

Local youth in crisis

By GEORGI STICKELS

Beneath its affluent veneer, Warrandyte is harboring an underclass of deprived—even homeless—young people.

In a recent report to Community Services Victoria, the Neighbourhood House committee warned local youth were "in financial trouble with no homes or living in primitive conditions around Warrandyte".

They believe young people are even sleeping under Warrandyte bridge.

Neighbourhood House coordinator, Margory Lapworth, told the *Diary*, "We're not Footscray, but we have a problem here. There are kids out on the street with nowhere to go". Several local homeless youths are being housed by volunteers.

Few full-time job opportunities exist locally. Ms Lapworth said this problem was worsened by inadequate public transport. "They can't even get out of Warrandyte to look for a job," she said.

Warrandyte Youth Services, based at the community centre, was established to "help youth help themselves". In the past year it has run a number of successful projects.

The latest is the youth information card, available free from the centre.

Funded by Community Services, Victoria, it contains contact phone numbers for information on a wide range of emergency and other services.

A mural, radio programs and musical afternoons are other successes.

But the centre has its critics. Many people seem to think that Youth Services isn't reaching enough young people. Most kids are at school when the centre is open, from 10am to 6pm on weekdays.

During the last school holidays, the centre was sometimes closed during the day. For four months the centre has opened on Friday and Saturday nights, but is closed on Sundays.

A spokesman from the Kiwanis group, interested in sponsoring a project at the centre, told the *Diary* they gave up because the centre lacked direction.

"We were concerned that they seemed to have no set objectives. Given the time the centre has been up and running, there should be more programs started," he said.

Cr Louise Joy agrees. "It's not involving enough kids. The aim has been directed towards particular projects, not an overall goal," she told the *Diary*.

"There have been some good projects but not sufficient general appeal to attract a larger group," she said.

Concerned locals say the centre needs to be open more to encourage young people to come in and say what their needs are.

"If it's a youth service the kids should be running it. However, if you never have the door open and never invite them they won't come. You've got to go 75 per cent of the way to meet them," said one.

Youth Services full-time coordinator, Agnes Fenech, agrees that there are problems, but isn't sure why.

She said the centre is sometimes closed due to a lack of volunteers. "Being a sole worker has its drawbacks," she said. "Ideally it would be nice to have it open 24 hours a day but let's be realistic, we can't do that."

Ms Fenech says the main problem is attracting young people to the centre, which has video games, a pool table, TV and hi-fi and cheap eats. "When you look at the economic climate, you'd think there'd be kids on a waiting list," she told the *Diary*.

A survey of Warrandyte High School students showed that they wanted a drop-in centre, but they don't use it. Drug education and Jobseekers courses have been abandoned through lack of interest.

Agnes believes there may be a stigma left over from the bad reputation of the "Coffee Shop", which keeps some kids away.

She can't understand why they don't come to the centre, but gather in hordes at the West End milk-bar, which has recently installed video games in a shed. "The only thing they can do there, which they can't do here, is smoke," she said.

"Sometimes I wonder if we're doing something wrong."

Ducks are still a-dabbling



The furore of council elections comes and goes every August, but Warrandyte's Yarra River ducks dabble on in the shallows beneath the wintry willows. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Val wins Warrandyte gold!

By CLIFF GREEN

Cr Val Polley was returned for a second term as a Warrandyte Ward representative at the Doncaster-Templestowe council elections earlier this month.

She defeated opponent Daryl Cox at every polling place in the ward, winning by a comfortable majority of almost 2000 votes.

Her most substantial victory was at the Warrandyte booth where she almost trebled Mr Cox's total.

In Park Orchards, Daryl Cox's home territory, Cr Polley scored almost half as many votes again.

The margins were closer at the larger and more suburban Onemda (East Doncaster) and

Donvale polling places. Cr Polley's high public profile as mayor of the city during the past 12 months would have contributed something to her success, as would her position at the top of the ballot paper.

During the election campaign, Cr Polley renewed her support for the preservation of the Green Wedge.

She promised continued positive action on conservation issues, community involvement and an open council.

She pledged to work for an overall transport plan for the city and for the provision of housing for the elderly, particularly in the Warrandyte township area.

As in each of his three

COUNCIL ELECTION

previous attempts at council election, Mr Cox pledged his vigorous support for the Eastern Freeway. He campaigned on a conservative mix of strong financial management, reduced rates and law and order.

Cr Polley told the *Diary* that she was delighted to have been given such a "significant mandate" by the people of Warrandyte Ward.

"A number of important matters face both council and the community and I am pleased to be given this opportunity to build on past

achievements and develop new issues," she said.

"I am also very pleased to be able to continue working with the other Warrandyte Ward representatives and the rest of council and I am anxious to continue addressing the concerns of individual ratepayers.

"I want to thank everyone who supported me and voted for me. My special thanks must go to Bruce Bence, who once again worked so hard and directed my campaign so well."

Residents on the other side of the river did not have to vote as Cr Mary Grant was returned unopposed in the North Riding of Eltham shire.

• See letter, page 4



Cr Val Polley: a comfortable majority

FINAL FIGURES

Donvale: Polley 1648, Cox 1389, informal 327, total 3364;
Onemda: Polley 2425, Cox 2311, informal 470, total 5206;
Park Orchards: Polley 1590, Cox 1069, informal 306, total 2965;
Warrandyte: Polley 1470, Cox 572, informal 88, total 2130;
Totals: Polley 7467, Cox 5548, informal 1225, total 14240.

CYRIL



By PAUL WILLIAMS

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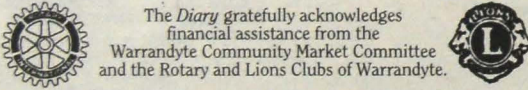
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As a crime-fighter, Cedric is organised

We'd known Cedric Netto since shortly after he arrived here from Canberra about five years ago and had enjoyed his convivial company many a time, usually over a coldie at the RSL Club. He told us at first meeting that he was a member of the Federal Police, but he didn't immediately fit our conception of an Eliot Ness-type gangbuster so we thought little of it. Now we know. Your columnist was at Cedric's farewell at the aforementioned club late last month and we asked him, just in passing, what line of federal policing he was into. "Well," he said, "for a while now I've been in charge of the joint Commonwealth/State task force into organised crime in Victoria." "Oh," we said. Cedric, 41, wife Marion, 35, and kids Yasmine and David (10 and eight respectively) are returning to Canberra but will be back in 18 months to resettle in Brackenbury Street. And rest assured that us unorganised innocents have nothing at all to fear.

IN RED & WHITE



Cedric Netto

Noosa Heads for a month in the sun. On the way home they looked up a whole bunch of Warrandyte friends who have permanently abandoned us for warmer climes. They included Carol and Dale Marsh on Bribie Island, Nettie and Stuart Robinson at Valla, Bobbie and Keith Wilson at Nambucca Heads and Betty and Geoff Coles at Mallacoota. All still loyal *Diary* readers, too. Cliff says they only need a few more old Warrandytians to settle in, say, Townsville and Cairns, and they'll have the entire east coast covered for their next freeloading trip.

days. It is, however, costing him money on the golf course. Tom's three iron snapped in mysterious circumstances a while back and a similar fate befell his three wood after a duffed shot at Rosebud recently. Tom swears the club flew quite accidentally out of his hand, but there are those who say he was left holding the grip. Whatever, his golf is certainly happening in threes.

A great deal of birdwatching will be done over the next several months at the Tindale home in North Warrandyte: Mr and Mrs Tawny Frogmouth have returned for their third annual nesting. The handsome couple reappeared in their stringybark near the house on August 9 and if they run true to form will hatch, nurture and educate two chicks before taking off again next February or March. The best part, from a spectator viewpoint, is when the chicks are learning to fly. They are hilarious. And you don't get that sort of stuff in beautiful downtown Toorak, do you?

Cedric's daily jog had slowed to a walk one morning just before his departure and a couple of boys, whose ages he estimated at 11 and six, caught up and put him through quite a third-degree. Are you a cop, mister? Well, yes. And do you lock people up? Well, sometimes I have to arrest bad people. It was all getting a bit heavy for Cedric, who is more attuned to asking the questions than answering them, so he broke into a jog again to bring the interrogation to an end. "Huh," said the younger of his inquisitors to the other. "Huh, I just knew he'd do that!" Cedric readily admits that they won, but he was still chuckling when he arrived home.

One of the local footy club's unsung heroes is head trainer Magret Rea, who does everything to ensure the players' fitness except enforce a Friday-night curfew on them. Magret loves what she does for the Bloods but won't be heartbroken when the season ends because it will give her a little time to devote to her livelihood. She's a qualified muscle therapist who is studying myotherapy at the RMIT. Her phone number is 844 3426—and if this reads like a free plug it is exactly that because we reckon she thoroughly deserves it.

The phone rang while Jack Rowe was enjoying a friendly beer and a game of pool at the RSL Club as guest of son John (social club president) and as often happens it was answered by treasurer Peter (Bottles) Norman. Peter has worked for Telecom for years and feels a strong sense of proprietorship about telephones. Anyway, he said yes, he'd get him, and handed the phone to Jack, who spoke briefly with his wife and told John: "Your mother wants a word." "Hang on a minute," rasped Rowie from behind the bar, "I'm busy serving customers." "Better not be too long," said Jack, "she's calling from Scotland!" "Er, hi Mum."

Aircraft carriers and tanks are a bit big to handle, but the Warrandyte RSL Sub-Branch is looking for wartime memorabilia with which to start a bit of a museum at its Brackenbury Street clubrooms. Any commensurate item will be welcomed on a give or lend basis and its security is guaranteed. Exhibits will be kept behind locked glass and anything in the weaponry category will be deactivated if necessary and bolted down. Most RSL clubs display such relics and the local chapter wants to keep in step, so to speak. If you have anything—the stamp from a letter great-grandpa wrote from France in 1917, a dogtag, a spent .303 cartridge maybe—you'd like to go on show, give the club a call on 844 3567 between five and seven any weeknight.

Nice of Jim Harris, currently jet-setting around Europe with wife Lorraine, to send us a postcard from the Isle of Capri. Better than nice, really. More one of your supreme sacrifices. "Beer is 4000 lire a can," wails Jim, "so I'm sober all the time." We look at the stamps and find it has cost him 2500 lire just to mail the card, which by our reckoning means he has foregone five-eighths of a can of singing syrup just to drop us a line! Bless you, mate.

Fans of Ian McNamara's early Sunday morning show radio 'Australia All Over' will have heard the words of one Catherine, extolling the virtues of the old home town earlier this month during the 'Why I Live Where I Live' segment. "Wonderful Warrandyte" she kept calling it. Needless to say, Smokey endorses every word. Catherine raved on about the winter waffles, then suggested we should have a Warrandyte Wattle Day, nominating the first weekend in August. Any takers out there, looking for yet another great community project?

We have gathered from the way Tom Kerkhof baits and berates umpires at the local footy that he is not overly fond of losing, an attitude we admire because perfection is so hard to find these



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Local citizens win top Doncaster award

By JANE RICHARDSON

Two Warrandyte residents won top awards at Doncaster-Templestowe council's annual presentation night last month.

Alan King, who has lived in Warrandyte for all of his 49 years, was named the 1992 Citizen of the Year. Peter Gardiner was presented with the Achiever Award.

Alan King was one of twelve candidates for Citizen of the Year. Alan told the *Diary* he was delighted with his award, and praised Warrandyte's community spirit, which made working for the community so much more rewarding.

"Everyone is ready to rally around the things that matter the most; ready to help when the time comes. It is nice to receive an award, but there should be a lot of other awards to acknowledge all of the people who put their heart and soul into community work."

Alan has a history of involvement with environmental issues,

as a past member of the Warrandyte Townscape Advisory Committee. He has been active on the Warrandyte Advisory Committee for five years and is an organiser of the Warrandyte Festival.

Alan was also on the joint working party for the Warrandyte Community Centre, which involved both community and council members in planning and overseeing the centre's development.

Alan said he inherited his environmental awareness from his parents, both of whom were naturalists and wildlife photographers.

Alan is married with three children. His family, and his job as a company director, take up a lot of time. His work involves a fair amount of travel.

Despite this he remains a dedicated member of the Warrandyte Uniting Church. In the past he has been involved in children's musicals through the church, and for a time was active

in the Warrandyte and Doncaster cricket clubs.

Fellow church member and Achiever of the Year, Peter Gardiner, has also had a long involvement with community affairs.

A resident of Warrandyte for 12 years, Peter and his family formerly lived in the Doncaster-Templestowe area.

For the last three years he has been a practising solicitor in Warrandyte.

Peter told the *Diary* he found it a great compliment to be nominated for such an award, as he felt there were many other deserving people.

Most of his community work is done through his involvement with the Uniting Church. He was one of the founding members of the Crisis Accommodation House, sponsored by the church. He is also an honorary member of the CAB, dealing with residents' legal problems, and on a panel of speakers who visit other community groups, such as



Alan King

Neighbourhood Watch and Rotary, to discuss legal matters which concern the average resident.

Peter is also involved with child welfare and offers legal advice to the underprivileged.

He told the *Diary* he enjoys working and meeting with the people of Warrandyte, something he has been able to do increasingly now that he works locally. He sees Warrandyte as a place with a "character of its own" and a great community spirit.

Helipad built in park

By JANE RICHARDSON

A helipad has been constructed in Warrandyte State Park to help fight bushfires from the air.

Following the fire in February last year, the Regional Fire Management Office suggested a helipad for Warrandyte. Water dumped from helicopters significantly helped firefighters during the February 1991 fire.

The helipad is one of several initiatives to improve firefighting efficiency.

Ian Roche, head ranger at the park, told the *Diary* "the helipad is considered a great deal of value in developing facilities for the option of aerial attack".

The helipad, built and funded by the Department of Conservation, is located in the orchard next to the rangers' office in the park. This meant that no trees or wildlife had to be removed to make room for the helipad.

In an emergency it will also be close to communication channels, firefighting machinery and equipment, which will minimise delays in sending out crews.

"The future of firefighting is in aerial attack," said Ian Roche, "a technique which is advancing at a great rate, and keeping up with technology is the key to providing the community with the best possible fire protection."

He said that the helipad is primarily built to service the fire season and is not suitable for use during the winter months.

To further improve firefighting facilities, a level, graded track has been constructed around the orchard, providing a faster, smoother route for water tankers and other equipment. Fast access was a major problem in last year's fire.

"Due to demographic growth and the continuing number of families on the waiting list, it is crucial that Warrandyte kindergarten continue to provide the community with pre-school education," she said.

Ms Walls also believes that a new, larger kindergarten is needed to cope with local demand for places.

"Our current and projected enrolment figures are far greater than the available places, hence many children miss out each year," she said.

The kindergarten committee and council representatives have agreed to work together to find some solution "in the not-too-distant future."

Yes, that must be the Warrandyte Helipad, there's the Macrame Windsack!



Jack

New kinder building needed

The Warrandyte kindergarten in Taroona Avenue should be demolished and rebuilt, according to local councillors and the kindergarten committee.

As reported in the *Diary* last month, the existing building is outdated. It has poor ventilation and has suffered significant termite damage. Recent reports by the fire brigade, Doncaster and Templestowe council and Archcentre all conclude that the existing building is inadequate and even unsafe.

Warrandyte Ward councillors Val Polley and Louise Joy have both called for redevelopment of the kinder. At meetings with the kindergarten's

maintenance coordinator, Marree Burns, it was decided that the cost of maintaining the building is too high.

Most maintenance since the building was constructed, 35 years ago, has been carried out by families using the kinder, with some support from Doncaster council. But Ms Burns says this is no longer possible.

Ms Sandra Walls, president of the kindergarten committee, told the *Diary* that the building is a fire hazard, and "has completely inadequate storage and office facilities".

But Ms Walls was also convinced that the kindergarten should not simply be shut down.

CITY OF DONCASTER & TEMPLESTOWE



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The Studies investigate the botanical, zoological and visual characteristics of the area east of Mullum Mullum Creek and recommend measures to ensure their long term conservation.

You are invited to attend a public meeting to be held on Monday 7th September 1992 at 7.30pm in the Supper Room, Dorney Reserve Hall, where the studies will be outlined in detail and questions answered.

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Insect hazard ignored

Perhaps it's because the wolf could not blow down the brick house that some assume termite hazard is a scourge of just timber buildings.

Not so. Termites effortlessly tunnel through the brick walls of homes both old and new alike, and once inside the soft underbelly of timber, they can go undetected for years, wreaking havoc until... It can be very expensive.

Despite thousands of litres of potent and residual insecticides that are regularly sprayed and injected into the Warrandyte environment, termites are still just as prevalent as ever. We just have to accept that they are here to stay.

But there is action Warrandyte house owners can take.

Remove soil and compost buildup around walls. Control dampness around walls by good drainage/ventilation. Remove old stumps and dead trees. Replace old railway sleepers with rocks or treated pine. Maintain a clear airspace between brick paving and walls.

Control of termite infestation does not necessarily involve chemical warfare as there are effective non-chemical options.

So, before you next turn on the sprinklers to your favorite tree fern in that damp and shady nook—think termites.

Tom Boschma
Kangaroo Ground

Concerned voters answered Val's call

Once again, thanks to all those people who supported the magnificent community effort which saw Val Polley re-elected to council; those who volunteered to tramp the streets, letterboxing the whole of the Warrandyte Ward; those who handed out cards on election day; and in particular those members of the pony club and the Friends of the Park who weighed in to

help. Special thanks to David Wyman who produced Val's brochure and how-to-vote card. The effort involved some 80 people from Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Donvale. Despite having to fight four elections in four years, the community response was undiminished when the call went out.

Val's win is very satisfying as the Warrandyte Ward has gained the services for another three years of a talented, hard-working and competent councillor who will do her best to represent us. Val's election was also a win for the community, against what appears to have been the orchestrated effort of people outside the ward to

LETTERS
launch personal attacks on Val with a view to securing Daryl Cox's election. Like many other people, Val's convincing win both relieved and pleased me. Had she lost, I would have felt that

I had personally let her down. How I was going to ring all those people who had contributed so much during the campaign and tell them Val had lost, I don't know. A long holiday in Northern Australia would have been the easy way out. Thanks again, everyone.
Bruce Bence
Brackenbury Street

Put money where your mouth is

When another face of old Warrandyte was threatened in 1991, many people rallied to support the old butcher's shop. We didn't want another change to the look of Warrandyte, and more than 600 people signed a petition to stop the shop being replaced by two new "boutique" shops. However, it appears that the residents of Warrandyte have a very limited vision of what that support entails. Of the 600, only 25 actually buy their meat at that butchers and consequently, as this is not sufficient to keep the business viable, it is still a possibility that this tenant will have to close down, as the threat of demolition again raises its ugly head. If we do not support our local shop, then the original Warrandyte shopfront that we have known for 30 or more years will change permanently and only the licensed grocer will struggle on. While change is necessary in some quarters, we do not need or want the past to be totally obliterated. Come on Warrandyte, put your support where your signatures are.



The threat of destruction still looms over the butcher's shop. (Picture by Georgie Waterman).

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WARRANDITTIES

By JOFF



Top trip to NT

By KYM SMITH

Warrandyte High School students took a break from their demanding year 11 studies last month, on an 18 day escape to the Northern Territory.

This was no holiday for the lazy. For the first time in three years the whole Warrandyte contingent climbed to the very top of Ayers Rock, teachers included. And just when they thought it was time to relax, a six kilometre, four hour hike through King's Canyon hauled them to their feet.

Those who went say the views were nothing short of spectacular: rugged red cliffs and a tropical Garden of Eden, complete with palm trees and a freezing, freshwater pool, neatly tucked away in a valley.

The students also enjoyed a therapeutic soak in the Mataranka thermal pools, and even braved an early morning swim under the thundering falls at Litchfield Park.

In Darwin, they had a chance to take part in a corroboree, while the braver travellers took to the skies for an aerial view of Kakadu National Park.

Other highlights included an afternoon cruise through Katherine Gorge, a camel ride at Alice Springs and a night under the stars, bush camping at Three Ways.

All good things must come to an end, and as the coach journeyed south on its 30 hour express leg, an exhausted bunch of teachers and students tried to catch up on all the school holiday sleep-ins which they had sacrificed for the trip.

A sacrifice not one of them regrets.

The end of an era

By BRUCE BENCE

The Warrandyte Historical Society has come to the end of an era, with the resignation of Ted Rotherham as president. Ted has held this position almost continuously since the society's inception in 1975.

Ted and his wife, Shirley, have devoted an enormous amount of time and effort to the society for almost two decades.

When the society was given the unfinished half of the old post office, Ted spent a long hard 12 months, with the assistance of Basil Holland, restoring the building to its former glory.

As well as other efforts to

preserve relics of Warrandyte's history, Ted has organised the historical society's photo collection, an irreplaceable record of Warrandyte's history which will grow in value and size as time goes on. Ted taught photography at the Melbourne Institute of Technology and has prepared photographs for a number of publications.

Although the historical society's museum is still unfinished, more than 1000 people have visited it since it opened in November last year.

Ted, the official tour guide for the museum, has gone to great lengths to cater to the public on his tours. Im-

mensely proud of his luxurious beard, he was recently told by a prospective visitor, from Better Hearing Australia, that her deaf companions, who lipread, would have trouble understanding what he had to say.

Consequently, when the group arrived for the tour, a cleanshaven Ted Rotherham commandeered the bus. Let that put to rest any speculation about the reason for his new appearance!

Ted's resignation took effect at the society's annual general meeting last month. Another landmark of the AGM was the return as secretary of the hardworking, popular and innovative Gina Jones.



Flashback: Ted Rotherham (left) with Sir George Reid and Mr W. Guthill at the opening of the original museum in 1983.



Diary news items, gossip for Smokey and letters to the editor may be left in the box on the old cypress tree opposite the State Bank.

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The 4th Annual General Meeting of the Eltham Community Health Centre will be held on Tuesday, 15 September 1992 at 7.30 pm at the St Andrews Community Centre, Main Road (corner School Road), St Andrews.

Following the meeting will be a guest speaker, Mrs Edith Morgan from the Older Persons Action Centre, followed by entertainment and supper.

A bus will be available to transport interested people to the meeting leaving from 7 Dudley Street, Eltham. Any persons requiring transportation please contact the Community Health Centre on 431 1333.

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Above: Bull, the head bully. Above Right: the tyrannical grade six teacher, Mrs Bullfinch. Below: the dance troupe in rehearsal.



Our superkids

Life at school is chaotic, in real life and in theatre, as Warrandyte Primary School prepares for yet another of their famous annual productions. This year it's called "Superkids".

Meet Nigel, the school dork, played by Simon Keniry. His only friend, Robyn (Hilary Fairley), will stand by him, but Nigel's interests lie with the somewhat provocative Elisha Hall, in the role of Louise.

The school bullies, led by Bull (played by Tom Sheehan) have

taken over the school and no-one can control their outrageous behavior, not even the principal. Students, teachers and canteen mothers live in terror!

Who will save the school from almost certain destruction?

Kevin O'Mara, Mark Leehy and Lynne Bartlett have engineered another quality production.

"Superkids" will rock the Karralika Theatre on September 15, 16 and 17. Tickets will go on sale at Warrandyte Primary school in September.

High school musical

By KYM SMITH

Warrandyte High School has turned its hand to yet another popular musical for its 1992 school production.

This year's production, "Anything Goes" is set in the 1930s on board the liner "American" and has everything a big show should have: a fast-paced, (if unlikely) storyline, slow ballads and big dance routines, including a tap dancing troupe.

Julie Byrne and Sally Morrison will share the role of evangelistic nightclub singer Reno Sweeney, while Emma Symes, Christie Lawrence, James Egglestone, Matt Henderson, Jo McMahon, Mark Dawson and James Sheehan will also have leading roles as society belles, gangsters and ship's captain. They will be ably assisted by a motley crew of sailors, missionaries and nightclub dancers, not forgetting the role of the pompous Sir Evelyn Oakleigh.

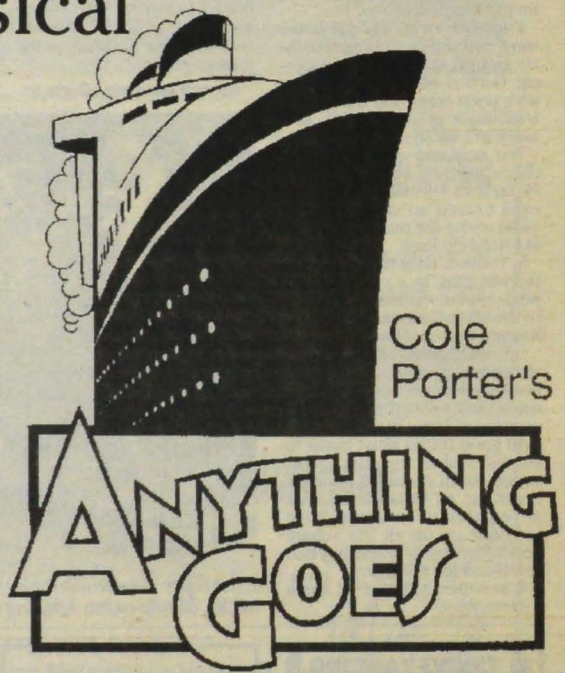
The musical's many well-known songs will add variety: "Anything Goes", "All Through The Night", "I Get A Kick Out Of You" and "Blow, Gabriel, Blow".



A young star from "Anything Goes".

Chris White will be directing and producing the show and Lynette Bailey is choreographer. The dance captain is Sophie Grant and the orchestra will be conducted by Ian Lowe.

Bookings are now open and the season runs from Wednesday, August 26 until Saturday, September 5. Telephone 844 2729 or 844 3076.



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REVIEW

By KEN VIRTUE

Family holidays were annually predictable, but treasured events nonetheless. At least for ordinary folk, that is.

A taste of that '60s seeming-simplicity was revived with Warrandyte Drama Group's recent production of "Away". Playwright Michael Gow's nostalgia was solidly directed by Doug McManus, who managed the deceptively connecting threads of each part into an entertaining whole. McManus's experience showed through and "Away" is another success to his credit.

Blessedly, the Mechanics Institute hall is now centrally heated so the actors did not have to bravely ignore winter shivers whilst pretending to be on the beach. No more goosebumps rampant! And all the warmer for good audiences to clap contentedly.

The action of "Away" concerns three families who cross paths on their 1960s annual holiday. A school principal, convincingly played by Rob Reid in his first stage role, takes his problem away with him in the form of his wife, Coral.

Struggling against a tide of grief over the tragic loss of their only son in Vietnam, Coral gazes fixedly at anyone trying to have a polite conversation with her.

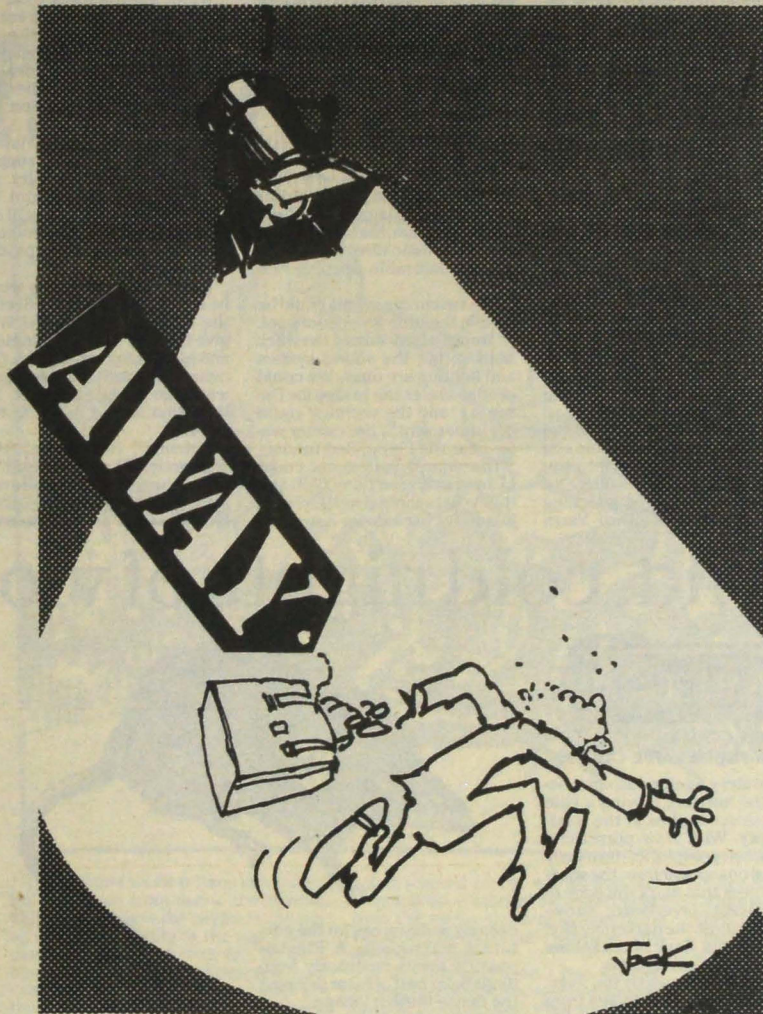
Kylie Moppert was excellent in this role, drawing a fine balance between her apparent disturbance and the pain behind it. She even looked like the Kim Novak of whom she reminded the other players in early scenes.

Gwen was another troubled woman, but with MARTYR clearly stencilled on her countenance, Elaine Henderson approached this character with gusto, albeit a little too loudly in the first half, as she crucified herself with the worries of a blossoming daughter and a hapless husband.

Kerry Robinson was perfectly cast as the normally bubbly daughter, Meg, much doted on by a father trying to outlast his domestic difficulties. This Jim, who wishes all the fuss would evaporate in the summer sun—and hopes the sand won't get through his socks into his sandals—came to life with a carefully measured professional performance by Roger Kibell.

On the other side of the town's tracks we find an older loving couple with a star-crossed son named Tom. His words are given the urgency of youth by Sam Marston, who played this difficult role well, and who continues to develop his timing and movements as he gains experience. Tom's parents, warmly portrayed by Robin Atkinson, the clasp-them-to-my-bosom mother, and Rowen Bavinton as the stoic-kind-words-of-experience father, are a stark contrast to the troubled others.

As the holiday gets into full swing, we



find Coral over-compensating with two total strangers at a fancy hotel.

Patrick Casey is a confused honey-mooner who finds himself momentarily surrounded by Coral's off-beat glamour.

Elizabeth Greenwood deftly presented the other captive, who didn't mean to be pressed into the truths that blurt out under Coral's needling enquiries. A good performance.

Finally the husband can no longer cope with Coral's behaviour. She flees from his infuriating pragmatism after a rooftop struggle.

The story gathers pace as Tom and Meg, the young lovers, meet on the beach. He wants to test drive his hormones, she is attracted but unsure. They spy Coral, now a wandering artist-type figure.

Four right-wing camper delegates put on a display of snappy self-protectionist dialogue as Phil Swindly joins the cast. A campsite nearer to the beach is apparently also nearer to God if you're a regular at this place. Phil also plays the ukelele (and later the school librarian)

so barely has time to see the storm clouds brooding.

Tom convinces Coral to be in the campsite entertainment night and she finds this an outlet for her restlessness.

But Tom, it is now revealed, has leukemia. The suffering of his parents shows Gwen and Jim how inconsequential their problems are, and reveals the shallowness of Gwen's class snobbery.

In all, a lot of emotions were canvassed in varying human encounters throughout this play, which surprised at every turn.

Set changes were stage-managed by Dani Allgood, with the help of fairies no less! (Although you had to have been there to appreciate this.)

Rob Melville, on lights, operated the strobe storm scene to good theatrical effect.

Here was a light comic relief drama performed very well. It gave pleasure to many and justifies continued faith in the future of the Warrandyte Drama Group.

Their next adventure will be three one act plays in September. Don't be "Away" for these....

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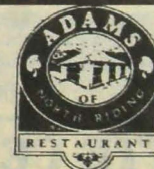
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Las Ramblas down Yarra Street

Twenty of the world's top cat-walk mannequins! I couldn't believe it. Like Martian robots they propelled their hips around the stage, whilst 16 year-old school-boys sprinted between the assembled competitors carrying Olympic flags. But why?

Did the mannequins represent eternal woman, the procreator, the producer of life? I doubt it. I suspect one of Spain's top couturiers was friendly with the creative director.

"Juan, I've got a warehouse full of old stock I can't move. Any hope of a spot on your gig?"

"Sure. You'll have to follow the moving Miro and a bunch of opera singers who have to mime their arias."

"No hope of them walking around the galleon during the fight with the sea monsters? Lots of exposure there..."

Obviously Juan won.

Yet I enjoyed the opening of the Barcelona Olympics. As the King watched his handsome son carry the Spanish flag into the arena I felt the same surge of pride I'd experienced watching my children walk down Yarra



Street in the Warrandyte Festival parade.

There is no reason why Warrandyte could not put in a bid for the Olympic Games. We have the enthusiasm, the facilities and enough artistic directors to create a memorable opening ceremony.

The swimming events could be held in the primary school pool. It would need some tierstack seating, but the sound system and lighting are okay. We could dredge under the bridge for the rowing and the yachting could get under way in the calmer water near the Pound Bed tunnel.

The equestrian events could be held at Wyena Pony Club and the cyclists could go up Research Road and back down Kangaroo

Ground Road to the bridge. The time trials could take place around Harry's carpark.

We've got the footy oval, the tennis courts, the State Park for the rifle shooting and the Mechanics Institute for the gymnastics. Yarra Street is ideal for the sprint races and the field events could happen on the roundabout.

Accommodation for visitors could prove difficult. I suggest we bulldoze the old dairy, the museum, the chapel and the public toilets and erect a 20-storey block of flats. They could all be turned into craft shops after the games.

The opening ceremony would be something special, reflecting the flavor of the village. We'll give the flick to any Robin Hood and his flaming arrow trick. One overshoot and Bradleys Lane would go up like a rocket. But then that would save on fireworks...

A theme? How about, "How Warrandyte Was Colonised"?

We'll begin with the historical society and the primary school kids dressed as gold miners.

They'll arrive accompanied by Yotha Yindi. As they march past the community centre, hordes of swirling land developers dressed in Harris Tweed will surround the miners, tempting them to give away their gold or sign documents transferring land to them, in perpetuity.

The developers will melt into the oncoming crowds of poverty-stricken artists who will beat their breasts with telegraph poles and build a type of human castle out of mud bricks.

Around this citadel will appear hordes of neatly-dressed professionals who'll employ builders to transform the citadel into executive residences with all modern appliances. As the competitors arrive, the Warrandyte crowd will wander around in confusion, unsure of their direction.

All this sounds promising, but it still lacks something. That "je ne sais quoi" to catapult it out of the ordinary. I wonder if Juan's got any more friends with stock they can't move?

ROGER KIBELL

Wild, cold nights of violent love

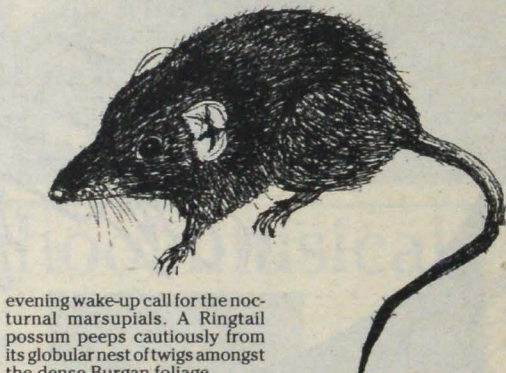


NATURE By PAT COUPAR Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

The watery winter sun slips below the horizon, leaving a pale incandescent glow in the western sky. With slow purposeful bounds, a group of Eastern Grey kangaroos appear from the shadowy trees that mark the edge of the forest. Overhead, snow-white against the darkening sky, a belligerent flock of cockatoos search for roosting sites.

Meanwhile, down by the river, a sturdy wombat trundles from its burrow deep in the soft alluvial soil. And, from a burrow in the river bank, a water rat emerges and pauses briefly, twitching its long sensitive whiskers. Then, slipping into the water with a gentle splash, it disappears into the inky blackness in search of aquatic insects, mussels or perhaps a fish.

From a nearby swamp the chorus of Brown Tree frogs and Common froglets adds to a pleasant mix of shrills and chirps reminiscent of insects on a summer night. As darkness descends, cackling kookaburras provide an



evening wake-up call for the nocturnal marsupials. A Ringtail possum peeps cautiously from its globular nest of twigs amongst the dense Burgan foliage.

Deeper in the forest all seems quiet, but something is stirring in the undergrowth. A gentle rustle announces the presence of a Brown antechinus. More rustling, and another emerges. This one is bigger, a male, and August is their breeding season.

The Brown antechinus is a small carnivorous marsupial mouse belonging to a group known as the dasyurids, which also includes the Eastern quoll and the Tasmanian Devil. Although similar in appearance to an introduced mouse, the antechinus is no rodent. It has sharp,

dog-like teeth and is a ferocious hunter of insects and spiders.

But it is for their remarkable sex life that these animals are best known. The mating season lasts only two weeks and during this time the males frantically compete for females.

Their aggressive encounters with other males and the vigorous mating, which can last up to six hours at a time, causes stress hormones to rise alarmingly. The males hardly eat, hair and teeth fall out and eventually their immune system fails completely.

As a consequence they suffer from stomach ulcers, bacterial infections and parasites.

By September, after a life span of just eleven months, all the males are dead. Females, being less aggressive, usually survive to breed again next season.

Antechinus were once common in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, but they have been displaced and replaced in many areas by the incessant sprawl of urbanisation. Now these little animals are restricted to small pockets of forest with thick undergrowth and plenty of fallen timber for shelter.

Although not common, the Brown antechinus can still be found in the local bushland around Warrandyte, but for how much longer is doubtful. Introduced predators such as foxes, dogs and particularly domestic cats are a major threat to its continued existence here.

On these cold winter nights, when most of us are safely tucked up in bed, the antechinus are literally fighting for their survival. In a desperate urge to pass on their genes, the males pay the ultimate price. But hopefully they will leave behind enough pregnant females to ensure the future of these vulnerable little animals in Warrandyte.

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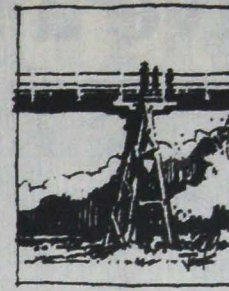
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A policeman's dilemma



THE WOODEN BRIDGE

By Eve Evans

I NEVER could, and never will, understand why my five brothers expected their only sister to be able to match them in courage, prowess and initiative. One of them took it for granted that of course I could manage a raft across a river, even though it was sometimes in full flood.

I told another, with considerable pride, of killing a pig, pointing out the bacon he was eating. "Well," he said. "If you were going to lose the pig, the only thing you could have done was slaughter it and make bacon."

They did not find the story of the circus pony frustrating, as I had, only remarking that I should have known better.

Mind you, they were a great bunch of fellows. I always admired the way they came through the years of the great depression. They refused to take the "dole", and found work up and down the country, digging potatoes or fruit picking in crop-growing areas. They worked in woolsheds in the shearing season, or lugged heavy bags of wheat at the railway stations, even working their way to the far north for the sugar cane cutting.

One evening, during the war, my brother Rod walked in. I was startled by his appearance: his face, hands and arms were black and his eyebrows were burnt off.

"Whatever happened Rod?" I asked, agape.

"I had a small accident."

"Before you tell me, let me make you a bath and find you something clean to wear." All I could find was one of my winter nightgowns, but he did not mind that at all. He settled down with a plate of rabbit stew and told me what had happened.

He was on a few days leave from the army, and had decided to spend them with me. He told me his transport, a utility truck, was over at the cross-roads, about a mile and a half away.

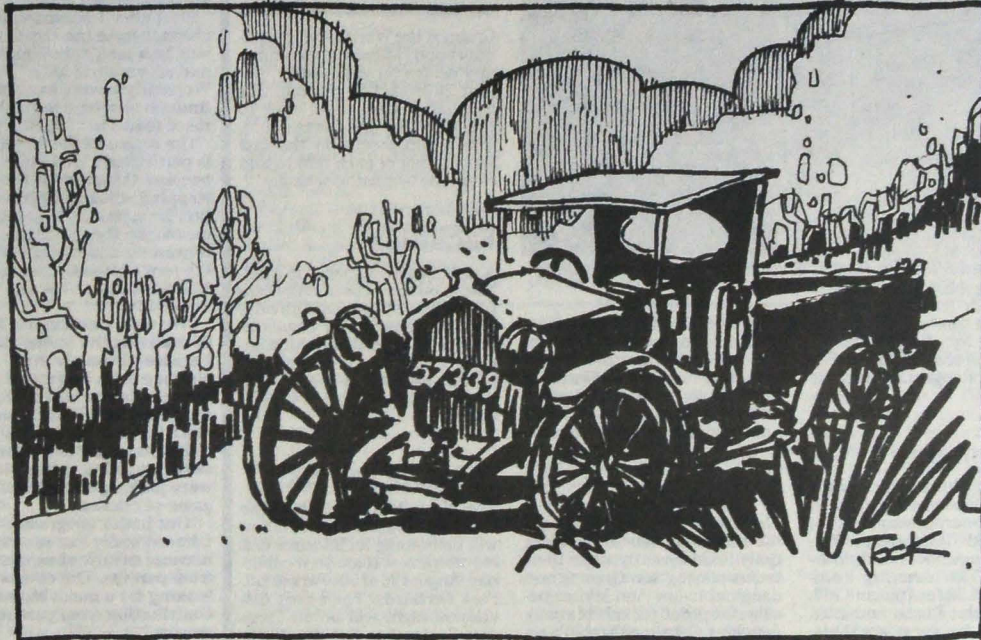
"What happened was that I ran out of petrol. I took a can out of the back to fill the petrol tank, forgot I was smoking a cigarette, a spark caught the petrol and up she went. I beat out the flames with a couple of sacks I had, and a timely shower of rain helped enormously."

"Well," I said, "we will go and look at it in the morning. First, you need a good night's sleep after that adventure."

Next morning we walked to the cross-roads where the truck was standing. What a sorry sight it was. Most of the damage was in the cabin. The windscreen and windows were broken, the seats were burnt out, and so was the wooden floor and the dashboard. The steering wheel was no more than a thin rim of iron.

I saw now why he carried an empty wooden fruit case with him. With the seats burnt out, he fixed the case firmly where the driver's seat had been.

Rod opened the bonnet to examine the engine. In those days cars were built of good heavy steel and this had protected the engine.



This brother was a trained mechanic. He looked up from under the bonnet and said, "I believe the engine is undamaged. I was thinking in the night Sis. I can't take this back with me, I'd be a laughing stock. But in the next few days I can teach you to drive. You can practice on the river flats on the property beside yours and, when you have confidence enough, get a driving licence. When we've cleaned this thing up a bit, it won't look too bad, and at least it will get you places."

I looked at him in utter astonishment. "But I know nothing about cars, I am not mechanically minded. I'll never do it!" "Of course you will Sis. On the way home we'll ask the Herb Farm ladies if they would mind the boys while I give you some lessons."

He helped the boys and myself into the tray at the back and started up the engine with a crank handle, explaining that the battery was not entirely reliable: he would try and bring a better one next time he came.

"Meantime it would be better to leave it on a slope, in gear, with a chock under a wheel. If you stall it on level ground you will have to either crank it or get someone to push it until it starts."

Watty and Patty were just as astonished as I was when we told them of Rod's proposition, but like the good sports they were, they readily agreed to mind the boys. I told them that, if I ever did manage to master the thing, we would have some fine picnics, even go up to the mountains.

Rod worked on the car all that day, cleaning up whatever he could, going over the motor thoroughly and fixing two fruit cases for seats, which we covered with sacks.

In the late afternoon I had my first lesson. I sat beside Rod while he showed me how to manipulate the gears, clutch and the brake which, like the battery, was not entirely reliable either, and this he promised to fix.

We spent the next couple of days practising madly. Except to milk and feed animals, all other jobs were put aside. Rod seemed pleased with my progress, and left me to manage on my own. Before he left, he fixed seats in the back for the boys, and with a few suit case straps, contrived to hold the passengers firmly in. A forerunner of modern seatbelts, one might say.

Towards the end of that autumn I thought I knew enough about driving. I had reversed, almost hitting trees, driven forwards and turned around. When the petrol ran out, I took a can across on the raft to get more.

Then I phoned Ellen. "You don't know what I have been doing," I told her.

"Something crazy, I expect," she replied. "No, no, not crazy, but I have learnt to drive a car and now I want to get a licence. I am uncertain of driving down to the village. Will you come and drive behind me please?" I told her I had already phoned the local policeman, who was a good friend to both of us, and he was willing to let me try.

Ellen said, "Yes, I will come."

I had not been this far afield, but with Ellen behind me I felt more confident, despite an empty feeling in the pit of my stomach. The policeman was waiting and Ellen went off to keep another appointment.

I had strapped the boys in the back and even put a cushion on the seat for the policeman. But, of course, I had to explain to him that if I stalled he might have to push.

He agreed and we set off, up and down the village street, doing all the things one had to do to get a licence. The damn thing stalled a few times and willingly he got out and pushed. We came to rest at last opposite the police station.

Then he said, "I have really had this b—— thing, but I think you can manage, I'll give you your licence. Then you shift this thing out of here. I never want to see it again!"

I came out of the station, proudly holding the piece of paper that meant I was capable of driving a car. By that time, the "thing" had had enough too: no amount of cranking would make it start.

The policeman phoned the local garage. The owner came down, walked all around the truck and said, "A woman has no right to be driving a thing like this, I wouldn't touch it."

He left me there, considering how best to get home. I decided that the shortest way with the boys would be to cross the river. The raft, of course, was on my side and I would have to swim over to get it.

I told Robert to hold my precious piece of paper, stripped off as much clothing as I dared and dived in. It was May and the river was already very cold. The cable was too far above my head to reach. In midstream I felt a cramp in my legs and splashed about wildly. At last I reached the raft.

Returning, I got dressed and, with our boots hanging over our shoulders, we made the crossing back. We put our boots on and struggled up the hill to home.

Well, I had a licence but no car. The policeman had to tolerate the sight of it standing across the road from his office for the next 10 months or so until Rod came back. I was very sorry for him but could not afford to have the thing towed away. A tow truck would have to come from the city and that would be very expensive.

I am quite certain that in this day and age I would not be allowed to put such a heap of metal on the road, or if I did I would most likely be sent to prison. But things were different then. The village was quiet, only about two people owned cars.

Several of my later models were not much better. I remember one old touring car, where the spring sat up on the seat beside me and there was a deep hollow in the driving seat. It had no side curtains for protection against the weather. One day I was in the city when a cloudburst struck. I stopped the car and watched everybody running for shelter. I just had to sit there. If I had left, I would have come back to find a lake in the driving seat.

Whenever I ventured forth in these old cars, it would be with a quickly beating heart and a hollow feeling in the pit of my stomach, wondering if I would ever reach my destination or return safely home. It is not surprising that I have no love for things mechanical, but "needs must when the devil drives" and in time I learnt to do minor repairs.

Years later, when my younger son, Evan, grew up, he proved to be a very good mechanic and loved nothing better than tinkering with cars. He seemed to have a natural gift. Robert, on the other hand, loathed mechanical things as much as I did. His first love was horses and he was even breeding ponies for children. He would have been happy to have lived in the days of horsedrawn vehicles. He was also an excellent rabbit trapper and fisherman, so each boy contributed to his share of the family well-being.

I may say now that I have not driven a car for some years. While I might have managed to cope with unreliable old wrecks, I find today's traffic much too heavy and too fast. My cars could never reach a speed of more than 25 miles per hour. When I began to find road signs and signals and traffic lights, which were not invented in my driving days, I decided to give up before I became a menace to other drivers.

To be continued.

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They have a song to sing

Selections from Gilbert and Sullivan operas will be presented by the Victorian Gilbert and Sullivan Society at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Saturday, August 15 at 8pm. Proceeds will aid the Citizens' Advice Bureau and supper will be provided. Tickets, available from the bureau at the community centre, are \$7.50 for adults, \$5 concession and \$3 for students. Enquiries to 844 3082 between 10.30am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.



Monica and Malcolm Harris, following their recent wedding in Atlanta, USA

Jumble sale

The Warrandyte Girl Guides Association's famous jumble sale will take place on Saturday, September 5 from 10am to 2pm on the lawn in front of the veterinary clinic, corner Melbourne Hill Road and Houghton Road. Donations of saleable goods will be gratefully received. They can be dropped at the vet's between 8am and 6.30pm weekdays. Contact Kerri on 844 3071.

Asthma

A special meeting of the Parents With Allergy Kids support group will be held at the North Ringwood Community House, 120 Oban Road, North Ringwood on Tuesday, August 18 at 7.30pm. The guest speaker will be Darren Birch, education officer with the Asthma Foundation. He will cover all aspects of asthma, trigger factors and medication. Further information from Cathy on 560 4613 or Liz on 870 7015.

Parkcare

There will be a Parkcare day at Whipstick Gully in the Warrandyte State Park (Melways ref. 23 E12) on Sunday, August 23. There will be information displays from 1 to 3pm and environmental activities with Ranger Dave at 2pm. Drop in for billy tea in the bush

and join in the fun. There'll be something for all ages and activities are free. Enquiries to Fay Valcanis or Ranger David Bockle on 844 2659.

Open night

The Rotary Club of Warrandyte invites interested visitors to an open night on Tuesday, August 25 at Alfreds Homestead, Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, Warrandyte. The evening commences at 6.30 for 7pm and AFL umpires John Russo and Glen James will be guest speakers. For further information and reservations phone Philip Nutbeam on 874 3455 or 722 2025.

Wedding

Friends of Malcom Harris, formerly of Warrandyte, will be interested to hear of his recent

marriage in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, to Monica Manchulic of Pennsylvania. Malcolm's parents, Bonnie and Ron Harris of Harris Gully Road, attended the wedding. Monica and Malcolm have made their home in Atlanta.

Welcome

There was further excitement in the Harris household in Harris Gully Road recently when their tennis-playing son Graeme and daughter-in-law Ann Minter became the proud parents of a baby daughter, Caterina Elizabeth, on July 17. Ron and Bonnie are very happy grandparents, as are Derek and Valerie Minter of North Box Hill.

Travellers

Louise Joy will speak at the gathering of the Armchair Travellers



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.

Group at the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House in the community centre on Wednesday, August 26 from 1.30 to 3pm. She will tell of her recent visit to Great Britain and Switzerland. The group meets on the last Wednesday of each month and everyone is most welcome.

Facilities

A wide range of spaces is available in our new community centre for hire by groups, individuals and commercial organisations, with special rates for community activities. For meeting, parties, receptions—even weddings—enquiries to 844 4503 or 844 4501.

Nursing mums

The Warrandyte branch of the Nursing Mothers' Association will be holding an informal coffee morning at 10am on Wednesday, August 26 at 506 Park Road, Park Orchards. Their next discussion night will be on Tuesday, September 1 at the Neighbourhood House in the Warrandyte Community Centre. A local doctor will be the guest speaker. All expectant mothers and those with babies or young children are welcome. For further information on these activities or on breastfeeding, ring Maree Burns on 844 2897 or Judy Finger on 844 3150.

WCC swell ranks for new season

Warrandyte Cricket Club have bolstered the ranks for the upcoming season with the addition of two teams.

Back after a season's absence from the competition will be a men's sixth eleven and an under-16 side. Warrandyte were unable to find the numbers to field these teams in 1991-92.

The return of the under-16s is particularly important because this grade is the real stepping stone in the transition from juniors to seniors. It means the Dytes will be represented at junior level in the new season by two under-12 teams, under-14s and under-16s.

"We were particularly keen to resurrect the under-16s because obviously their absence left a huge gap between junior and senior competition," WCC president Mark Davis told the *Diary*. "It also meant that a lot of very promising young players were looking elsewhere for a game of cricket."

"Our junior program faltered badly last season because of lack of support from parents. The club will be looking for a much bigger contribution from parents this season."

Any junior who wants to try out with the club is invited to contact Davis (844 1186, or 603 3825 during business hours) or junior administrator

SPORT

Frank Russell (844 1559).

The new season starts on October 3 with the men's sides looking for a big improvement on 1991-92 performances and the women's eleven determined to achieve back-to-back premierships.

Indoor practice for the men is already under way at the Maddox Sports nets in Mary Street, Blackburn, on Wednesday nights and outdoor training will start next month. The women will start indoor training at the Maddox centre on September 3.

Senior coach John Sharman, who is preparing for his third season with Warrandyte, is enthusiastic about prospects.

The club are looking for new senior players and when this edition of the *Diary* went to press were negotiating with a very well-credentialed fast bowler. Davis would like to hear from any other player who is keen for a game.

Junior practice starts in September and the club will further the junior cause by running a bigger and better Kanga cricket competition for schoolchildren on Friday nights. Notices will be sent to schools inviting participation in the competition.

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Now we get dinkum!

Warrandyte will come off a five-goal defeat by Kilsyth for a rematch in the Eastern Districts Football League third division first semi-final. But the prospect of reversing the result is not nearly as daunting as it might appear.

The Bloods chose to rest their big guns and allow other players time to recover from niggling injuries when they met Kilsyth at home on August 8. It will be a different line-up for the first semi at Waverley on August 15.

Rested from the last home-and-away game were captain-coach David Purcell, ruckman Kimberley O'Connor (favorite for another best and fairest award) and key position player Darren Murphy. Other players, including courageous ballgetter Jamie Weatherly, were given the afternoon off to have them fully fit for the finals.

In all, seven players were missing from the side and of those, all but full-forward John O'Brien and defender Matt Luttick, who have ankle injuries, are likely to play in the first semi-final.

Purcell took a calculated risk at training on the Thursday night before the August 8 game when he decided to go into match with a "makeshift" team.

Warrandyte were third on the ladder and could finish no worse than that. There was a very rough chance of second spot, and the double chance in the finals, if they beat Kilsyth by a big margin and Forest Hills (second) lost

Coach to quit but play on



Warrandyte Football Club senior coach David Purcell (pictured) will quit at the end of this season. Purcell, who has led the Bloods into the finals in both his seasons at the helm, is resigning for business and family reasons but will continue as a player.

The players were officially told of Purcell's decision after training on Thursday, August 13, two days before their first semi-final against Kilsyth. Club president Laurie Sloan addressed the players and urged them to "do it for Purcell" in the finals.

Purcell was recruited from Heidelberg, in the Diamond Valley league, before the start of the 1991 season and has won universal respect at the

club. He performed a minor football miracle by getting Warrandyte into the finals in his first season after losing the first three games, the first two by huge margins.

"I have just taken on a business and I have a young family," Purcell told the Diary.

"I can no longer afford the time to devote to coaching the way I believe it must be done—and that includes being first on the track each training night.

"I have enjoyed the coaching experience at Warrandyte and I will enjoy playing here next season."

The club will accept Purcell's resignation with much regret. The coaching position for 1993 will be advertised.

badly to The Basin.

As it turned out, Forest Hills were defeated by 24 points, but Purcell stood by his decision—which had the full support of Warrandyte Football Club president Laurie Sloan—to avoid the risk of further injuries to key players on the eve of the finals in what has been an injury-plagued season.

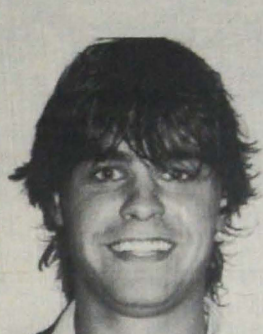
Another factor in the coach's thinking was an early finals encounter with unbeaten Donvale, who are hot favourites for the premiership.

Purcell said after the Kilsyth game it was difficult to envisage

Donvale—who demolished Warrandyte by 181 points on July 11—being beaten in the finals, and he criticised the EDFL for allowing that club to compete in third division in their first season in this league.

Donvale had won four consecutive premierships in the eastern suburban churches competition before crossing to the EDFL.

"Obviously, they should have gone straight into second division," Purcell said. "I know that would have meant relegating another second division club and that might have ruined that club's season."



Lachlan McLean—three huge goals against Kilsyth.

led all afternoon against Warrandyte in the game leading up to the first semi-final. Final score was 17.18 (120) to 13.12 (90).

There weren't many highlights, but centre half-forward Lachlan McLean provided three—three huge goals as only he can kick them.

Warrandyte will host an EDFL grand final breakfast for all third division clubs at the Waverley ground on September 5, starting at 8 am. Tickets are \$20 and it is hoped that guest speakers will include Brisbane Bears coach (and former Carlton premiership coach) Robert Walls.

The Bloods' presentation night will be held at the Park Orchards Chalet on Show Eve (September 23). Tickets, at \$50 a double and \$27 single) are available at the clubrooms or from committee members.

"But placing them in third division has probably ruined the seasons of the nine other clubs in this division."

Purcell has by no means abandoned hope of a Warrandyte premiership—"Finals football is a different competition"—and president Sloan points to the Bloods' first encounter with Donvale this season as a "positive".

"We played them at Donvale, kicked inaccurately and lost by only 23 points," he said. "If things go our way a little, we can beat them."

For the record, Kilsyth, who had to win to hold fourth spot,

SPORT

Netball girls best of rivals

The best traditions of friendly rivalry have set the scene for some great red-and-white netball in the finals of the Doncaster and District winter competition.

Seven of the 13 Warrandyte teams made the finals, and they include the undefeated Wasps, logical favourites in the Open B section.

But the most spirited competition is likely to come from the two Warrandyte teams in the Under-17Bs, the Jetz (who qualified second) and the Jaffas (third).

And whatever the result, the handshakes will be sincere.

These girls have trained together for years in the lower age groups and have met often before in finals.

They bring out the best in each other on the court and are great mates off it.

The Wedgetails (Under-15 Section 1) lived up to their names by flying high in their last qualifying game, beating Nunawading by eight goals and replacing them on top of the ladder.

In terrible weather conditions at The Pines courts, goalers Julia Slussareff and Joe Milner were outstanding, particularly in the last quarter.

The entire team—Kate Murray, Jacqui Thurlow, Larissa Aumann, Penny Turvel, Nikki Barrow, Rebecca Leone, Julia and Joe—have put together a great season.

Despite an illness-plagued season, the Wildcats (Under-15 Section 3) lost only two games and qualified second. They were looking for a change of luck in the finals.

The Woodpeckers (Under-13, Section 2) finished third on the ladder and their enthusiasm, and the improvement they had shown throughout the season, suggested it would take a very good team to stop them.

Warrandyte's Open C team is just another of the season's success stories. Often struggling to field a full team, they qualified on top and wouldn't hear of anything less than a premiership.

Plastics pour it on in finals boilover

By CLINTON GRYPAS

The Plastics produced one of the biggest upsets in the history of Warrandyte Basketball Club's senior competition by downing reigning premiers Andersons Creek in the grand final.

It was the first premiership for the Plastics, who won 31-30 in overtime.

Before a large and boisterous crowd at Warrandyte High School, the Creek looked all set for another championship when they opened up an 11-4 margin early, with Stan Slabon (15 points for the match) making the plays.

Gary Cleeland (nine points) and Paul Sleeth (eight) rallied the Plastics late in the half, however, and it was all tied up at 14

at the interval.

The second half was memorable, with two desperate teams slugging it out and never more than two shots separating them.

Eventually, Laurie Bradford took control of the game, his 12 points leading the Plastics to their first victory over Andersons Creek in four seasons and 11 encounters.

The final minute was a heart-stopping affair. John Zigmantis, who had contributed seven points, had the chance to win it for the Creek, but with just two seconds on the clock his jump shot missed narrowly and forced the game into extra time.

The hero of the extended play was Shane Pitt, whose only basket for the night produced only the second defeat of the season

for Andersons Creek in the over-30 section.

For Plastics in general and Pitt in particular, it was a classic case of saving the best until last.

In the open section, Makeshift made it back-to-back premierships with a gruelling 43-35 win over the Hitmen.

Chris McIntosh (19 points) confirmed his status as the competition's most valuable player, pushing the lead out early for Makeshift. The short-handed Hitmen edged back to trail by just two with four minutes to play before Simon Appleby made it look safe with a couple of baskets inside the key.

Nick Arnott (12 points) spearheaded one last furious Hitmen charge, but they ran out of time before really threatening.

Goldtown Open wins 5 stars

Warrandyte's Goldtown Open tournament has been upgraded to a 5 star event on the Victorian Tennis Association's points circuit. This follows a decision by tournament sponsors, Biscote Britannia, to increase the prize money to a record level of \$5000.

The 1992 Goldtown, the ninth to be run by the Warrandyte Tennis Club, will be staged across four days, from Thursday, September 10, through to Sunday, September 13. It will be held at the club's Tarroona Avenue courts and other local courts.

Previous winners include international players Richard Fromberg and Ann Minter and local star Ian Peter-Budge. As well as the open sections, the tournament caters for several levels of players with a series of graded events.

Club president Greg Lawrence told the Diary that due to the large number of entries anticipated, early rounds for the graded events and the qualifying round of the men's open section are scheduled for Sunday,

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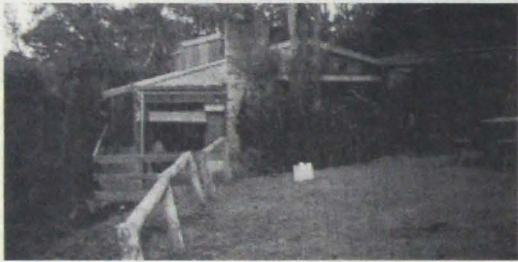
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PLUMBER wants house any area. Lock up garage, can be in any condition, will fix up.

ACCOUNTANT looking to buy upmarket home on at least an acre, prefer 3 car garage, tennis court and inground pool, will spend up to \$650,000.

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COMPUTER PROGRAMMER wants to relocate to Wonga Park. Has sold house must buy soon. Land more important than house. Please call soon - must buy a home up to \$200,000.

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CAR SALESMAN desperate for 4 bedroom home with pool, is renting locally. Prefer newer home.

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"7 Days a Week"



"I LOVE A FAR HORIZON"

\$184,950

A Garden Haven on over a third of an acre. Comprising three bedrooms, formal lounge, family room, solid timber kitchen, rumpus room and study. All with a double L/U garage. Your inspection is highly recommended.



"CUTE COUNTRY CLASSIC"

\$119,950

On a third of an acre abutting a creek reserve, this home in need of a little TLC, would ideally suit the first home buyer. Comprising 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge, large kitchen/meals area and renovated bathrooms.



"LIGHT, BRIGHT & AIRY"

\$170,000+

Featuring raked cathedral ceilings, two levels with large entertaining areas. This warm family home comprises four bedrooms, large family room, separate dining/lounge plus enormous rumpus area. Inspection highly recommended.



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— Rental Properties Urgently Required —

183-187 YARRA STREET, WARRANDYTE **844 3085**

PETER McDOUGALL & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD

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