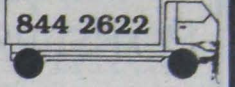


DIARY

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22nd year

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Court backs locals Praise for CFA

Snakes alive! Be careful where you put your feet...

By GEORGI STICKELS

Warrandyte residents who refuse to leave their homes during a bushfire have been supported by the findings of the recently concluded coronial inquiry.

The coroner's court does not support moves to forcibly evacuate residents from their homes in an emergency. Instead, greater community education and communication with authorities are the keys to improving firefighting, it found.

As reported in the *Diary* last month, the assistant coroner, Ms Wendy Wilmoth, conducted a coronial inquiry in March into the 1991 Warrandyte wildfire. She handed down her findings at the court on April 28.

Of most relevance to all Victorians, she recommended that no changes be made to the Emergency Management Act 1986.

Last month the *Diary* reported that police were seeking greater powers under the act to evacuate residents from their homes. At present, under section 36 of the act, they can only prevent people from returning to an emergency area.

Ms Wilmoth found "there is no evidence to suggest that the power provided under Section 36 is not sufficient".

Inspector Bruce Dickie of Nunawading police told the *Diary* this would not apply only to Warrandyte residents. The legislation will be used to "remove people who are a danger to themselves and their families" in all emergency situations. Other people have argued that the only type of emergency likely to confront Warrandyte is a fire.

However Inspector Dickie intends that the evacuation will not affect all residents. "Those who can defend themselves should stay at home," he said.

He also referred to the Miller report which followed the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires which suggests people stay at home if they are prepared, as they are more likely to save their properties.

He says a reassessment of the legislation is currently underway, but a submission to parliament was "not imminent". Many residents still feel that if legislation is passed, authorities may take the easy option and evacuate everyone anyway.

Ms Wilmoth's report found that "an unknown person or persons contributed to the cause of the fire", perhaps by discarding a burning cigarette butt.

Her recommendations began with support for the residents' working party, saying that their

suggestions "in general, should be considered by the Shire of Eltham, Melbourne Water, the Country Fire Authority and Metropolitan Fire Brigade, the Department of Conservation and Environment and the police".

On the day of the fire, designated "codered", fire crews were assembled all day, and so when the fire began, the siren was not sounded. The coroner found that the siren alerts residents as well as volunteers to a fire, and that fire warning signals be sounded in the event of a fire, even if crews are already assembled.

She also recommended that:
• "Fire and emergency prevention and survival information be published and distributed to residents on a regular basis" as it was revealed in the inquiry that many locals did not know what to do or have equipment to fight a fire.
• "Efforts be made to assist residents, perhaps on a street-by-street basis to form their own protection groups," with assistance from the Shire of Eltham. This will decrease some of the load on the CFA.

• "The Ministry of Education should ask schools in fire-prone areas to avoid holding curriculum days during February and March each year," as many parents defied authorities and even swam the Yarra River in a desperate bid to reach their children, stranded at home.

• The Department of Conservation should investigate ways to inform residents "of policy in regard to fire prevention" and "communications should be made with residents informing them of burning off, and other works" relevant to them.

• The Shire of Eltham should "investigate the feasibility of the provision of static water storage for firefighting purposes". The report found Melbourne Water is not responsible for providing water for firefighting, only domestic supplies.

Ms Wilmoth conceded that residents' access was a problem, and remained unresolved. She said that locals and authorities should continue to work together to find a compromise.

Ms Wilmoth praised the CFA's efforts in fighting the fire, and summed up by saying that fire was inevitable in areas like Warrandyte, and that the community had to make sure it was adequately prepared.

The residents' working party and the CFA will be holding another public meeting early in June to pass on the findings in greater detail. Notices will be posted around Warrandyte and all residents are urged to attend.



Snake-bite victim Mark Duncan (right) with wife and baby. The tiger snake (above) was photographed by intrepid *Diary* staffer, Jan Tindale.



A tiger snake bite in Warrandyte on Easter Sunday has underlined the importance of watching your step even when summer is over.

Mark Duncan, 32, of Richmond, was bitten through his sock while bushwalking in the Warrandyte State Park. He was lucky on two counts: only one of the fangs broke the skin; and help was immediately at hand.

Mr Duncan trod on the snake while walking with his wife—and carrying their baby in a back harness—at the end of Gallatals Lane, Pound Bend, about 3.30pm. They were with Warrandyte friends Sandra and Glenn Brockwell, of Judith Avenue.

The tiger, which was on the walking track, also struck at Mr Brockwell before disappearing into the bush.

Mr Duncan was treated at the scene by

his companions and was being assisted back up the track when a group of Kew boy scouts, who were camping in the area, came to his rescue. Scout leaders rushed him to Box Hill Hospital in their four-wheel drive vehicle.

He spent the night in intensive care and was released from hospital two days later.

Diary chief-of-staff Jan Tindale walked down Gallatals Lane four days after Mr Duncan was bitten to photograph the scene—and photographed a tiger snake only metres from where the Easter Sunday attack took place.

It probably was not the same tiger. Mr and Mrs Brockwell estimated the snake which bit Mr Duncan to be at least five feet long. The specimen photographed by Mrs Tindale appeared to be smaller. The official maximum temperature in

Melbourne on Easter Sunday (April 19) was 24.8. On the Thursday, when the photo was taken, it was 16.2—hardly the popular public conception of "snake weather".

Head ranger Ian Roche told the *Diary* he could not recall another snake bite in Warrandyte State Park in the past 10 years. He pointed out that snakes were protected in the park.

"We have had a late summer this year," he said, "and when the seasons get longer, snakes will still be about.

"The chances of being bitten in the park, or in any other bushland, are pretty slim if you keep to the tracks and watch carefully where you are walking.

"If you see a snake, walk away from it. Don't try to kill it—that just increases the chances of being bitten."

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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How to take all the fun out of fun-running

"Talk about moving the goal-posts!" says disillusioned fun-runner Heather McCarthy, of Fossickers Way, in a letter to her favourite columnist. "I participated in the 8.8 kilometre Warrandyte Festival fun run and was elated when I managed to not only finish but actually win the Open Ladies section. My elation was short-lived, however, when I returned to my car and found I'd been given a ticket for parking in a no-standing zone. The no-standing signs had been placed there after I had left on the run. If the council doesn't waive the fine this may well be my last fun run. I couldn't bloody afford any more like this." Well spoken, Heather, and if that doesn't melt some stony hearts at City Hall we'll be very sur ... Hang on, there's a flash on the fax: "Mrs McCarthy's explanation has been accepted and no further action will be taken." Don't you just love a happy ending?

IN RED & WHITE



Heather McCarthy

his weekends flying a Cessna for skydivers at the Victorian Parachute Centre at Violet Town. His mates at the centre are urging him to do a little skydiving himself, but Jamie, 25, is still somewhat haunted by the memory of his fourth jump, at Kyneton, when he'd become keen on the sport three years ago. The wind blew him off course and over the spiked fence of a cemetery. And when he hit the ground, he rolled into an open grave. Jamie still thinks there was a message there somewhere.

At Business Review Weekly, in La Trobe Street, people pay the reverence due to Mark Davis as an associate editor. But since he took over as chief bwana of Warrandyte Cricket Club, the natives are growing restless. It's the raffles, you see, not to mention the tontines, lotteries, sweeps and other fundraising schemes he keeps pressing upon them. It's not that they object to having a flutter, but they can't understand why, over the past couple of years and with a couple of thousand tickets sold in the office, no one can remember winning anything! The BRW folk have taken to plastering the walls with the worthless scrip. You'd reckon that in the interest of ongoing sales, El Presidente Davis would sling his workmates a consolation prize or three.

Bob Trezise fought the 1962 bushfires in this town and 30 years down the track he's still at war for the CFA. He's now Lieutenant Bob Trezise of the Portarlington Urban Fire Brigade and he went along to a recent presentation night fully aware that he was going to get his CFA 30 years service medal. What he didn't know was that his brigade had conspired to make him a life member as well. It takes a lot to surprise Bob, but they managed it.



Bob Trezise

Twas Telecom Vic of Melbourne Hill who caught the yachting craze. In the traditions of Mulga Bill's Bicycle, let us tell you about Vic Grybas and his latest passion. Vic, an outdoors man from way back, is a member of the sailing club at Sugarloaf Dam and the proud owner of a shiny new 14-foot Laser, a one-man skiff that goes like the wind (if you'll pardon the tautology). His maiden race was full of drama, excitement and comedy. As the starter aboard the president's boat said "Go", Vic fell overboard - and trod water as his Laser scooted downwind and left him in its wake. It has been suggested that he keep in touch with his flying machine by wearing an ankle strap like the surfboard riders use. Vic could become the first man to hang 10 on Sugarloaf.

You'll notice a change in this month's *Diary*. Sport gives way to a full-page ad on the back and moves inside. Peter McDougall, who in 1970 was the first advertiser to buy space in the *Diary*, hasn't sold the business. He's become part of the The Professionals real estate marketing group and will be taking the back page for the next 12 months. That means much-needed advertising revenue for us, which will be a bit of a blow to the wolf which is in the habit of haunting the *Diary* office door.

Jamie Day, of Pound Bend Road, spends his weekdays training for a commercial pilot's licence and



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By JOFF

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JOFF

Council firm on 'Paddles' for local golf course site

By GEORGI STICKELS

The Yarra Valley Park, known as 'Paddles' reserve, on Blackburn Road could become a golf course, following a shock decision by Doncaster council citizen's services committee last week.

The move faces stern opposition from Melbourne Water, who own the land. The community is divided on the issue.

Melbourne Water's manager of parks and waterways planning, Mr John Senior, said it intended to landscape the site for passive recreation. He says the land has some conservation values and is more isolated than Westerfolds Park.

The land also encloses the site of an early homestead in the area, known as 'Pontville'. However, the original dwelling is now gone, and the area has been heavily cleared, with some weed contamination.

Local mayor Val Polley was not surprised by the committee's decision. "We do need a golf course, but I'm still not convinced that Paddles is exactly the place for it," she told the *Diary*.

She added that the decision was currently only an undertaking "to see zoning in place which will allow a golf course in future". Persuading Melbourne Water remains to be accomplished, and "it's in the

early planning stages," she said.

Cr Polley said there was strong support among members of the community for a golf course in the area. The nearest public golf courses include Ringwood, Croydon, and the driving range at Chirnside.

Conservationists firmly disagree with the committee's recommendation. A spokesman for the Friends of the Yarra Valley group said a rally, organised by the group last month, was "well attended" and "demonstrated community concern at this brash land acquisition attempt" by the Doncaster council.

Members of Friends of Mullum Mullum Valley and Friends of Warrandyte State Park also attended.

Dr John Merory, the Friends of Yarra Valley vice-president, told the *Diary*, "we, like many other community groups, are extremely concerned about the future of the Paddles property and the adjacent blocks. We support the plans for these areas as outlined in the recently launched park management plan," put forward by Melbourne Water.

Dr Merory said that if the golf course goes ahead, it would "greatly impede public access and enjoyment of the area".

He was concerned that it would contaminate the wetlands in the area which "are

crucial to the habitat of many of our native birds and animals" including koalas, marsupials and other fauna.

He said that a golf course would prevent bush and grassland regeneration in both Paddles and the nearby Abbots property on Alexander Road near the High School. This property has also been considered a potential golf course site.

The Paddles land may also have spiritual significance for the Wurundjeri tribe. Dr Merory told the *Diary* "It appears that

once again the original inhabitants have been ignored in the proposal".

He said they "should be consulted and included in the planning processes, and given the opportunity to comment".

The designers of the golf course have said they would protect both the historical and environmental aspects of the land if their development went ahead. They also said it will be a public, not a private course.

Full council will consider the proposal.

Kinder funds cut

The North Warrandyte kindergarten has had its funding cut by the State Government for the following calendar year. This means they only have enough government money for three kindergarten sessions per week instead of four, for the first six months of 1992.

The funding cut is a result of low numbers enrolled. Michele Ryan, president of the pre-school group told the *Diary*, "We believe this is a 'one off' situation due to the possible changes in school entry age and to children enrolling in both Doncaster and Eltham shires".

She added that the projected and already enrolled numbers at this stage indicate there will

be ample enrolments to ensure the kinder's funding is back to its usual levels in 1993.

Kindergarten savings have been spent to provide the children with a fourth weekly session in term four. The Michele Ryan told the *Diary*, "We are very busy raising funds to cover the shortfall for term three". He said that this term the children will be able to attend a playgroup at the kinder to replace the lost session.

North Warrandyte Pre-School has asked the *Diary* to thank local traders for their generous support. They hope that the people of Warrandyte will continue to support their fundraising efforts.

And they will never forget...

By NEIL PEARSON
Picture by EMMA WOOD

This year's annual Anzac Day march and memorial service were held in perfect Warrandyte autumn weather.

The numbers were down on other years; the holiday period accounted for many absentees in the ranks of both the ex-service contingent and the scouts, cubs, guides and brownies who also attend.

The army guard was also absent because of several other local commitments, but we are told they will be back with us next year.

The march was assisted by the inclusion of a restored World War 2 jeep, thanks to Craig Thompson, which transported some of our veterans who are temporarily out of full marching capacity.

Our valiant lone piper, Andrew Ogilvy, once again set the pace for the march and provided a stirring rendition of the Lament at the conclusion of the service. The memorial service itself was ably conducted by Father Brian Boyle of the Warrandyte Roman Catholic Church.

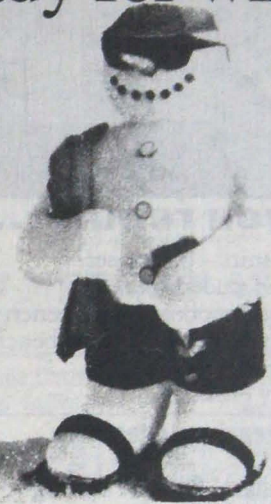
A convivial get-together was held in the RSL clubrooms afterwards and the tinnies were put away for next year only minutes before the flag was lowered at sunset.

The RSL would like to thank all those who helped make the day a success.



The last of the few: Warrandyte's old soldiers step out down Yarra Street.

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South of river, not S W' dyte

In regard to the restructured Shire of Eltham, I would strongly suggest that the Eltham Shire Restructure committee refrain from using the term 'the Green Wedge area of South Warrandyte'. We who live south of the river certainly don't want a name change as well as a boundary change.

I doubt whether the people in South Warrandyte proper would be too keen on having their name usurped either.

My family has lived in Warrandyte for more than 100 years, and that's where we live now. The name of the township was proclaimed in 1856.

While most people in the area would welcome one Warrandyte, they are by no means united on the way it can be achieved. There are many questions to be answered before the people can make a value judgement. These questions can only be resolved through commu-



LETTERS

nity consultation. I personally am concerned that as a small enclave in a very large shire, Warrandyte, as proposed, would be left without any say in its future and be much worse off than at present, where at least we have three

good councillors to fight for us. One suggestion made to me, which would seem to have some merit, would be a Warrandyte ward bounded by Mullum Mullum Creek and taking in all of Warrandyte on both sides of the river.

This would give the Warrandyte community tremendous clout, whichever municipality we ended up in.

Bruce Bence
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As a last ditch effort to resolve the issue of dogs on leads in the Fourth Hill state park, a meeting was arranged for March 3, by Phil Honeywood, our local member.

It was attended by Ian Roche, the head ranger, Tony Varcoe from the Department of Conservation and Environment and a group of local residents in the hope of reaching a good compromise.

At best, residents hoped to be permitted to either share the bridle trail with the horse riders or even use a perimeter track.

Both sides argued their case. At the conclusion of the meeting it was revealed that the head ranger had the power to recommend changes to the park's management plan, allowing dogs to use the park on a trial basis.

Unfortunately, in what has become their most uncompromising and unrelenting manner, Ian Roche announced he was not prepared to recommend any such changes.

A major objective of the Fourth Hill park has been the enhancement of wildlife habitat, which they claim would be jeopardised by the presence of dogs on leads in the park.

How then, can they justify another objective for the park, which is the upgrading of visitor facilities, including a gold history walk?

Surely these two objectives are contradictory.

So next time you are walking in

the Fourth Hill state park and you see someone dressed in a khaki uniform, skulking in the bushes, don't be alarmed. It is probably one of our state park rangers, hoping to snare a wayward walker with their dog.

The cause is lost, but along

with it goes the respect and admiration for the Warrandyte state park rangers, who seem to have lost sight of their objectives along the way.

An angry resident
(Name and address supplied)

Rangers ban dogs from park

Briony is getting her goal

By KYM SMITH

Warrandyte High School student Briony Clark hits the headlines again, this time making the 1992 Victorian under-17 netball team.

Her first match will be on July 9, when Victoria and Sydney clash in the national competition.

Briony is no newcomer to State tryouts. She was chosen for the primary school State team in 1988, and competed in the under-16 team in 1991.

This year, she says, she was not confident of making the team, as she has moved up an age grading, and is now in competition with many other

skillful players. As she gets older, she adds, the competition gets tougher and training more demanding.

Having to change positions, to wing defence from her usual goal defence or keeper, placed a further obstacle in Briony's path. However, her selection suggests she has adapted quickly. Briony told the *Diary* she is enjoying the challenge of mastering a new position on court.

Briony is currently studying year 10, and says time management is crucial to co-ordinating sport and school commitments.

State team training currently consists of a three-hour ses-

sion at Royal Park each Friday, and up to four hours of weight-training, sprinting, plus flexibility work during the week.

She also plays in the State league reserve team at Lower Plenty.

Yet in the long term, all this is set to go "on hold". Briony told the *Diary* that she had dreamed of playing for Australia, but such ambitions seem to conflict with her VCE and a career.

She said it has been a tough choice to make, but she is prepared to put sport on the "backburner" after this year, at least until she finishes her studies.

No doubt she will quickly be back in play after that.

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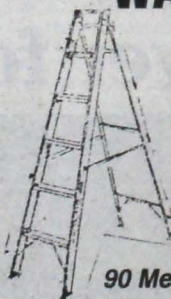
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A golden day for local couple



Wedding rings fashioned from Warrandyte gold were exchanged at the recent wedding of Suzi King and Leo Reid, both of Warrandyte. They were married by Fr Fred van Gestel at St Gerards Catholic Church.

Suzi's father, a keen prospector, panned for the gold in the Yarra River.

Suzi wore a white satin-backed shantung dress with a fitted bodice. It was mid-calf length at the front, tapering to a short train. Bridesmaids Anne Marie Reid, Melissa Gallagher and Lisa Shaw wore deep purple dresses in a mini style.

Leo's groomsmen were Dave King, Mark Reid and Peter King. All of the bridal party grew up together in Warrandyte.

Guests travelled from interstate and overseas to attend the wedding and reception, which followed at Monsalvat in Eltham. The couple honeymooned at Pacific Palms on the NSW central coast.

All-Warrandyte wedding for Suzi King and Leo Reid.

Promising start for Parkcare

The Warrandyte state park's 'ParkCare' program has met with great enthusiasm from locals and local environment groups.

The ParkCare officer, Fay Vulcanis, told the *Diary* that a meeting on April 1 provided a "positive discussion forum for 20 individuals representing various organisations, residents and park staff."

The program aims to encourage local residents living beside the state park to care for the bush and park land that surrounds their properties.

Ms Vulcanis said residents had

expressed interest in establishing working groups in their areas to work on various ParkCare projects. They had also suggested that the program provide information to the community, including the natural history of the park, effects of dumping garden wastes and rubbish in bushland, effects of environmental weeds and introduced animals, fire protection alternatives, and sensitive use of the park for recreation.

Information sheets will be available from the park office in future months. Meanwhile, the

program has begun information sessions with various resident groups. These aim to establish working groups addressing the park's problem areas, Ms Vulcanis said.

Nineteen Bradley's Lane residents joined head ranger Ian Roche on a "walk and talk" through Norman's reserve on April 11. Ms Vulcanis told the *Diary* "we are planning to develop an inventory of flora and fauna in this area through mammal trapping surveys and spotlighting assisted by residents". She believes this information,

combined with local knowledge, will "lead towards a greater understanding of the environmental requirements for both private and public land".

Similar activities are planned for residents of the Koornong reserve on April 29, and for Fourth Hill reserve sometime in May.

Ms Vulcanis says residents, school groups or local organisations interested in attending information sessions or working groups can contact the park office on 844 2659 between 8am and 4.30pm.

Pony clubs clear path for riders

Horse riders and walkers can once again exercise along the banks of the Yarra.

A recent working bee has removed weeds and fallen trees from the disused track beside the river, which runs from the Stonehouse to opposite Pancakes on the Yarra restaurant.

The working bee was called for by a Doncaster council review committee. The committee was studying a survey about the horseriding trail network, and the council's Horse Riding Trail strategy. At one of these meetings the committee learned of

the path's neglect.

Joy Stirling, vice-president of the Wyena Pony Club, organised a recent working bee, which was attended by members of the Warrandyte Environment League and riders from Wyena, Wyena Adult riding club, and riding clubs from Donvale and Templestowe.

The groups have approached Doncaster council to spray the blackberries remaining in the area.

Wyena's president, Pam Dugan, told the *Diary*, "It is hoped that horse riders and walkers alike will now enjoy this track".

Award entries close soon

Applications are coming in for the third Warrandyte Youth Arts Award. Valued at \$5,000, the award is a joint project of the Warrandyte Lions, the *Diary* and the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.

Offered every two years, the award is available to any young artist who usually resides in Warrandyte and is aged between 18 and 25 years inclusive. The term artist includes any young person intending to make their career in some form of artistic endeavour.

It is intended that the scholarship, donated by the Lions Club of Warrandyte, should be used in ways that specifically suit the needs of the winner. This could include tuition fees, a study tour abroad, a short-term basic living allowance, or the purchase of equipment or materials.

Entries close on June 30, 1992 and the winner will be announced immediately prior to the Warrandyte Festival in March 1993. For further information see the notice on page 6 of this issue.

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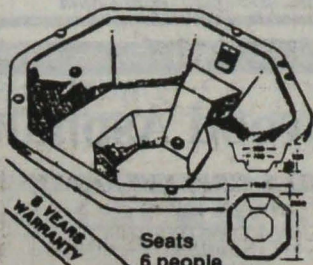
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Young artists who usually live in the Warrandyte area are invited to apply for the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award for 1992-93. Applicants between the ages of 18 and 25 - working in any artistic field - are eligible. A prize of \$5,000 is being offered 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 Citizen's Advice Bureau in the community centre, or by writing to:

Warrandyte Youth Arts Award
PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113

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Ewen Cameron (front row centre) with the Parliamentary railway committee.

A giant pillar of society

By BRUCE BENICE

Ewen Hugh Cameron was a pioneer politician of the Warrandyte and Kangaroo Ground district, indeed, throughout the whole county of Evelyn. Not to be confused with the Ewen Cameron who was a miner at Anderson's Creek in the early days, Cameron the pioneer was a giant of a man.

Although physically more than six feet tall, it was his life achievements which set him apart as a real giant among his contemporaries. An incredible character, he was successful in most things he tackled. He was a man who had the respect and affection of the community throughout his life.

Ewen Hugh Cameron began as the humble postmaster at Warrandyte in 1857, and entered the successful tender for the mail contract to carry the mail from Melbourne to St Andrews, Greensborough, Eltham, Kangaroo Ground and return. For 195 pounds (350 dollars) a year, he made the round trip twice a week.

Cameron was a young Scottish highlander, who came to Victoria on the sailing ship 'Hurricane' in September 1853. With his two brothers he spent two years in the building trade in Melbourne before moving to the goldfields.

He went into business in the roaring days of the Caledonian Goldfields. He won the miners' respect and represented them on the mining board of the Castlemaine district from 1863 for the next fifty years, and his election to the board was never contested.

He was a fine athlete, a noted long distance runner, and when necessary could put on the boxing gloves. He would even match it bare-fisted with disgruntled

miners if the need arose. As 'mine host' of the Councillors Arms Hotel at Watson's Creek, this must have been a useful attribute, although from photos displaying his unmarked features, even in later life, he was either very good with his fists or managed to stay out of trouble.

He was unsuccessful, in 1865, in his tender to build the punt across the Yarra at Warrandyte. This was one of his few failed ventures. He swiftly put this behind him and entered local politics, after election to the Eltham Roads Board the same year.

The following year he addressed more than 100 voters at Anderson's Creek. The meeting was chaired by Captain Selby, who urged every man to vote. His point went home with the tale of a party of men he joined, who were so sure their candidate would win they went shooting instead of voting. Their candidate was defeated by a handful of votes, less than the number of men in the shooting party.

Selby described Cameron as a man who, if the poorest man in his electorate went to him on any business, he would take as much trouble to help him as the richest. "Gone to Mr Cameron's" became a common explanation for absence, which surprised few who knew the quality of the man.

When Eltham was created a shire in 1871, Ewen Cameron became one of our first local councillors, a position he held until he retired in 1914, serving over 49 years. He was president seven times and was never defeated in an election. Some even say there was no-one prepared to contest his seat.

He settled at 'Pigeon Bank' in

Kangaroo Ground Road in 1874. He remained there until his death in 1915 and his descendents live there still. That was the year he was elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly as member for the seat of Evelyn. In another long, dedicated term of office, he retired at 83 years of age in 1914, undefeated after 40 years and eight months. His final election, as he neared 80, he won by a margin greater than the total votes of his three opponents.

In 1876 Ewen Cameron married Agnes Bell of 'Violet Bank', a nearby property. Agnes was the granddaughter of William Bell, who had settled in Kangaroo Ground as early as 1840.

The ambitious electric power generating scheme on the Yarra was one of Cameron's projects. The Yarra River Power Electric Bill was passed in 1895, although work had begun 12 years earlier, and eventually failed through lack of funds. Nevertheless, the concept was remarkably advanced for its day.

In May, 1902 he presided over a ball and concert celebrating the opening of the Strathewen town hall. The town of Strath Ewen had been named in his honour.

His involvement in public life meant he spent an enormous amount of time travelling to and from meetings all over the County of Evelyn, from Kinglake to Warrandyte. The *Evelyn Observer* notes Ewen Cameron chaired meetings almost weekly in some parts of his electorate. Many of these meetings were to raise money for families who had suffered some tragedy, usually the death of the husband.

Despite all these claims on his time, he still ran a successful farm

at his home at 'Pigeon Bank'. He won the prize farm competition of 1890 by 41 points, despite the judge's comment that his cereal crop had won fewer points than previous years.

His sportsmanship should not be forgotten. Cameron took a keen interest in cricket and was instrumental in forming the Kangaroo Ground cricket club. The district competition played for the Cameron Trophy for many years thereafter.

As chairman of the parliamentary railway committee, a position he held from 1894 to 1901 and 1909 to 1914, Cameron became known throughout the state, as every small community presented endless arguments for having the railway put through their township. Warrandyte, Templestowe and Kangaroo Ground were among those who vigorously pushed their claims.

Ewen Cameron chaired a meeting to establish a bush fire brigade at Kangaroo Ground in 1892. The brigade formed included several rural residents who pledged to turn out and fight any fire within a six mile radius of the town. This was probably the first of its kind in Victoria, and he encouraged other communities to follow suit. There are now more than 1000 rural brigades statewide.

When Ewen Hugh Cameron retired from Parliament in 1914, he was known as the Father of the House, and his record of service in Victorian politics was described as unsurpassed. It still remains unmatched in Victorian history.

At his death in 1915, schools throughout the district flew their flags at half-mast as a mark of respect.



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Warrandyte farewells a wonderful old mate

By GEORGI STICKELS

Young and old turned out to farewell Ken McKenzie at a function held in his honor at the community centre on April 24.

Ken has lived in Warrandyte for 30 years, and has actively contributed to innumerable community activities and to the lives of many local people. Now he and wife Cecily are leaving Warrandyte, as a loan to a friend involved selling their house, and for health reasons.

They will leave early this month for Byron Bay, where two of their sons, Andrew and Iain, run a bistro. Their eldest son, Roy, is a nurse at Royal Park.

Ken told the *Diary* he is "very sad" to have to leave Warrandyte, something he says he would not have done unless it was necessary. "Warrandyte's been a lovely place to live, and one couldn't have made better friends," he said. He also believes that any good turns he may have done locals "have been returned, more than tenfold."

He looks forward to keeping busy in his new community, although he confesses "I'll perhaps be a bit quieter, but I'll do a lot more fishing!"

He also hopes to begin writing up his diaries. "I've led an interesting life and met a lot of interesting people," he said.

Ken is perhaps best known for his stint as local councillor with the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, from 1983 to 1989. A popular councillor, he was elected and re-elected with resounding majorities until ill health forced him to retire.

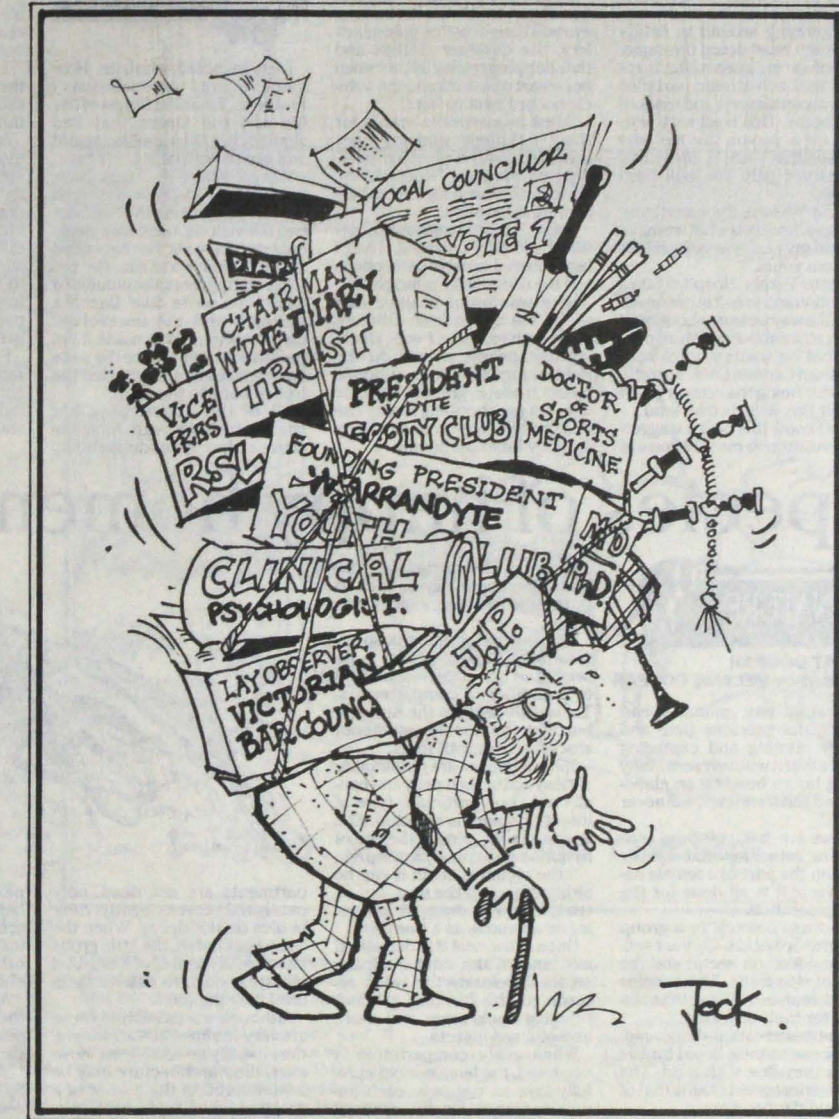
Warrandyte Ward has Ken to thank for our sports pavilions at Warrandyte reserve, Stintons Road and Doncaster East. He also lobbied for indoor sports facilities at Park Orchards, Donvale and the sports and theatre complex at Warrandyte high.

Yet he did not act alone, and his projects received wide-spread community support.

A clinical psychologist by profession, he has also provided voluntary youth counselling for local young people, and has given service as a local justice of the peace.

His efforts were so successful, says mayor Val Polley, because of his "hard work, commitment, understanding, wisdom and humanity".

He has also served the community as president of the football club, vice-president of



'One couldn't have made better friends'

the local RSL as a committee member at Warrandyte Primary School. He established the Warrandyte Community Youth Club and with his other commitments, remained chairman of its offspring, the *Warrandyte Diary* and the

Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust for over twenty years.

Gradually, he has had to withdraw from his many positions due to ill health. Earlier this year he underwent a triple heart bypass and shunt operation. He recovered

surprisingly quickly, and was out of intensive care and back on his feet within a few weeks.

Cr Val Polley, who succeeded him on local council, led the tributes to Ken at his farewell. He was presented with a Brian Armstrong landscape painting of the town, especially commissioned for him by well-wishers, and a certificate of thanks from council for his contribution to the community.

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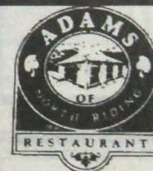
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Off your trolley – for real!

I've just finished reading 'Charades' by Janette Turner Hospital. I found it wonderful. The female protagonist is Charade Ryan, hence the title.

Quantum physics is something about which I know very little. The notion of atoms and particles spinning around in orbits leaves my head doing the same. To confuse me even more, it appears that sub-atomic particles act in uncertain ways and random leaps occur. This is all very worrying for a person like me who assumes that there is order and harmony if only we look hard enough.

But no. We have the uncertainty principle. Reality is what we make of it and my reality is quite different from yours.

Janette Turner Hospital takes this notion and uses it in her novel. Along the way we learn about holograms, more about quantum physics, that 'he' wants more of 'her', and about Captain Cook's erratic behavior being the reason we all inhabit this wide brown land.

Now I know this isn't a staggering revelation to most of you out

there. Most of us realise that not everyone sees things the same way we do.

All of this came to me in a blinding flash of illumination in the carpark at Harry Heath's.

I had finished my shopping and was about to drive off when my eye was caught by the gold jewellery, the designer clothes and the shopping trolley left between her smart new auto and the vehicle parked next to hers.

"Must be a sensible reason for this," I thought and my eyes searched for the disabled parking sign. No sign. No disability. No logical reason for her not returning the trolley.

"Lazy bitch," I muttered, my WASP morality outraged. Then I remembered variable perceptions and the uncertainty principle.

Here was proof positive that we all see things from different perspectives. Here I was, thinking that people should do the right thing: not drop rubbish; return trolleys, grateful for their use. Yet no; shopping reality the Warrandyte way is seen differently by different people.



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I felt humbled, contrite. How quick to jump to conclusions I had been. What did I know of her life and the forces that had shaped her view of the world and her place in it?

Were I Hospital, I may have considered Trolley's deprived childhood: the house without two televisions, takeaway meals only once a week, the cancelled skiing holidays at Falls, the unseparated parents, the unfulfilled desire to write like Barbara Cartland and the unresolved claustrophobia that made it impossible for her to face the wide open spaces as she wheeled the trolley back to the shop.

All of the above, plus her chance meeting with John because of her misunderstanding

about the address of the fundraising cocktail party and his misreading of the venue for the Bollinger winetasting, resulted in her being in Harry's carpark on Friday afternoon at 4.30pm. Given all that she had to endure in her life, no wonder her Warrandyte reality did not extend to taking back her trolley.

Trolley was proof positive of the uncertainty principle. Things don't always happen the way we think they should.

Just for the fun of it, let's play quantum physicists and 'imagine'. How would living in Warrandyte appear to you if you were a non-English speaking migrant? A local business person with dwindling sales? An 'oldie' confronting all those hills? A teenager trying to get public transport out of town? A native animal? A plum tree? A greenie? Me? Terrifying, isn't it!

Forget quantum physics, Janette Turner Hospital. We've got plenty of material for you right here. Perhaps you'd like to start in Harry's carpark.

ROGER KIBELL

Species of happy homemakers



NATURE

By PAT COUPAR
Drawings by MELANIE COUPAR

Why would any animal spend most of its precious time and energy hunting and capturing insects that it will never eat? Why spend hours building an elaborate and secure home it will never live in?

These are not pointless pursuits but rather fascinating foresight on the part of a female native wasp: it is all done for the next generation.

The wasp belongs to a group known as Sphecids. They are solitary and feed on nectar and the juice of ripe fruits. The females build a nest and fill it with provisions for their offspring. Some make nests underground; others use tunnels in old timber which they line with mud. The most intricate nest of all is that of the mud-dauber wasp.

This wasp is the painter and plasterer of the insect world. The industrious female uses her strong mouthparts to scoop mud from the edges of puddles, dams

and creeks. She carries the mud, now mixed with saliva, back to the nest where it is moulded into shape.

The finished product is an extraordinary construction comprising an entrance hole leading to a number of compartments. These will become the nursery, but first the female sets about stocking them with food.

Sphecid wasps are remarkably choosy about their prey and usually only one particular type of insect or spider is selected. The wasp uses the sting at the end of its abdomen to paralyse the prey.

If the victim is small it can be airlifted back to the nest, but often it has to be dragged, using a leg or antennae as a tow rope.

Once at the nest it is deposited into one of the mud compartments. Tirelessly the wasp returns to the hunting ground, bringing back more and more immobilised insects.

When every compartment is occupied, the female wasp carefully lays an egg onto each imprisoned insect. Finally, when egg laying is completed, she leaves the nursery, sealing the entrance with mud or grass.

The insects or spiders which are incarcerated in the mud com-



partments are not dead, only paralysed. Consequently their bodies do not decay. When the wasp eggs hatch, the little grubs have a ready source of fresh food on tap: enough to sustain them until they pupate.

Although wasps such as these are very common in Warrandyte, they usually go unnoticed. However, their architecture may be encountered in the corner of a garage or shed, underneath picnic tables, even among old clothing left lying around outside.

If we should destroy these mud nests, unsightly as they might appear, then we annihilate the

next generation of an extremely beneficial natural wasp. These are yet another example of an insect keeping the numbers of other insects and spiders in check.

Also, native wasps are among the major pollinators of many of our most beautiful wildflowers, particularly the orchids.

The accomplishments of the Sphecid wasps can be considered the first stage in the evolution of social behaviour which is common in other wasps, bees, ants and higher animals. The female Sphecids act on a mother's instinct.

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Stella and bloody do-gooders



THE WOODEN BRIDGE

By Eve Evans

I HAD not seen Stella for some years, but she phoned one day and asked if she could stay with me for a while. Her marriage was breaking up and she wanted time to think things over. Ben's wife Helen had suggested she come to me. We arranged a bus time and I explained how she could come down to the raft. I must describe Stella, whom I was very fond of, as indeed everybody was. She had a very ungainly figure, broad hips and a bottom that stood up rather like a mantelshelf. Her legs were fat with no shape. One eye always looked into the corner of the room while she tried to focus with the other.

But she had very beautiful hands and she had learned to gesture with them so gracefully that one almost forgot her other disabilities. Moreover, she had an innate charm and a genuinely sympathetic interest in other people. Her voice was low, soft and lyrical; delightful to listen to.

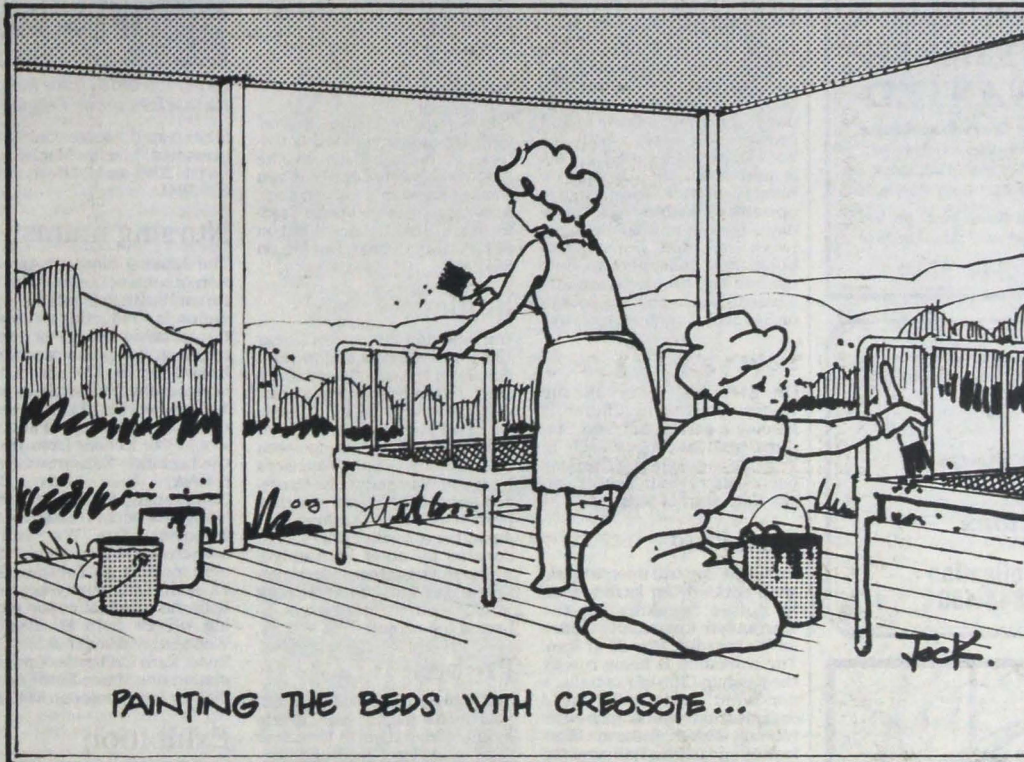
She had been working for another friend who owned an exclusive millinery shop. Believe me, Stella could really sell hats. In fact, she could sell anything. I think if the devil himself had walked into the shop she would have sold him a hat, fitting it gracefully over his horns.

I looked forward to having her stay. We could talk over old times when I too had lived in the suburbs. I could show her something of country life and introduce her to my friends.

She fitted well into our way of life, was always up early to hear the first carolling of magpies greeting the day, the tinkling of bellbirds by the river and she loved, as I did, the ever-changing lights on the distant mountains. She was an excellent cook and soon mastered the intricacies of the monstrous wood stove. She found candle-light, the only light we had, quite romantic.

She had great patience with Robert and Evan who were going through a bad bout of eczema. While goat's milk was good for them and they could drink much more of it than cow's milk, it did not cure their condition. I began to believe there was no cure and they must just grow out of it.

Stella encouraged me, saying I could not have chosen a better or more peaceful life for them and she thought I was right to leave my husband. That was



PAINTING THE BEDS WITH CREOSOTE...

after I told her that I sometimes felt a slight guilt at having deserted him, but had not been able to see any other alternative.

"You must not feel that," she said. "I sometimes see him at parties with the group we both knew. He is thoroughly enjoying his freedom from family life. I expect you know he always has a girlfriend to live with him."



"Yes Stella, I know that from other friends. While my own bitterness has faded a good deal, I feel resentment that

he spends so much money on his own pleasures and neglects us so badly."

"Why don't you divorce him?"

"No, I can't do that. Doctors have told me that if possible, I should not make the rift complete, because one day his sons may need him or he might need them."

That summer, as every summer, we spent many pleasant days by the river, keeping the boys cool, fishing, and having our daily bath to conserve the tank water. Friends often joined us. I could always be there to meet them and bring them across on the raft.

In the evenings, Maisie the postmistress would phone to give me any messages from the day, having told callers, "Three-one-0-five is not answering. Must be out. Can I take a message?" So she would tell me, "Tomorrow Dr Ellen will be at the river at eleven, she has some new ointment and Miss Judith has plants for you. I told her to be at the river too." A nice, friendly service, which I was sorry to see go with the march of progress.

We could have four or even six friends waiting on the opposite bank. They always brought food: chops and sausages to cook on the stone fireplace and I would bring freshly-baked bread and homemade butter and jam. In good Australian fashion we boiled the billy to make tea.



I also had another woman staying with me. Ben had asked me to take her, explaining that she was an alcoholic. He thought that a few weeks on my lonely hill with no possibility of getting drunk might help her.

I do not know how Ben persuaded her to stay with me, for she did not want to be helped. She remained dour and tact-

turn throughout her visit, which lasted only three weeks.

One morning, just a week after Stella came, she was missing. With her had gone my diamond engagement ring, a treasured sapphire brooch of my mother's, assorted trinkets and the money I had saved in a tin on the kitchen mantel. I never saw her again and neither did Ben.

After a while there was a horrible smell that seemed to come from a battered old suitcase she had left behind. Ben told me to open it. I had wept bitterly over the loss of my ring and other trinkets, but worse was to come. Pasted inside the lid of the suitcase was a badly printed notice that said, "To hell with all bloody do-gooders". Inside, crawling out of several matchboxes were bed bugs.

I had never encountered these things before and did not know what they were or how to deal with them. I phoned Ben, described the stink and what the creatures looked like. He would find out what to do and phone me back.



There were not all the insecticides then that there are now for disposing of unwanted insects quickly. Ben's advice was that I should take the beds out each day and paint them and the wooden skirting boards of the rooms with creosote.

I told Stella she had better go back to town while I dealt with this horrible mess, but she insisted on staying to help me. I was very grateful for her help. After a week or so the smell of creosote in the house was too overpowering so we decided to leave the beds on the verandah and sleep there.

Each night when I made the boys ready for bed, all bandaged up, I put white cotton socks on their hands and feet and cotton masks on their faces. They could do so much damage if they scratched in their sleep, it could take weeks to heal. Now this proved a blessing. While Stella and I were badly bitten by mosquitoes, the boys were protected.

Stella enjoyed our way of life so much she decided that when her divorce was finalised she would try to find a small cottage in Warrandyte and seek work in Box Hill, a suburb some 13 miles away which she could reach by bus, and this she did.

To be continued.



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Seminar on child abuse

A seminar on child abuse entitled "Breaking the Silence" will be held on Sunday, May 24 at the Warrandyte Uniting Church, corner of Tarooma Avenue and West End Road from 1 to 5pm. Guest speakers will include Anne Amos and members of the community policing squad. Admission is \$5, concession \$3. Creche facilities will be available. For registration, ring 844 1839 or complete a form at the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House at the community centre.



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.

at 8pm at the community centre. For further details contact Beverley O'Neil on 842 2880.

Books

The Warrandyte Book Exchange has got off to a good start at the community centre. A wide range of books is available and everyone is welcome to come in and browse. You select a book (or books) and pay a small fee. This is partly refunded when you bring them back. The exchange operates on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays between 1 and 3pm. Donations of books and volunteers to help operate the exchange are still needed. Please call Val Spargo on 844 3345 if you're interested.

Sale

On Saturday, May 16 the Warrandyte Uniting Church is holding a garage sale and produce stall at the church in Tarooma Avenue; also a cake stall outside Harry Heath's supermarket. Both start at 9am.

Speaking

Cr Louise Joy will open a workshop entitled "An Introduction to Public Speaking" at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Wednesday, May 20 at 8pm. The workshop is being run by the Penguin Club of Australia, a non-profit, community based organisation which has been training women in the art of effective speaking, chairmanship and meeting procedure for more than 50 years. The tutor will be Suzanne McCourt, the Victorian president of Penguin. Attendance fee of \$5 includes a light supper. Regular meetings of the Warrandyte group are held on the first and third Wednesdays

Seniors

The Warrandyte Senior Citizens' Club enjoy many varied activities, including trips to the Ringwood Swim Centre. If you want to know more about their activities, phone Isobelle Bradford on 879 9481, Helen Ward on 844 2671 or George Temple on 844 3852.

Raffle

Warrandyte High School's year 12 art raffle, organised to raise money for the school art department, has been a great success, with the first prize, a Fox pack, going to Angelo Minos. Brad Valentine and Lee Gedge won the second prize—vouchers from the Warrandyte Newsagency—and the Folkart voucher third prize went to Kathryn Bor. A number of further prizes were donated by other Warrandyte traders. Organisers Georgina Colvin and Yolande Armstrong would like to thank all who supported the project.

Probus

The Warrandyte Probus Club, now in its fourth year, meets monthly from 10am to 12noon at the Grand Hotel. Probus activities are primarily directed towards providing fellowship, topical speakers and the development of acquaintances at a minimum cost. It is open to all those who appreciate such things in their retirement. The next meetings are on May 11 and June 15.



Never too old to have fun! Some of Warrandyte's seniors enjoy themselves at the Ringwood Swim Centre.

If interested, please contact the president, Murray MacDougall, on 844 3292, or Mal Rowland on 876 1041.

Nursing mums

The Nursing Mothers Association in conjunction with the Victorian Health Promotions Foundation, is conducting a study on the possible effects of breast feeding on premenopausal breast cancer. The association is searching for members from 1973 and earlier. If you joined at or before this time, Dr Pat Lewis would like to hear from you at the Lactation Resource Centre, NMAA, P.O. Box 231, Nunawading, 3131. All information given will be treated as confidential. The Warrandyte branch of NMAA will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, May 12 at the community centre at 8pm. An informal coffee morning will be held at 10am on Wednesday, May 27 at 506 Park Road, Park Orchards. For information ring Maree Burns on 844 2897 or Judy Finger on 844 3150.

Voices

A series of four seminars presenting writing in and about Melbourne, conducted by prominent members of Melbourne's literary scene, will be held on Wednesdays at 8pm from May 20 to June 10. The lecture series, entitled "Voices of Melbourne", is being organised by the Box Hill-Doncaster Regional Library and will take place at the library, 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. Further information from Therese Robin or Tracy Gibson on 890 1002.

Condolences

The Diary joins the community in offering heartfelt sympathy to the Aumann family on the recent tragic death of Brett, aged 21 years.

Tell us

The Diary is your newspaper, and we love to print news of your group's activities. Just jot down all the details, including date, time, venue and contact number, drop it in our box on the old cypress tree (opposite the State Bank), push it under our door at the community centre, or fax it to 844 4168 - and we'll do the rest! Just remember we close copy on the last Friday of each month for the issue appearing on the second Friday of the month following.

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Goodnight Knox! Bloods' 36-goal rampage

Warrandyte Football Club's 1992 blitz on the EDFL third division competition gathered momentum this month with a stunning 141-point demolition of Knox.

It was the Bloods' fourth big win in as many games this season—a far cry from 1991, when they lost their first three.

The May 2 home game against Knox, who won the fourth division premiership last year, had been regarded as another significant test for Warrandyte, but the visitors were way out of their depth.

The Bloods won 36.19 (235) to 13.16 (94). They kicked 14 goals to two in the final quarter, indicating they have at last found the killer instinct to "finish off" teams they have at their mercy.

Captain-coach David Purcell, one of the best of a ruthlessly-efficient bunch, said after the game the 1992 Bloods were "undoubtedly" a better side than last year. "We have better personnel," he said.

"It was good to win by that margin, but it would have been disappointing not to win by a lot of goals.

"The big test will come next week when we play Donvale, who are also unbeaten, at Donvale."

WFC president Laurie Sloan agreed. "We are definitely better than last year and we'll know how much better when we have played Donvale," he said.

Purcell started the goalrush three minutes into the first quarter and what happened thereafter was an afternoon Knox would much prefer to forget.

The Bloods had five on the board before the visitors opened their major account and they led 9.7 to 2.3 at the first change. Purcell and John O'Brien had kicked three goals apiece.

Warrandyte were moving the



ball beautifully, backing up well and tackling fiercely.

Things could only improve for Knox, and did. They kicked four of the five goals scored in the first 10 minutes of the second quarter, but at that point the Bloods decided enough was enough and that anything Knox could do Warrandyte could do better.

The next six goals were Warrandyte's and although the visitors rallied with three towards the end of the quarter, a 47-point lead at the interval had the big crowd sensing that the floodgates were about to open.

The Bloods stretched the advantage to 69 points in the third term in a real goal-sharing team effort and coach Purcell's plea in his three-quarter time address for his players to finish off the game was answered in a fashion even he could not have anticipated.

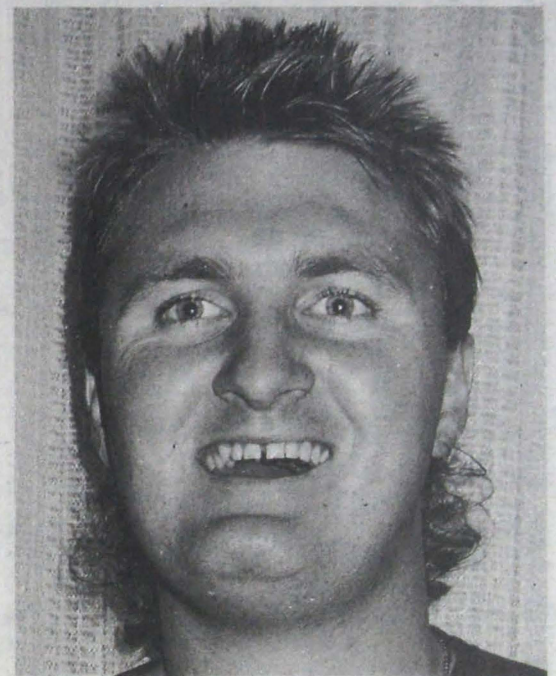
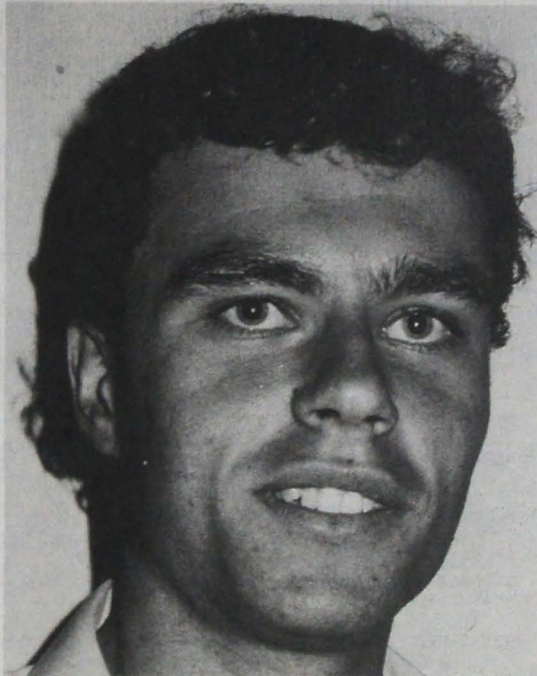
Knox goaled within a minute of the resumption, but Warrandyte turned the rest of the quarter into an orgy of destruction, led up forward by Stuart McLean, O'Brien and Matthew Elliot.

McLean kicked four and O'Brien and Elliot three each for the quarter to finish with nine, eight and four respectively.

It was great stuff, and even the goal-hungry Warrandyte crowd had seen enough by the final siren.

Best of a very good Bloods side were Brad Valentine, Purcell, Terry Blytheman, Stuart McLean, Glen McCartin, O'Brien and Kimberley O'Connor.

The Warrandyte reserves won their first game for the season—and in grand style. They kicked 25.19 (169) to Knox's 7.6 (48).



Stuart McLean (left) and John O'Brien—nine and eight goals respectively against Knox.

13 teams in winter netball

Warrandyte Netball Club have 13 teams in the Doncaster and District winter competition at The Pines courts on Saturdays.

The club also are represented in the new Neta netball for six to eight-year-olds.

Eight local girls have been selected in The Pines representative teams, Rebecca Lynch, Rachel Anderson, Zoe Milner, Ameer George, Nikki Barrow, Penny Turvel, Emily Green and Sharni Leon will play on Sundays against other local and country rep teams.

Anyone interested in playing, coaching or umpiring netball should contact WNC president Lorraine Green (844 2983).

Or just look out for the red-and-white colours each Saturday on the courts next to The Pines Shopping Centre.

Big three keep it to themselves

By CLINTON GRYPAS

The traditionally strong sides again head the ladder as Warrandyte Basketball Club's mid-week men's competition approaches the business end of the season. When this edition of the *Diary* went to press the Hitmen, Makeshift and Codat Lakers were tied in first spot.

Lakers rely heavily on the competition's top points scorer David Thwaites (who averages 30 a game) while Makeshift's big guns are Chris McIntosh (average 27.3) and Simon Appleby (17.4).

The Hitmen's line-up has changed considerably in recent weeks but they seem to have found the right combination in Andrew Vincent (22.7) and Mark Egglestone (14.5), who starred in a recent 53-43 victory over the Lakers.

Dream Team, the expansion side, have struggled at times, one exception being a one-point win over the Hitmen, with David Simpson and Doug Harding on fire.

Andersons Creek are unbeaten in the over-30 section, thanks to a pressure defence and the reliability of Stan Slabon, John Zigmantas and Alan Woolcock as targets in offence.

The new junior season is underway and the club has 52 teams and nearly 400 players on the courts each Saturday.

Skills are steadily improving, helped by visits from North Melbourne Giants guard David

Graham and a holiday coaching clinic by fellow Giant Martin Clark.

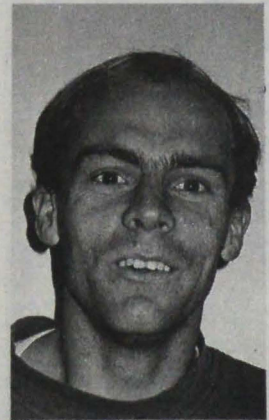
Former Australian Olympian Richard Duke is to be signed to hold coaching sessions for a wide age group of players. He currently takes one of the Friday night representative sides each week.

Referee development also is being improved with the appointment of Ron McLellan as referees' adviser.

Davis seeks third term

Warrandyte Cricket Club president Mark Davis will be seeking a third term of office at the annual general meeting on Sunday, May 24. The meeting, at the clubrooms, will incorporate a spit roast and pleasant Sunday afternoon, starting at noon.

All members are urged to attend. A lot of work has been done since the end of a disappointing 1991-92 season and plans for a resurgence will be presented to the meeting and discussed.



Terry Blytheman (left) and David Purcell—two of the Bloods' stars.

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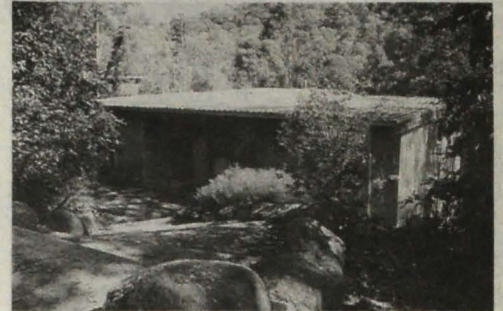
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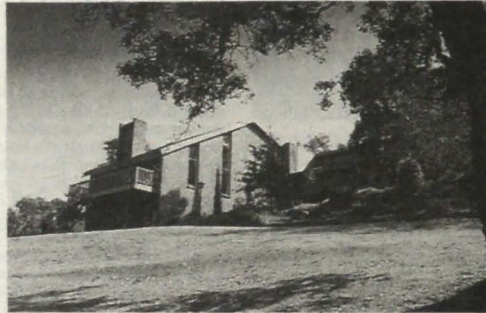
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