

# Homes need for aged

By GEORGIE WATERMAN

## Many are forced to leave

Many of our older residents are being forced to leave their families, friends and the surroundings and community they love because suitable housing is not available in Warrandyte.

Most of them do not want to go, but have no option. They must seek accommodation and facilities in other suburbs because they are now unable to properly manage their homes and properties.

A spokesperson for the Warrandyte senior citizens' club told the *Diary*, "This is an issue which affects everyone, sooner or later, because we will all be old one day."

"Most of the people here at the club hope to stay here. We love Warrandyte. It's our home. We don't want to go anywhere else."

According to Doncaster and Templestowe council, there are long waiting lists at many of the retirement villages and nursing homes in neighbouring suburbs. The only suitable units in Warrandyte have an "indefinite" waiting list.

Mayor Val Polley feels strongly about this issue. "I hate the thought of our elderly residents being forced to leave here," she said. "They have contributed enormously to community life in Warrandyte and have shaped the character of our township and environs."

"They are part of the post-war generation that campaigned for water, electricity and sewerage connections. They fought the fires, established our fire brigades, arts association and sporting clubs, to name a few. They helped create the Warrandyte we enjoy today."

"This is clearly a community issue and we owe it to ourselves and our elderly residents to work together to provide the necessary facilities and support to keep them here."

The *Diary* spoke to local resident Cath Belzer. "It makes me so sad to see my friends, people I have known all my married life, being forced out of Warrandyte."

"Many have tried to stay in their homes here for as long as possible, and while

some are still coping, many are not. They don't want to go to a place where they don't know anyone. You can become so lonely."

Cath has lived in Warrandyte for 60 years—all her married life. Her husband Ron was born in the old post office and both his parents were born here. Her brother, Jim Walsh, was captain of the fire brigade and played a major role in the campaign to bring electricity to Warrandyte.

She maintains that while people are still able, they should be encouraged and supported to stay in their own homes. Once they are unable to live independently something should be done for them—here in Warrandyte.

State MP for Warrandyte, Mr Phil Honeywood, strongly supports the concept of better accommodation for senior citizens in Warrandyte. He told the *Diary*, "There is no doubt that we now have a generation of Warrandyte residents who are finding it difficult to continue to live independently."

"In many cases they live in labor-intensive houses on large sloping allotments. They are now looking for more compact accommodation on level land, close to shops and public transport."

"Due to a shortage of suitable housing for the aged, residents are forced to move to other suburbs," Mr Honeywood said. "They lose their proximity to friends and family support networks, which is so important to them."

"The main difficulty in providing accommodation for the aged is lack of government funds. The federal government only provides funding for hostel-type accommodation, provided this is matched by community fund-raising and local government."

The success of the recent fight against dual occupancy in Warrandyte has made the situation more difficult. However, this campaign was overwhelmingly supported by the elderly in our community.

"We do not want to be the generation which destroys the character of the

township we helped create," the senior citizens' spokesperson said. "But we do want to stay here. If we could sell our homes and buy or rent smaller cluster units in a convenient location, most of us would jump at the chance."

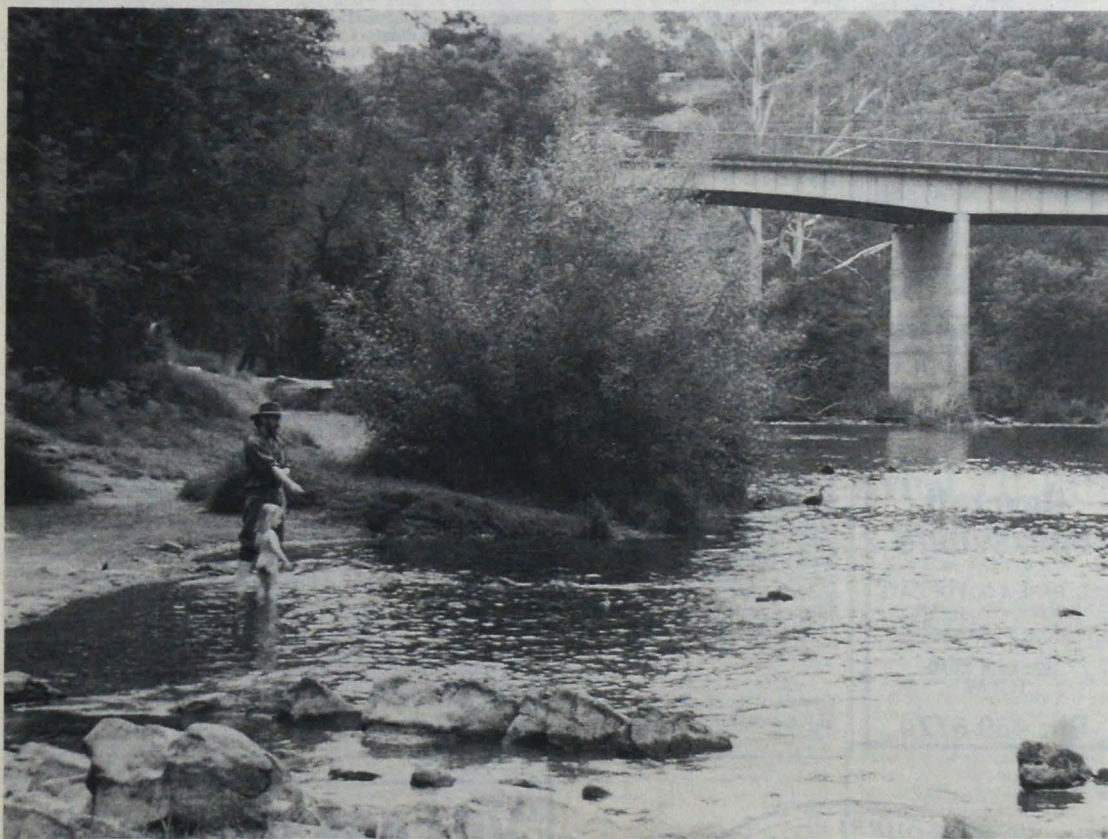
"At this stage of our life it is important to have something to look forward to, rather than all these anxieties. Some people are hanging onto their homes for longer than they should. If something happened to them at home, then no-one might know. It's very worrying."

She points out that a range of accommodation is needed. "While some of us are healthy and active at 70, others are frail or forgetful and need support."

"We need to build units, convenient to transport and shopping, which our elderly residents can buy or rent. These should be attached to a hostel or nursing home complex. And they must be here in Warrandyte."

Phil Honeywood has suggested that a committee of residents, council, churches and local organisations should be formed as soon as possible. "They could seek suitable sites and planning requirements, funding and so on."

● Comment; cartoon: page 5



Warrandyte summer: A little girl, her dad, the river and the bridge. (Picture by Emma Wood)

## New shops plan gets go-ahead

By INGRID KLEINHENZ

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal has accepted a plan to build six shops on vacant land on the north-east side of the Mechanics Institute hall. This overturns a decision by Doncaster and Templestowe council not to develop the site.

It allows for a road to be constructed, off Mitchell Avenue and behind the WAA studio, to permit rear access to the shops.

Mr Greg Whitehouse, manager of statutory planning for the council told the *Diary* that the AAT endorsed plan was "a much better proposal" than the original plan rejected by council. The original was refused on the grounds of inaccuracy, overdevelopment of the site, traffic safety problems and loss of privacy for residents.

Residents had hoped to have the commercial section of the block rezoned residential. However according to Mr Whitehouse there was no application for rezoning.

Since the land had not been rezoned the AAT chairman based his decision on the developer's right to develop a site for commercial reasons in a commercially zoned area. Therefore there could be no argument

against approving a plan "consistent with orderly and proper planning of the area."

The endorsed plan is a scaled down version of the one rejected by council. It proposes six shops rather than seven and 21 parking spaces instead of 31.

The tribunal has approved building a road on the vacant block at 3 Mitchell Avenue to reduce congestion at the Mitchell Avenue intersection and allow rear access to the shops.

"The amended proposal is still the same basic one applied for."

There were three objections from residents and a submission from the Warrandyte Environment League.

WEL president, Mr Greg Stroot, stressed the inappropriateness of the restricted business zoning. He also said that given the present oversupply of shops in Warrandyte the developer "should consider other avenues".

Many locals hope the plan will not proceed. "Considering the expense of the development it might never happen," Mr Whitehouse said.

Work on the site must commence within three years and be completed two years later or the permit will lapse.

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By PAUL WILLIAMS



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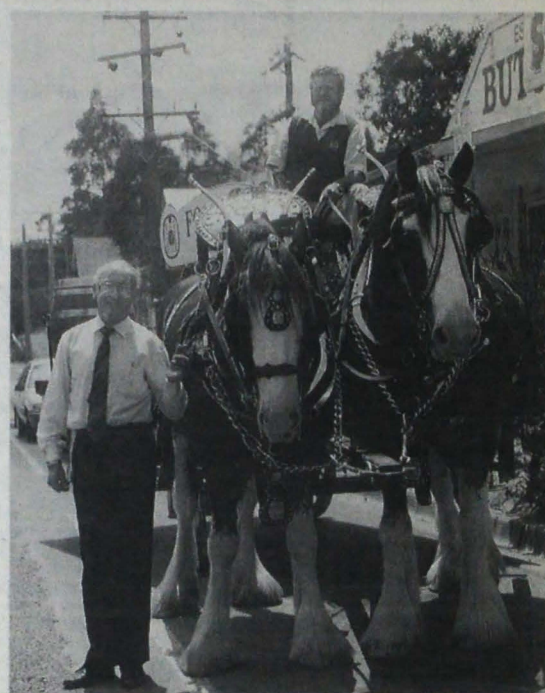
Farce, high drama and a happy ending—it all happened at the Warrandyte Football Club's extraordinary meeting on February 10. Shame it didn't attract a bigger audience. Acts 1 and 2 were all farce: members and players stayed away in hordes from the important gathering—a hangover from the AGM in November—to find a president and a secretary. No volunteers this time, either, and the meeting, which lasted all of two minutes, thrust the responsibility into the hands of a bewildered committee. Act 3: drama. Enter stage right an old familiar face. If anyone cared to nominate him, he'd be president. Happy ending: would they ever! A hastily reconvened meeting unanimously voted in a new president. The Blooms still don't have a secretary but things are looking up. The back page tells it all.

Let us share with you a small but fascinating chapter from the lives of Lindsay and Janette Ragg, formerly of Warrandyte, now of Woori Yallock. It all started with a phone call from Janette (nee Summers) to hubby's workplace. "There's a horrible green stain on the lounge carpet," she said. "You must have spilt something. I've scrubbed away at it for half an hour and it's done no good at all." Now Lindsay is a tidy fellow and strenuously denied any kind of spillage. And what was there green in the house that was spillable? When he arrived home that afternoon he demanded to be taken straight to the scene of the outrage. "It's right here," said Janette, as she led him into the lounge. "No it's not. Good heavens—it's moved! There it is, on the other side of the room!" No, Janette, the stain hadn't moved; what had moved was the sun, reflecting through a green-tinted crystal ornament onto the carpet. Janette does a lovely blush, and she produces it every time Lindsay recounts the story, which is often.

The local Lions' car rallies are fun, fund-raising events—but one entrant in the last outing took it deadly seriously. The route took drivers and navigators along some very interesting tracks and included a stop at a picturesque bush cemetery. Ha, there had to be a clue here to the next destination, thought our over-zealous competitor. And in his haste to find it and get a break on the rest of the field he fell over a grave railing and broke three ribs. He's a stayer, though, and has bounced back for the next rally, on Sunday, February 23. The theme of this one is Challenger—which means a challenge for driving skills, map reading, wits, general knowledge and, above all, patience. The event finishes with a sausage sizzle and if you'd like to be in it, call Bill Butler on 844 2526.

There is a touch of irony to the ALP's junkmail introducing

## IN RED & WHITE



This is the way you stand when you've done a good job delivering Warrandyte's late Christmas grog. Cellarmaster Bernie Maher and team pose in Yarra Street for photographer Tony Summers.

former shire president Alan Baker as its candidate for the new seat of Eltham at the next State election. I mean, here's a political party which every opinion poll says is going to the dogs preselecting the man who presided over the Great Shire of Eltham Dog Blitz of 1987. Mr Baker lost his seat by a big majority at the council election which followed the shire's declaration of war on whoofers, but perhaps he'll be a howling success in the bigger political league.

The grandchildren were arriving faster than you could write out birth notices. On January 28, a first for Beth Gallagher, courtesy of daughter Samantha and husband Robert. Cute little girl named Grace. And on January 29, the fifth arrival for veteran grandparents Judy and Cliff Green: Shaun Patrick Ewart (thanks to Kathy and Rob). On the same day, Keirnan, first grandchild for Shelagh and Richard Morton. Well done, Guy and Kaylene.

Ever fancy yourself as a footy coach, calling the plays and winning premierships? Here's your big chance. Warrandyte Junior Football Club are looking for

coaches and assistant coaches for the coming season. They also have committee vacancies and would love to hear from parents willing to serve. Of if you'd just like to lend a hand at training and on match days, then that would be fine, too. While other clubs struggled to fill junior sides last season, Warrandyte had their best numbers for years. But they could certainly use some more help from the mums and dads. Give Greg Alchin a call on 437 1248. Junior enrolment for 1992 is at 11am on Sunday, February 23, and \$35 will cover your young hopeful—under-10, 12, 14 or 16—for the season.

Martin Quarendon of Third Street is a very helpful bloke. So when sister-in-law Pat Guile of Cemetery Road asked him if he'd help her with her very full Otto bin he was only too happy to oblige. So helpful Martin hitched said bin to the back of the 4WD, hauled it up the steep drive to the road and kept on hauling. All the way to beautiful downtown Blackburn. And the wheels didn't fall off, either.



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Cr Val Polley: excited about plan

# Council plans local strategy

By GEORGIE WATERMAN

The Doncaster-Templestowe council is about to begin a conservation strategy for the whole municipality.

The strategy will bring together a range of environmental studies including the waste management strategy, heritage study and roadsides environment study. Combined with community input, council hopes to form a total picture of our local environment.

According to the study co-ordinator, Sonia Rappell, this strategy will provide an "informed" view to guide handling of local conservation issues in the future.

"We hope to produce a local action plan which can be implemented jointly by the community and council," she said.

An important aspect of the study will be to clearly identify conservation issues which can be dealt with by local action. Such issues include protecting local rivers, urban habitat and heritage sites.

It will also examine traffic and transport issues, subdivision designs and issues related to hazardous chemical use, waste reduction and recycling.

"It really is a study with far-reaching implications for all of us and for future residents in the municipality too," Ms Rappell told the *Diary*.

A steering committee has been established, consisting of the mayor, councillors, council staff and representatives from local conservation groups, the general public and government.

Mayor Val Polley told the *Diary* that she was very excited about the study

and confident that it will bind together some really important work which has already been completed.

"Victoria is one of the world's leaders when it comes to local conservation strategies of this kind and it's very comforting to know that the community is strongly supportive of such initiatives," she said.

The study will be completed during 1992. Public involvement is welcome at all levels, including workshops and a display at the next Warrandyte festival.

## Our Lin looks to a new neighborhood

By GEORGI STICKELS  
Picture by EMMA WOOD

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is mourning the departure of co-ordinator and long-time colleague, Lin Chandler.

Lin, her partner Tom and son David, 11, moved to Inverloch last month after Tom took a position as a social worker at Wonthaggi hospital.

Lin shared the paid, part-time co-ordinator's position at the neighbourhood house with Linda Draeger for 15 months. Her job included developing the drop-in centre, community library and various classes run by neighbourhood house. Linda has also resigned to study full-time at Phillip Institute.

Lin has made many other contributions to community development over the last four years. After founding the sole parent support group in March 1988, she had a hand in many ventures undertaken by the Warrandyte Community Services Development Association (WCSDA) including youth services, the co-op, neighbourhood house, the after-school care pro-

gram and the community centre management group. She initiated lessons with neighbourhood houses in Donvale, Park Orchards and Bulleen and was also a member of the Warrandyte market and CAB committees.

A farewell luncheon held for Lin at the neighbourhood house was attended by friends from the groups she worked with. Gifts and best wishes for the future abounded.

Local councillor and president of the WCSDA, Louise Joy, told the *Diary* "Lin has made her mark both in Warrandyte and in regional community services over the past four years. The true sign of (her) success is that all the activities Lin had been involved with are continuing."

Lin, who lived in Warrandyte for ten years, said she will miss the town "very much. You don't forget years like that. It's been a tremendous crowd of people here."

She especially thanked Jean Chapman, whose support was her "guiding light and inspiration".



Lin Chandler outside the Neighbourhood House

Although keen to return for a visit, Lin is also looking forward to new opportunities at Inverloch and a temporary break from community work to raise chooks and a goat.

The Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is now looking for a new co-ordinator. Meanwhile, volunteers are needed to run

the office, which is open Monday to Thursday from 9.30 to 1.30. The group is also looking for potential members or anyone interested in running a class. Existing classes include better hearing, parenting, armchair travellers, poet's corner and a sole parents' camp. For details phone 844 1839.



Kayaks in training for the Festival (Picture by Emma Wood)

## Racing to Festival '92

As always, the great raft race promises to be a special feature of the Warrandyte Festival next month. According to race organisers, your raft doesn't have to be "high tech, expensive or complicated to build."

"The best rafts over the years have been the simplest. Having a go is the important thing."

Safety is a vital factor. The race is patrolled by the Yarra River Lifeguard Service, who give particular attention to the junior teams; under 15 years. Last year's junior winners were the Apex Kids with a raft made from inner tubes.

"The Warrandyte CFA team looks unbeatable, but not unsinkable, in the senior section this year," the organisers pre-

dict. Many first time entries are expected, with a team from Exterior Design "out to win this year".

The canoe race is for double canoes, with the kayak race for single kayakers.

"Like the raft race, this is a friendly event and competitors are expected to help any other entrant in trouble," the organiser said. This event is also patrolled by the Yarra River Lifeguard Service.

Entry forms for raft and canoe races are available from the Canoe Shed, 266 Yarra Street, phone 844 4140.

The festival band is also looking for participants. "Whether aspiring, amateur or accomplished, if you can hold a tune

and read music, you are welcome to join," a band organiser told the *Diary*.

The band had its inaugural airing last year when it led the parade. "Inspired at a wine tasting and nurtured by enthusiasm, the outcome was a 35 member marching band of people of all ages and degrees of musical experience."

The band has been asked to lead the parade once more, and to open the afternoon music program at Stiggants Reserve. If you'd like to join, ring 844 3932 or 844 2514.

The 1992 Warrandyte Festival will be held on the weekend of March 28 and 29. Phone 844 3120 for details. A souvenir program will appear in the next *Diary*.

## Honeywood scratches Met ticket

State MP for Warrandyte, Mr Phil Honeywood, is concerned at the lack of Zone 3 Met tickets available to locals.

The last ticket outlet, Goldfields newsagency, recently changed hands and the new owners decided not to sell the tickets because they, like most local shopkeepers, say it is too unprofitable and tedious.

Shopkeepers receive only five per cent commission for each ticket, and must pay for tickets on delivery, not after selling them, Mr Honeywood said.

"Complex financial records for the Met," also consume valuable time, he added. He believes this is another chapter in the public transport ticketing debacle, which began when prepaid scratch tickets were introduced in 1990.

Mr Honeywood says the problem is aggravated because "Met bus drivers travelling through Warrandyte are, apparently, only permitted to sell three hour duration tickets to passengers."

"The system is neither responsive to school children nor to those wishing to make extended trips". Buses are the only form of public transport in Warrandyte.

Mr Honeywood plans to take up the matter with the state government. One proposed solution to the problem is for bus drivers to carry a full range of tickets, including daily tickets for all zones.

CITY OF DONCASTER  
& TEMPLESTOWE

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Financial assistance is available to community groups for the development of leisure and recreation programs within the City of Doncaster and Templestowe.

Applications for these grants close on Friday, 28th February 1992.

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Policy and Guidelines for application are available from the Leisure Service Officer at the Municipal Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, (P.O. Box 1) Doncaster 3108. Phone 840 9257

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# Tourists are polluting Yarra

One of Warrandyte's biggest attractions is its location by the Yarra River. This, combined with the abundance of bushland, makes it unique and appealing. Warrandyte's beauty attracts numerous visitors, especially in the heat of summer, most of whom appreciate the peace of a riverbank setting. However there have been several instances only this year which have disturbed me.

As a rule I don't swim during the day due to the behavior of some visitors, especially on Saturdays and Sundays. I feel uncomfortable with abuse, bad language, rubbish and dogs—particularly daunting if you happen to be a young woman.

Our neighbor recently took her two young sons down to the tunnel in Bradley's Lane, but returned promptly when the language offended her.

That same Sunday my boyfriend and I went for a walk in the evening, away from the popular areas. However, it became more of an obstacle course than a swim as we collected several bottles and cans that floated

down from the bridge.

At that moment, across the river, a few young men burst through the bush hurtling their football at a few ducks on the bank. Then they attempted to catch them, for what purpose, I'm unsure. An older man spoke calmly to these people only to be told what he could do.

I feel certain my experiences are not unique. It seems a minority group spoils the enjoyment of the river for others. The residents pay high prices for the privilege of a riverbank frontage, yet few are able to benefit—but what can we do?

Admittedly our options are limited. Perhaps we could write to our local members urging for some action to be taken, in the form of increased police presence and park ranger patrols within the more populated areas. There are few restrictions to observe and I believe the presence of authority would serve to modify undesirable behavior.

Name and address supplied

## Purposeful poster

I was more than a little disturbed at the contents of the letter from Jan Pierce (December Diary) opposing crime stoppers posters in the Lions Club of Warrandyte opportunity shop.

It is true that the Lions is a community concerned organisation and promoting a safer community is well within its charter.

The crime stoppers posters currently show the top ten most wanted people in Victoria.

Every person appearing on the panels is wanted by the police

for committing major crimes against the community.

Over the past 12 months some 15 people have been arrested from the type of exposure Jan Pierce complains about.

To suggest, as she did in her letter, that one of the people shown "has quite a lovely face" obviously is overlooking the maxim "don't judge a book by its cover".

Peter H. Egan  
President, Lions Club



## Pet traps protect

### LETTERS

the other hand, are someone's pet and therefore are fed. They kill for sport.

The common moggy will never be an endangered species, a boast which our wonderful wildlife cannot share.

Last spring my children marvelled at the sight of two fluffy chicks wandering around our garden on their first day out of their nest. Unfortunately the next morning one lay dead, the victim of a well-fed cat.

So although your daughter was upset when your cat was missing, it is now returned to her. We on the other hand buried the bird with all the others that have fallen prey to cats over the years.

It is sad that your other cat died from the snake bite but cats have a tendency to tackle snakes and after all, the snake was only defending itself. This should at least give you some insight as to how your neighbor must feel. Perhaps the wildlife on his property have become like pets to him and he feels the same distress each time a cat kills something on his property. You seem to think you are so right and he is so wrong. Others don't see it that way.

I admire our already overburdened police force and only hope that with the serious problems facing our society they are not forced to waste time and resources chasing a poor bloke who just wants to enjoy his own land and protect what's on it, by whatever means he finds effective.

In defence of the cat trapper  
Brackenbury Street

## Wildlife and cats cannot co-exist

I imagine that most of the people who live in Warrandyte, or have moved to this beautiful area as we did 16 years ago, do so because of its natural beauty, lots of wildlife and lack of paling fences.

We, in error, brought our cat, which sadly for us, but fortunately for the local wildlife was killed on the Kangaroo Ground road soon after. Cats and wildlife are not compatible. A report in a recent bird observers' paper stated that a rabbit-catcher in NSW was shooting up to 40 cats each week. We would probably be surprised to learn how far our fluffy pets range in search of bluetongue lizards, ringtailed possums, blue wrens, scaly thrushes, bronzedwing pigeons and so on.

How many of these have you seen lately?

Cats are efficient hunters day or night, and roaming ones need to be eliminated from this area. An efficient cat trap can be bought for \$55.

Let's be honest, we should appreciate and protect the remaining wildlife, both for ourselves and future generations to enjoy, by controlling our roaming cats and dogs, or we should migrate back to the paling fence areas.

The need is urgent - it's up to us now.

L. Safstrom  
Osborne Road

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CITY OF DONCASTER  
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## 1992 RESOURCE GUIDE ERRATUM

Due to formatting problems, the names and addresses of local members of the Legislative Council contained errors and omissions in the 1992 Resource Guide. The correct entry should read:

### Legislative Council

#### Templestowe

The Hon. Bruce Skeggs, M.L.C.  
93 Upper Heidelberg Road,  
Ivanhoe 3079  
Tel: 497 4300

The Hon. John Miles, M.L.C.  
Suite 5, 23 Dudley Street,  
Eltham 3095  
Tel: 489 2911

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The Hon. George Cox, M.L.C.  
69 Railway Road,  
Blackburn 3130  
Tel: 877 5482

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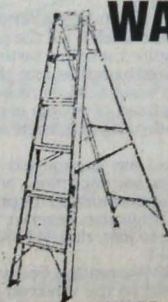
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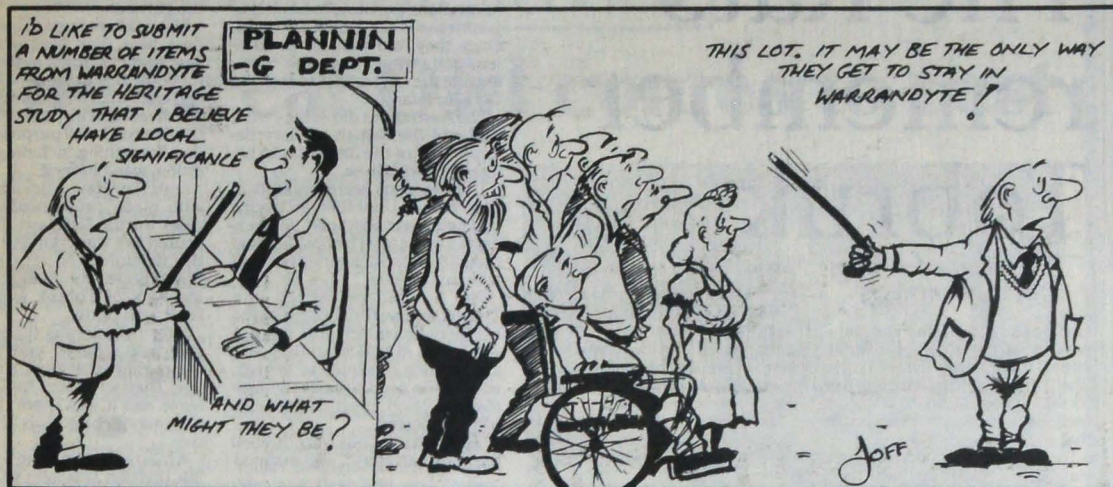
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## WARRANDITTIES

By JOFF



# They have the right to stay

In November 1987, the *Diary* front page reported a proposal for a retirement village in Warrandyte. Reverend Stan Fishley, then Uniting Church minister here, was the moving force behind this splendid idea.

Stan Fishley envisaged 30 single-storey units built on a fairly flat central site. He called a meeting of representatives of Warrandyte's four churches and they agreed to explore the accommodation needs of retired and near-retiring local residents.

They seemed to know what they were talking about. They saw the project as essentially self-funding. "We would try and sell the retirement units for between \$50,000 and \$60,000," Mr Fishley told the *Diary*.

"We think that any development under 30 units would not serve the community well. We believe there are 30

## COMMENT

By CLIFF GREEN

couples in Warrandyte in the age range who don't want to move away." But that is the last we heard of it.

What went wrong? Couldn't they find a suitable site? Did the inflated prices of the property boom dash their hopes? Or did the recession intervene, drying up finance sources? Stan Fishley has since moved away himself. Did his far-sighted scheme move with him? What about the other people on that interim committee?

No-one would deny the urgent need for such a village. The reasons are set forth in compelling detail on the front page of this issue.

Warrandyte is the only

community in Victoria that beat the State government's dual occupancy planning scheme, a development stunt that would have transformed our hills township into just another dormitory suburb.

The elderly folk of Warrandyte joined in that fight with at least as much vigor and conviction as anyone else in this community. But they are the ones who paid the very high price of victory.

Dual occupancy offered them the chance to sell their large gardens and rambling houses, have units built upon them and buy back one of the units for their own use. Minimum garden maintenance, a new, compact, convenient residence—and the opportunity to stay at home.

But they willingly forfeited that solution to their problems in order to save the character of the township

they love. That really was some sacrifice!

A retirement village like the one envisaged would not mean dual occupancy under another guise. The complex could be set in its own spacious grounds, sensitively designed and adequately equipped to serve its purpose.

The units on the corner of Yarra and Stiggart Streets are an example in miniature of how it could be. A far cry from the rash of high density development that would have inevitably followed dual occupancy.

This community has managed to solve most of the problems facing it in the 140 years of its existence. Surely the designing, funding and building of a complex like this is not beyond it. We owe it to our courageous older generation. And ultimately to ourselves.

The *Diary* would like to hear your views and ideas.

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# The Rats remember Tobruk

By BRUCE BENCE

Last year marked the 50th anniversary of the siege of Tobruk, one of the epic battles of World War II. Ron Fletcher, a local lad of 20 taking part in his first battle, reckons he grew up awfully fast in that short space of time.

Tobruk, a quiet port in Libya was virtually unknown until 1941, when a composite force of British and the Australian 6th Division attacked and captured the so-called impregnable defences of the neighboring port of Bardia. The town's Italian defenders sustained some 44000 casualties, mostly prisoners. This figure greatly outnumbered the attacking force.

Just two days later the allies encountered the perimeter defences of Tobruk, 120 kilometres away. They subdued the town and continued westward across the desert, capturing Benghazi. Following the decision to send troops to German-occupied Greece, the 6th Australian division was replaced by the 9th, a division lacking training, battle experience and a full complement of weapons. General Wavell found himself fighting a war on three fronts simultaneously: Abyssinia, Greece and the western desert. A screen force was designated to hold the western desert, which, despite being undermanned and under-equipped, was believed capable of holding the Italians at bay.

But they were no match for the German panzer (armoured) units and airforce reinforcements brought in during March 1941 under General Rommel. Their lines broken, the allies were forced to fall back, fighting holding battles to delay the axis armies until they reached Tobruk. The Aus-

tralian 9th division, supported by British artillery and machine gun battalions, occupied and strengthened the old Italian defences. For General Moreshead, commander of the 9th division, a seemingly hopeless task.

Until this time the German blitzkrieg tactics had been invincible, defeating all opposition and

condemned the blitzkrieg as a limited tactical manoeuvre. He proved his words at Tobruk. The Australians were told to hold their position and not attack the tanks. Once they had passed the artillery units would deal with them, leaving the Australians to face the German infantry.

The Australians did as they were told and the British artillery destroyed 17 of the 39 tanks before they withdrew.

The Germans were amazed at their defeat. Until then no troops had held their positions, an unexpected move from troops they had thought were inexperienced and with low morale.

The Australians retired into Tobruk and swiftly occupied the excellent Italian defences there. A great deal of Italian artillery and ammunition remained in Tobruk, which was used against the Germans to good effect in the siege which followed.

Damaged weapons were dubbed the "bush artillery", and manned

constantly under enemy fire; there was just one day during the siege where bombs did not fall on the garrison.

The soldiers lived in a world of dust, heat, flies, fleas, scorpions and endless night patrols. To move in the daytime was fatal, and each man was limited to one hot meal each night and one bottle of water, for all purposes, each day. Everything, including ammunition, was rationed.

Lord Haw Haw, a British citizen who made propaganda broadcasts for the Germans (later executed as a war criminal) likened the defenders to rats in their desert holes. The name stuck and the Rats of Tobruk wore their label with pride.

After five months the 9th division was relieved and brought out during September and October. They were sent to Egypt on leave and it was there that Ron Fletcher celebrated his 21st birthday.

While recuperating in Syria, the 9th Division was sent to fight in the battle of El Alamein; just when they thought they would be returning home. General Horrocks later wrote that the allies' success at El Alamein was largely due to the 9th Division who had carried out continuous night attacks.

After the battle he congratulated General Moreshead on his splendid victory. Moreshead replied "Thank you general, the boys were interested."

In December 1942 a new 9th Division color patch was issued: a T formed from two ovals which Moreshead said stood for Tobruk.

At a parade at Gaza airport that month the entire division, 12,000 strong, stood while General Alexander took the salute from the back of an open car. The car was driven by General Moreshead's driver, Alan Houghton, also from Warrandyte. The boys finally came home for a well-earned rest before more active service in Japan.

Fifty years after Tobruk, pilgrimages were made to the area by RSL and Rats of Tobruk Association members. Another survivor of the siege, a large fig tree, still thrives today on the battlefield amongst the mines planted during the siege and never dismantled. Seeds from this tree were brought back to Australia and a fig tree has since been grown at the Tobruk barracks at Puckapunyal.

## PHIL IRVING The Great Owl comes to rest

By YVONNE REID

Genius was a word often linked to Phil Irving, along with exacting, irascible, generous, sensitive, argumentative and funny.

Diary artist Jock summed him up well: "Phil was a crusty old bugger with a heart of gold." The gold had to be mined without gush or hypocrisy. It could never be fool's gold and the digger had to be ready for some straight talking during the digging.

Jock, accustomed to flowing praise or occasional polite requests for amendments to his work has only once been thoroughly humbled. He says Phil is the only person who has returned a drawing to him in exasperation and said furiously "It's all bloody wrong, it's hopeless!"

Only days later, Jock and two friends were finishing their design for a motor bike to tour Australia and asked the Oracle Owl for five minutes of his time. He gave them five hours of detailed and priceless help.

Such was Phil Irving. He demanded the highest standards, both from those he worked with and of his own work. Whether building an engine or a stage set, he had no time for carelessness, insincerity or intransigence. Yet he was enormously generous when he thought the recipient was as enthusiastic and willing to work as he was.

He was a hard taskmaster. His son Denis learned this at eleven. Phil gave him an engine for his birthday, to mount on what would nowadays be called a go-cart. But it wouldn't go. Something was missing. Find what's missing and make it go! young Denis was told. After early hurdles he did just that, and has been doing so ever since. Denis knows that Phil knew his measure.

Behind the craggy, rough-azed face and glasses so smudged by oil many wondered how he ever saw through them, was a glimpse of sensitivity. A softness about his mouth, a gentle tone belied his grumpy, gruff voice and big, roughened, clever hands, although such tenderness was usually well-guarded.

Then there was his straightfaced, subtle humour, much of it impossible to reproduce on paper; so much meaning lay in his tone and timing.

Phil's technical achievements were many and great. He wrote several books on motor cycles, was an international correspondent for motor magazines and was founder, president,

and life member of many clubs, all of which respected and revered him.

He was arguably the greatest engineer in Australian motor sport and responsible in many ways for putting Australia on the motor racing map.

He designed the V-twin motor for the Vincent Rapide, Black Shadow and Black Lightning motor cycles and the Hi-power heads for the Holden grey motors, both famous in racing circles. He also designed the better-known Repco-Brabham Formula One engine which powered Sir Jack Brabham and Denny Hulme to world championships in 1966 and 1967. He was awarded the MBE for this design in 1977.

Other projects were more unusual. On short notice he built a modified lawnmower to trim down the salt tussocks before the 1962 Campbell speed trials. Once completed, he mowed Lake Eyre single handedly.

Phil was born in 1903. His early years where spent in country towns where his father practiced medicine. His childhood was cut short when his father was drafted to Britain at the start of the Great War. Phil and his four siblings lost contact with both parents for a time as his mother Grace followed her husband shortly after. Just 11 at the time, Phil said his mother's departure was something he could never quite comprehend.

Whatever the effect of such early disruptions, nothing diminished the drive and energy which later distinguished him. After three years at Wesley he studied electrical and mechanical engineering at Melbourne Technical School. In his early 20s he vented his passion for motorcycles by racing, selling and designing them.

He won the solo reliability championship of Victoria and the Australian sidecar championship and more.

In 1930 he joined a sidecar tour, replacing Englishman John Gill's withdrawn partner. Phil had to sell two of his own precious cycles to fund the trip. He arrived in England in the depths of the Depression. His skills placed him in great demand in his field and his international career began.

While in England he married and had a son. Veranne was a vibrant black-eyed dancer, a sou-brette with a provincial touring company whom he pursued in true theatrical fashion until she accepted him. She was talented and well trained, and knew theatre craft well. Their marriage blended theatre and technical invention perfectly, marked by Phil's technical contributions to



Phil Irving (right) with Roger Tonkin, a young friend and fan

her performances and their son Denis's interest in lighting engineering, in which field he is now famous. Their rich partnership lasted through many places, interests and varied careers. Their favorite party trick was to waltz Veranne's death in 1959. Her name was Edith, and after a divorce and ten years of working with Phil, she married him in 1976.

They shared an interest in theatre, and although Edith was never besotted with engines she took an active interest in Phil's career. In turn he followed her interest in nature and loved watching the hundreds of birds they attracted to their well-kept garden. "We don't have cockatoos, we have cockaforty-tos," Phil once said.

In his final illness Edith nursed him constantly. Although she had prepared for his death she had not foreseen the gap she would feel afterwards. A world of racing and technical enthusiasts still mourn his passing, and local theatrical circles miss his constant input and energy.

not, as was commonly believed, Phil's round spectacles.

The Great Owl is at rest.

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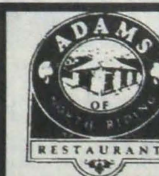
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- Sustainable Development of our Cities
- Waste Management and Energy Savings
- How the Individual Can Act Locally

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for the Conservation Strategy or would like to make any comments or suggestions, please complete the details below, detach and send to:

Manager - Strategic Planning  
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Any queries on the Conservation Strategy can be directed to Sonia Rappell on 840 9432 or Mary-Anne Taranto on 840 9418.

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# A testing time for all at home

It takes suffering to realise that most of life is spent merely rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic.

I had a cholesterol test today. The gods did not smile. In fact they were decidedly displeased. Me? The Peter Pan of Warrandyte? The man who, despite tennis elbows, gastric upsets, bionic eye transplant and terrible skin, was as fit as a mallee bull and, like Michael Jackson, ready to live into the 21st century? It must be a mistake. You can't trust modern technology.

Once the penny dropped that I was mortal and after my wife and all my holiday guest friends fell from their marble pillars laughing at my plight, I graciously came to terms with the change my news was going to have: on their lifestyle.

We all know the tedium inflicted on smokers by a reformed puffer. They give endless good advice on the evils of the weed and how easy it is to stop if only the recalcitrant follows their example. Ex-puffers were addicted yet by sheer force of character, willpower and the myste-

rious ingredient called 'X' knocked the monkey from their shoulders. How simple therefore for the addict to follow their precept and reform immediately.

But I wasn't going to force them to change. I was going to show them that my new lifestyle was the best. After all, I was the first person in the world to be forced to alter my diet.

True, my wife had some insignificant success reducing her cholesterol level by willpower and commonsense, but her's was nothing in comparison with how I would eliminate this hiccup to my immortality.

In keeping with my male approach to illness I realised my plight was more significant and newsworthy than that of any other family member who had, by definition, a lesser version of whatever I had.

Advertisers tell us that any publicity is good publicity. I wasted no time. As soon as I got my cholesterol reading the whole family heard about it. Strangely they were not rivetted by my news.

"Don't make such a fuss," Her-



self had the cheek to say. "For a change you'll need to be a bit more self-disciplined, the same as I had to be to reduce mine."

Her nonchalance was galling. Here I was, on death's door with the worst case of high cholesterol I'd been able to recollect from my storehouse of important information. I was one of life's victims, a pawn for fate to shift, a quirk in my concept of the meaning of life and Herself had the temerity to treat my disaster as ordinary.

Such, however, is the fate of all selfless martyrs, so I did the only thing a saint could do. I made them suffer as much as I.

Doing the weekly shopping is a boon to self-improvement. If it was good enough for me, it must be good enough for the rest of

the family. Known for my unusual even-tempered and sensible approach to issues, I treated my medical wonder suitably. I reduced our grocery bill by half. I, or should I say we, cut out all dairy products, red meats, eggs, tea, coffee and cola. I substituted vegetables and fruit and insisted I be treated with kid gloves as stress was thought to be a contributing factor to a high cholesterol reading.

I know how Mussolini and Stalin felt. I was in possession of the truth. I was not expecting them to do anything I wasn't. I gave them what was good for them but were they grateful?

After several weeks of sibling caterwauling about the perilous state of our food variety, Herself was, typically, the first to ask whether I was overreacting. How ironic. After all the support I gave her way back in—uhm; when she had—uhm; whatever it was. Now she couldn't be bothered with my problems.

I picked up my deckchair and shifted it to the front of the Titanic.

ROGER KIBELL

## Losing your head for love

By PAT COUPAR  
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

If praying mantids were 100 times larger they would surely be one of the most fearsome creatures on earth. As well as a menacing appearance, they are expert hunters and ruthless killers with little regard for their own kind.

Praying mantids, like all insects, have six legs and a body divided into three regions; head, thorax and abdomen. However because of extreme adaptations to the life of a hunter, the praying mantid looks like no other insect.

Mantids have powerful forelegs armed with sharp hooks and spines that are supremely adapted for capturing and holding prey, usually insects. At rest, these grasping forelegs are poised aloft as if in prayer, a characteristic posture which first gave rise to the name mantid, a word derived from the Greek, meaning 'prophet'.



NATURE

The large triangular shaped head of mantids is dominated by a pair of enormous bulging eyes which give the insect its science fiction-like appearance. The head can swivel in any direction, providing the insect with panoramic vision.

Praying mantids have bizarre mating habits, not unlike some spiders and scorpions, where the female of the species eats the male. A male mantid must approach a female from behind and with extreme caution, as any sudden movement could result in instant death.

The female attacks without warning by decapitating her mate. However as copulation is controlled from nerve centres within the abdomen, the female

is able to continue to mate with her headless lover! When mating is complete she consumes the rest of him.

The likely reason for this grotesque indulgence is that, by making a meal of her mate, the female is provided with an immediate source of protein necessary for the development of her eggs. The eggs are laid in a frothy secretion which quickly hardens to a rigid structure. These oval, brown egg cases are a familiar sight attached to walls, fences and even washing lines.

Several species of praying mantid can be found in Warrandyte. One in particular, known as the green mantid, is very common. But because these insects blend so superbly with

their surroundings, they are not often seen. Their green, brown or grey coloring gives them perfect camouflage as they rest motionless amongst vegetation, on bark or in leaf litter. This is a dual purpose camouflage as it not only provides protection from predators but also conceals the mantid as it lies in wait for its next unsuspecting victim.

Carnivorous insects like the praying mantid play an important role in maintaining a balanced environment. It appears that mantids have taken this role one step further. They not only control other insect numbers but, thanks to the insatiable appetite of the females, they may also keep their own numbers in check.



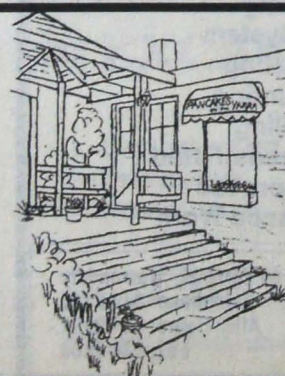
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# Fishing and a ceiling



## THE WOODEN BRIDGE

By Eve Evans

ONE rainy day, when it was too wet to work outside, I took to cleaning the kitchen ceiling. It had become blackened with smoke from my first inept efforts to master the large, black wood-burning stove. Having no ladder, I stood on a chair on the kitchen table and set to work with a bucket of hot soapy water and a scrubbing brush.

I had little success, making more swirls of sooty, smoky grease the more I scrubbed. After some time, my arms aching from being stretched above my head, I gave it a break. I had to find some other way of doing the job.

The rain had eased off so we went outside. While I swung my arms and rested my aching back, Robert and Evan danced in puddles left by the rain.



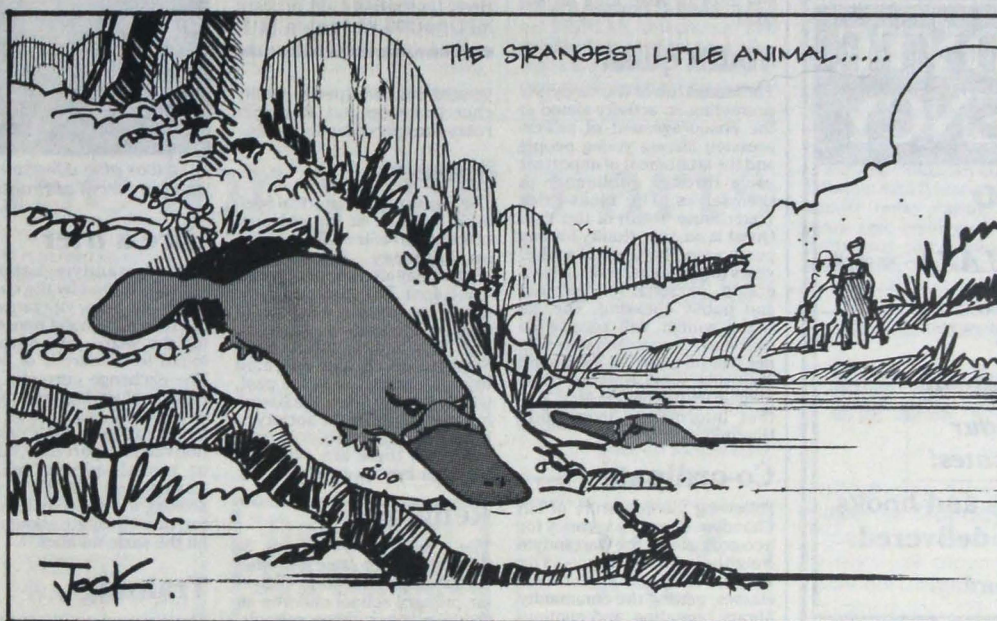
The river flowed on three sides around the ridge on which my house stood. Lou came walking up the south hill towards me, carrying two sizeable fish. He was wet through, but that did not worry Lou, although the many times he was wet through most certainly triggered the rheumatism from which he suffered.

Holding the fish out to me, he told me there were plenty of fish in a quiet part of the river, and offered to show me how to fish. The stretch of river frontage he referred to belonged to my property. It was a long way down so we had only been once to look at it. Lou explained that he often fished there, and had a small garden by the water's edge. He invited me to see it.

I did not know his method of planting, but guessed he must have mixed all the seeds together and sprinkled them. Nothing grew in rows or separately. Carrots and parsnips hugged each other, peas wrapped their tendrils around beans while tomato plants and maize embraced with gay abandon. The little plot was securely fenced against rabbits, richly fed with manure from his horse and everything grew lavishly.

Lou picked a handful of sorrel leaves and offered them to me. "If yer eat that Missus, yer can jump over the moon."

I was not sure that I wanted to jump over the moon, but I had come to respect the little man's knowledge of all things in the bush that were good. If he said that sorrel was good for one's spirits, then it must be. He grinned happily



when I chewed a leaf, and although it had a slightly bitter taste, it was not at all unpleasant. I have used sorrel ever since in cooking and salads.

Lou carried Evan and I took Robert down to the fishing spot. Lou pointed across the river. "There's a platypus in that hole," he said. "Yer might see 'im." Sure enough, after a while there climbed out of the hole the strangest little animal. The Australian platypus is indeed



the oddest creature in the world. It has a furry body, a duck's bill and webbed feet. It lives in mud holes dug into river banks. It lays eggs, but suckles its young. We watched, fascinated, until it climbed back into its hole. "There are more around," Lou said. Now knowing where to look for them, we saw them often.

"There's where the fish are," said Lou and raised his hand to show us a quiet pool in midstream. As yet I had no rod or line, but I asked Lou what he used for

bait. He lifted a sugar sack that kept the ground beneath it moist, and revealed many worms wriggling about.

We made our way back home and I invited Lou in for a cuppa. He cocked a knowing eye at the messy ceiling. "What yer need for that," he said, "is cow manure."

I looked at him, aghast. "Cow manure?"

"Yer slosh it around in a bucket of water, paint it on and brush it off when it dries. The other muck comes with it." I know I am somewhat gullible, but I could not imagine a worse mess than I had already. I decided to give it a go.

When Lou had finished his tea and left, I gathered a couple of Sally's fresh pancakes, sloshed them around in water and started to paint it on. That part was easy enough, but when it dried and I started to brush it off, no amount of elbow grease would shift it.

We had our evening meal in the small breakfast room off the kitchen, away from the stink. When I had put the children to bed I tackled the mess. Using buckets of hot water I scrubbed and I scrubbed.

Cow manure dribbled down my neck, into my hair and eyes. It splashed on to walls and floor. It took me until nearly morning to clean up the whole filthy mess. But I had to admit the ceiling had never been so spotlessly white. I thought I would not tell anyone of this, but ask discreetly of other methods for clean-

ing a smoky ceiling. I blew out the candles, rebanded the children for the third time that night and crawled into bed after a bath. My heap of stinking clothes I left outside.

I wakened the next day with bouyant optimism, happy that my kitchen was clean, that I knew where to catch fish and planning to go into the village to procure a fishing rod and line.

I am not sure when I started to barter. Neither am I sure how the people in the village came to know that money was a commodity I had not much of, but news travels fast in a small community.

Be that as it may, Harry, the owner of the quaint general store, suggested one day that I could exchange goods for other necessities. Butter, vegetables and even war-time clothing could be



exchanged for sugar, flour or other goods. In time, I became adept at bartering.

Now, as I packed butter, vegetables and some pots of home made blackberry jam into a bag, I wondered just what a fishing rod would be worth. I

also took a little money, in case the goods were not enough.

We made an easy crossing on the raft and walked into the village. A few old men were sitting on wooden seats on the verandah at the post office. Maisie, the postmistress, saw us through her window and came out to introduce us. Maisie saw everything that went on through that window. She knew who had gone to town on the bus, or who was visiting whom. She was a mine of local information, but never a malicious gossip.

We went on to the store. Against one wall, three large wooden bins held flour, sugar and oatmeal. We sat on them while Harry served a few customers. There was never any hurry about shopping here, always time for a friendly chat. We had time to examine the sides of bacon in muslin bags hanging on hooks, hobnailed boots standing cheek by jowl with sacks of potatoes. Cheeses, tins of biscuits, bundles of socks and bootlaces sat on the counter. Harry knew where to put his hand on anything one asked for, from a packet of pins to a pair of working pants or a new kettle. The store was also the local branch of the State Savings bank.



Once a fortnight Harry would leave his brother in charge of the store and take his old truck into town. He always bought his own supplies and never depended on deliveries.

He called me over to join in a conversation. Two of his customers I had met before, but not the third. "This is Dr Ellen," Harry said. She was a retired doctor, and turned now to give me a vigorous handshake. "I have heard about you," she said. "I have my car outside, would you come home with me? I would like to talk with you."

Always eager to make new friends among the locals, I agreed. She said she would pick up her mail and return in a few minutes. I spread my wares on the counter and asked Harry if I had enough to change for a fishing rod, explaining about Lou's fishing spot.

"More than enough, fishing rods are not very expensive," said Harry and went to the back of the store to fetch a rod and reel. "Good fishing," he said, and added two packets of raisins and a bag of biscuits.

I was never cheated over bartering. In fact, I often think I came off best.

To be continued.

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# It's jazz time at the centre

"Jazz in the foyer" is the title chosen for a Sunday evening jazz presentation to be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre from 6 to 8pm on February 23. Featured group will be the Lisa Young Quartet. Entry cost for the evening is \$5 for adults, \$2 concession and \$12 per family. It's a BYO function, but tea, coffee, cheese and biscuits will be provided. Tickets and further details from Pam Egglestone on 844 2714 or Alan King on 844 3622.

## Youth quest

The Lions Club of Warrandyte is promoting an activity aimed at the encouragement of self-expression among young people and the attainment of important goals through confidence in themselves. The Lions-Price Waterhouse Youth of the Year Quest is an opportunity for any person aged between 16 and 19 years to gain experience in leadership, personal involvement and public speaking. The national winner will receive an overseas trip and each state winner will be awarded an around Australia tour. National final judging will be held in May. Further information from Eddy Hendriks on 842 5485.

## Co-ordinate

Following the departure of Lin Chandler, there is a vacancy for a co-ordinator at the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House. The work involves starting the 1992 classes, getting the community library operating, and continuing the development of the occasional childcare and "drop-in" activities. Attendance at meetings and reporting to the management committee is essential. Initial appointment will be for a six months probation period, followed by a two year contract. Applicants will need some management and word processing skills, along with the ability to inspire and co-ordinate volunteers and liaise with other community groups. Applications close on Friday, February 28. Further information from the neighbourhood house on 844 1839.

## Sunday school

The Anglican parish of Warrandyte with Park Orchards has now commenced Sunday school classes for 1992, catering for children from kindergarten age to grade 6. Years 7 and 8 children may attend a teen group held at the same time. Sunday school begins at 9am and children can join their parents in church for the last half of the service, or may sit in church with their teacher. During this



Conducted by JUDY GREEN

Drop your news in the box on the old cypress tree opposite the State Bank, fax it to 844 4168, or post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte, 3113.

## Museum

The Warrandyte Historical Society's museum in the old post office in Yarra Street is now open on Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday afternoons between 1 and 4pm. The secretary, Gina Jones, has organised a roster of members to man the museum. The Warrandyte Information Service, which has operated from the premises in the past, will continue to do so. Much work has been done by the society to bring the museum to its present state and there are extensive plans for further development.

## Religious

The Catholic parish of St Gerard's and St Anne's is offering religious education classes for primary school children attending government schools. Classes are held every Tuesday from 4 to 4.45 pm at St Anne's school, Knees Road, Park Orchards. Contact Denise Fricker on 844 3702 for registration form and details.

## Poets

On Sunday, March 1, the "Poets' Corner" will meet for its first 1992 readings. The theme will be favourite Australian poets, with Beth Gallagher leading the group. It is hoped each participant will bring at least two poems for reading and discussion. The group meets at the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House in the new community centre from 2.30 to 4.30pm. Coffee and tea will be provided.

## Nursing mums

The Warrandyte group of the Nursing Mothers Association of Australia holds regular coffee mornings and night meetings to enable mums to get together. The next morning coffee will be on Wednesday, February 26 at 10am. Further information from Maree Burns on 844 2897.



Jazz was also a feature at the recent wedding of Jan Hall and Ian Biram of Bradleys Lane

## Hire a trier

The Warrandyte Labor Exchange, started by the co-op 11 years ago, now operates from the neighbourhood house. During the years, jobs have been found for hundreds of people. The exchange currently has a register of workers experienced in a variety of fields, so if you have a job to be done, or a position vacant—part-time, full-time or casual—please call Jean Chapman on 844 3326. If you're seeking work and wish to register, don't hesitate about calling on the same number.

## Training

The Warrandyte Citizens Advice Bureau is seeking volunteers for the 1992 community workers' information course. Call the bureau on 844 3082 for further information.

## Wedding

Celebrations continued well into the night recently, when Jan Hall and Ian Biram were married at their Bradleys Lane home. "Second-timers can do it any way they like," Jan said of their wedding. Jan and Ian's sons were both best men and family and friends joined in the special day in an informal atmosphere. Jan has lived in Warrandyte for 26 years, and many locals enjoy having her pottery in their homes. Ian is a printer who plays a little golf and tennis and paints watercolors in his spare time.

## Hearing

Better Hearing Australia is a non-profit organisation currently holding classes at the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House at the community centre each Thursday from 1.30 to

2.30pm. At these classes, hearing impaired people learn to improve their communication skills through lip-reading and listening tactics and receive information on the use of hearing aids and listening devices. Anyone interested can ring 510 1577 for more information.

## D&T festival

The 1992 Doncaster-Templestowe festival will take place between March 28 to April 5 this year. Call the festival hotline on 840 9230 for program details.

## All aboard!

Colin Bentley has kept the model railway room at the community centre open during the holidays, and many visitors have admired the model rolling stock and layouts. The room is now open on Friday nights between 7.30 and 10.30pm and at weekends from 10am to 4pm.

## Bridge

Some interest has been shown in the formation of a bridge club in Warrandyte. Anyone keen can ring the Citizens Advice Bureau on 844 3082, or call into the CAB office in the community centre, corner of Yarra and Webb Streets.

## Linked

The computer link with the Box Hill regional library is now well established in community centre office of the CAB. Residents are invited to check on books which can be ordered. This service can be particularly helpful for students and school children.

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## How brigade funds are serving Warrandyte

The Warrandyte Fire Brigade has won Doncaster council's achiever of the month award for community service. Captain Bob Bird attended a ceremony at council chambers late last year to accept the well-earned award, which was presented by Mayor Val Polley.

The brigade is about to launch its annual funding appeal. Almost every dollar received is used to directly benefit the community. They feel it is important the public knows what happens to donations, in the hope that larger donations will be made more freely.

Funds donated in recent years have gone into building the fire

station, purchasing and equipping Tanker 2 and the pumper. This year they have purchased a new Holden Rodeo twin cab utility, to be used as a forward control at fires and for transporting personnel and equipment. Some \$8000 was spent updating equipment and on protective clothing for fire crews.

North and South Warrandyte crews have also put money from fundraisers to good use. Both have recently bought 4x4 vehicles for use in a fire.

South Warrandyte brigade has built its own fire station and updated its equipment.

North Warrandyte have equipped their vehicle with com-



Captain Bob Bird

munications facilities and other specialised gear to improve the brigade's flexibility and mobility.

BRUCE BENCE

## Dial FM for fire

Not all residents are aware of the function of Plenty Valley community radio in an emergency. The station, on 88.6FM, provides emergency information to the local community, fulfilling the recommendations of a 1983 bushfire review committee.

During the course of annual DISPLAN (state disaster plan) exercises, direct line of communication is established from the emergency operations centre at Kangaroo Ground by fax or DISPLAN telephone networks. This ensures that messages broadcasting the state of operations to locals are framed

by local workers who know the area. This is a service found lacking across Victoria in the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983.

Broadcasts are made once an emergency builds to 'group' level, but not on a daily basis or during a small fire being controlled by a single local brigade.

Plenty Valley, 88.6FM, will be the best source of local emergency information, says Eltham shire emergency management officer, Bernie Murray. He suggests that all local residents "arrange an aerial if necessary, to tune in on a battery powered radio in time of emergency".

The station has long been proven a successful method of communication. When local community members applied to the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal for a licence for a community radio station several years ago, emergency broadcasting was part of the original submission. The radio station

aimed to serve the Diamond Valley, Eltham and Whittlesea areas.

During early test broadcasts, many emergency service and allied personnel were interviewed on various topics. This developed into an emergency services hour on Sunday afternoons once the station went to air part-time.

The station also took part in the annual DISPLAN exercises run by the Shire of Eltham, broadcasting progress reports to the community during each incident.

After the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983, the bushfire review committee reported the need for better warning and information systems for the community. It is from this report that the existing system developed. Strong support from local emergency services has ensured its continuation, almost unchanged, up to now.

## Playhouse for youth arts

A local resident has built a playhouse theatre for artistic events on her own property. Betty Scarlett, of 'Wintyre', hopes it will encourage youth arts in Warrandyte.

"My aim is to capture and encourage those on the threshold of opportunity. The hall is not for hire but always for the sponsorship of the arts," Ms

Scarlett told the *Diary*.

The hall was completed last October and features carefully designed wood and glass panel construction, high quality acoustics, natural lighting and bush surrounds.

Its first event, held on January 12, was a piano forte recital by local musician Phoebe Briggs. A jewellery exhibition by artist

Nicci Booth was also a great success.

The artists, both 22, have recently completed bachelor degrees in their fields. Phoebe, who has featured in past Festival Follies, is in England while Nicci now works as a fulltime jeweller.

Betty, who seemed delighted with the evening, told the *Diary* the event realised a dream con-

ceived eight years ago while she was overseas. Inspired by the ballrooms and entrance halls of English manor houses, she said "It is (in) these large spaces that people gather by private invitation and where youth flock and although my home is small I thought if I ever had the money I would build such a space."

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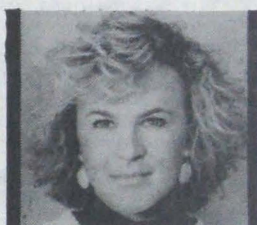
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# Girls, thirds lead Dytes' final fling

## WBB kids the best of the biggest

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Basketball Club has dominated the biggest annual junior tournament in the Southern Hemisphere, with five of the seven teams entered winning grand finals.

The Eltham Australia Day Weekend event attracts more than 320 teams from around the country and it was the Redbacks who shone, the boys winning a quarter of the premierships on offer.

The glory started with the under-10 boys coached by Ben Dawson, who, despite losing two of their preliminary games, went into the grand final and thrashed Hawthorn Magic 25-10.

The 12AR team of Gavin Whitmore took their third tournament in the space of just five months, winning all seven matches on the long weekend, including a 48-35 grand final triumph over Geelong.

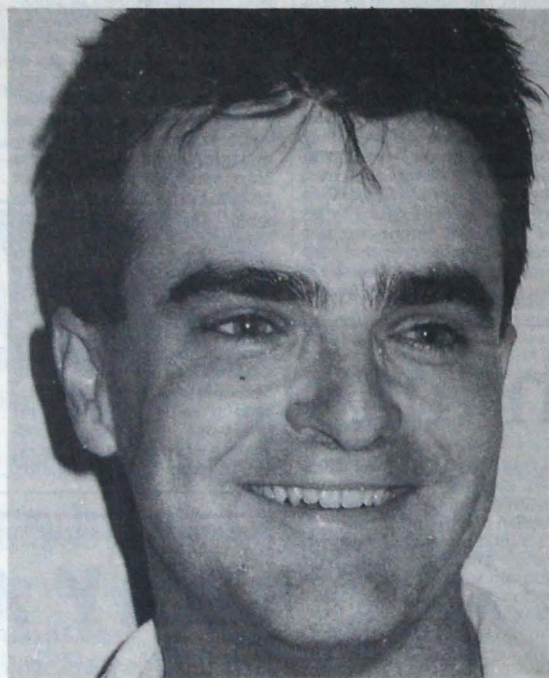
The under-14B boys of Barry Masenhelder also were unbeaten, downing Korumburra 40-29 in the grand final. They were never threatened throughout the weekend, with Damien Brady and Matthew Bushby starring in the big one.

Peter Messerle's 14Cs won six of their eight matches, including a landslide semi-final win and a thrilling 49-45 grand final victory over Kilsyth.

The 16C side of Jo Yarwood and Carter Zigmantas played in one of the best games of the tournament, their semi-final victory over Latrobe High School, Tasmania. The Tasmanians were a far taller line-up, led early and appeared set for a comfortable win.

However, the Redbacks fought back to half-time and in the second half went on with the job for a 29-24 win. The grand final was something of an anti-climax as they plundered Bulleen 48-19.

Iain Hay's 12C boys won all their preliminary matches but faltered in the big one and lost 30-37 to Eltham. The 18B team of Ron McLellan won three, drew one and lost two, but that wasn't enough to take them into the finals. They tied the previously-undefeated Blazers 23-23 in their final game.



John Sharman: unbeaten 150 against East Ringwood

Two men's teams and the women's eleven will carry Warrandyte Cricket Club's premiership hopes into the 1991-2 finals.

With one and a half games to go, the men's third and fifth elevens were assured of places in the Ringwood District Cricket Association finals and the girls were firmly entrenched in the Victorian Women's Cricket Association A-grade East top four.

Theseconds, premiers last season, still had an outside chance of qualifying, but needed everything to run their way.

The thirds and the women have been the Dytes' form teams and are rated excellent premiership chances.

It has been a disappointing season for the thirds, who had won only two matches but were well placed to force victory against

East Ringwood after one of their few really good days with the bat.

Captain-coach John Sharman led by example with an unbeaten 150 as Warrandyte plundered the East Ringwood attack to be 5/307 at stumps on the first day.

Poor batting has been the thirds' downfall this season, with Sharman, Greg Tregear and Andrew Hood among the few exceptions.

"Batting has been our problem this time and for the past few seasons," WCC president Mark Davis told the *Diary*. "We've managed to really get it together only a couple of times, and our innings against East Ringwood was one of them."

Davis said he had noticed an improved, more disciplined approach at practice since Christmas.

"Hopefully, the players will

carry that attitude over into next season," he said. "It would at least put us in with a chance."

The thirds, a young side who have rarely faltered, also had a big day against East Ringwood, hitting up 6/294. Dale Comrie top-scored with 90.

Warrandyte's women have lost only two matches, thanks largely to the consistency of such stalwarts as Jenny Chapman and Jenny McLaws and the emergence of Angela Tunbridge as a cricketing sensation.

Angela has realised her enormous potential this season with both bat and ball. She has hit three centuries, including an unbeaten 139 against Elwood and 109 not out against Tecoma in consecutive innings, and failed by only 16 runs to reach a ton again in the latest match, against South Croydon.

A measure of the women's 1991-92 form is that they have won two matches by an innings.

## Sloanie's back!

SPORT

### New Bloods chief fills an extraordinary void

Laurie Sloan has sacrificed a high personal honour to return to the football club he loves more than a league.

Sloan, Warrandyte Football Club president from 1973-80, has relinquished his position on the Eastern Districts Football League executive and is back at the helm of the Bloods.

He had only this year to serve before qualifying almost automatically for EDFL life membership. Instead, he came to the rescue of a club without a leader.

Sloan walked into the club's extraordinary meeting - extraordinary because the annual general on November 14 had produced no nominations for president or secretary - as the chairs were being stacked away again after a similar result.

The name Laurie Sloan had

been bandied about for the top job in discussions since Colin Bawden made it known that he was about to relinquish it after two years. Two other names had emerged, late, in the meantime, but neither was present on February 10.

Just after the meeting closed, Sloan walked in, spoke with Bawden, vice-president Geoff Feltham and outgoing secretary Norm Carrington. Bawden then announced Sloan was a candidate.

"I stayed out of it until the last minute, thinking you would get someone else," Sloan told the meeting. "My heart's always been in Warrandyte, but I can't do both jobs. I had to decide between the EDFL and Warrandyte and decided Warrandyte. I feel that this can be the year of Warrandyte."

Referring to the secretaryship, still unfilled, Sloan said a lot of the workload would be

lifted this year by the appointment of a registration secretary.

"It is the EDFL's suggestion that in each club the job be split, and Norm Carrington has already volunteered to do the registering for Warrandyte," he said.

The Bloods have been training since late last month and attendances and enthusiasm have pleasantly surprised coach David Purcell.

Purcell, who led Warrandyte from nowhere to the finals last season, looks like having a good deal more to work with.

Former Fitzroy key position player Darren Murphy has been training with the Bloods and prolific goalgetter John O'Brien might be back after a season with East Ringwood. The only known loss at this stage is Cam Day, who is going overseas.

## Cricket Details

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 4/332 (Brisbane 72, Hood 45, Sharman 76 n.o., Tregear 88 n.o.) d Croydon United 247 (Sharman 3/30, Graf 3/67, Tregear 3/46). Warrandyte 184 (Day 44, Sharman 46) lost to Vermont 201 (Walshe 5/80). Warrandyte 4/225 (Tregear 97 n.o., Sharman 86) lost to Wonga Park 6/243. Warrandyte 7/183 (M. Day 48) d Norwood 7/174 (Tregear 3/45). Warrandyte 5/307 (Sharman 150 n.o., Hood 43, Tregear 64) v East Ringwood.

SECONDS: Warrandyte 174 (Snaidero 49) d Croydon United 142 (Watts 4/36). Warrandyte 7/230 (Pascoe 59, Vitiritti 45 n.o.) lost to Vermont 9/271 (Vitiritti 5/86). Warrandyte 94 lost to Wonga Park 132 and 7/91 (Croft 4/33, Watts 4/31). Warrandyte 6/188 (King 82) lost to Norwood 9/190 (Pascoe 4/64). Warrandyte 9/276 (Pascoe 90, Creber 41) v East Ringwood.

THIRDS: Warrandyte 216 (Rodgers 79, Vitiritti 40) d Croydon United 208 (Croft 5/58). Warrandyte 129 (Elliot 46 n.o.) lost to Vermont 9/288 (O'Connor 3/40). Warrandyte 7/149 (Vitiritti 51) lost to Wonga Park 4/176. Warrandyte 6/135 (Canty 58 n.o.) d Norwood 8/125. Warrandyte 6/294 (Comrie 90, Neagle 89) v East Ringwood.

FOURTHS: Warrandyte 250 (Brisbane 60, Logan 55) lost to Croydon United 7/336 (Warr 3/72). Warrandyte 113 lost to Vermont 9/170 (Warr 3/36, Smith 3/46). Warrandyte 7/106 lost to Wonga Park 6/163. Warrandyte 125 lost to Norwood 168. Warrandyte v East Ringwood 243 (Smith 5/63, Logan, 3/40).

FIFTHS: Warrandyte 267 (Wilks 76, L Harbolt 56 n.o., M. Harbolt 81)

d Croydon United 149 and 7/114 (M. Harbolt 5/44). Warrandyte 128 and 4/140 (Barr 41) lost to Vermont 4/260. Warrandyte 76 lost to Wonga Park 4/212. Warrandyte 6/160 d Norwood 156. Warrandyte v East Ringwood 5/202.

WOMEN: Warrandyte 1/265 (Tunbridge 139 n.o., E. McGhee 78 n.o.) d Elwood 114 and 114 (Chapman 5/24, McLaws 4/25 and 6/46). Warrandyte 0/140 (McLaws 105 n.o.) d Croydon North-Montre 55 and 68 (Egberg 4/18 and 4/12, McLaws 3/23, Farrelly 3/16, Chapman 3/17). Warrandyte 3/188 (Tunbridge 109 n.o., McGhee 37 n.o.) d Tecoma 90 (McLaws 3/39). Warrandyte 54 lost to Melbourne 6/84. Warrandyte 207 (Tunbridge 84, Chapman 65) v South Croydon 2/56.

Under-14's: Warrandyte 125 (J. Logan 22, M. Chapman 33, R. Anderson 15) d South Ringwood 123 (N. Brisbane 2/9). Warrandyte 9/55 lost to North Ringwood 153 (A. De Leo 2/3, Anderson 2/26) and 46 (G. Hose 2/7). Warrandyte 165 (De Leo 40 ret., J. Edwards 38 n.o., A. Logan 25) d Wantirna South 69 (Brisbane 2/15, Edwards 3/18). Warrandyte 2/216 (De Leo 40 ret., Logan 43 ret., Brisbane 43 ret., Chapman 40 n.o.) d. Boronia 65 (S. Tippet 4/15, Edwards 2/2).

Warrandyte 2/117 (Brisbane 37 n.o., Chapman 27 n.o., Logan 25) d Lilydale 53 (De Leo 3/15) and 1/26. Warrandyte 6/241 (Logan 49 ret., De Leo 45 ret., Chapman 46 ret.) d Croydon 95 (Tippet 3/10, Edwards 3/19). Warrandyte 124 (De Leo 40 ret., Brisbane 27, Chapman 22) lost to Aisle Park 127. Warrandyte 4/194 dec. (De Leo 44 ret., Brisbane 40 ret., Logan 34, Chapman 26) v Wonga Park 3/14.

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