staff member qualified to chop down trees, and is also an accredited chain saw operator and instructor. She has licences to drive a front-end loader as well as a fire tanker.

Nicole has always enjoyed living and working in the bush. She was a jillaroo for six months in central Queensland and worked as a contract musterer in the Northern Territory.

In Victoria Nicole studied ecology and plant identification through the State Government's Youth Guarantee scheme. At the same time she began construction and

maintenance work in Fern-tree Gully and then joined the Warrandyte State Park summer crew. She has remained there since as a construction and maintenance worker.

It is obvious that Nicole enjoys her job. She told the *Diary*: "I get along well with everyone here and every day changes."

Nicole's enthusiasm was tested, however, when fighting the bushfire that swept through northern Warrandyte only this year.

"It came through so quickly and it was so hot that the four wheel drive tyres caught on fire," Nicole said.

Since filling the position as TA 1 ranger, Nicole's diverse duties have also included giving talks to school groups on gold history.

Nicole's ambition is to become a full-time ranger. She plans to study horticulture next year and hopes to do a certificate in applied science.

It was apparent to the *Diary* that she is definitely the woman for the job.

# Mistletoe maligned

## NATURE

By PAT COUPAR  
Drawings: MELANIE COUPAR

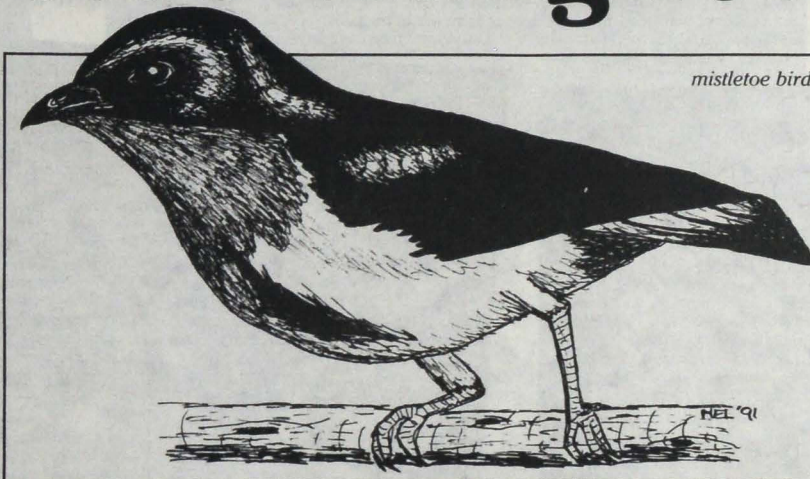
They hang from the trees like festive decorations. Their red candelabra-like flowers are visited by an array of insects and nectar-feeding birds. Dozens of black and white butterflies come, seeking not only the flowers, but the leaves on which to lay their eggs.

Succulent berries attract colorful parrots, silveryeyes and another more secretive bird. Marsupials, such as possums and gliders, venture out at night to feed on the flowers and fruit.

Whether you like them or loathe them, mistletoes are a familiar feature of the Australian bush. They are found in every mainland state, but strangely are absent from Tasmania. In all there are 75 species spread over a wide variety of plant communities: from coastal mangroves to high mountains and from the arid interior to tropical rainforest.

Many are specific to one type of tree — there is even a mistletoe which grows only on another species of mistletoe! They favor trees at the very edges of the forest, along roadsides and in paddocks. Land clearance has undoubtedly aided the proliferation of the mistletoe.

Most form pendulous clumps, anchored by a single attachment where the roots penetrate the



mistletoe bird

bark of the tree. Mistletoes are semi-parasitic, taking only water and minerals from their host; sugars are manufactured by their own green leaves.

Tree deaths are often attributed to mistletoes. However, other less visible factors, such as drought, changes in soil quality, fungal or insect attack, are almost certainly involved in the decline and death of these trees.

Mistletoe owes its existence almost entirely to one bird, not surprisingly called the mistletoe bird. This small, swallow-like bird is found wherever there are mistletoes.

Despite the dark, steely-blue plumage and startling scarlet

breast of the male, the bird is rarely seen because it is so tiny and spends most of its time in the tree tops. The birds are semi-nomadic feeding almost exclusively on ripe mistletoe berries. Although other birds and animals also eat the fruit of mistletoes, it is only this bird which has a specialised digestive system that allows the seed to pass through rapidly with its sticky coating intact.

Most birds, when excreting, perch across a tree branch so their droppings fall to the ground. However, the adroit mistletoe bird aligns itself lengthwise and deposits its dropping directly onto the branch. The mistletoe seed, expelled in the dropping,

adheres to the branch where it will germinate.

The olive-green leaves of drooping mistletoe are unmistakable as they festoon many eucalypts in Warrandyte. Grey mistletoe is another species which occurs here, but it is less noticeable and grows only on wattle trees.

Whatever the species, they all rely on the minute mistletoe bird as a courier for their seeds. The bird is not the only animal which has a special relationship with this exceptional plant. Some of the most beautiful butterflies that grace our gardens and bushland in Warrandyte, only exist because of their intimate association with the much maligned mistletoe.

# Gospel Chapel receives facelift

The Community Church gathered together a bank of workers last month to transform what was the original Gospel Chapel.

The church which now meets at the rear of the squash courts invited several of its ex-members now working with mission groups further afield to return and renew acquaintances from August 1924.

Apart from working together at what is now known as the Playgroup Centre, the whole church family enjoyed a weekend at Phillip Island for the annual family camp.

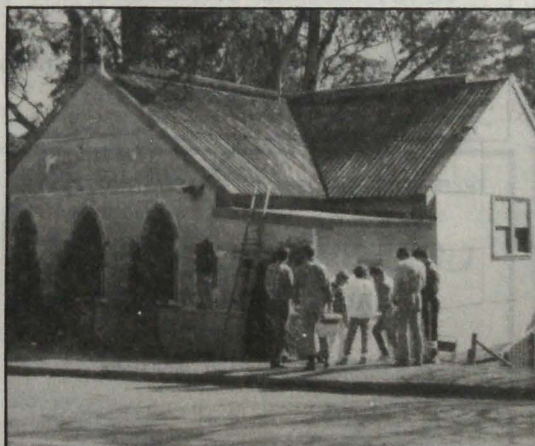
People returning to work on the chapel project included: John Caton, manager of Mobile Mission Maintenance in South Australia; Geoff Hanson, general secretary of MMM and Neil Press, soon to travel to Zambia with his family to work on MMM aid projects for the next three years.

MMM is a worldwide Australian-based aid organisation majoring in assistance with building projects to those in need. Since its inception in 1975 approximately 2000 projects have been carried out using volunteers.

Also in Warrandyte were Charles Gray, a radio presenter and representative of the World Radio Missionary Fellowship and Colin Story, Ed Bentley and Kirk Franklin, who are all on staff with Wycliffe Bible Translators, based at Kangaroo Ground.

Frank Cooksey, director of Health Care for Christian Workers, was another to work on the old church facelift.

The Playgroup Centre project was co-ordinated by David Dawson, a member of the church and a local building contractor.



Workers gather to transform the original chapel.

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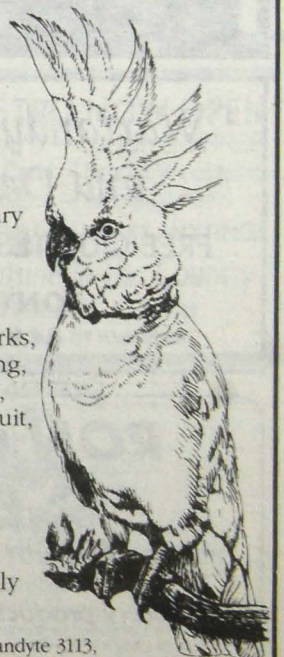
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# Sisters take their bows

By JUDY MACDONALD

As the curtain goes down on Warrandyte High School's final night of My Fair Lady, it will mark the end of an era: a nine-year association with the Adcock girls, Dunja, Joanna and Katharine.

Since 1983 when Dunja appeared as Josephine in HMS Pinafore, one or other of the sisters has starred in the school's often lavish productions.

Joanna's turn came in 1985 in the "Gondoliers" and Katharine's extraordinary run began with the role of Laurey in "Oklahoma" in 1987. That year was the most difficult for her, as she was playing the lead while in year 8 and her understudies were in year 12.

Many a mother, ambitious for her daughter to play the lead, had her disappointment fade as Katharine's fine young voice filled the hushed auditorium.

Director and teacher Chris White says that all three sisters were talented and all had stage presence.

"Katharine in particular has an all-round talent, with a very mature coloratura voice that will become noticeably better over the next few years," he said.

Warrandyte High is now recognising the major input of time that these productions require from the students and Katharine was able to combine units of her VCE with the production of "My Fair Lady". She has designed and made all of her costumes for the show. These will also be her folio for VCE Costume Design.

David Joy taking the lead male role of Professor Higgins and

Katharine as Eliza Doolittle are both using their parts in the show as their VCE Communications project.

Over the years, teachers and students have worked so well together on these productions that they have gained new respect for each other's talents. Katharine laughingly told the *Diary* that she and teacher, Greg Stuart, have portrayed "just about every relationship." This time, Mr Stuart will play her father Alfred Doolittle.

Chris White, who works till 10.30pm most nights with rehearsals and set-building, cannot speak highly enough of the casts with which he has worked. Their own dedication is apparent, as young men like Nick Amott and Glen Cappellani, working hard at setbuilding, have returned to the school just to help with the production. Nick can cite the year and name of every show and obviously immensely enjoyed being part of each production.

Mr White praised the socialising aspects of the school productions. "They are a great leveller," he said. He thought that the mix of professional singers from the teaching staff with the students, had helped the students rise to greater heights.

Mr White went on to say Katharine had been his assistant Director this year. "She has a great ability to get the kids going, and is mature enough in an aesthetic and artistic sense," he said. He often left decisions to her, learning from her in the process.

Katharine has an interview

with the College of the Arts in November, and she hopes to study opera, though she hastens to add that opera is not necessarily her future, and she is not sure where she is heading. This course will obviously alter the fact that she has only attended singing lessons twice and hated them both.

Jenny Adcock, mother of the girls, involved them in a theatrical atmosphere at an early age, with her own interest in set design. The little girls appeared in such productions as "The King and I". Katharine does not know why, but she said, "we just all started singing."

Dunja, who now lives in Spain, studied singing at Box Hill TAFE, later performing in "Kismet" with the Geelong Theatre Company. Joanna studied drama at Box Hill TAFE, touring Australia with their production.

Katharine believes that the annual productions at Warrandyte High and their excellence have helped her stay on at school, keeping her interested. "They haven't taken from my schooling," she said. "If I wasn't rehearsing, I wouldn't be doing extra school work!"

Chris White is aware of some excellent young talent ready to take Katharine's place in future female leads. It is likely that he along with the school and the Warrandyte community will keep a keen watch on the career of this young woman whose voice has already delighted and surprised so many.



Above: Katharine takes the spotlight in "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way to the Forum".

Below: Joanna, far right, starred in "The Gondoliers".

Below right: Katharine and the chorus in "Oklahoma".



Above: Katharine plays a scene with Zoe Amor in "The Sallow Wattle".



Above: Dunja, (below woman in hat), sings in the "Pirates of Penzance".

Right: Dunja in "HMS Pinafore".

Below: Katharine as Molly Anderson and Justin MacDonal as Jack Yarra in "The Sallow Wattle".



Above: "Annie" and another lead role for Katharine (centre).

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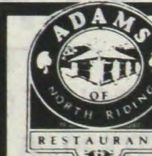
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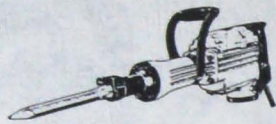


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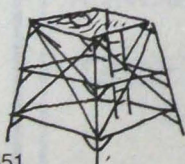
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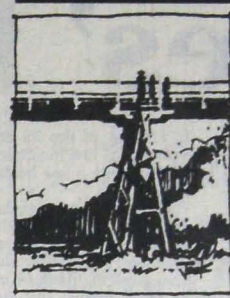
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# The bridge and the village



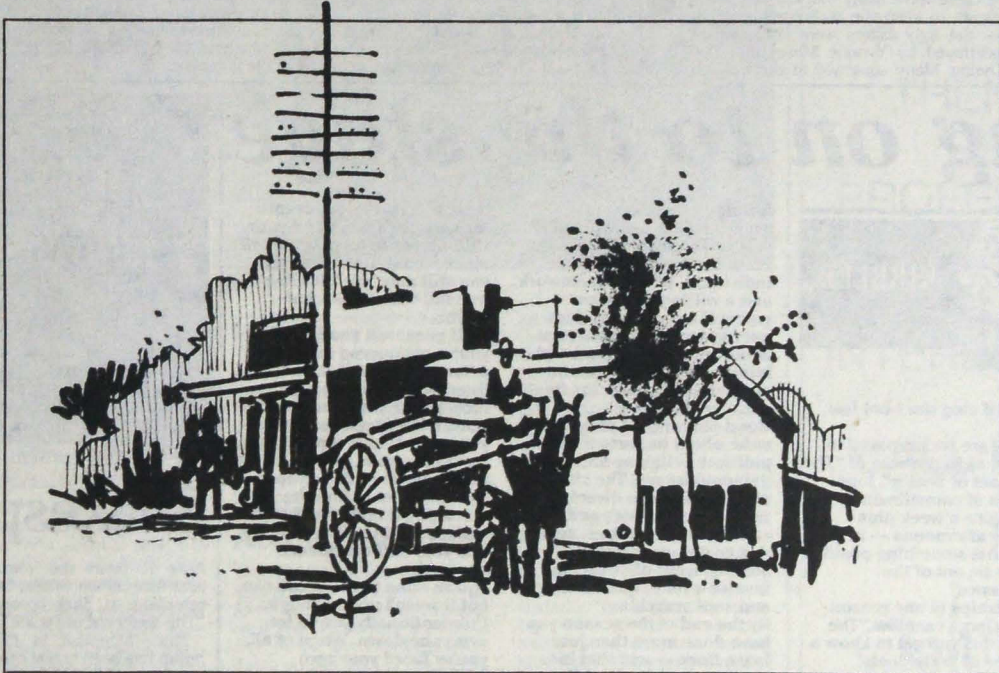
## THE WOODEN BRIDGE

By Eve Evans

One balmy morning in late spring I woke with a strange feeling of elation, like a child anticipating a birthday. Something special will happen on this beautiful day, I told myself. But I could form no clear idea of what it would be. Then suddenly, as I dressed the children, I knew. This is the day I'll ask Watty to mind the boys and I'll walk to the village. I had only seen it as we passed through that first day.

During an early lunch I explained to the children that I would leave them with Watty for a while. Robert received this news with glee. I put Evan in the pushcart, took Robert by the hand and we set off for the herb farm. About halfway there Robert began to drag. "This is a very tired hill, Mummy," he complained. So the road to the herb farm was 'The Tired Hill' from then on.

As I was about to leave the boys — much to the delight of the two women — Watty reminded me that it was a long stiff walk and I must not hurry. There had been a light spring shower earlier, so now the rich old gold clay road was strewn with wet glittering pebbles, jewelled by the sun.



heard the length of the street. They both walked along with me, calling to others and introducing me as though we were friends.

We came to the general store, the tiniest shop I had ever seen. It was literally held together with wooden packing cases, which also served as shelves.

In all the following years it never lost its fascination for me. From within came the most delicious smells. The brown smell of leather, the sunburnt smell of chaff, the green scent of herbs, and — almost — the taste of rich sweet cocoa. Farming and gardening tools leaned against the wall outside and hanging from the ceiling tin billies, kettles, and shallow gold-panning dishes clinked together as the breeze caught them.

The post-mistress came towards us. A very strange-looking person indeed. She had a very thin head and sharp features on a long neck, narrow shoulders and a body that gradually widened to very broad hips. She looked exactly like a pear and the green cotton frock she wore heightened the illusion.



Along the verges a fringe of new growth was already bright with the color of spring flowers. Small wattles puffed their golden fragrance on the air. Native fuchsias hung green bells that looked down on the pale yellow bachelor buttons. The inquisitive running postman lay flat, hugging the gravelly ground he loved, his bright scarlet flowers strung upwards at the sky.

The time would come when I would put the correct botanical name to all these wildings, but that was not yet.

It took about an hour of stiff walking up steep rocky hills — down and up again — until at last I came to the old wooden bridge. I stood leaning over the rail, gazing down at the river. Behind me a horse and cart lumbered slowly across and the loose planks of the bridge rumbled like an old man with a bellyful of wind.

Along the banks wattles split cascades of gold under a blue-enamelled hood of sky. A few weeping willows, their fronds already showing new spring green, peered into the river, enraptured by their own reflection.

After the turbulence of winter the river was calm and flowing gently. In summer it would be noisy again, but then it would be the pleasant sound of laughter in its rocky places. The lovely Yarra river.



I walked to the end of the bridge and looked along the single main street of the village. Here and there a bleak stone chimney stood, grim relic of the disastrous bushfires. The street and the river meandered along together. A few buildings remained, all built of wood. A baker, a butcher, a small general store, the village hall, an old-fashioned tearoom, and a rambling big building, proudly styling itself the 'Grand Hotel'. At the

end of the street was the post office and telephone exchange.

This was Warrandyte, tucked into the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges, not far from the harassed haste of the city.

It had been established in the early goldmining days of the last century, and was then a thriving, bustling township. But gold recovery became too costly in the rocky terrain. Mining was easier in other parts of the State. Most of the population moved out. Others were driven away by the recurring bushfires, until now there remained no more than two hundred souls.

These people — those who lived along the village street and kept the shops, and others whose homes nestled almost unseen among the surrounding hills — were as transient and imperfect as any who live anywhere. But they lived a serene and peaceful life. No one was in a hurry. Following the bushfires they had helped each other rebuild houses as well as the two tiny churches the village boasted.

As I walked along the street for the first time, a few came out of their shops

to see the 'stranger' and bid me a shy, warm welcome.

First the baker and his wife. He was tall and thin, with gentle blue eyes and features as colorless as the white clothes he wore and the flour he worked with. He loved children, though he had none of his own. Every morning as they passed on their way to school he would be waiting with a basket full of miniature loaves, hot from the oven. "Left-overs" he said, though I often suspected they had been deliberately "left-over".



His wife's build was in direct contrast to his, though her heart was as golden. Her ample figure looked like a bag of chaff, stuffed full and tied in the middle. The straight, short, lustreless hair framed a square, rugged face. Her voice boomed like a klaxon horn and could be

"Hello," she said in her rich Australian drawl. "The herb farm ladies said you would be coming. Come on in and have a cuppa."

"Thank you," I replied, "but I've left my children at the herb farm and should be getting back. Another time, perhaps."

Just then the baker's wife spied Lou across the street. "Lou!" she called, her voice almost making me jump. "When you're finished with the skins, come here." She explained that Lou sold his rabbits and skins to the butcher. "He'll be about ten minutes," she said, "then he can take you home." Lou had few words, so we drove homewards in silence.

We had a cup of tea at the herb farm. I thanked them for their care of the boys and told Lou I could manage the rest of the way.

We arrived home as the sun was setting in a blaze of ruby, gold, turquoise and purple. Thus ended a memorable day.

To be continued.

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# 'Blazes' fun spirit delights

By KEN VIRTUE

Firepersons are an interesting lot. Especially the men and women at the North Warrandyte CFA.

Their community spirit extends beyond helping to protect our vulnerable homes. They're prepared to do a lot to raise money for the necessary fire-fighting equipment — such as putting on silly costumes and entertaining the village in the process!

The founders of the 1991 madness of "Gone to Blazes" were Anita Baragwanath who directed the show, and Carol Cole who incorporated her play *If the Shoe Fits*.

In all, out of the 35 cast and crew members, 29 are members of the CFA including quite a few husband and wife teams.

Their aim was to raise funds to outfit their new rapid access vehicle for next summer, and the town responded by attending in strength for six nights.

The musical fun had its inspiration from Cole Porter, and the Cinderella send-up play provided the framework for its presentation.

There were many magical stage moments to keep the audiences laughing — the ugly sisters were "beautifully" portrayed by Yvonne Morey and Sue Dyring. Many squirmed at the tell-tale

excesses of their sibling rivalry, but their performances were a salute to the wonders of make-up and natural acting ability.

Mary-Anne Higgs, as their mother, showed that a true sense of comedy timing is born not made, and provided a lesson for all would-be actors in how to always stay in character — decolletage and all!

Jim Pasinis as the King, was suitably grand, imperious and randy. How such a sweet Queen as Clair Acres could put up with him is yet another royal mystery.

Could be that she was too worried about her siberian son the Prince, convincingly played by Neil Kammings.

Carolyn Waddell as Cinderella had our sympathy in true Cinderella style. She also had the sympathy and attention of Bobbins, charmingly played by David Buck — now there's a man who obviously loves singing and dancing.

His "Friendship" number with the kitchen mice, Colleen Keating and Phyl Swindley, was a highlight of the show.

Another memorable performer was Clive "Lips" Thomas, the trumpet-playing page. They stamped and yelled for more every time Clive blew his horn — and Sue tried as hard as she could to bring him undone by whispering ugly thoughts in his ear.

The chorus, dancers and musicians obviously worked hard in rehearsals and the costumes were very good.

The Fairy Queen's outfit was magical too, and once again the audience tuned into the wonderful Op Shop lady role of Carol Cole.

"This is the third production I have done with Carol," said Anita Baragwanath. "We share a love of the older style of theatrical entertainment. We both have songs in our heads all the time and this is sometimes a worry!"

North Warrandyte CFA members gladly laugh at themselves for a good cause, and we're privileged to laugh with them.

## Plunging on to the stage

Being involved in an amateur play is a fascinating experience. Most outsiders have a distorted picture of what goes on. They attend the performance and see a group of individuals strutting their stuff, often in unusual clothing, sometimes speaking unusual language. They see the actors as strange and definitely not the role model they would like to follow. This is fair enough. They go to a play for a variety of reasons. They have a friend or relative in the cast, their social group has made a bulk booking, they happen to know and like the play or they just want a good night out. Why should they need to know anything about the process of staging a play? What is it that tempts an individual onto the stage? As an amateur, it can't be the money. It can hardly be the prospect of fame or an offer from Hollywood. It would be foolish to deny that there isn't an element of showing off. Without vanity the performances would truly lack lustre. But the show-off who is not prepared to put in

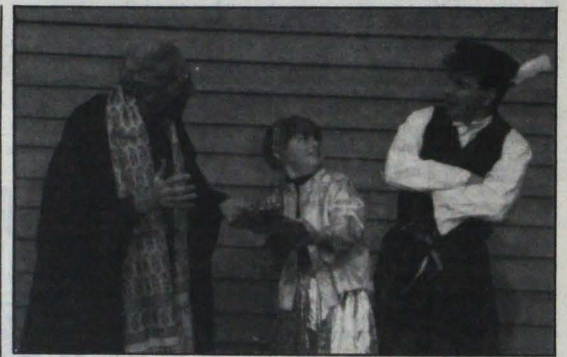


KIBBLED

the hard slog does not last long. So why are we prepared to devote, as in the case of "The Merchant of Venice", four months of commitment — two nights a week plus Sunday afternoons — in the hope that something positive will come out of the experience? Friendships is one reason. With a large cast like "The Merchant" you get to know a number of individuals. Different productions attract different people so, over a few years, your range of friends and acquaintances develops amazingly. Invariably there is the group of stalwarts, but even the core has changed in the time I've been associated with the group. There is nothing so character-

forming as working in a group. This is self-evident in play production. There is no room for the self-absorbed individual. Without teamwork and a willingness to put yourself out, the play does not happen. You soon learn about your own and others' foibles. Rehearsals can be more dramatic than the final stage version. Good playwrights choose to write about important social, political, religious and personal issues. The choice of play, who is to direct and how, wrestling with auditions and characterisations, sets and costumes, lighting, seating, front-of-house; all involve a lot of questioning and soul searching. By the end of the season you have done more than just learn lines — and that in itself is no mean feat! You have been forced to come to terms with the script and its themes and insights. For many of us this brain muscle flexing is invigorating, especially if our daily lives are somewhat less exciting. But crunch time comes when you walk out onto that stage! Despite all the rehearsal and

mental preparation, despite the director's work and your willingness to forget yourself and become the character, you still may "die". It's like free-fall with a parachute. Maybe. If all goes well you feel like you've conquered Everest without oxygen. But when the lines begin to disappear through the floor and you realise the people around you are acting in a play you don't recognise, you've hit the wall. There's nothing you can do. You're up before the managing director and you've embezzled \$1m. The curtain and your self-confidence descend. You've done the best you can, but it wasn't good enough. Unintentionally you've let everyone down. Worst of all, you've faced your own fallibility. But the following night you take a deep breath, the audience waits expectantly, the parachute opens and you know why you and your family devoted four months of life so you could stand on top of Everest and share the view with the Immortals. ROGER KIBELL



The "Merchant of Venice". A timeless quality.

## Shakespeare returns

After 12 years the Warrandyte Arts Association Drama Group is returning to Shakespeare with "The Merchant of Venice".

Since inception in 1955 the group has been active producing a wide variety of high quality theatre, and this Spring is no exception. With Shakespeare's classic script, the direction of Irving Reid and a very talented cast, a night of tragedy, comedy, romance and the absurd has been produced.

Costumes, begged and borrowed, are as fascinating as the characters themselves. With live

music and the best lighting system the drama group has ever enjoyed, the show promises to be a night to remember.

When Irving first performed Shakespeare in Warrandyte many of the cast were yet to be born. "The Merchant of Venice", like most of the writings of Shakespeare, has a timeless quality in bringing together a vast range of ages within the cast.

This sad tale by Shakespeare of racism and cruelty is also one of hard work and commitment by the cast, certain to be admired.



The team (from left): Christina Oehlmann, Emma Symes, Mathew Henderson (centre front), Linda Kazakis, Evan Zigmantas and James Egglestone.

## Theatre sports exhilarate

What a Stupid Name — or is it? This team title hasn't quite the same bite as "Warrandyte Red-backs" but it is so obvious, and yet, so original, it makes you stop and take notice.

The Warrandyte High School theatre sports team that proudly dons t-shirts with the above-mentioned slogan, has a similar effect on the audiences it entertains at the Doncaster Playhouse.

The six students which make up the team have all dabbled in drama at Warrandyte High School and four are studying major roles in the up and coming school production of *My Fair Lady*.

They were first introduced to theatre sports in school drama classes. Since then their growing enthusiasm for the "think on your feet" game has led them to seek the help of Doncaster Youth Services to locate a venue which hosted theatre sports.

They can now be seen, "strut-

ting their stuff at the Doncaster Playhouse, every third Thursday night at 8pm.

So what exactly is theatre sports all about?

All team members agree that "spontaneous improvisation" is the name of the game. Theatre sports is simply "small games based on theatre," which requires teamwork and improvising on the spot with given ideas and topics, within a set time.

Suggestions and ideas are blasted out from the crowd and this makes it a highly exciting spectator sport.

And, for those who are interested in getting their hands dirty with the on stage antics, the only real prerequisite appears to be an ability to communicate ideas clearly and "think quickly".

Most of the Warrandyte team view theatre sports as a hobby and thrive on the challenge and competitiveness. But the students have come to realise that

what the game has to offer its participants goes a lot deeper than this.

Team members are eager to point out that theatre sports provides individuals with a solid base in life skills, such as learning to work co-operatively with others. It also builds self-esteem and confidence, nurturing creativity, and teaching communication skills.

It is said that: "The skills which can be acquired, through participating in this sport, are certainly not streamlined to drama. It is an exhilarating and enriching experience."

This bubbly group of teenagers cannot talk highly enough of theatre sports. Their only true gripe about the competition is that they would like to see increased crowd numbers.

In case you hadn't noticed, they love playing to an audience!

Kym Smith

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# Meeting the Keeps

The Warrandyte Community Church (formerly the Gospel Chapel) has a new pastor. Peter Keep and his wife Anthea with their two daughters, Sarah-Jane and Rachel, will take up residence at 48 Yarra Street this month and Pastor Keep will operate from his office in the church at the rear of the squash courts. The Keeps are moving to Warrandyte after 10 years at Burnie in Tasmania. Members of the public are welcome to join invited guests at an afternoon tea to meet the Keeps at 3pm on Sunday, October 13 at the Community Church, 57 Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

## Service

The Warrandyte Auxiliary of the Royal Women's Hospital was formed in 1930 with Dr Ethel Osborne as its first president and today the group is still raising funds to purchase equipment for the hospital. Two of the current members have between them given 110 years of service. Rene Higgins, who came to meetings with her mother as far back as 1936, was presented with a gold pen five years ago in recognition of 30 years of service. Last month Bonnie Peake also received an inscribed pen and Dot McAuley and Eva Baltruweit were presented with badges to recognise 20 years service. Bonnie has held all positions in the auxiliary over the past 35 years including 18 years as president. Rene has a bed endowed in her name at the hospital and the neuromuscular block monitor that the Warrandyte Auxiliary donated has been inscribed in Bonnie's name.

## Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Club of Doncaster and Templestowe is holding a bush dance at the Warrandyte South hall on Saturday, October 19. Following a spit barbecue and sweets at 6.30pm there will be music and dancing to the Five and a Zack bush band. Admission is \$15 per head with drinks for sale at bar prices. Proceeds from the evening will assist the club with projects addressing the needs of children from pre-natal to six years, plus various youth projects in the Doncaster-Templestowe area. The hall, situated in Hall Road, South Warrandyte (off Warrandyte-Ringwood Road).

## Retrospect

A retrospective exhibition of ceramics by Reg Preston is being arranged by the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston, Tasmania late in 1992 or early 1993. They are keen to locate works by Reg which are held in private collections. Ms Glenda King, curator of craft at the gallery, Wellington Street, Launceston, Tasmania, 7250 would appreciate any help in this regard.

## Thanks

The Warrandyte Historical Society would like to thank everyone in the community who helped support their recent cake stall and raffle, especially the local traders who donated so generously to make it such a successful event.

## Seekers

Peter wants any odd jobs and Mary would like part-time secretarial work. Both are very experienced and are seeking work through the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House labour exchange. The exchange also has workers requiring part-time jobs of various types and young people looking for after-school work in shops or doing gardening. Anyone needing work and people seeking jobs should ring Jean Chapman on 844 3326.

## Bush fair

Warrandyte South Primary School is holding a bush fair on Saturday, September 14. All the usual fun attractions will be



Pastor Peter Keep and his wife Anthea.



Conducted by JUDY GREEN

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things including lucky jars, white elephant stall, pre-loved toys, crafts, produce, plants and much more. Highlights for the children include a model railway display, flying fox, mini golf, pony rides, showbags, video disco and face and nail painting. The school is located in Hall Road off the Warrandyte-Ringwood Road.

## Baby girl

Anthony and Anne Burgess (nee Hall) of Research Road wish to announce the safe arrival of a beautiful baby girl, Suzanne Melita, on June 30 at Box Hill hospital. Suzanne weighed in at 7lb 3oz. Proud grandparents are Ted and Aileen Burgess of Brackenbury Street.

## Song cycle

Faces in the Street, a song cycle by local composer Barry McKimm, will be presented by the British Musical Society at Wesley Church, 148 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne on Tuesday, October 1 at 8pm. The performance is a musical narrative with settings of poems by Henry Lawson and Mary Gilmore, revealing their remarkable relationship during the tumultuous events of the 1890s. The evening will feature Merlyn Quaife, soprano and Angela Dhar, piano. The narration, written by Cliff Green, will be read by Beverly Dunn. Admission is \$8 and bookings can be made on 300 2156.

## Gala

"Pollies in the park" will be a special feature of a gala barbecue and concert being organised by Friends of the Warrandyte State Park at the park nursery in Pound Bend on Sunday, September 15. Mark Birrell, shadow minister for the environment will be there, accompanied by our own MP, Phil Honeywood. Tree planting, koala spotting and yabbie counting (for the kids) will be included. The fun starts at 2pm.

## Market

The Warrandyte Community Market has once again had a successful year, donating around \$12,000 to community groups, including the local emergency services, Safety House Committee, Child Care Centre, Neighbourhood House and Warrandyte Diary's office equipment fund. The positions of both secretary and publicity manager have fallen vacant and the committee is seeking

people who could devote a few hours a month to these jobs. They involve general correspondence, advertising and promotional activities and attendance at the four meetings held each year. Anyone willing to help out with these activities or other positions on the committee can contact Faye Rice on 844 1265 or Lin Chandler on 844 1839.

## Accommodating

The Neighbourhood House accommodation exchange now has some accommodation available. So if you are seeking a place to stay, please give Pam Egglestone a ring on 844 2714 or the Neighbourhood House on 844 1839. Pam would also like to hear from anyone with space available.

## Childcare

An occasional childcare service is now operating from multi-purpose room three at the new community centre. The service is available from 9.15am to 12.15pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, during school terms. Its aim is to provide a safe, caring and informal environment for local pre-schoolers (including babies over six months) while their parents enjoy some free time to shop, attend appointments, join one of the classes at the Neighbourhood House or just get some of the housework done. The large carpeted room has access to a purpose-built children's toilet and change area as well as the centre's main kitchen. A fee of \$5 per child per session is applied. For information contact Lee, Paula, or Ann at the Neighbourhood House, 168-178 Yarra Street (corner Webb Street). Phone 844 1839.

## Live poets

The Warrandyte Poets' Corner met last month under the guidance of Beth Gallagher and the group enjoyed two hours reading and discussion, centred around the themes of love, loneliness and nature. It is planned to continue readings around related themes and the meeting on October 13 will centre around challenge, hope and death. Interested people are asked to research poetry and bring along at least three poems for discussion in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Further information can be obtained from Beth on 844 3518.

## Fire!

A massive display of firepower is planned for Sunday, October 13 when Warrandyte Lions Club run their Fire Awareness Day at Lower Eltham Park, commencing 11am. Activities will include displays of fire-fighting equipment and inter-brigade competitions and demonstrations by the State Emergency Service and St John Ambulance Brigade.

## Penguins

The Penguin Club of Australia, which has been training women to become confident speakers

for more than 50 years, is setting up an evening group in Warrandyte, catering for women from the Doncaster, Templestowe and Warrandyte areas. A workshop entitled An Introduction to Public Speaking will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre, Yarra Street, on September 19 at 8pm. A cost of \$5 will cover handout material and a light supper. For those electing to join the club, this will become their entrance fee. The Penguin Club began in Sydney in 1937 and now has around 200 groups throughout Australia. Twice monthly meetings last for an hour and members are assisted to develop speaking, meeting procedure and chairmanship skills in a friendly environment. Members work at their own pace with support and encouragement and a caring attitude towards one another is developed. Successful groups currently meet at both Eltham and Ringwood. Enquiries to Bev O'Neil on 842 2880 or 719 7439.

## Waste

The Kangaroo Ground Waste Management Group is actively involved in opposing indiscriminate landfill tipping in the Eltham shire and is seeking support from community members. Submissions about the amendment to the Eltham Planning Scheme, which will prevent such landfill, are accepted until September 30. The group is seeking support for this amendment. Further information from Cathy Giles on 437 0191 or Allen Williams on 712 0536.

## Festival

The annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Festival Committee was held at the community centre in August and a committee for the next festival was formed. Festival dates are March 28 and 29, 1992. The committee is looking for new members, new ideas and suggestions to make the events bigger and better than before. If you can help, please ring Jenny Southall on 844 2606.

## Gondoliers

The Diamond Valley Singers will present Gilbert and Sullivan's The Gondoliers in the Warrandyte High School Theatre on October 4, 5, 9, 11 and 12 at 8pm and October 6 and 12 at 2pm. Proceeds will aid Community Aid Abroad and Harrison Youth Services. Tickets are available from Edna on 435 7805.

## Allergies

PAK (Parents with Allergy Kids) meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the North Ringwood Community House, 120 Oban Road, North Ringwood at 7.30pm. The next meeting on October 1, entitled Advance Life Products, will look at a range of food and cleaning products for allergy people. Information concerning the group or details of meetings can be obtained from Liz Brown on 876 4329, or Cathy on 878 4086 (AH).

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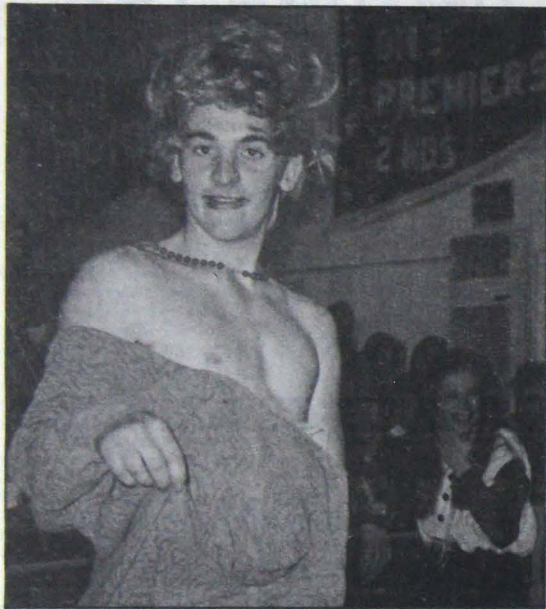
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# Dragged-out drama

Boys will be boys — and sometimes girls — at the Warrandyte Football Club players' talent night. Basically, they are modest blokes who often need prompting to get their acts together for the annual exercise in hilarity. The threat of a fine for non-participation usually does the trick. The latest event was held at the clubrooms last month — and never let it be said that vaudeville is dead in Warrandyte. Lisa Tindale took the pictures.



Breathtakingly-beautiful Joey Hassall (left) teamed with sensuous young Trent Ferguson for the prize-winning act. They did their own thing for a while, but the joint finale (below) was quite sexual.



... and Dale Vitiritti was just tu-tu much



And just what is Greg Creber reading here to evoke so much mirth from his mates? The Gettysburg Address is a rank outsider.

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## Boys bring home the big ones

By CLINTON GRYPBAS

Warrandyte Basketball Club has struck gold again in the finals of the Friday night championship competition. Both under-12 boys' teams won their grand finals.

The 12B team coached by Gavin Whitmore held off Eltham by 12 points and the 12EQs of Clinton Grybas thrashed Templestowe 59-22.

The new season is under way and on opening night the club sprinted out of the blocks to record some massive wins. An 89-4 victory propelled the 11Bs to the top of the ladder and the 13Bs also took top spot, winning 77-24.

Saturday season finals are now on, with 28 of the club's 47 teams participating. The club hopes to improve on last season's tally of eight premierships and three runners-up.

The men's midweek competition is off and running again and it shapes as the best season yet as the standard steadily improves.

In the open section Makeshift and the Codat Lakers are tied in top spot, marginally above the Hitmen, after a series of matches decided by less than a basket. The pick of the games was Makeshift's win over the Hitmen in a cliff-hanger.

The teams went point for point, with never more than a couple of baskets separating them. The Hitmen looked to have the game won but with one second to play, Makeshift's Simon Appleby, who'd had a quiet night, put in a tip-in to steal it and dislodge the Hitmen from the top berth.

In the new over-30 section, Andersons Creek are away well, as are the in-form Peter Parkes. Both look set to figure in grand final action come December.

Warrandyte will send nine teams to the annual Albury tournament on September 20-21. About 200 people from Warrandyte will make the trip to a tournament that has always brought out the best in our local players.

Last year, seven Warrandyte teams competed, losing just four games and winning 29.

# Basketball: it's the sport going places but with nowhere to go

Basketball was described as the boom sport of the 1980s — and that was certainly the case in Warrandyte. From humble beginnings in the early '70s, Warrandyte Basketball Club has "exploded".

Basketball has become by far the most popular junior sport in this town. The local club is now the fourth-biggest in the Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association, with 251 registered boys and 114 girls making up 47 teams this season. Next season there will be 52 teams as more youngsters turn to the sport.

In the Friday night championship competition, the club has also grown and now has 12 teams. Every Wednesday night, the men take to the court. About 75 take part in the competition, which has expanded to 10 teams and two sections, an over-30 and an open age division.

Warrandyte Basketball Club is run by a 15-member committee headed by Barry Withers, who attributes the club's dramatic rise to the younger population of the area (compared with, say, 20 years ago) and the reluctance of mothers to allow their sons to risk injury by playing football.

"Another reason why basketball is growing," he said, "is that it is an indoor sport played all year round and weather is not a problem."

Unfortunately, the club's further expansion is being frustrated by the lack of facilities for junior basketballers in Warrandyte.

There has only ever been one local court — at Warrandyte High School, opened in 1987 — and that can no longer cope with the demand. WBC uses the court every day for training and games. On Saturdays, the stadium

## SPORT

CLINTON GRYPBAS continues a *Diary* series on Warrandyte's sporting needs

um is used for 14 hours, from early morning to late at night. Sixteen games are played in that time, but that is nowhere near enough to cater for the club's 47 junior teams. The problem can only get worse.

For some teams, home games come at the rate of just one per month. In trying to rectify the problem, the club has taken over the Park Orchards court every Saturday night, but the future prospects there are not promising with the Park Orchards club also growing.

On Friday nights, the situation is especially bad. With the new season underway, most teams have been shocked to learn that they will play just two or three home games at the high school. The under-15 girls team has in past seasons played consecu-

tive weeks at Dromana, Frankston and Sunshine.

Despite being Warrandyte's biggest sporting club with junior participants, WBC is being denied much-needed facilities. Mr Withers considers this a "very important issue".

The high school court is widely regarded as the EDJBA's best venue, but it is not enough and a quick look at the top three clubs tells us why Warrandyte deserves at least another court or two. The biggest club, El-



A girl tests her arm and her eye at the Warrandyte netball court. The site on which the Whitehouse stood is in the immediate background.

## 'Some teams don't get to train'

tham, has six courts; Bulleen has four, the same as Doncaster.

Training is also seriously affected. Forty-five minutes per week and half a court is hardly adequate — and that is despite many teams training at the Yarra Valley school in North Ringwood and the Donvale Christian School. Some teams don't get to train.

Obviously, Warrandyte needs a new basketball stadium as a matter of urgency if the sport's enormous popularity among

young people is to maintain its momentum. And if a stadium is to be built, the location is logical.

The site where the Whitehouse stood would be ideal. It would turn that part of Warrandyte into a tremendous sports centre, with cricket, football, tennis, basketball and netball played side by side.

An alternative site, Mr Withers suggests, could be the Mullum Mullum area, which currently has tennis and hockey facilities.

Mr Withers says fundraising for a new stadium would have to be "through the council as the main contributor, with us fundraising to a certain extent". He also says that there is no other reason why the club will not continue its dramatic expansion in the next few years, but has grim thoughts if its only home games are still being played out of the high school.

"We'd be in diabolical strife," he said. "We'd have to send kids to other clubs because we would not be able to accommodate them. We're having enough trouble now accommodating people."

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# O'Connor is Bloods' best

Ruckman Kimberley O'Connor is Warrandyte Football Club's best and fairest for 1991. O'Connor, a product of the local juniors, polled 52 votes at the count on August 24 to score by 18 from defender Joe Hassall.

Wingman/half-forward Dale Vitiritti was third, on 31.

The award capped an outstanding season for O'Connor — a season he originally wanted to spend elsewhere. He and Vitiritti had sought clearances to East Ringwood pre-season but returned to the Bloods after missing the first two games.

O'Connor was runner-up for the 1989 award.

Rover Paul Hay won the reserves best and fairest with 31 votes. He scored by six from Greg Creber, with Roger Delli third on 23.

The under-18s award went to Luke McFarlane-Smith (51 votes) from Ashley Simpson (47) and David Asbel (45). David Joy won the Eric Houghton Award and the most-improved trophy and David Watson took the coach's award.

## Ruckman's big season

Senior presentation night is on Show Eve (September 25) at the Park Orchards Chalet. Tickets, at \$30, are available from club president Colin Bawden (722 1771) and secretary Norm Carrington (725 3536).

Seniors full-forward Stuart McLean won Warrandyte Junior Football Club's best clubman award, the Gary Alsop trophy, at presentation day this month.

McLean was runner for the under-16s this season after coaching for the previous five years.

**Junior awards:**  
Under-16: Best and fairest: Bill Hose 1, Troy Mangos 2, Clinton Grybas 3. Most improved: Stuart Logan. Most consistent: Nick Ware. Encouragement award: Fernando Guy.

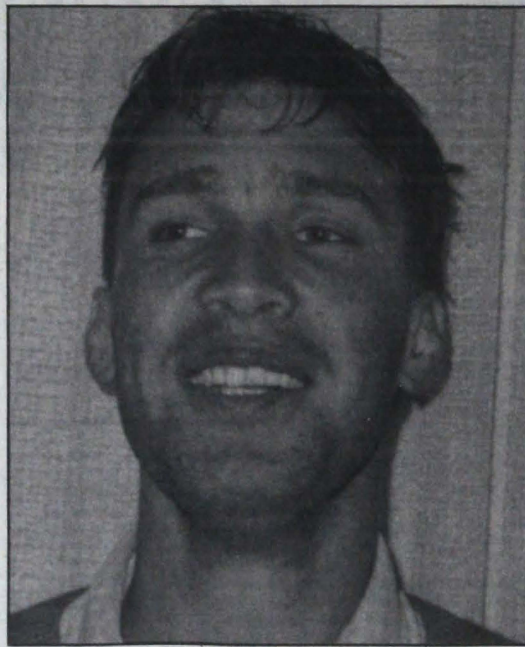
Under-14: Best and fairest: Ray Bellinger 1, Andrew Mangos 2, Chris Cornell 3. Most improved: James Logan. Coach's award: Patrick O'Connor. Training award: Nick Brisbane.

Under-12: Best and fairest: Justin Edwards 1, Damien Brady 2, Tim Hamilton 3. Most improved: Adam Youl. Coach's award: Lee McConnell. Training awards: Leigh Evans, Marcus Meade.

Under-10: Best and fairest: Aidan Davey 1, Gabby Kuzma 2, Nathan Lear 3. Most consistent: Rocky Lobosco. Coach's award: Jeremy Selleck. Training awards: Jarrod Irvine, Rick Templeton.

The following junior sponsors provided trophies: Warrandyte Hardware, John and D Motors, Nowak Pharmacy, Mr Ginger's Coffee Shop, John Spencer Real Estate, Thyme on the Terrace, G and S Smallgoods Dist., Warrandyte Hot Bread, Warrandyte Video, Jones Pharmacy, Jones Cycles, Snowy Prior Plumbing, Riverview Motors, Vitiritti Painters, Golden Gate Store.

The Len Woods and Lions Club perpetual shields for under-14s and under-16s were won by Ray Bellinger and Bill Hose respectively.



Kimberley O'Connor

## WAC to look at our needs

Doncaster and Templestowe Council has commissioned the Warrandyte Advisory Committee to investigate the needs of sporting groups in this area.

The committee will study the facilities available, particularly in the recreation ground area, and will be calling for submissions from interested groups and individuals.

A public meeting will then be called to form a committee to make recommendations to the council.

Warrandyte Cricket Club president Mark Davis, WAC's sports representative, told the *Diary*: "The shortage of facilities has become quite acute over the last few years. The demolition of the White House has brought the matter to a head and that area may be able to be used for more sporting facilities.

"For example there are no facilities whatsoever for older people — a bowling club has been on the cards for a long time but there has been no space available.

"The basketball and netball clubs are without a home and their many members, mostly young people, have strong claims for consideration.

"As well, the huge popularity of tennis has meant that the tennis club needs to expand by at least two courts and parking is also a problem. The football and cricket clubs also want to extend their rooms in the longer term so they can hold dinner-dances and similar functions such as presentation nights.

"WAC recognises the urgency of the problem and wants to make a solution its priority following the completion of the community centre."

Davis invites inquiries on 844 1186 (H) and 603 3825 (W).

**Basketball: the sport going places with nowhere to go — page 15**

# Purcell reappointed

David Purcell has been reappointed senior coach of Warrandyte Football Club for next season — but there will be new faces at the top off the field.

Club president Colin Bawden and secretary Norm Carrington have both announced that for business and family reasons, they will not be seeking re-election.

Purcell's reappointment had been regarded as a mere formality after he had led the Bloods

## Footy club sticks with a winner

into the EDFL third division finals after a shocking start to the season.

Warrandyte's season ended on August 18 when they were beaten by a point by Lilydale in the first semi-final at Scoresby.

Purcell, recruited this year from Heidelberg with reserves coach Greg Walsh, who has also been reappointed, will be looking for big, experienced recruits to strengthen the Bloods' premiership thrust next season.

"I don't think we can win a premiership with the players we have," he told the *Diary*.

"Our lack of height showed in the last quarter of the first semi-final when the Lilydale big men were able to take steady and telling marks when it mattered.

"We certainly need experienced big men, but I'm not sure we are going to be able to entice them from other clubs for \$50 a game."

(Senior players are paid \$50 for a winning game, and nothing for a loss, under the incentive scheme implemented by the club this season.)

Outgoing president Bawden, who has been in the chair for two years, described 1991 as a great year for the club, a year in which fortunes on and off the field had been turned around.

"David (Purcell) really got the best out of the players and I'm delighted that he will be coaching again next year," he said. "Young players like Trent Ferguson and Glen McCartin showed

great improvement under David's leadership and we're confident that improvement will continue in 1992."

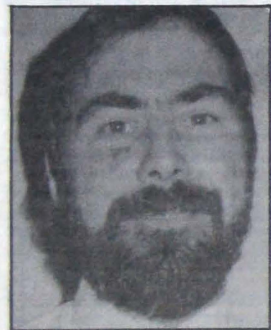
Bawden said the club had not yet totally wiped out last year's financial deficit, but he believed that functions such as the sponsors' luncheon held before the last home game would contribute largely to future viability.

"Heavyweight boxing cham-

pion Jimmy Thunder was special guest at that luncheon and the occasion was an outstanding success," he said. "I'm sure the new committee will be looking at similar functions next season."

A former top club official has been approached to stand for the presidency and is believed to have tentatively agreed.

Energetic secretary Carrington has signified his intention to return to "active service" at the club after a year's break.



Colin Bawden

## Quick cricket just for the kids

Warrandyte Cricket Club is considering a Friday evening competition for eight to 10-year-old boys and girls.

The club already has the support of the local primary schools to run the competition at the recreation ground.

It is hoped to have four games going simultaneously on the main oval and to have snacks such as hamburgers, sausages and sandwiches available at low prices.

Games would be based on Kanga cricket rules, using specially designed plastic gear. The emphasis would be on fun and learning rather than competition.

It is a new idea called dual pitch cricket which means that the players are constantly involved and not getting bored waiting to bat or bowl.

Dual pitch cricket is fast and exciting and VCA trials

have shown it to be very popular.

The cricket club would hope to attract families to the games, which would probably run from 5.30 to 7.30.

WCC president Mark Davis would like to hear from interested parents. His phone numbers are 844 1186 (h) and 603 3825 (w).

The club has started senior and junior training for the

new cricket season and is encouraged by attendances so far. Training will be hampered somewhat by work on the ground.

The seniors expect to lose a few players, including some promising youngsters to turf cricket.

Warrandyte's women players have started indoor training with a solid foundation of last year's personnel.

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