

# Fire evacuation bid

## Police seek new powers

By JANE STICKELS

Residents may be evacuated from their homes by force during a fire, if proposed legislation goes ahead.

Police support the alteration to the Emergency Management Act, covering all Victoria.

Under the CFA Act, emergency workers cannot evacuate people with a "pecuniary interest", such as their home. They can prevent residents returning to their home during a fire.

The proposed changes first surfaced late last year, when a coronial inquiry into emergency procedures during the 1991 Warrandyte fire was announced. A public meeting was called by Eltham shire and North Warrandyte CFA to discuss problems confronted during the fire.

The inquiry opened on March 25. Several residents, part of a local working party, were subpoenaed to attend. They were impressed by the willingness of assistant coroner, Wendy Wilmoth, to listen. They felt they were given a good hearing.

A report, made by Inspector Ken Mackie of the Police Major Incident Planning Unit, stated that an amendment to the Emergency Management Act Section 38 is to be presented to parliament shortly. Residents who attended the inquiry told the *Diary* that the legislation would increase the present power of police to evacuate residents during any future emergency. A spokesperson for the residents' working party said that evacuation and access by residents was of major interest to the coroner.

Residents involved in the inquiry are alarmed that any changes to police powers may go to parliament before the coroner releases her findings on April 28. They have contacted local members of parliament, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the relevant Opposition spokesman asking that the proposed amendment be delayed until the coroner's findings are handed down.

The ability of well-prepared residents to defend their homes has been well covered since Ash Wednesday in 1983.

A spokesperson for the working party is concerned that the amendment may be passed without giving Victorians an opportunity to debate it.

"The role of the police in emergency situations is to keep peo-

ple safe. I don't think anyone has an issue with that. But at the same time, residents are anxious to defend their homes and ensure their safety," she said.

"During the February fire, and from views expressed by police, it seems the police believe fire service and residents' needs cannot both be achieved. But residents wish to co-operate with the CFA and police to find mutually acceptable solutions to this dilemma," she added.

The problem is that some residents may still try to reach their homes, even if it means breaking the law. If residents are forced out of their cars, or swim the Yarra to reach their homes, they may face even greater danger. The spokesperson suggested residents be "allowed into the fire area in a controlled, safe and legal way: say with a CFA escort."

Another issue for police seems to be clear road access for emergency vehicles. The working party suggests a CFA escort and emergency radio contact as a solution to the problem.

There were several instances during the 1991 fire where residents saved their houses without assistance from firefighters. Had they been denied access, the properties may have been lost, says the spokesperson. "This comment is not intended as a criticism of the CFA but rather an acknowledgement of the major role of the CFA in suppressing the fire front and bringing the overall fire under control."

The group believes that fire is a community problem and says residents and emergency services should work together to protect property and people in a fire.

"We are lucky to have such a competent and cooperative CFA in North Warrandyte, keen to work alongside residents to control fire," the spokesperson told the *Diary*.

North Warrandyte CFA captain, John Swindley, is already planning a second public meeting to inform residents of the coroner's findings. He hopes recommendations made by Ms Wendy Wilmoth will be discussed by residents and emergency services to develop new and better ways of handling future fires.

Captain Swindley is aware that there may be major changes to residents' access, community firewatch and education on fire planning, that will affect both the community and the fire brigade. He hopes they will all be positive, but only time will tell.

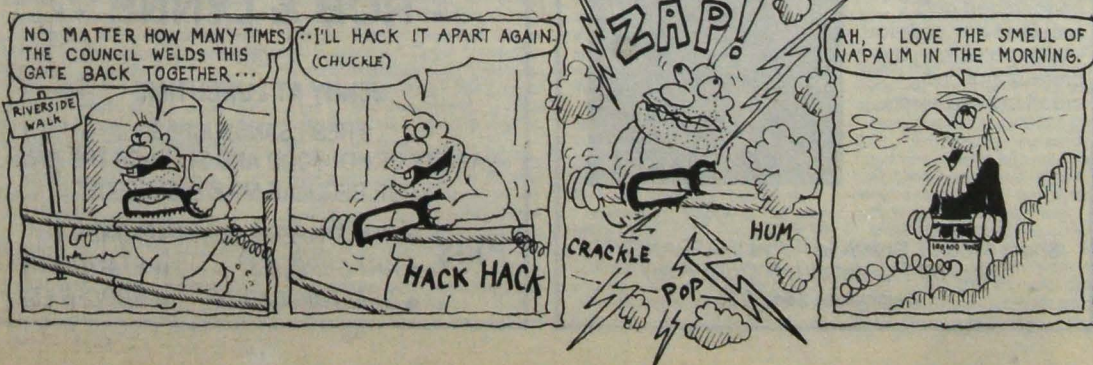


**Ruffled feathers:** A lone protestor refuses to duck the issue during our festival grand parade last month. But despite the demise of the duck race, everyone agreed it was Warrandyte's 'best yet' festival. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

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CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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# Why patient Pete had to take it lying down

Former *Diary* editor Peter Lovett has become something of a living legend at Geelong Hospital (with emphasis on the word "living"). A bit over five years ago he was successfully treated there for cancer after being given a life expectancy of three months. In January this year he had a heart attack and made headlines of his own by being the first patient treated on the hospital's new \$1.4 million cardiac equipment. The landmark angiogram diagnosed Pete's problem as a blocked artery, and no surgery was necessary. It was quite an occasion at the hospital when the new gear was tried out on Peter. A nurse came along before he was hooked up to the machine and told him he'd have to wear a paper hat and a pair of paper pants. The pants were promptly overruled by the matron, who cut them off with a pair of scissors! Angiogram successfully completed, champagne was produced in the laboratory and Peter dropped the subtle hint that he was a little thirsty. Problem was that he wasn't allowed off his back for a few hours and it's pretty difficult to sip champers in that position. But there is no shortage of ingenuity at Geelong Hospital and one of the specialists produced a piece of right-angled plastic tubing. A most enjoyable sip was had by all, including the star patient.

## IN RED & WHITE

Centre, where her father Don is caretaker. If you've seen the display there lately you'll agree her talents are pretty special. Alison's aim is to start her own business, which would include landscaping and garden care. In the meantime, she's looking for all the work she can get. Her phone number is 844 1042.

son's first edition of the Eastern Districts Football League Record. As previously reported here, Laurie stepped down from senior vice-presidency of the EDFL—and sacrificed an automatic life membership—to return to his beloved Warrandyte in its hour of dire leadership need. The Record describes him as epitomising the expression "gentleman and a scholar". Having known him for a lot of years, we're not about to dispute that.



The golfing career of Kevin Luttick reached its pinnacle at Yarrambat recently with a hole in one on the eighth. Kevin will modestly tell you how he allowed for the wind, how the ball took the precise course he had charted for it and how it never looked like missing. And we know it all to be true because his partner and witness on the day was his good mate and near-neighbour John Knox, who is incapable of telling a fib.

Play in the second quarter of the Bloods' game against Fair Park was held up for quite a few minutes because the football was up a tree at the Harry Heath end and the spare new ball could not be found in the clubrooms. Someone suggested a chainsaw, but quickly withdrew his remark and hushed his mouth because, as he said, "the greensies are everywhere these days—why, they might even have infiltrated footy crowds!"



Peter, Pat and younger son Richard now live at Portarlington, and before we say aloha to those balmy shores we draw attention to a quaint line in liquor discounting in vogue at the pub there. "Hot" beer \$2 a slab cheaper than the chilled stuff. We know a Warrandyte holidaymaker who asked for slab of his favourite brand at the economy price and they said sorry, we haven't got any of that hot. Okay, said the bloke, leave it out in the sun and I'll be back in an hour! No sale.

We all know about the ozone layer and the unseasonal seasons, but that's no excuse for lifting fire restrictions in North Warrandyte at the end of February. Since the signs were taken down we've had a total fire ban day and autumn northerlies the like of which we cannot recall. Whoever decided it was time to lift the restrictions obviously has a very short memory. It was just 12 months earlier, almost to the day, that Warrandyte had its worst bushfire in 22 years.



One of the first injuries of the new football season was to the pride of Bloods reserves sharpshooter Buck Rodgers. And he wasn't even playing! Buck was relaxing on the terraces in front of the local pavilion watching a senior practice match when a shortsighted dog mistook him for a fire hydrant, cocked the leg and piddled down his back. Never mind, Buck, just be thankful it wasn't a Great Dane.



A wonderful welcome to Emma Kate, brand-new daughter for Mandy and Mark Bence of Yarra Street, granddaughter for Wilma and Bruce Bence and for Judy and Cliff Green.

And for the last word this time we return to Kevin "Ace" Luttick and his opinion of the new Foster's Special Bitter. Kevin took a fair-to-middling swallow after the final siren at the local footy ground and pronounced it "the best light beer that has ever been produced". He certainly knows his subject, so we're not arguing.

Nice and well-deserved tribute to Laurie Sloan in the new sea-



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# We want one Warrandyte, but where?



Local Colin Bentley (centre), Crs Val Polley and Rex Griffin 'want to know more'.

By GEORGI STICKELS  
Pictures by KIRSTEN O'LOUGHLIN

Locals supported the idea of one Warrandyte, but were undecided about the proposed Green Wedge shire, at a meeting held at the community centre last month. The meeting was organised by members of the Interim Shire Restructure committee. It focussed on public reaction to a Green Wedge shire, reported in the *Diary* last issue. Similar meetings were also held at Eltham and Hurstbridge.

The proposed shire "takes in all the Green Wedge". It aims "to achieve a balanced urban-rural shire" say supporters.

The new Shire of Eltham would have a population of about 45,000. The boundaries would enclose all of Warrandyte, and Green Wedge areas currently in the shires of Whittlesea, Diamond Valley, Healesville and Kinglake.

This would also unite the divided townships in many of these towns, including Warrandyte.

In addition, Eltham's urbanised West Riding would become part of Diamond Valley. The proposal is similar to several which have failed since 1959.

The interim committee was hoping for a firm commitment from the meeting, either for or against the proposed shire. But confusion reigned as about 60 residents debated the many issues thrown up by the proposal.

Councillors from Eltham, Doncaster and Whittlesea also took part.

Many supported the green shire in theory, but wondered if merging with Eltham will ensure wildlife and heritage conservation. Eltham shire has recently lost bush reserves at Eltham College and urban expansion in the township includes a McDonalds outlet.

## Mixed reaction to Green shire

Committee members stressed "the need for a unified outlook". They say that Warrandyte ward councillors are often outvoted by Doncaster council's chiefly urban outlook.

Eltham councillor Bill Penrose said developments such as at the butcher's shop could be vetoed by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) in a shire which has a deliberate policy of conservation.

Cr Polley stressed the advantages of living in an area with a mix of policies. Doncaster-Templestowe residents have both recycling and sewerage, as well as historic preservation.

Cr Penrose readily admits that funds are more plentiful in Doncaster. He says the committee will not examine funding issues until the matter is officially put before councils.

Ratepayers are concerned the merger may affect their rates, or the level of services provided by the new shire. Income in rural areas is often fairly low because farmers pay less per acre than urban dwellers.

"I would like to know more about the economic viability of the proposed shire before its planning advances too far," Cr Polley told the *Diary*.

Both Eltham and Doncaster councillors say rezoning is unlikely to change.

"There is no reason to change zoning just because we change the

municipal boundaries" said Cr Robert Marshall from Eltham.

This decision means commercial ventures such as the butcher's redevelopment or the Mitchell Street shops are irreversible. The Harris Gully subdivision, zoned Residential C, would also go ahead.

Cr Polley agrees 'backzoning' is almost impossible. "Some things are bowing to urban pressure, there's no such thing as a do-nothing option," she told the *Diary*. She said rezoning is not an alternative to creating a green shire.

Warrandyte ward councillors were concerned that they had not been notified about the proposal earlier. They, and councillors from Whittlesea, feel communication will have to improve if the councils have any hope of working together.

"It's embarrassing when the first you know of it is when a reporter rings you up to find out your reaction" said Cr Polley.

The committee says their first priority was to talk to the public. Although three Eltham councillors are on the committee, it stresses it is not a council body.

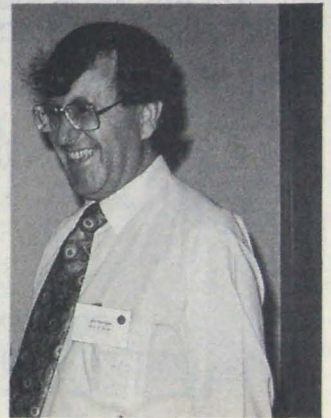
"Consultation has to begin somewhere, and these three meetings are the first step," Cr Marshall told the *Diary*. He added that all councillors affected by the merger had been invited to the meetings.

Many residents supported the sentiments of John Egan, who says planning is the main issue. "I don't want shops or curb and channelling, I like Warrandyte the way it is." But there is also the fear that if the hip pocket is hit, residents will opt to stay where they are.

• How Green is my council? cartoon - page 7



Those in favor: Crs Rob Marshall (above), and Bill Penrose say 'ay'.



# Community and politicians support retirement village

The lack of suitable accommodation, which is forcing elderly citizens to leave Warrandyte, is not good enough according to many locals.

Since a report in the *Diary* last February, residents and politicians have spoken out on the issue and discussed action to be taken.

Mr Phil Honeywood, State MP for Warrandyte, told the *Diary* "a number of potentially suitable properties have been identified for the proposed project".

He said the main criteria are that the sites should be flat and close to both shops and trans-

port. He warned residents that costs could be prohibitive even, if a suitable site is found.

Mr Honeywood and several local councillors are planning a public meeting on the issue as soon as "some more homework is done".

Mayor Val Polley told the *Diary* that cooperation is vital on this issue. "Our elderly residents have the right to stay here and we want to keep them here."

She believes the town should "ensure that a retirement village with suitable facilities is built in this area". She also said that discussions had already begun be-

tween council staff, councillors and residents.

Cr Polley agreed with Mr Honeywood that some basic groundwork had to be done, particularly covering potential funding and sites, before the first public meeting.

Local councillors Louise Joy and Vern Denford also support the proposed village. "There is an urgent need for people who currently own their own homes but wish to move to smaller premises. A successful model has been shown to work at Stiggants Street," Cr Joy said.

Such dwellings for the aged or

retired are allowed in Warrandyte's Residential Zone, and may also include recreation and medical facilities for people in the village, she added.

There is widespread community support for the elderly. Cr Joy told the *Diary* "groups of residents have met with council officers. When we have something more definite to report, we will come back to the community".

In the meantime, other interested groups can contact Crs Joy or Denford for more details.

GEORGIE WATERMAN

# Local book in final stages

By GEORGIE WATERMAN  
Picture by EMMA WOOD

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park are working with other local experts to produce a book, titled 'Discovering Warrandyte'.

Comprehensively and thoroughly researched, it is essentially a portrait of Warrandyte. It describes our people, past and present, our parks and the effects of changing seasons on nature. This last section is particularly fascinating, relying on anecdotes, records and experiences of the many naturalists who live in the area.

Margaret Burke, coordinator of the Friends group, said "we hope this book will be of interest to Warrandyte residents and visitors alike. It's more than just a guide to our local parks, it is also a resource document for the area".

The group is urgently seeking funding to cover the final stage of the book's production.

Pat and Mike Coupar, the prime motivators behind 'Discovering Warrandyte', told the

*Diary*, "We've tried to describe what it's like to live near bush, near a state park and Victoria's best known river, the Yarra. We've also included a comprehensive guide to our local parks and a large section on the seasonal changes."

The Coupars believe Warrandyte is a unique area in Melbourne.

"Our bushland suburb has so much to offer and we hope, through this publication, to help people discover some of our local treasures." These treasures, natural and historical, have been carefully conserved. Pat Coupar says "these two elements have helped define a special character for the area".

The Coupars believe Warrandyte's appeal lies in its diverse attractions, which include historical gold diggings, bushwalking and the state park, "all just a stone's throw from the township where you can dine in a cafe, browse through craft shops and visit local nurseries".

The bush, always beautiful, is



Mike and Pat Coupar and the cover design for 'Discovering Warrandyte'.

constantly changing. Some areas are renowned for colorful wildflowers in spring, while sheltered gullies are covered with emerald green moss and delicate ferns in winter.

Both Pat and Mike have a special interest in small, often little-known wildlife species. They have included information about the lifecycles of moths, butterflies and insects in the book.

Natives of England, Pat and Mike Coupar say their love of natural history brought them to Australia. Coming to Warrandyte was then a logical progression.

Pat says that although Australians are generally aware of na-

ture and conservation issues now, some still don't appreciate the extraordinary natural resource on their doorstep. She hopes that 'Discovering Warrandyte' will "contribute to a greater appreciation of our local assets".

Margaret Burke told the *Diary* that 'Discovering Warrandyte' has been a labor of love. Every stage has been done unpaid by local researchers, naturalists, artists and photographers.

However the final stage, publication, requires funding. The Friends urge anyone who can help in this area to contact the group through the Warrandyte State Park on 844 2659.

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Council is currently preparing a Local Conservation Strategy for the municipality to guide the management of the City's built and natural resources.

The Conservation Strategy - Issues Paper is now released for public comment. Issues discussed include The National Environment, Traffic and Transport and Waste Management and Energy Savings.

Submissions are welcome and will be received until 16 April 1992, addressed to:

**Manager - Strategic Planning**  
City of Doncaster and Templestowe  
PO Box 1  
Doncaster Vic 3108

Copies of the Issues Paper are available free of charge from the Municipal Offices, or by telephoning the Strategic Planning Department on 840 9432 or 840 9418. The Issues Paper is also available for perusal in local libraries.

Copies have been sent to groups and individuals already on the Conservation Strategy mailing list.

Any queries on the Conservation Strategy may be directed to Sonia Rappell, Study Coordinator on 840 9432 or Mary-Anne Taranto on 840 9415.

DONCASTER & TEMPLESTOWE



## Buses in time warp

Well here we go again. Thanks to the innovative restructuring of the bus timetable for Warrandyte, the Met has successfully moved transportation back 10 years. I have just perused the so-called new timetable and all I can suggest is that it resembles the same one I had to use over eight years ago.

Any student who used to travel between Warrandyte and Templestowe tech, or high schools will know what an or-

### LETTERS

deal it was using the bus service from Warrandyte. There used to be lengthy waits at Deep Creek for buses that were supposed to connect the service.

If you think a bus driver is going to stick to a timetable, you're

wrong. Many a time anything up to 20 students could be left waiting at Deep Creek for over 45 minutes for a bus that never came.

Suffice to say the Met haven't put public transport anywhere near my doorstep. It is now so out of reach, I will have to drive my car and add to the increasing pollution problem.

C. Watts  
Warrandyte

## Naughty (hic!) Smokey

Good One, Smokey Joe.

In a snide piece of brownie point scoring aimed at the local council, you have successfully insulted a regular advertiser, angered me and embarrassed any retailer or restaurant licensed to sell liquor in the Warrandyte area.

I can imagine what the proprietor of Kellybrook winery, a regular advertiser, must be thinking of your description of their highly regarded and prizewinning apple brandy as being "fruit rotgut".

To accuse the council of contributing to drink driving by publicising our cocktail and by infer-

ence accusing this motel as well is irresponsible to say the least.

I believe your paper owes Kellybrook, this motel and the council a public apology for twisting a perfectly harmless promotion into what is nothing more than a piece of parochial sniping at Doncaster council.

And by the way, Smokey Joe, by picturing yourself as a pipe smoker, would it be fair to say that you are damaging the Quit campaign?

Larry Brennan  
Manager  
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## A good start

Thank you *Warrandyte Diary* for taking up the issue of the spraying of toxic chemicals in Warrandyte.

It is pleasing to see that the Herbicide Applicators' Association of Victoria has agreed to putting up signs whenever spraying occurs in the future. This is what I have been asking the City of Doncaster and Templestowe to do for nearly two years, so that people may choose whether to use these areas after spraying or not.

It is not so pleasing to see that Mr Powell and the council do not agree on what chemical was used on the last spraying of the small oval.

The council told me that 'Methar', with a toxicity of S8, was used on the oval itself to kill paspalum grass and broadleaf weeds and that 'Roundup' was used under the surrounding fence to kill all weeds and grass.

All toxic chemicals are dangerous. Has it been proven that 'Roundup' doesn't cause cancer?

Jean Chapman  
Taroona Avenue

## Paying to park

It seems our State government, ever desperate for revenue, is now looking to the residents of Warrandyte for additional support.

During the last Warrandyte market we were visited by a police divisional van from Doncaster. The two officers occupying it, in a great burst of community awareness, proceeded to book market shoppers who had the craven audacity to park in Yarra Street whilst they shopped!

Naturally the fact that we have been doing so since the inception of the market could not be considered, nor could any semblance of manners and courtesy be entertained by the members of the police revenue SWAT team when they were questioned about the tickets by shoppers returning to their cars.

Watch out next market day for a repeat performance in case anyone was missed!

Anita Baragwanath  
Marbert Court

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Anderson's Creek in 1856: as seen by Herman Zumstein. (Ms.12831. McCrae Family Papers, Latrobe Collection, State Library of Victoria)

# How our town looked - 136 years ago

By JUDY MACDONALD

A pencil sketch of Anderson's Creek, found in a major collection of papers recently acquired by the State Library of Victoria, may be the earliest illustration of our area yet discovered.

Signed "H. Zumstein" and annotated to be August 1856, the sketch depicts a cluster of slab and bark dwellings, the suggestion of a waterwheel, pigs beneath the trees and a parrot flitting in the tree tops. A figure in the foreground carries his gold-washing cradle on his back.

The sketch was found during cataloguing of Georgiana McCrae's papers. These papers are part of a very large collection of McCrae material, spanning the three generations of Georgiana, her son George Gordon and grandson, poet Hugh McCrae.

Pasted into Georgiana's album, along with art works by such other friends as Nicholas Chevalier and English landscape artist John Varley, Zumstein's sketch has been annotated "Anderson's Creek" by Georgiana and "August 56. Anderson's Creek" by Hugh.

It is likely that the date was taken from the back of the sketch before it was mounted in the album.

Brief research has shown that Herman Zumstein was born in Switzerland in 1833 or 1834. By 1859 he was an importer with A. King and Co at 38 Flinders Lane West. He married Emily Skinner, a Londoner by birth, in 1879 and had three children, Ernest Walter (1885-1963), known as Walter, Herbert Christia and Mary Rebecca.

Walter, at the age of 21, went to the Grampians to work. Zumstein's Reserve was named after him. But our interest lies with Herman and his 1856 sketch.

The sketch may be connected with a report in the *Herald* on August 16, 1856. The article told of a surge of interest in the Anderson's Creek area, with First, Second, Third and Fourth Hills being worked for reefs and alluvial gold.

James Flett, collating a history of gold discovery in Victoria, wrote that the diggers returned to Anderson's Creek "about the time of the discovery of the Caledonia Diggings on the opposite side

of the river Yarra, in 1854 and between then and 1856 the main auriferous areas at Anderson's were discovered and named".

"By January of 1855, Thompson's, Whipstick, Fiddler's and New Chum gullies were open and Strodes and Bartlett's Flat were being worked.

"The first collection of buildings was at Bartlett's Flat, at about the present site of Warrandyte town and Strodes was further towards Melbourne."

Perhaps Herman Zumstein, as a young man of 23, joined the diggers in August 1856. He may have merely visited the area, but if that was so, it seems curious that he sketched the houses rather than the diggings.

The article in the *Herald* commented that the road to Anderson's Creek should be made passable. A correspondent claimed, "In its present state no heavy loads can possibly reach here; several of the creeks are bad enough but the Deep Creek is wholly impassable and until bridged over must prove to be an insurmountable obstacle to the progress of Anderson's Creek."

Surely only a determined fossicker would undertake such a trip.

Georgiana McCrae's story is well documented. Born in 1804 in Scotland, the natural daughter of the fifth duke of Gordon, she became an accomplished linguist and talented musician.

Painting, however, was her forte. She studied under Varley, John Glover and at the Royal Academy.

Georgiana arrived in Port Phillip in 1841 with her four children, to join her husband, Andrew Murison McCrae.

Shortly after arriving she designed a substantial house which was built at Abbotsford on the Yarra and named "Mayfield". The McCraes lived in the house, near Studley Park, until 1845 when they moved to Arthur's Seat.

"Mayfield" was unfortunately pulled down in the 1960s to make way for a factory.

Andrew Murison had purchased a run at Arthur's Seat and built a house for the family, which remains as McCrae Homestead. They lived there until 1851.

Georgiana, now with eight children, returned to Melbourne, while Andrew

took up various positions as police magistrate at Alberton, and finally Kilmore, where he was also warden for the goldfields and commissioner of crown lands.

In Melbourne, Georgiana drew around her those people with artistic and literary leanings. Among her close friends were Sir Redmond Barry and Lieutenant-Governor, Charles Joseph LaTrobe and his Swiss wife, Sophie.

The Swiss in Victoria at the time were a close-knit community and it may well be through Sophie that Zumstein met Georgiana.

Herman Zumstein died in 1905 at St Kilda, just before his 73rd birthday. His importing business was still operating.

Georgiana died in 1890. Her papers, journals and art works have been lovingly preserved by direct descendants for over 100 years. When they are fully catalogued by the library, the complete story of Herman Zumstein may emerge.

In the meantime, his drawing remains an interesting, quite detailed record of Warrandyte's beginnings.

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# Follies variety for all ages

## REVIEW

By HELEN CAHILL  
Pictures by LOIS DIMMOCK

The dressing room backstage bulges with forty sweaty bodies. Actors, dancers, songsters and various helpers buzz with camaraderie, adrenalin and a sense of their shared adventure.

In the body of the hall, the first night's audience bustle merrily in their seats. North Warrandyte kindergarten booked out the performance, one of several contributions to keeping the kinder alive and well.

Hampers open and greetings and introductions go around, together with a unanimous nod of approval for the renovation miracle worked in the hall by Warrandyte Arts Association members since the last Follies.

The social buzz on both sides of the stage quietsens and the show begins. Original sketches provided by literary locals Roger Kibell and Alan Cornell soon have the occasional giggle swelling to a steady roar.

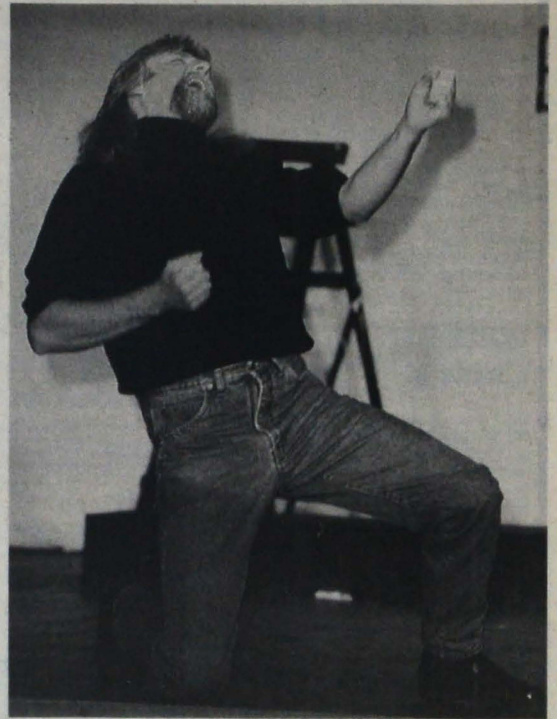
Old troupers Yvonne Morey, Jenny Harkin and Ken Virtue present a comic satire that delights the audience, although they are nearly outstaged by the efforts of David Buck and Betty Tiballs.

But it's the tapdancers who really steal the show. All those hours of pounding the CFA floorboards paid off, ladies! The audience loves a bit of leg and rhythm.

Boisterous songs provided by a chorus of young and old keep the show spinning along with a special treat offered in the classy Carpenters act performed by Mandy, Libby and Alan.

After the interval the curtain rises for the main attraction: West End Story. The dancers are a big hit and Tim Sherwood, Ben Scott-Virtue and Kylie Crockett all shine in the central roles.

A special commendation goes to the brave (or is it foolhardy?), director, Sue Dyring, for bringing yet another Follies to Warrandyte audiences. The hallowed Follies tradition of casting all who audition is an orthodox director's nightmare, but bears fruit on opening night with a unique sense of community in the performance.



Jack Wood (above)



Left: The tappers who stole the show, led by David Buck.



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**WARRANTITTIES**

By JOFF



# How Green is my council?

As reported on page 3 of this issue, many locals seem unsure about the proposal to bring all of Warrandyte, plus part of Park Orchards, into a revamped Eltham shire, in an effort to create one Green Wedge municipality.

The questioning voices come not only—predictably enough—from the Park Orchards Landowners' Association, but also from some Warrandyte people who have been pro-conservation for a number of years.

The idea is disarmingly attractive. Such a shire would bring together a group of communities with a common ideal—the protection of this sensitive zone. It would also achieve the desirable aim of putting all of Warrandyte—north, south and township—into one municipality.

But the financial viability of the proposed new shire appears to be a major worry. The organisers admit that rate revenue from a largely non-urban municipality would be relatively low.

Also, at least some of the pressure for reform is coming from North Riding landowners, who, whilst embracing environmental concerns, are also pressing for lower rates. Fair enough. But



**COMMENT**

By CLIFF GREEN

where are the urban concentrations needed to compensate for this drop in revenue?

The organisers admit they need to do more homework, but they appear to argue that the new shire's priorities could be different. Perhaps the provision of services would rate lower than the retention of the environment.

Here in Warrandyte we have long since reconciled both sides of this question, holding it to be a false argument. We believe our natural and built environments are overwhelmingly important. Likewise, we believe adequate human and physical resources are essential.

For example, our elderly citizens made real sacrifices in supporting Warrandyte's uniquely successful fight against dual occupancy; a big victory for the environment. But now the community is working towards alternative, sensitively-designed ac-

commodation for these people. The two concerns need not be in conflict.

Likewise, the provision of sealed roads. Apart from safety problems, unmade roads are environmental disasters, increasing pollution and erosion. The organisers suggest roadmaking could be low on the priorities of any proposed arcadian shire.

And what of kindergartens, infant welfare centres and libraries? How would they rate? The inference is that much would have to be sacrificed in the name of the environment.

Here in Warrandyte over the past few years we might be proving that we can enjoy our environmental cake, plus an—albeit thin—icing of physical and human services.

Much has been made of the quality of our municipal representation. The organisers argue that although Warrandyte Ward might have present councillors convinced on environmental issues, this may not always be the case; and they have a point. The annual battle, at council election time, to ensure sympathetic councillors are returned is one we could do without.

But is it really any greener on the other side? There are almost no urban population centres in the present North Riding; few dreaded 'suburbanites'. But only within the last 12 months can it be claimed that their entire council representation is truly pro-conservation.

It might sound like a long shot, but one day, if enough of the proposed new shire's population become frustrated through lack of services, they could shift their priorities and pressure council into a quest for more revenue. The only course open could be the subdivision of at least part of the Green Wedge.

We have long dreamed of One Warrandyte. But already the organisers of this proposal seem intent on counting heads: who's from the North and who's from the South? The last thing we want is Warrandyte's own little civil war.

It would be a disaster if we wound up administratively together and emotionally apart. Despite our watery dividing line, we must be one of the best—and most united—communities in the country.

As always, the *Diary* welcomes comment and debate on this issue.

## Neighbourhood House program

Enrolments are now open for the wide range of classes the Warrandyte Neighbourhood house is offering this year.

Classes are being held in garden design, basic drawing, painting for beginners, craft-based gifts, porcelain dolls, leadlighting, woodworking, dressmaking with applique, hairdressing, European cooking, German for beginners, gentle exercise, massage, yoga, naturopathy, positive action and discovering alternatives.

Classes are held at the upper level of the community centre in Yarra Street. Courses cost between \$20 and \$40 dollars and run from four to eight weeks. Childcare facilities are available.

Several other groups also operate through Neighbourhood House. They include the book exchange, bridge club, family playgroup, 3 year old playgroup, armchair travel, over 40's out of work, job exchange, family violence support group, poets' cor-

ner, model railway club and sole parents' group.

For further information telephone 844 1839 or drop in between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Thursday, when the Neighbourhood House is open.

The weekly schedule of classes includes:

MONDAY – Gentle Exercise; Cottage and Native Gardens; European Cooking; Naturopathy; Yoga; German for Beginners.

TUESDAY – Make-up and Self Esteem; Hairdressing; Porcelain Dolls; Leadlighting; Massage; Positive Action.

WEDNESDAY – Dressmaking and Applique; Basic Drawing; Beginners' Painting; Floral Art; Restoration and Basic Woodwork; Garden Design; Enjoy Public Speaking.

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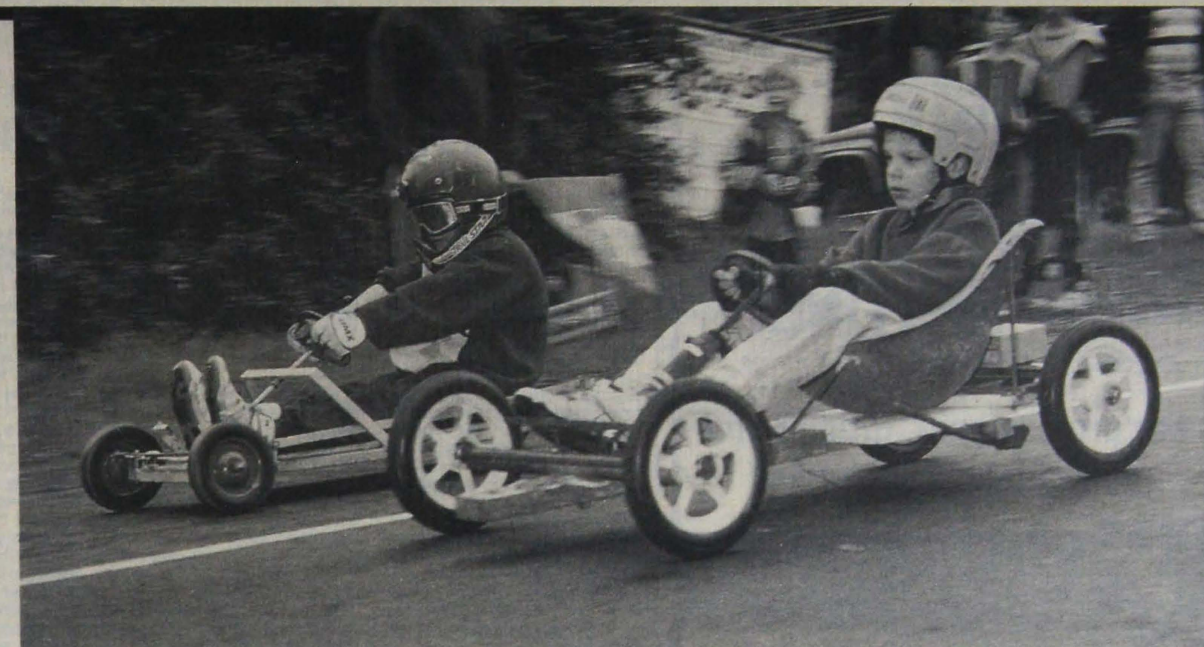
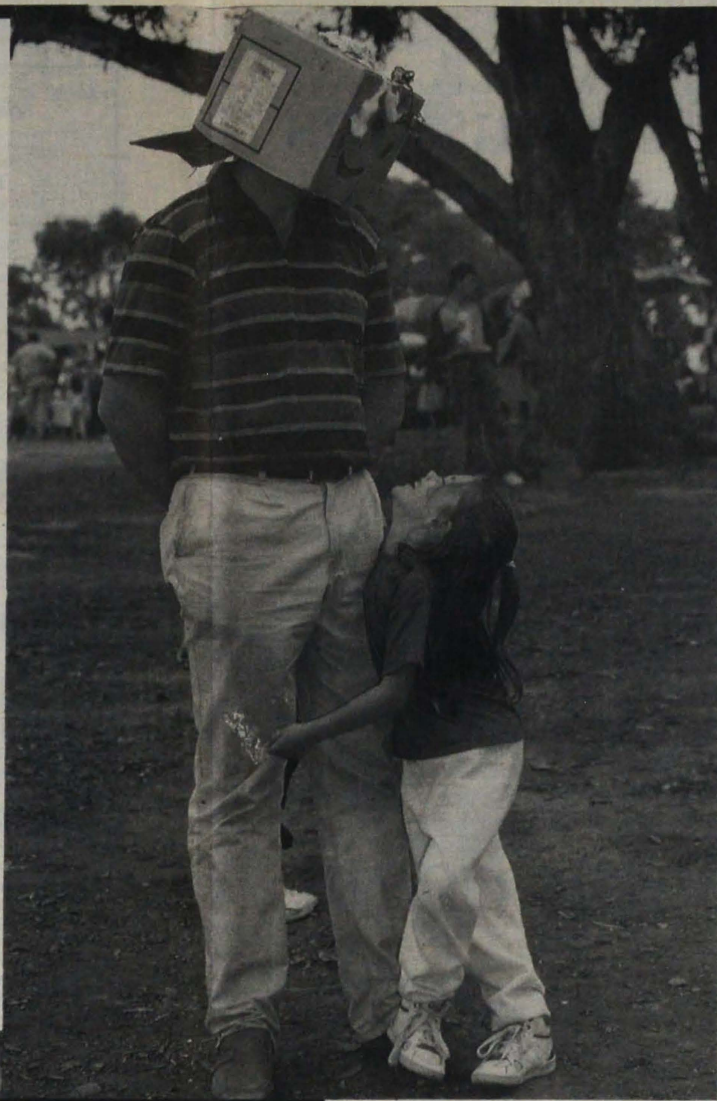
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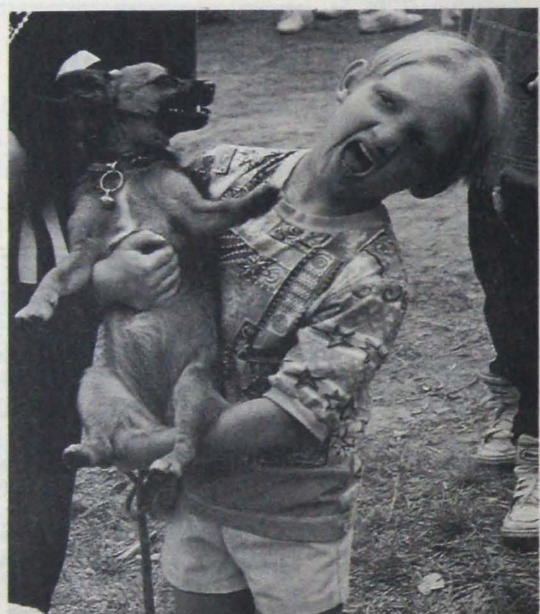
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# Common or garden confusions

It was a great article. I had managed to introduce the topic of foreign economic intervention in Australia and linked that with the Warrandyte paranoia about exotic plants, leading relentlessly to the point where I eradicated the foreign beast from our garden. The only problem was that it was wrong!

Herself had been working in Lilydale and had brought home some pamphlets on garden pests. You know, the type of publication that exhorts you to rip out everything in your garden and replace it with wispy grass and leaf litter.

This seems right and proper until you read the leaflets from the fire prevention bodies insisting you clean up the leaves, tidy the scraggy trees and plant such fire retardant plants as sticky pittosporum and the shiny leaf coprosma.

The Lilydale leaflet, I was sure, stated that one pest to be hunted and destroyed was honeysuckle japonicus. Now before you all fall about the floor laughing, let me state that I now know that it is the LONICERA, after which follow all sorts Latin names, none



of which is japonicus. But at the time I was appalled that we had been harbouring a feral plant.

I felt so much better after eradicating the beast from our pergola, not just because it was a genetic interloper but primarily because it was taking over from the other vines on the deck. However it gave me a great idea for a *Diary* column, and ideas are not always easy to come by.

Having checked the spelling of "pistil" and "genealogy", I sauntered past the old edition of Brunning's *The Australian Gardener* and flipped through the section on climbers. There it was: *lonicera aurea reticulata*, *caprifolium* (English woodbine)! *Confusa fragrantissima* and *hildebrandiana*. Not a japonicus to be seen.

"Where's that pamphlet on honeysuckle you got from Lilydale?"  
"I threw it out."

"Wasn't one of them honeysuckle japonicus?"  
"No, that's a different thing altogether. A type of camelia."

"But I was sure. I was positive!"  
"What have you done now?"

"But I was convinced..."  
"Let's have a look at it. We might be able to salvage something."

No way. I had been too clever, too specific.

We plant our first garden with anything we can scrounge, our second with all the plants we like and our third is planned; the excesses of poverty and enthusiasm replaced by harmony, restraint and an eye to the future. After getting it wrong we get it right.

I'm sure the same stages of development occur with the fanatical native plant gardener. Their Third Reich obsession with *lebenstraum* and the purity of the race seems anachronistic in an era when multiculturalism and pluralism are *de rigueur*.

With time, I can only assume that a balance will be reached. Some third stage of harmony will

prevail, whereby native plants and exotics will co-exist peacefully, just as the larger society will embrace the notion of diversity.

I would argue that there is no possibility any longer of maintaining pristine ecologies or societies. As soon as you allow migration and domination of one culture over another, hybridisation will occur. True, we should preserve and develop an indigenous culture and flora and fauna, but not with blinkered vision.

"It's just as well you can't hand in that last article. The references to foreign invasion may have been offensive to some people." I looked at Herself in amazement.

"Don't carry on. It's only my column we're talking about. Read and forgotten in a minute or two! No big deal. I'm not the Pope."

"God. You really are naive! Haven't you learnt anything about human nature in your 47 years on this planet? Reality is relative," she groaned, slumping into her chair.

I shuffled from the room. If only there was a honeysuckle japonicus!  
ROGER KIBELL

# Our bushland blooms again

NATURE

By PAT COUPAR  
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

I was standing on the river bank trying to imagine what it must have been like on that February afternoon: the intense, unbearable heat, the suffocating pall of brown smoke. From where I stood the ferocious flames had leapt the river with ease and, fanned by a gusty north wind, roared up the slope to threaten houses on the north side of the river.

We will never know how many lives were lost. In human terms there were none, but the wildlife suffered greatly. Helpless koalas and possums perished in the blaze, along with countless small invertebrates that might seem insignificant, but without which many larger animals cannot survive.

I remember visiting the area on the morning after the fire and seeing, with sadness, the charred bodies and still-smouldering tree stumps in a blackened landscape.

Now, just over a year later, I was looking at a very different scene. The bush is alive again.



The burnt eucalypts are now sporting coats of bright green, as new leaves have sprouted from dormant buds beneath the bark, all the way up their charcoal black trunks. In time, as the canopy recovers, these epicormic growths will die off

and the trees will be whole again.

One of the features of the dry sclerophyll Australian bushland is its ability to regenerate after a fire. In many cases fire is a stimulus for germination and growth. I saw dozens of wattles that had sprung from the scorched, nutrient-enriched earth, beneath the bare bones of their parents.

With the return of the vegetation have come the animals. Koalas are back in the manna gums again, enjoying the fresh new leaves. In some places the fire has created new hollows, providing ideal new homes for parrots and possums.

As a result of the fire, the bush has thrown up one or two surprises over the last few months. In some places orchids and lilies

appeared, twice the size of previous years.

Even more remarkable, on a severely burnt slope not far from where I was standing, the ground was literally covered with knee-high pelargoniums. Most pelargoniums are of South African origin and are widely available in nurseries, where many are erroneously called geraniums. But there are also a small number of native species and this soft hairy plant with its delicate pinkish mauve flowers was one of them.

The recovery of the bush has been rapid and spectacular. However, the blackened trunks of the eucalypts and the skeleton sticks of the wattles stand as reminders that we live in one of the most fire-prone regions of the world.

The fire that destroyed 50 hectares of bush and damaged property in Warrandyte last year was not started by a lightning strike as most natural fires are. The insidious encroachment of urbanisation on our already dwindling bushland makes places like Warrandyte horribly vulnerable. On days of searing summer heat and strong northerly winds, the threat of another bushfire will always be there—and that is something we just have to live with.



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# Hats and Cats



## THE WOODEN BRIDGE

By Eve Evans

I HAVE said before that the raft gave me both access to the village and a chance to know the people of that small community. I made many friends among them. Their characters were as varied as one could find and a few were quite eccentric.

We had a village gossip and one learned to watch what one said to her. Her chief interest in life seemed to be to pry into other people's affairs. She greeted me in the village one day and pointed to a figure in the distance.



"See her," she said. "She is a little bit around the bend." The figure approached and I saw she was wearing most unusual clothes for the fashion of the day. Her skirt was long and full, she wore an old fashioned floral blouse and a large picture hat, decorated with blue cornflowers, red poppies and white daisies.

She changed her hats with the seasons. This one was for spring. In winter she had one with dark red cherries bobbing around it and in summer, a hat tied under her chin with a wide blue ribbon. On rainy days she carried an umbrella to protect her hat and on windy days she tied a scarf securely over it. This was Greta, well known and well liked by all the village folk. She was gentle, softly spoken and always ready to help anyone in trouble.

Greta's great passion was protecting cats. Sometimes people would drive up from the city, too mean to pay to have unwanted kittens put to sleep, and simply toss them out of the car. Greta rescued as many as she could, putting them inside her ample skirts to take home.

I later learned that she had a good income from her family in England and I suspect that most of it went on feeding the cats, up to 16 at a time. When they became too many, she would pay the vet from a nearby town to come and take them away in his car.

In those days we had manual telephones. Maisie the postmistress had a switchboard in her office and could plug through to everyone. She could hear conversations of course, but could



be depended upon never to gossip. A great advantage was that if one was away for the day or working outside then Maisie would take the messages and phone through with them in the evening.



One evening, Maisie phoned to say Greta wanted me to have lunch with her. "Good Maisie," I replied. "Put me through and I'll tell her I'll come tomorrow."

"But you can't, Mrs C. You'll have to share your lunch with all those cats." Maisie sounded quite disturbed.

After leaving the boys at school the following morning, I spent a couple of hours walking along the river, until I thought it a reasonable time to arrive at Greta's.

Maisie was right. Greta spread a lace cloth over an old, very beautiful mahogany table. She put out bread, butter, slices of cold lamb, cheese and lettuce leaves. We sat down, but as soon as we put something on our plates the cats sprang onto the table and feline tongues licked it off.

The cats were all shapes and sizes. I managed to snatch a slice of bread, although the cats had polished off the butter. I took a couple of lettuce leaves and Greta cut me another slice of lamb. I ate them from my hand, careful not to put anything on the table. Greta remained calm throughout and made no apologies.

Over a cup of tea she told me her story. During the first world war she had been engaged to a soldier, but he returned from the war with tuberculo-

sis, contracted in the trenches in France. Greta nursed him for two years until he died. She told me how he always admired the way she dressed, in long full skirts and picture hats that were the fashion in that era. The skirts she had to renew as they faded and wore out. The hats she made herself by plaiting straw or raffia. She dressed in this way until she died.

Over a second cup of tea she told me she had a problem kitten. This little cream and ginger cat would not drink milk and had developed rickets.



"He is such a dear little one, I don't want to have the vet put him to sleep.

Would you take him?"

"No, Greta," I said. "I have two cats, a dog, six goats and a cow. That's all I can care for, but I think I know who might take him."

There lived in the village an old lady whom we all affectionately called Granny. Her first husband had long since died and she had married a man her own age. Her two children had married and moved away. Her current husband had been raised in an orphanage, had no knowledge of his parents and was now overjoyed at having a home at last. He worked hard to keep their little cottage painted and in good repair and there was never a weed in the garden.



Granny had an income herself and he had a pension so they lived comfortably. She always referred to him as His self. "His self likes this kind of cake," she would say as she beat eggs and flour together, or "His self should be home soon," with one eye on the clock.

I knew they had recently lost their little dog and were heartbroken about it. I told Greta that I thought they would be just the ones to care for this little kitten. They were happy to take the kitten and even persuaded him to drink milk, warmed and with a teaspoon of brandy in it. He grew into a fine, fat, cream and ginger cat, but surely the strangest cat I have ever known.

He had a passion for water, would fight to get out when it was raining and step gleefully in and out of puddles like a child. Unlike other cats, he never licked himself clean. Instead he would jump into the bath. Granny would run the tap for a little and he would put a paw under and dab himself clean.

He only caused trouble for the two old dears when he came in drenched from the rain, and he would sometimes get a chill on his kidneys. They had to take him on the bus to the vet some seven miles away. The vet gave him an injection and told them to keep him inside for a day or two, which was almost impossible if it was raining. In the end they used to give him warm milk with enough brandy in it to make him drunk and go to sleep.

To be continued.

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# Memories of Warrandyte's blackest day

The fire brigade had a meeting the night before, at the corner of Webb and Yarra Streets, asking menfolk to remain at home. "We could have trouble".

The next morning started off as a normal day. We were coming home from a weekly trip to the Victoria Market. About 11am at the Balwyn tram terminus, we saw those great clouds of smoke advancing on Warrandyte.

Speed limits were forgotten. We entered the village at 11.15am to be greeted by a truck with a loudhailer calling for volunteers to fight a fire, four miles from Warrandyte with a 40 miles per hour wind behind it!

The pharmacy was closed. A notice directed casualties to a first aid post being set up in our basement.

Jack Cahill, the Warrandyte fire chief, had warned my

For many years, Ken Gedge was Warrandyte's chemist and scoutmaster. During the tragic 1962 bushfires, a first aid post was established beneath the pharmacy. DULCIE GEDGE wrote this memorable account only a few days after the fire.

husband "We are for it!"

Great haste was made to withdraw the Warrandyte scouts from where they were camped. Box Hill hospital sent out cartons of first aid requisites: bandages and eyebaths which were heavily used.

I had no sooner got my shopping out of the way when

Dr Stephens, one of the Ringwood team who used the surgery upstairs, arrived and took over organising the first aid post for the rest of the day.

About noon we heard it coming. It seemed to hit the hill on the North Warrandyte side of the bridge and the homes on that ridge began exploding.

Jack Cahill was using the Warrandyte scouts as direction finders for volunteer suburbanites who turned up with utilities and drums of water to do what they could. The boys made certain they did not get themselves onto one-way roads and tracks.

Our youngest son, Ian, was on his way out in such a truck when he realised he was needed at home. He took up a place on the roof of the pharmacy, hosing the embers as the fire roared like an express train along the ridge opposite. Fireballs were landing on the south side of the river, where firefighters with knapsacks doused them.

Casualties began coming in. Except for quick glances and news from ambulance officers we did not know very much of what was going on outside.

By 3 o'clock we had three nurses and Dr Norm Dowell had arrived from Doncaster to help Steve.

There were highlights of humor with Malcolm Bird arriving in Edna's fur coat with a bird in a cage. His house had gone and his wife was one of our nurses.

The ambulances were continually coming and going. All knew of our hopeless situation, but Steve told them to get going: we were too busy to think of quitting.

One very bad case I remember was an old man. He should not have been out firefighting. He was a "heart-case" and had collapsed in the flames. He was brought in with hardly any skin down his left side. He was sent off in the ambulance with two bottles of saline water to be sipped all the way to the hospital.

Yes, he recovered. Those old Warrandyte folks were made of tough stuff!

Eye washouts were a continuous job, before patients were sent over to the hall for food handouts, where another team of workers was busy.

I lost track of time. We irregularly downed sandwiches, cups of tea and cold drinks brought over for our team and the patients.

The story kept coming in via the ambulance officers. We knew the village was surrounded by flame.

The scouts had organised one or two crews with knapsack sprays and many a home along Kangaroo Ground Road and Pound Bend was saved by these roving teams.

Many funny and true stories were told that day, while eyes were bathed or wounds dressed, but the lesson never to be forgotten was the sheer courage of all who fought the blaze.

It was every bit of 9 o'clock before I was able to give our doctor and nurses a meal.

About 11 o'clock Jack Cahill said we would be needed again tomorrow as the wind was sweeping in behind the village.

I had stopped the boys going out and ordered them to bed. They would be needed in the morning too!

A thunderous knock sounded on the back door. What now?

It was Jack Cahill again. "Come outside Dulcie and Ken!" he shouted. The boys were with us in their pyjamas.

A miracle had happened! It was raining.



Beating the odds: A volunteer uses a wet bag at Warrandyte on January 16, 1962



No safe refuge: A man died in this water tank in Blooms Road on January 16, 1962

Great cheers were coming from all over the village. An army of very tired firefighters were delighting in being drenched with rain.

Some of them were from as far away as Hastings on the Mornington Peninsula and had been fighting fires for days.

One o'clock in the morning. Rain was really pouring down.

The next day brought another miracle. Three-quarters of the homes were still there, probably scorched in places and missing fences.

Warrandyte looked very different. The Mechanics Institute was soon packed with clothing, utensils and food with teams of helpers to assist the needy to find essentials.

The Yarra Street verandah had tables and chairs and

was the office for insurance companies, assisted by local school teachers. All were sorting out problems.

The baby health centre, which in those days was next to the pharmacy, was set up with a battery of Hoover washing machines and clotheslines were set up between Webb Street and the old cypress tree.

The scout hall was full of donated secondhand equipment such as refrigerators and stoves.

For the second day our pharmacy did not open.

Ken was commissioned to tour the Warrandyte area on both sides of the river. Any home, or camp, or caravan in use and needing water was to be given a small tank by the fire brigade and refugees were advised of the services available in the village.



## \$5,000

Young artists who usually live in the Warrandyte area are invited to apply for the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award for 1992-93. Applicants between the ages of 18 and 25 - working in any artistic field - are eligible. A prize of \$5,000 is being offered every two years to enable the winner to further their career as an artist.

Applications close 30 June 1992 and the winner will be announced in March 1993 during the Warrandyte Festival.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from the Citizens' Advice Bureau in the community centre, or by writing to:

**Warrandyte Youth Arts Award,  
P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113**

Organised by the Warrandyte Diary in Conjunction with the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.

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Diary postal address:  
P.O. Box 209,  
Warrandyte 3113.  
Fax: 844 4168

Copy closes last Friday of each month.

# From Kangaroo Ground to the killing grounds

One of our earliest local newspapers was the Evelyn Observer. It covered news from Warrandyte to Whittlesea and further.

When the South African Boer war broke out in 1899, letters to family from local lads serving abroad were published in the Observer. Two of these men were Private W. Beard from Research, and Trooper S. Harris from Kangaroo Ground. Trooper Harris's family ran the Observer.

The Boer war was the first active service our boys saw as Australians. Before this, each state had sent troops under separate colonial flags. It was only after Federation in 1901 that the states were united and all bore the rising sun emblem, which would later symbolize the ANZAC campaign.

In May 1900 the Observer published a letter from Harris, written beside the graves of the Shangani Patrol. All 19 men in the patrol had been slaughtered at the spot six years earlier during the 1893 Matabele tribal wars.

Harris was so awed by their bravery, he wrote home about the patrol's suicide mission.

Led by Major Alan Wilson, a team of volunteers had sought out the Matabele leader to persuade him to discuss peace.

These men were truly handicapped. When Wilson asked for volunteers, his whole company, the Victoria Volunteers, took a step forward. Realising what had happened, each man, of his own accord, took a second step, and continued until forcibly given the order to halt. Major Wilson had to name the men to make up the patrol.

The patrol crossed a flood-swollen river and found the chief's wagons, only to realise they had walked into a native trap, and that their three men rearguard had been left behind.

Wilson and the patrol's scout, Burnham, retraced their path, travelling over a mile on hands and knees, their faces in the mud, feeling for footprints. They eventually found the rearguard by a series of cooees, which the natives mistook for devils calling in the night, and so stayed hidden.

By morning, Wilson discovered the Matabele "impis" had cut them off from the river. He managed to get three men back to the main column, asking for reinforcements with machineguns, but none were sent.

Knowing they were cut off,

To mark Anzac Day, BRUCE BENCE has compiled this account of war-time adventures from the letters of two local lads who took part in a long-forgotten colonial conflict.

Wilson tried to at least fulfill his mission. He sent a translator to tell the chief the patrol had come in peace. The man was shot dead.

Another band of three men were sent back to the army column in a forlorn hope to get help. A 20 man relief team was despatched, accompanied by one of the original patrol members sent back for the machineguns. Wilson now had 34 men to face some 7000 Matabele.

It was native custom to mutilate dead and wounded captives. The patrol's only chance was to break back towards the river, as they had several wounded with them by this time, and they could not condemn them to such an horrific fate.

All that day saw the patrol hold off the Matabele, armed with rifles. The natives believed the higher a rifle sight was raised the further the shot would travel. Most of their shots went over the white men's heads.

Trooper Harris wrote that the bullet marks from that day could still be seen when he was there.

But by the end of the day, only six men were left. Major Wilson led them in a triumphant chorus of God Save the Queen, before they were rushed and overwhelmed by the impis. They had, however, killed 10 natives for every soldier shot down.

For this bravery, the Matabele commander, M'Jaan, honored the dead men by forbidding the robbing and mutilation of their bodies: the only instance known to this day.

Their remains were found by a man named Dawson, an ally of the Matabele. They told him the patrol's story, and he buried the men where they had fallen.

After recounting the story of Wilson's patrol, Trooper Harris himself went on to fight in the battle of Elands river, recognised as the first battle fought by the Australian Army.

Three hundred and fifty Australians and one seven pound gun "short of ammunition and didn't always fire" defended a supply post at the river, which had no defence works. The men began digging themselves in, no

mean feat in the hard rocky ground. One chap wrote several terse comments on a large slab of stone which still remains today, forming the headstone of his grave.

The situation seemed a stalemate. Harris wrote "we are nearly surrounded by Boers and so have formed a Larger. One Boer commander is within three miles, yet they are frightened to attack us and we are too weak to drive them away."

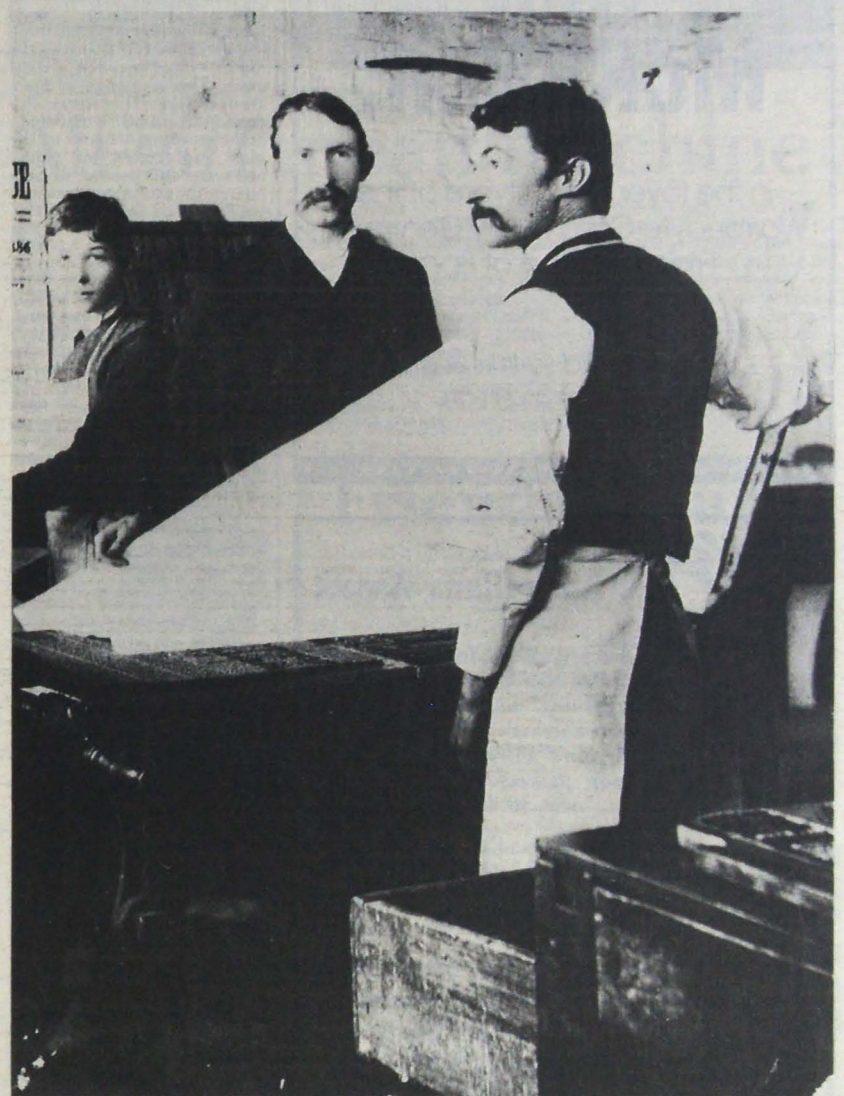
His next letter was published in the Observer in October 1900. It starts "Dear Bob, I was mistaken when I wrote the Boers had no pluck to attack us. The next day 2000 Boers with five guns, one pompom and a machinegun surrounded the post and on the first day fired some 1700 shells into our position. The defence area was so small that most casualties were hit in the back from the opposite side of the defences. There were 32 casualties on the first day."

Men who had objected so strenuously to digging trenches the day before were now offering three pounds for the use of a pick for half an hour. The siege lasted 13 days, until General Kitchener and 5000 troops broke through the Boer defence from behind. He was both surprised and pleased to see the Australians still holding out when he arrived.

Harris wrote "I have been lucky but have had a few close shaves, a bullet went through the flap of my coat and a piece of shell knocked my hat off".

Trooper Beard, in a letter home, claimed the Boers were "bad shots". The first time he was shot at the bullets only kicked up the dirt around his horse's feet. Perhaps he was lucky. The Boers were generally very good shots; so good that officers were instructed to remove all badges of rank as the Boers were picking them off.

A British officer who visited the site wrote: "It is impossible to give you any idea of what they must have gone through. I do hope that Great Britain will show its gratitude to those Australians for the brightest page of the war."



One of the Diary's predecessors was the Evelyn Observer, published at Kangaroo Ground. The photo shows the editor, Mr R.C. Harris, a printer and an apprentice "putting the paper to bed". It is possible that the man with his back to the camera was S. Harris, the editor's brother. It was he who sent graphic accounts of the Boer War to the paper from South Africa.

## Warrandyte Community Market

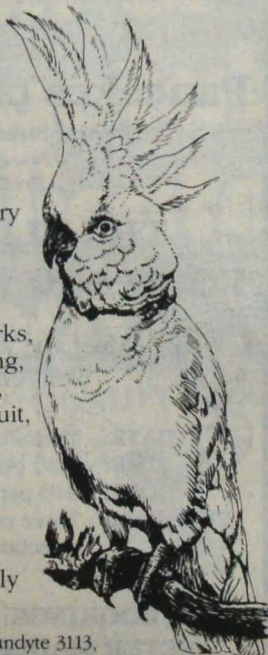
Under the Gum trees, beside the Yarra on Stiggants Reserve, Yarra St, Warrandyte 1st Saturday of each month - except January 9am-1pm

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### Draft Roadside Management Policy and Program Public Submissions

A draft Roadside Management Policy and Program document has been produced as a follow up to the Roadside Environment Study, Context P/L 1991.

As a response to the increasing awareness of the botanical, visual and zoological values of roadside environments, Council commissioned Context P/L to prepare the Roadside Environment Study. As a result of this study, a Draft Roadside Management Policy and Program has been prepared.

Copies of the document are available from the Municipality Offices and in local libraries.

The public is invited to submit their comments by Friday 24th April 1992 to:

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At long last Warrandyte has a public lending library. Well almost. A book exchange has been set up at the community centre, in attractive premises on the ground floor, at the rear of the foyer. They have a wide range of books—hardback and softcover, fiction and nonfiction—and everyone is welcome to come in and browse. The idea is that you select a book (or books) and pay a small fee, which is partly refunded when you bring them back. The exchange is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 1 to 3pm. Donations of books will be most appreciated and volunteers are still needed to help operate the exchange. Please call Val Spargo on 844 3345.

### All aboard!

The president of Eltham shire, Cr John Cohen, blew the whistle and waved the green flag, sending the Warrandyte Model Railway Club's new room at the community centre on its way on festival Saturday afternoon. The club commenced in 1989 from an idea dreamed up at the Neighbourhood House. Local railway buff Colin Bentley, together with Lyndon and Tony Summers, Graham Fry and John McCutcheon got the club going and worked to obtain their new home. It's on the ground floor of the centre, immediately behind the book exchange. Meetings are held every Friday at 7.30pm, new members are welcome, and the building of new layouts is underway. Enquiries to Colin on 844 2529 or Lyndon on 844 1614.

### Speaking

The local branch of the Penguin Club of Australia has organised a workshop entitled 'An Introduction to Public Speaking', to be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre in Yarra Street on Wednesday, May 20 at 8pm. A fee of \$5 will cover handout material and a light supper. The club, whose aim is to bring women together in a friendly atmosphere to develop effective speaking skills, still has a few vacancies. Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at the community centre at 8pm. Enquiries to 842 2880 or 719 7439.

### Farewell

Ken McKenzie is leaving Warrandyte. One of our most widely-regarded citizens, Ken will be remembered, not only for his sterling service to our community as a local councillor, but also for his unremitting work for young people, sporting groups, schools, RSL and social



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.

and environment issues, to name a few. A farewell function is being held for Ken in the foyer and courtyard of the new community centre (which Ken worked so hard to achieve) on Friday, April 24, commencing 8pm. Everyone in the town is cordially invited. Please bring a supper plate. A \$10 donation will cover drinks and the purchase of a testimonial gift.

### Information

Meetings are currently being held, under the auspices of the Warrandyte Citizens Advice Bureau, with representatives of Eltham and Doncaster councils and local service groups, to develop an information folder on Warrandyte. Local artist Wayne Rankin, president of the Australian Graphic Design Association, is designing a logo for Warrandyte which will be used on the folder. An invitation is extended to all Warrandyte groups to prepare brochures for inclusion in the folder, which will compliment the Doncaster council new residents' kit. For further information contact Cr Louise Joy on 844 3600 or the CAB, 844 3082.

### Food help

Following many requests from within the Eltham shire to the Warrandyte Food Bank for food parcels during 1991, a committee of Eltham citizens has now established Eltham Foodshare. They have taken over responsibility for their local government area, while the Warrandyte Food Bank maintains its role of serving the needs of the Warrandyte area, including North Warrandyte. The food bank works in close association with Doncare and the CAB and receives financial assistance from Warrandyte Apex and Lions clubs, enabling the provision of perishable foods in most parcels.

### Over-40s

The Warrandyte Neighbourhood House Labor Exchange is looking for unemployed 'over-40s' to



Colin Bentley (right) shows Cr John Cohen, shire president of Eltham, one of the layouts in the newly-opened model railway clubroom.

join their group to discuss mutual support, the pooling of skills and alternative employment opportunities. If you have jobs available or wish to register for work—irrespective of age—contact Jean Chapman on 844 3326. Any ideas for groups or projects will be welcomed.

12noon. Brotherhood of St Lawrence, Senior Citizens' Club and the Warrandyte Women's Hospital Auxiliary are combining to run this function. Bookings on 844 3938 or 844 2437 by April 24. Donation \$1.

### Child abuse

The Warrandyte Uniting Church, under the auspices of the minister Syd Smales and with Margory Lapworth, Neighbourhood House co-ordinator, are arranging a seminar on 'Child Abuse—Breaking the Silence', to be held at the church, Tarooma Avenue, on Sunday, May 24 from 1 to 5pm. There will be guest speakers on a wide range of relevant subjects. Admission fee of \$5 will be lodged with all applications and afternoon tea and literature will be supplied. Contact Syd on 842 2418 or Margory on 844 1839.

### Facilities

A wide range of spaces is available in our new community centre for hire by groups, individual and commercial organisations, with special rates for community activities. Almost any type of function can be accommodated: meetings, parties, receptions, even weddings. Enquiries to 844 4503 or 844 4501.

### Heritage

The Warrandyte Historical Society is participating in the Victorian Heritage Festival for 1992 by organising history walks on Sunday, April 12, in conjunction with the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. An Andersons Creek cemetery walk will commence at 1.30pm (Melway map reference 35D1) followed by a Yarra River walk, leaving the Stiggants Reserve carpark, Warrandyte, at 2.30pm (Melway reference 23C12). The river walk will include panning for gold, afternoon tea on the verandah of the old post office and a chance to visit the newly-restored Mechanics' Institute and the century-old working bakery.

### Seniors

A combined Safeway presentation will be held at the Senior Citizens' clubrooms, Tarooma Avenue, Warrandyte on Wednesday, May 6, commencing at



### The Australian Aspect

Our Australian Clothing section includes Morrisons of Australia moleskins - ladies and mens, easycare jeans - ladies and mens, shearers' shirts, bush shirts, blouson jackets and T-shirts in over 30 designs.

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# Lighthearted night as school reports

By KYM SMITH

It's not easy to strike a balance between formal school business and light-

hearted, quality entertainment, but Warrandyte High School's annual report night did just that.

The carefully chosen program received a very positive response from the community.

Informative reports from the principal, school council and the parents' association were punctuated by displays of gymnastics, Year Nine drama, theatre sports skits, a few items by the school band and a sneak preview of the upcoming school production, 'Anything Goes'.

Awards, including 1991 school dux and swimming prizes were also presented.

Those present said it was refreshing to have the students demonstrate their achievements over the last 12 months rather than simply hearing or reading about them.

The evening was a great success, rounded off neatly with coffee in the school foyer. Certainly not the type of school report night most of us would remember.



From left, Julie Byrne, Matt Henderson and Greg Stewart: classy entertainment.

## Emma's excellent surprise

Emma Symes thought she had left school behind when she completed year 12 last year. So imagine her surprise when informed she had won an Award for Excellence from the Department of Education. She didn't even know she had been nominated.

She was "over the moon" when she opened the letter at home, and raced back to school to confirm the good news with teachers.

"I didn't think I'd done well enough to receive something like this," she said.

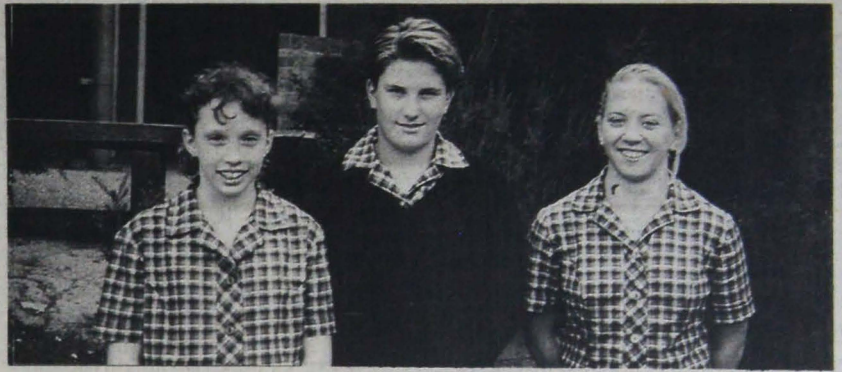
Each year the department presents awards to VCE students for application and achievement, or growth and maturity, in a particular field.

Warrandyte High School nominated Emma for her commitment to the school community over the past five years. This involvement included roles onstage and backstage in school musicals. She also competed in, and later organised, theatre sports competitions for the school. She exhibited artwork at the school's art festival and helped organise

a VCE art exhibition. She worked on the SRC and student magazine committee.

Emma received her award at Rippon Lea on Sunday March 29. Albert Tucker, also distinguished in a field of endeavor, made the presentation. Emma's prize included a beautifully bound volume on artists exploring north western Australia, which delighted her artistic tastes.

Mrs Symes, who accompanied her daughter to the presentation, said she was thrilled by Emma's achievement.



From left: swimming stars Jenny Cooper, Jemima Coates and Cassie Goode.

## All-girl mean machine

Warrandyte High School has produced a lethal weapon in the form of swimming sensations Jenny Cooper, Jemima Coates and Cassie Goode.

The trio attracted considerable attention recently at the inter-school swimming sports, breaking record after record. All three girls have qualified for the Eastern Zone competition.

But each girl already has an admirable list of swimming

achievements to her credit, and all have their sights set on the 1994 Commonwealth Games and the 1996 Olympics.

No-one knows better than these girls that nothing comes easy. While their friends are still asleep, or relaxing after school, the girls are usually in the pool.

Cassie, 15 and Jenny, 12, belong to Nunawading Swimming Club and Jemima, 13, swims for Surrey Park. Each has a demanding

swimming session, with five or more two-hour training sessions each week and time in the gym.

Cassie, currently training for the nationals, does roughly double this load. She says balancing this with her Year 10 studies is challenging, but at present she is managing.

All three girls have competed successfully at State level, and hope to represent Australia in the not-too-distant future.



Emma Symes

## Friends mourn

Warrandyte High School is mourning the death of Year Seven student, Lane Bassard. He will be sorely missed by staff, students, parents and friends at the school.

Lane, who came to the school from Templestowe Park Primary this year, suffered from a severe muscular weakness and was confined to a wheelchair. This didn't stop him from speeding down the corridors at school, earning himself the

nickname "Wheels" from his classmates.

Lane never saw his disability as a barrier to achieving any goal. He wanted to participate and excel in as many areas as he could. He was so well-liked by his home group he was elected their representative on the Student Representative Council.

Students and staff from the school attended his funeral late last month.

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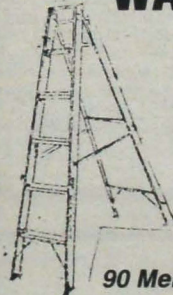

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# Bloods' scorcher!

## Warrandyte run hot in season opener

Warrandyte Football Club have begun their 1992 premiership campaign with a big win over last season's grand finalists Fair Park.

The Bloods won the April 4 home game - played in 30-degree heat - by 35 points (21.13 to 15.14), sending a warning to the other EDFL third division clubs.

Still smarting from a one-point defeat by ultimate premiers Lilydale in last season's first semi-final, Warrandyte came out running, kicked 8.2 to 0.3 with the wind in the first quarter and were never threatened.

The one criticism is that they lost the plot a little late in the third quarter instead of "burying" the opposition. But the game produced many positives.

Among them was the form of former Fitzroy player Darren Murphy, who was cleared by Heidelberg on the eve of the match. A key-position player, Murphy has added much-needed big-man strength and showed his class with a string of telling marks in defence in the last quarter.

Another plus was the success of the multi-pronged attack of the McLean brothers (Lachlan and Stuart) and John O'Brien. Lachlan McLean was a power-

## SPORT

house at centre half-forward and kicked seven goals, four of them in the first term.

WFC president Laurie Sloan said after the game he believed the Bloods were a much better team than last year, but captain-coach David Purcell was more reserved in his appraisal.

"It was great to win first-up against a top side and I'd like to think we are better than last year," Purcell said.

"I think we are moving the ball better, but it will take three or four games to give us a real indication."

Warrandyte's first-quarter blitz was a real team effort highlighted by some prodigious kicking by Lachlan McLean, whose second goal was despatched from inside the centre square.

At quarter-time, Purcell estimated the wind to be worth seven goals and set his side the target of kicking four into it. They did just that, holding Fair Park

to six and leading by 38 points at the interval.

Warrandyte ran to an 11-goal lead late in the third quarter and seemed to regard that as enough. Fair Park capitalised on the softer approach and kicked the last two goals of the term into the wind. Three more in the first six minutes of the final quarter reduced the margin to 40 points, but Lachlan McLean provided the steadier and a close-knit defence did the rest.

The Bloods' best were Kimberley O'Connor, Lachlan McLean, Murphy, Dale Vitiritti, Steve Carroll and Brad Valentine.

Bar trading hours at the recreation reserve clubrooms have been extended this football season to include Sunday afternoons. The new hours are from 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday, noon Saturdays for home games and 4.30 for away matches, and 2-6 p.m. Sundays.

The football club will hold a disco at the clubrooms after each away game (starting April 11). Several social functions for the "more mature age group" are also planned.



The all-conquering Warrandyte women's cricket team. That's proud coach Brian Chapman (without a cap), captain Jenni McLaws on the far right, and Jenni's dog Ashleigh getting into the picture.

## Lovely! Lady Dytes bring home the big one

Warrandyte's women cricketers put the seal on an outstanding season late last month by winning the VWCA A-Grade East premiership.

The lady Dytes lost only two matches for the season and are automatically promoted to the Pennant Reserve grade for 1992-93. Their premiership was Warrandyte's first since instant success when the women's team was formed in 1975-76.

The Dytes wrapped up the pennant by mid-afternoon on the third day of the final against Melbourne.

They had batted first and made 191, captain Jenni McLaws topscoring with 64 and Sharon Egeberg and Angela Tunbridge contributing 42 and 39 respectively.

Warrandyte put their total beyond Melbourne's reach with tight bowling and fielding which ranged from disciplined to brilliant.

Egeberg completed a fine all-round performance by sending down 31.3 overs for four wickets and just 21 runs. McLaws took two for 48 from 33 economical overs and Jenny Chapman chipped in with two for 13 as Melbourne were bowled out for just 117.

Elizabeth McGhee took two magnificent one-handed catches and accepted a throw from Tunbridge to end the Melbourne innings with a run-out.

Warrandyte's other premiership hopes, the under-14s, were narrowly beaten

by South Ringwood in their grand final. The Dytes made 8/159 from the allotted 60 overs and South Ringwood hit the winning run in the 56th over of their innings.

At Warrandyte Cricket Club's presentation night, just a few hours after their final, women's coach Brian Chapman and captain McLaws were each presented with a ball used in the match.

Jenni won the Allan Chapman Memorial Shield as woman cricketer of the year, topped the bowling averages, received another mounted ball for a 10-wicket haul in a match during the season, and a miniature bat for a century. Jenny Chapman was presented with a silver tray in recognition of her eight years of captaincy before this season.

Finals details:  
Women: Warrandyte 191 (McLaws 64, Egeberg 42, Tunbridge 39) d Melbourne 117 (Egeberg 4/21, McLaws 2/48, Chapman 2/13).

Under-14s: Warrandyte 8/159 c.c. (Nick Brisbane 40 ret., Matthew Chapman 25, Justin Edwards 28) lost to South Ringwood 5/160 (Ross Anderson 2/35).

WCC captain-coach John Sharman dominated the men's presentations, winning the Jack McAuley Shield as club champion and the senior batting trophy.

The McCartin Family Shield for best clubperson went to Steve Pascoe and the Daryl Valentine Shield for club cricketer of the season to Dale Vitiritti.

Other trophy winners:  
Seniors: C. Snaidem (bowling), M. Day (fielding), A. Hood (captain's award).

Seconds: S. Pascoe (batting), D. Watts (bowling), J. Graf (fielding), G. Creber (captain's award).

Thirds (in above order): D. Vitiritti, S. Haworth, R. Neagle, M. Elliot.

Fourths: C. Grybas, D. Stockley, S. Logan, S. Warr.

Fifths: M. Wilks, C. Fernando, S. Carroll, J. Nasser.

Women: A. Tunbridge (batting), K. McGhee (fielding), E. McGhee (captain's award).

Under-14s: A. De Leo (batting and Les Adams Shield as junior champion), S. Tippett (bowling), M. Chapman (fielding), R. Anderson (manager's award). Special award to De Leo for making five consecutive 40s retired.

Under-12s: Batting: J. Russell (batting and Derek Hilton Encouragement Trophy), C. Cahir (bowling), A. Beardall (fielding).

## Nine of the best

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Basketball Club wound up a productive 1991-92 season last month with nine premierships. Five other local teams were beaten in their grand finals.

Results were slightly down on last season after a disappointing semi-final day in which only two of the eight boys' teams involved were successful.

Brian Dunn's under-10CD boys got things rolling for Warrandyte on grand final day with a landslide 27-9 win over Bulleen, Robert Colvin starring with 11 points and winning the most determined player award. Gavin Whitmore's 12BA team lost a thriller 37-41.

The big victory of the day was by the 14AR boys coached by Ashley Grybas, who trailed Koonung from the outset but fought back to be just a point behind with seconds to play.

Ryan Lees received the ball with one second to go and produced the desperation shot of the season to give Warrandyte a 51-50 win. Kurt Mays topscored with 14 points and Tim Gleeson won the MDP award.

Barry Masenhelder's 14BW side led throughout to down Bulleen 54-48 in a high-scoring shoot-out, Brett Yarwood and Christian Arsenis combining for 19 points.

The 14DS boys of Don D'Olivera turned in a great

performance to beat Eltham 51-42. Terrence D'Olivera was judged MDP and Ray Bellenger was superb at the defensive end.

Diane Stoyan's 14CC team went down 33-38 to Woodbridge after being all square at half-time. The 16AR side of Ron McLellan performed below expectations and lost 26-42 to Bulleen, despite Russell McIntosh's 10-point contribution.

The 16DS boys of Rob Parke played right up to their best to grab a 36-32 win over Doncaster, Cameron Davidson topscoring with nine and Heath McAdam the MDP.

In the girls' section, Diane Godwin's 10A2s beat Eltham 20-16, Jazmine Borella, Jacqueline Dick and Caitlin Evans sharing the scoring honours.

Ian Hodgson made it two in a row with his girls when they downed Eltham 23-14, Anne Cutler dominating with 17 points and the MDP.

Matthew Vincent's team fell to Doncaster 30-39 (Lauren Clark the MDP) and Amanda Stoyan starred in a thrilling 16-15 win by Irene McLellan's 12C1s over Eltham.

Adrian Mullens' 14D1 girls surrendered an early 8-0 lead over Eltham to go down 17-37, Louise Baker topscoring. The 16Cs, coached by Gavin Whitmore and inspired by the determination of Jennifer Maher and the scoring of Karina Reid, defeated Eltham 37-28.

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