

Group to work on disaster schemes

By GEORGI STICKELS

Organisers hope latest moves for a new disaster plan for Warrandyte will result in heightened fire awareness and renewed community-wide action.

Last month more than 200 people, from both sides of the river, attended a public meeting called by the North Warrandyte CFA.

The meeting reported on the working party submission to the 1991 fire inquiry. Also discussed were the very supportive coroner's findings, handed down in April, and possible action for future fire seasons.

Doncaster councillor Louise Joy, who missed a council meeting to attend the fire meeting, praised the organisers for including representatives from both sides of the river.

"It was a very well organised community meeting, really in the true spirit of community consultation," she told the *Diary*.

But the most important outcome of the meeting was a resolution, passed by residents, to work with authorities towards a new emergency fire plan, or Displan. The February fire revealed several problems with the existing plan, including access, evacuation, community education and water supply.

The resolution states: "We citizens of North Warrandyte, at this specially convened meeting and in recognition of the unique needs of our community in times of emergency, affirm our resolve to form a Community Emergency Planning Group for the purposes of identifying, then addressing, specific community concerns through the development and implementation of a formal Displan, specifically for the Warrandyte community".

The Community Emergency Planning Group (CEPG) comprises 15 North Warrandyte residents, with two volunteer representatives—John Cox and Cr Joy—from south of the river.

The CEPG aims to identify residents' key concerns about the fire and, with locals, find solu-

tions. It will also liaise with residents and authorities, such as the SES, police, local and state governments, Melbourne Water and fire brigades.

Chairman of the CEPG, David Lynch, told the *Diary* he is confident of steady progress. "A lot of the issues I think we can work through fairly quickly," he said.

The meeting's organisers were thrilled with the community's response. "From a fire brigade point of view it's terrific. We've finally convinced them that they can really do something," North Warrandyte CFA captain, John Swindley, told the *Diary*.

David Lynch said residents have taken a major step towards being prepared for a fire.

"They recognised it wasn't the CFA's responsibility, it wasn't the police's responsibility, it's the community's responsibility."

John Swindley said they are keen to "see what ideas residents have got for solving some of the problems".

"It has to involve the community," he said.

David Lynch said these ideas needn't be formal submissions. "Just jot things down. Individuals have already started sending notes to the CEP Group. Everybody can have input," he said.

Residents can write to North Warrandyte CFA, Glynn Road, North Warrandyte. Copies of the working party's submission and the coroner's finding are available from the CAB at the Warrandyte Community Centre.

The group is anxious that residents south of the river should not feel overlooked. "The river divides us with an artificial boundary," David Lynch said.

The CEPG realises problems may arise because the town's authorities are segregated. Warrandyte and North Warrandyte have separate councils, SES, police and CFA services. Many CEPG members feel they need to resolve issues specific to the North Warrandyte fire before working with all authorities on a Displan for the whole township.

● Letter—page 4; Comment—page 5.

We wish you a merry...



Choristers Gareth Millington (Victorian Boys' Choir), Linda Utt (Victorian Children's Choir), Andrea Fox and Joanna Gray, all of Warrandyte Primary School, rehearse in beautiful St Stephens church for this year's Christmas carol service at Stiggants Reserve. The ecumenical service will be held on Sunday, December 20, commencing at 8pm.

● Christmas church services: page 14.

Thank you folks, for a great year

It's been an exciting year here at the *Diary*. Thanks to the generosity of Warrandyte Rotary and Lions Club we have been able to add computerised picture processing to our onscreen typesetting and page make-up facility.

For those technically interested, the entire newspaper now leaves our office on computer cassette, is translated to negative film by the skilled (and patient!) team at Allardice Graphic Arts, to be printed web offset by our friends at York Press.

The *Diary* doesn't just happen. Each month a team of local folk—mainly voluntary—work hard to produce Australia's best community paper. They deserve our thanks.

Reporters this year included David Wyman, Georgi Stickels, Georgie Waterman, Ingrid Kleinhenz, Kym Smith, Jane

Richardson and sports writers Clinton Grybas and David Kutcher.

Features were written by Bruce Bence, Judy Macdonald, Ken Virtue, Eve Evans and Glen Jameson. Among occasional contributors were Marion Winton, Yvonne Reid, Jane Stickels, Helen Cahill, Dulcie Gedge, Neil Pearson, Robert White, Bob Millington, Louise Joy and Kylie Moppert.

Our columnists—Smokey Joe, Pat Coupar, Roger Kibell and Judy Green—deserve special mention, as do our artists—Jock Macneish, Paul Williams, Joff Manders, Melanie Coupar and Wayne Rankin.

Jan Tindale, Sandy Burgoyne, George Waterman, Emma Wood, Kirsten O'Loughlin, Lois Dimmock, David Garner and Shirley and Ted Rotherham took the photos and Alan Leisham processed them.

The paper was edited by Cliff Green and Lee Tindale, with the help of sub-editor Georgi Stickels. Chief of staff Jan Tindale held it all together. Rachel McArdle set the type, processed the pictures and composed the pages. Computer expert Gavin Dimmock provided invaluable assistance.

Di Oriander sold advertising and managed accounts, Colin Davis looked after our corporate affairs and Bruce and Wilma Bence distributed the paper.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to our advertisers (who have made it all possible through these hard times), our distribution points and especially to you, our loyal and valued readers.

Here's wishing everyone a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a brighter 1993. The *Diary* is taking a holiday next month. See you in February.

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By PAUL WILLIAMS



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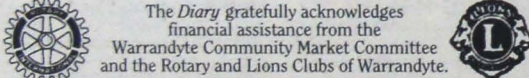
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The Diary gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from the Warrandyte Community Market Committee and the Rotary and Lions Clubs of Warrandyte.



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And a happy 21st to you, Little Bo Peep

The last thing Kate Liddell really wanted to do on her 21st birthday was to go chasing sheep through the North Warrandyte bush. But like the sweet thing she is, she got out of bed and sleepily came to the rescue when Nobby flew the coop. Nobby, the pet of Kate's brother Damien and his wife Monica, is no ordinary sheep. She was convalescing at the Liddell's, in Research Road after being savaged by a dog at her home in The Boulevard and had developed escaping from her pen into an art form. This time she was browsing in a neighbour's garden when Kate eventually caught up with her. The birthday girl celebrated her coming of age at a party that night at the Governor Hotham Hotel in Hawthorn.

IN RED & WHITE



Kate Liddell

In the latest issue of Oddball, Mulgas says he just tried to "crack a few funnies" and a few people failed to catch his sense of humour. We happen to know, though, that he is hoping his TV set doesn't break down because he doesn't like his chances of getting it serviced by a fellow who used to be his mate.

There are actually two Mulgas writing for Oddball, Bill and Fred, and we liked Fred's piece in the November edition about the folk who man the club canteen. We quote, in part: "You may wonder why Judy McHugh does the soup, instead of Pauline Dusing. Pauline has a habit of straining her veggie soup through a colander over the sink and forgetting to put a bowl underneath. Then there's Ruth Rankin, who set the microwave timer for 30 minutes to cook an egg and blew off the oven door, which went clean over Court 2, straight between the goalposts on the football ground (stopping a certain goal) and eventually came to rest on the Thomsons' tree fern in Fossickers Way."

Cute note (and a cute gesture) from South Warrandyte Fire Brigade: "The captain and members wish to advise residents of the area covered by the brigade that on December 20, between the hours of 8.30am and 1.30pm, Father Christmas will visit your area on a fire truck to wish you all a merry Christmas. For the children, sweets will be distributed by the volunteer firefighters, who will be showing Father Christmas the way to your homes."

Warrandyte Tennis Club stalwart Geoff French, of Ringwood, is between wives at the moment, having been married and divorced three times. And there is more than a mere touch of irony about the fact that he has won a teaching scholarship to Alaska—which has the highest divorce rate in the world. He might be able to teach them something about it.

We'd been keeping our fingers crossed for the orchard on the corner of King Street and Tuckers Road. One of the last survivors of what used to be the orchard belt, it looked for quite a while to have escaped the developers. Alas, the hoarding announces Serpells Estate will contain 54 housing lots and the bulldozers have already moved in. Doesn't anyone eat fruit any more?

There is a bit of a legend at the Warrandyte RSL Club that if you and your partner fail to pot a ball in a pool game, you must drop your daks. The ultimate humiliation. But we have it on immaculate authority that Peter (Bottles) Norman and Jeff Riddle refused to flash their jocks after Mick O'Kane (partnered by Geoff Feltham) potted his seven balls and the black off the break. Bottles produced a little-known and archaic rule that the trousers thing didn't apply if you hadn't had a shot.

Don't be surprised if you see a new planting of vines somewhere along Bradleys Lane over the coming months. Jan Hall and Ian Biram of that same fixed address asked so many searching technical questions of winemaker Neil Paulett at Warrandyte Cellars grand little nosh-up at Pancakes on the Yarra last month, Smokey suspects they must be going into a similar line of business.

Which leads directly to another similar line of business: Smokey Joe's very own port. Just the stuff for Christmas, and profits help the Diary equipment fund. It's a top drop inside, but it would be worth it just for Wayne Rankin's label. The Famous Old Tawny suffered a fair wallop at the Diary thanksgiving party last month, but Peter Maher at Warrandyte Cellars begs to assure discerning drinkers he still has a little left. Like about a thousand dozen bottles.

A bloke who calls himself Mulga Bill (and who clearly fancies himself as a bit of a Smokey Joe) has stirred up a right hornets' nest at Warrandyte Tennis Club. Writing in Oddball, the club's monthly newsletter, with a pen dipped in vitriol, Mulga fired off barbs at members he considered were not pulling their weight. No names here, because we've always been on the best of terms with the tennis club, but it upset quite a few. He also suggested that when extensions to the clubhouse were built, they would become a sort of inner sanctum, the domain of a privileged few. Smokey sought out this Mulga Bill bloke for an explanation. "I just wanted to bore it up the hierarchy a bit," he confided. Well, he sure did that.

The Kangaroo Ground rubbish tip will close at the end of January and in a grand, generous gesture, Eltham council extended the validity of last financial year's tip vouchers to November 15. And on November 18 it sent North Warrandyte residents a letter informing them of this privilege! When one ratepayer phoned the council to say "Good one, Eltham", some desk jockey there told her she should have read her local paper. "It was in the Diamond Valley News," he said. We don't think the council chap knows much about local papers. Or geography.

Well, that's it from Smokey for '92. Thanks for your readership, and particular thanks to those people who dobed in their mates. Don't know what we'd do without you. And now your ever faithful columnist is off to cool the old eye-shaded word processor in the foaming briny. See you in February.

Smokey Joe



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Tight controls on new Wedge zone

By DAVID WYMAN

Doncaster-Templestowe council is pushing ahead with framing the controls and guidelines for a proposed new zone, to cover the Green Wedge.

The possibility of a new zone follows suggestions in environmental reports that the existing Landscape Interest A, Landscape Interest C and Conservation A zones be replaced by a single non-urban zone with strict controls.

The current zones restrict further development in most of the Green Wedge. The recent environmental studies of "visual significance" and "botanical and zoological significance" state that these zonings and the numerous controls are confusing and ineffective in protecting biological values.

These studies recommend a range of

incentives for landowners to properly manage and maintain land in the Green Wedge, and call for a public awareness program to educate residents on enriching local flora and fauna resources.

Doncaster council has announced its support for these proposals, which the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Environmental Study Group, representing most Green Wedge interests, has overseen.

Cr Val Polley told the *Diary* that the committee expected to receive options for a new zone, the public education program and the landowner incentives from council staff early in March.

"I am watching with interest to see how the words on land use controls come out," she said.

"The main reason for the current zoning was that the land was considered such that it should not be subdivided,

for all sorts of reasons.

"All the Green Wedge areas around Melbourne are under some threat. If we can come up with a definition of a new zone, which meets people's concerns on both sides, (and it's a fairly big if) then we'd be leading the charge.

"We're hopeful that we can come up with something that will at last allay the fears of residents about development and preservation of the Green Wedge," Cr Polley said.

"Preservation of the Green Wedge has always been a bipartisan policy. The present government has given every indication that they were prepared to accept the Green Wedge as a concept."

Local planners and environmentalists are basing much of their work on the two reports, "Environmental Studies East of Mullum Mullum Creek", available at lo-

cal libraries and council offices.

Local resident and WEL spokesman Doug Seymour told the *Diary*, "I have no problem with the recommendation that a new zone be developed. I have written to council officers expressing our interest in the next stage of work in a new zone.

"The best attitude at this stage is to participate and get some Warrandyte views across. Any change to the scheme which could lead to us losing the character and the values of the area would have to be contested by us," he said.

Another, anonymous, resident contacted the *Diary*, pointing out that "guidelines of subdivision controls" contained in the zoological study stated that subdivision would be allowed, albeit under strict controls.

"The fact that subdivision is men-

tioned in the report means that it's on the agenda," she said. "Unless you say 'no subdivision', it will happen."

Cr Polley said one group doesn't want the word subdivision to appear anywhere in any plan for the area, while an opposing group says they won't do anything unless it's in there.

"I wouldn't use the word 'subdivision' at all," she said. "But it may be possible to see some development; it depends on what sort and whether it meets the objective of maintaining the Green Wedge; meeting the landscape and control objectives."

Several residents are also concerned that a new minimum lot size had been recommended. Cr Polley said the problem with minimum lot size was "it becomes the standard and everybody goes for it".

Wildlife is prey for pets in park

Rangers at Warrandyte State Park are increasingly concerned for the welfare of native wildlife and urge residents to keep pets under control, both on and off their properties, particularly as summer and warmer weather approach.

During this season native fauna become more active, looking for breeding grounds and mates, and foraging for food. Head ranger Ian Roche said that this makes wildlife more susceptible to attacks by predators.

"The number of reports of injured, sick or orphaned wildlife increases at this time of the year," he said.

In October a koala was killed by a dog in the Pound Bend reserve. The young she carried in her pouch made her slower, an easy prey. Two kangaroos have been killed in separate incidents at Stane Brae, and another injured, as they were harassed by dogs.

"While one dog distracted the kangaroo the other dog attacked it. The kangaroo has very little or no chance of survival," Ian Roche said.

Ranger Fay Vulcanis told the *Diary* wildlife attack is a major problem all year round. "These are just the ones we notice, there would be more that we don't notice as well," she said.

The rangers say residents can help by keeping their own pets at home, and warning neighbours to do the same. Pets seen roaming the streets should be reported to the owners, local pound or, if the animals are in state parks, to the park rangers.

"Keeping pets under control at all times not only helps protect wildlife from attack but it also ensures that pets are protected from being injured or destroyed," Ian Roche said.



This koala and her young are among the victims so far this spring, killed by a pet dog at Pound Bend Reserve.

Council's five year plan for local conservation

Doncaster Council will release one of the first of its completed policies, a Local Conservation Strategy, at a launch by the Mayor, Cr John Thompson, on Monday, December 14.

The council has several other policies, on youth and the Warrandyte streetscape, for viewing at local libraries and municipal offices. These policies are still in the draft stages, and public comment is invited.

Mary-Ann Taranto, from the council's strategic planning unit, told the *Diary* that several conservation related studies, such as the Open Space, Waste Management and Mullum Mullum Creek strate-

gies, will be integrated under this new conservation banner.

"The strategy aims to tie together all conservation and environment related reports and activities presently being considered or undertaken by council, identify gaps and seek to address these," she said.

Ms Taranto said the strategy is based on ecologically sustainable development, a concept also supported by state, national and international conservation policies.

"In the past, conservation and development have been seen as mutually exclusive. There is now growing recognition that our long-term survival and prosper-

ity depend on integrating the two," she said.

The strategy will focus on energy use, recycling, building design and transport as they affect the environment, and encourage community education programs to "think globally, act locally". A direct outcome of the strategy is council's decision to appoint a conservation officer.

The Conservation Strategy project was begun in December 1991, and has involved consultation with residents, including workshops, displays, and the release of an issues paper.

A draft of the strategy was released in July. The process

has been overseen by a steering committee of councillors, council officers, local residents and representatives from Melbourne Water and the Department of Conservation and Environment.

The strategy will be fully reviewed and updated at the end of five years, while undergoing annual review in areas that arise locally.

Residents are invited to attend the launch at Schramm's Cottage, beginning at 7pm. Copies of the strategy and its summary will be available in local libraries and for purchase from municipal offices, following the launch.

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Creche capers

By JANE RICHARDSON

A recent addition to the community centre has helped bring about an extension to the child care program. With a new adventure playground for the children, the program can now operate on a five day basis with two sessions per day, from the beginning of next year.

Margory Lapworth, who started the playground project, told the *Diary* that it was built as a result of the rising numbers of children attending the sessions. The expansion, which was funded by Doncaster council, will allow an extra four sessions per week.

The playground has been designed to suit children under the age of six, and is open for use by the general public as well as for creche children.



Children are already making use of the community centre's new playground. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Two are one

Warrandyte has possibly never had a better chance to demonstrate to local authorities, which divide our town at the river, that we are one town. But the events in motion regarding the CEPG and progress towards a new Displan are threatening to boil over into small-minded village bickering.

It is bad enough that Warrandyte is physically separated by two local councils, police districts, SES bodies and CFA brigades. Are we also to be divided as a community?

Some people south of the river seem a little miffed that they were not letterboxed about the November 10 public meeting, as were North Warrandyte resi-

dents. Certainly it is true that only two of the 17 CEPG members are from the south bank.

But this does not mean North Warrandyte residents are giving their southern neighbours the cold shoulder. We all share an interest in protecting the town from future fires and look forward to putting together a fire plan for the whole township.

But first there are several issues north residents need to resolve which relate directly and specifically to the last fire which others can do little to help sort out. Such issues include boosting our water supply, possible CFA escorts for residents returning home, the role of the North Warrandyte Community Centre

LETTERS

and learning to prepare defence plans for our own homes.

In the long term, many of these issues will probably be extended to the whole town and be incorporated into the united Displan.

In the meantime, don't let this issue divide our goodwill as well as our authorities, or get in the way of productive problem solving. We all want one Warrandyte, and here is an opportunity to prove just how closely we are tied.

Georgi Stickels
Research Road

Signed letters are preferred. If pen-names are used, actual names and addresses must be included, even if not to be published.

Medals missing

On a visit to England in 1972 I bought four medals in a second hand shop. They were a Defence Medal, Tiewmouth County Durham Medal, Gold colour Medal, presented to Spr. J Nesbit, Northumberland Fusseliers.

I never wore them to Anzac parades as a respect to the original owner, but I treasured them. I seem to have lost them over the last few weeks and wondered if anyone who may have found them sees this ad in the *Diary*, so I might get them back.

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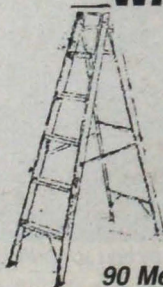
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It's up to residents to be ready for the fire season

COMMENT

By BRUCE BENCE*

Local residents can do a great deal to ensure their safety and survival during the next bushfire in the area.

First it is necessary to accept that Warrandyte is one of the highest fire danger areas in the world, and then it is possible to preplan what must be done before the next fire comes. It is too late when the fire is coming over the hill.

The best way to gain the necessary knowledge and confidence is to join the CFA. Apart from being part of a magnificent community service, CFA training teaches members how to deal with emergency situations.

Since 1962, the CFA has also

contributed to fireplans for the area and organised fire fighting equipment and education programs for residents. This includes leaflet material which is distributed annually.

Warrandyte's fire brigades have won numerous Australian Fire Protection Association awards, most recently in 1986 and 1991. Peter Horne has, for more than 30 years, shown films, given talks and distributed publicity material to schools, kindergartens and youth groups.

The Warrandyte area has probably received more publicity on fire safety than any other area in Victoria.

No residence should be without a copy of Joan Webster's Complete Australian Bushfire Book, available from the historical society museum and CAB. Although there can be no guarantees in a bushfire, the advice and information in Joan's book

is the closest you will get to one at this time.

Still on gathering information, now is the time to write to councils for information on the fire season. In Eltham, write to Bernie Murray, Fire Prevention Officer, at the Emergency Operations Centre, Ness Lane, Kangaroo Ground, 3097. The phone number is 430 1277 and where necessary, Bernie will come out and give on-site advice.

In Doncaster and Templestowe, write to Brian Chandler, Fire Prevention Officer, P.O. Box 1, Doncaster, 3109. His phone number is 840 9297.

It is up to locals to find out for themselves how to deal with a fire, not wait for someone to come up and tell you.

Water supplies can be expected to drop during a fire, especially at homes on the top of a hill, so put in a static water supply, even if it is only a fish pond.

Young children and elderly people alone at home during fire is also a problem. A good idea is to arrange for them to stay with a friend or relative on all days of extreme fire danger or total fire ban. Another solution is to arrange for someone to help.

I arranged for two of my mates to come to Warrandyte and help my wife in the event of a fire; apart from doing her own fire drill, she also looked after her mother's place and an elderly widowed neighbour.

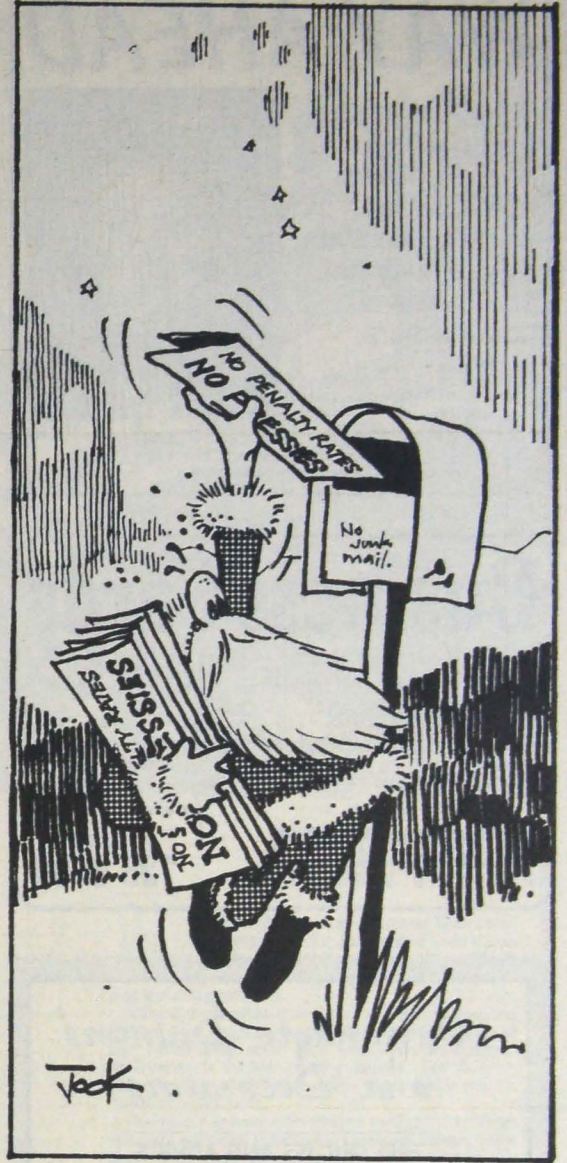
The police at roadblocks have an awesome responsibility with traffic control. Driving around roads during a bushfire is about the most dangerous thing you can do, and endangers not just residents, but often the firefighters who try to save them.

A breakthrough in local fire safety is Plenty Valley Radio, 88.6 FM, which has undertaken to broadcast information on fires as relayed directly from emergency officers at the Kangaroo Ground emergency centre during major fires. I suggest residents mark the station on their radios to make tuning to it faster.

All disastrous fires in Warrandyte have occurred when there have been multiple outbreaks in the surrounding area, which means we will have to share equipment with other areas. We rarely get the luxury we had in the last fire, where 60 fire-fighting units were available to help contain our local outbreak.

The advent of the Community Emergency Planning Group could also have an important impact in the future. Fires are a Warrandyte community problem, they can cross the river, seemingly, at will. We all must share the responsibility, and must all be prepared.

* Bruce Bence was a senior officer with the CFA.



From wide-eyed and innocent to class of '92

By KYM SMITH

Warrandyte High School has farewelled another class of year 12 candidates after its valedictory evening on October 29. The night was also an opportunity for students and teachers to look back over the year and recognise the achievements of many individuals.

All students received their profile, detailing their achievements while at the school, and a Warrandyte High School banner, to remember their school days.

This year 12 group was the first year seven intake into the

new school buildings in 1987, and the foyer was decorated with dozens of photos depicting the wide-eyed year sevens at various stages, right up to the young adults in the class of '92.

Students and teachers, both past and present, took their turn at the lectern, reflecting on school experiences and future directions. The school band swung the evening into gear, before the presentation of awards in a wide range of categories, including learning excellence in numerous disciplines and scholastic excellence.

A definite highlight of the

night was the speech made by special guest speaker, Mark McKeon. Mark's secret lay in his ability to make the everyday seem out of the ordinary. There was something in his words that everyone could relate to.

But each personal anecdote unfolded to reveal a message about attitudes to life; striving for goals, taking responsibility for your own actions, and being positive and happy.

Mark finished up by sharing his philosophy on life: "Things don't just happen, things happen just." Food for thought.

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WARRANTITTIES

By JOFF



Council plan suggests house colors, gardens

By GEORGI STICKELS

Suggested house colors, garden planting ideas and height limits on Yarra Street are included in a proposed Doncaster council township management plan for the Warrandyte Heritage Area.

Roger Collins, from council's town planning department told the *Diary* that although the policies would not become law, they would shape local council decisions regarding planning permits. He said that once the heritage guidelines are adopted, for example, they will have "increased status with the AAT".

This means the Administrative Appeals Tribunal will be more likely to support the council in preventing haphazard or high-density development, particularly of shops.

Cr Louise Joy told the *Diary* that several different planning drafts were underway, in an attempt by council "to pull together all the different long-term planning aspects for the city, because some of these areas have been gling along in a very ad-hoc manner".

The heritage guidelines, likely to cause some conflict in the town, apply to the whole of Warrandyte township and are very specific.

Based on the Warrandyte heritage study, published earlier this year, it recognises the importance of numerous buildings, including the village butcher's shop, the bakery, the old post office and the Grand Hotel.

To preserve the streetscape character, it recommends that "there will be no buildings larger in bulk or height than the Grand Hotel. The maximum height is two stories".

The proposed document says underground powerlines, open space and indigenous trees are also crucial to the streetscape, and should be preserved. In the past vacant sites "have contributed towards the low-density effect".

New or re-developed buildings will come under close council scrutiny. "Additions shall retain the building's authentic material, its cultural significance and be sympathetic to its character".

The guidelines recommend appropriate construction styles, depending on a building's age, including doors, verandahs, windows, fences and gates.

"In buildings before 1920 all windows should have double hung sashes. In buildings of the 1920s-40's casement sashes may be appropriate. Brick fences are not appropriate".

The draft recommends gravel verges over kerb and channel, except for "the south side of the commercial area of Yarra Street (Whipstick Gully Road to Mitchell Avenue)" preserving existing sandstone retaining walls. However it also favors practical "formed footpaths on both sides of Yarra Street".

The council also suggests specific color schemes. The draft supports recognised "heritage colors", such as slate, grey green, red oxide, mission brown, and stone. No bold yellows, reds, or blues of any shade are recommended by the council, for both commercial and residential sites in the town.

Perhaps the most controver-

sial part of the document is a critique of each address along Yarra Street, which includes comments such as "derelict", "bluestone pavilion and railing inappropriate" or "suggest reduce roof height".

Even the trees and shrubs come under scrutiny, with a recommended planting list rooted deep in the appendices. Kidney weed, clematis, running postman and certain types of grasses, eucalypts and wattles are deemed appropriate for our town, except for in the commercial district.

Roger Collins says this is to preserve the "strange quaint mixture of indigenous and exotic species in that area". The exotic species include the cherry plums and old cypress Diary Tree, which he says are an important part of the street's character.

"All we are really trying to do is preserve the existing look," Mr Collins said.

The draft guidelines are still in the early stages in council's consultation process for official policies.

A new deal for local youth

By GEORGI STICKELS

In another draft policy recently released for public comment, Doncaster and Templestowe council is re-examining its role in providing facilities for young people in the city.

The draft policy deals with areas as diverse as unemployment, youth housing and recreation.

It recommends that local young people should "have a sense of belonging and being listened to", be part of "supportive extended families" within "a safe community" with "no violence".

The draft supports greater responsibility for local government in an area traditionally the preserve of federal and state bodies.

Its main focus is on jobs for young people, who face up to 40% unemployment in some

areas. It recommends employer subsidies, small grants for job-creation schemes and publicity campaigns encouraging employers to take on more young workers.

The draft also recommends a continued commitment to the "provision of recreational learning and skill acquisition for young people (including a possible) tertiary training institute within the municipality".

Other features covered by the draft include proposals for increasing long-term and emergency housing, improving health services and education and sport and leisure facilities, particularly entertainment for under-18s and 18-22 year olds.

The draft aims to meet young people's "distinctive information needs", and "promote an awareness of young people's rights and responsibilities in respect of legal mat-

ters". It acknowledges that "young people have a wealth of energy and enthusiasm and make a valuable contribution to the life of the municipality".

The document suggests that many of these needs can be met, at least in the short term, on a low budget, or by diverting some funding from recreation or similar areas.

However the policy's authors recognise that young people's needs will change over time, and the policy must shift with them. "The Doncaster and Templestowe Youth Policy should be flexible enough to meet the changes in need and circumstance. To do this it should be reviewable and its relevance always open to challenge."

The draft is on display at public libraries, municipal offices, local secondary schools and the Doncaster Youth Resource Centre in Doncaster Road.

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It's no debate, Brook doesn't babble

By JANE RICHARDSON

A local year 12 student, Brook Hely, has been chosen by the Australian Debating Federation for the Australian Schools Debating Team for 1992-93.

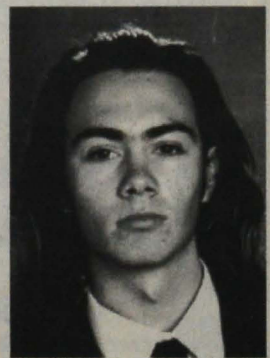
Brook, of Tills Drive, goes to Yarra Valley, and began his debating career in year 9. From there he became captain of the Victorian Schools Debating Team for the national competition, held in Queensland last July. He has since been chosen as one of six members for the Australian team.

Brook, who hopes to begin a law-arts degree next year, told the *Diary* that the competition attracts competitors from schools around the world. It will

be held in Canada in mid-January 1993. He and his team will do battle against teams from such countries as Scotland, New Zealand, England and Israel, to name a few.

He said he was looking forward to the debating, and believes Australia has a strong chance of winning, with an exceptional track record over the last four years. They have reached three grand finals and one semi-final, unprecedented by any other country.

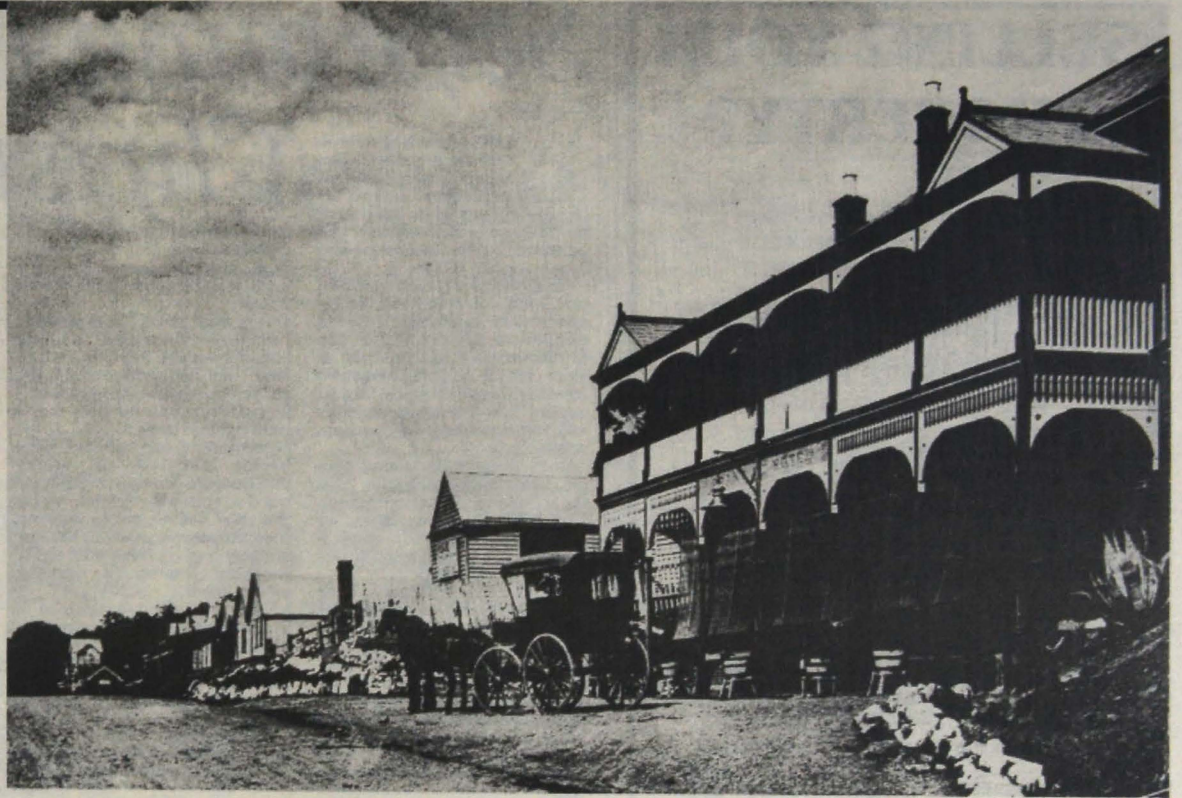
The team will be partially sponsored by Qantas airlines, but each team member must raise an extra \$4000 to make the competition. Brook is looking for suggestions on how he could



Brook Hely

raise the money, or even a donation. Anyone who can help should ring 844 3902.

A Grand old lady survives the changes



At the turn of the century: Dominating the village with tiled gables, elegant verandahs and timber tracery.

By CLIFF GREEN

WHEN Warrandyte's Grand Hotel was built in 1895 it dominated both Yarra Street and the tempo of village life. It was the best, biggest and most modern building around.

Although chronologically late Victorian, its tiled gables and simpler timber decoration presaged the Federation style that was soon to enliven Melbourne's middle-class suburbs. Yet despite this, the Grand always looked like what it was, a country town pub.

The many artists who visited and lived in Warrandyte sneaked it into our national image. Take a stroll through the Australian collection in the gallery at the Arts Centre and look for its tall chimneys and distinctive roofline, intruding above the trees beyond the Yarra in several fine paintings of the post-Heidelberg era.

Its style set a pattern for Yarra Street that the more sensitive modern buildings—like the State Bank and the community centre—have sought to echo. Indeed, Doncaster council has now decreed that there will be no building on the streetscape "larger in bulk or height than the Grand Hotel".

It survived the earlier years with relative ease. During the 1930s, its elegant charm was framed in the green of its own garden and the gradual return of roadside bush.

But the later infilling of its lower verandah was an indignity from which it has never fully recovered. It reached its lowest ebb during the late 1970s: a hodge-podge of signs and insensitive additions. Replacing its lovely wooden tracery with fake wrought iron only made things worse.

Most residents seem to agree that the recent facelift is a brave and largely successful attempt to disguise some of the worst excesses and tie its more disparate elements together. Once again, the Grand old lady is setting the style along Yarra Street.



The middle years: Framed in its environment by local stonework, its own garden and the returning roadside bush.



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Scheming for a Green Christmas

YEARS ago, having embroidered a greenie pledge hatband and shot the cat as preconditions to being allowed to sign on the dotted line at Spencer McDougalls, I was permitted to join the chosen who live in our fair village.

For a few years I failed to realise that I did not only have the responsibility, but also the joy of using locally sourced products as Christmas presents. Now, as an elder (not the feral European tree I hasten to add) I would like to explain how I combine ecology with rampant Christmas consumerism.

Most ideologically sound people prefer home-made gifts. With the abundance of unwanted green stuff around the area, it was an easy leap to combine the eradication of the unwanted with the fabrication of the artistic.

We all need a Yuletide door wreath to remind us that amidst all this December snow and hibernation there is beauty and joy. For gift suggestion number one, I suggest you nip down to the bridge and wrest from the mud some river willow roots. (These are to be used in place of nasty old polypropylene twine.)

Clamber up the trunk until you

can reach the long supple lengths of willow that will form our wreath. Next, strip the leaves from the lengths and begin to fashion your wreath.

Over past years, local wreaths have been a bit wimpy. This year wreaths will be huge, in fact so large that they will occupy the entire door frame. Visitors won't just admire your handiwork, they'll walk right through it.

Decorations are optional, but I prefer sheaves of sticky pittosporum leaves. One decent sized wreath will decimate an entire river willow, not to mention the pittosporum. If we all became suitably festive, think how easily we could clean up the riverbank environment.

Decorated sulo bins instead of Christmas trees is gift suggestion number two. This is not a radically new idea, but how about recycling the used crepe paper from the last festival parade tricycle competition?

Old aluminium cans can be attractive decorations and sulo bin wheels mean you can move it in

and out from living room to front gate, dependent upon the current municipal industrial climate.

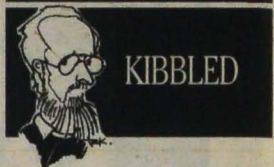
Food, glorious food! Christmas is synonymous with over-indulgence, weight gain and high cholesterol. We all love receiving pots of home-made relishes and jamaes, trays of cakey things and salads. Here are some of my favorites as gift suggestion number three.

For onion weed salad, take an armful of fresh onion weed, the more the better. It has usually expired by Christmas, but it can be frozen or pickled in Yarra Valley chardonnay.

Cut off the flowers and keep these as garnish/decoration. Slice the weed into 3cm lengths and thread these through the holes in gruyere cheese.

Shuck aniseed root into bite-size chunks and gently toss the cheese, onion weed and aniseed in a dessertspoonful of recycled sump oil (obtainable from Smarty's).

Garnish with flowers and serve with any barbecued domestic pet.



(Recession time economy hint: Onion weed bulbs can be microwaved for Boxing Day breakfast.)

Wildflower coulis: Blend dock, ivy and boneseed. Serve over Neapolitan icecream.

Blackberry broth: Pick the berries and cook in a large cast iron pot for two or three days. The flavor is enhanced if the fire is fuelled with the brambles. One blackberry bush should provide enough fuel to last the cooking time. The space where the bush used to be can now be used for a rotary clothes line.

So there you have it, Christmas presents that will please everyone.

And if you're all nice to me, I'll consider sharing my secret techniques for making attractive Easter eggs from recycled copies of the *Diary*.

Merry Christmas!
ROGER KIBELL

It pays to advertise

THE silver wattles that line the river in Warrandyte are impressive trees, especially when in bloom.

Their crowded bright yellow flowers are a cheerful sight signalling the end of winter. But now, from these same trees, dangle long slender pods the color of ripe plums.

The transformation from fluffy flowerhead to flattened seed pod has been dramatic, yet did anyone actually notice it happening? Did anyone notice the bush peas of the dry hillsides as their flame-colored flowers turned into small triangular packets of seeds? Did anyone see clouds of creamy clematis flowers become the downy plumes we fondly call "old man's beard"?

These changes, of course, have not occurred overnight, they have taken place over a number of weeks. Nevertheless, we tend to overlook many of our native plants once they have finished blooming. How often to do we bother to look closely at flowers as their petals wither and die and their ovaries swell with ripening seeds?

The multitude of colorful flowers in our bushland have not evolved merely to please us. They are specifically designed to attract insects, birds and small mammals for the purpose of pollination. The flowers offer rewards to their pollinators in the form of nectar and pollen, which they advertise

NATURE

By **PAT COUPAR**
 Drawn by **MELANIE COUPAR**

by bright colors, intricate patterns and, sometimes, an alluring scent.

Usually the color of a flower is determined by its potential pollinator. For instance, birds and small mammals such as possums are attracted to red flowers, while bees and other insects are drawn to blues and purples. Unlike us, many insects can see ultra violet. So a flower that may look rather plain to us may appear quite different to the insect.

Once the flower has been pollinated, its delicate petals fade and become shrivelled, leaving only the ovary containing the fertilised seeds. Seeds come in a bewildering variety of sizes, shapes, textures and packages. Those belonging to wattles and peas are encapsulated in a pod which hardens and eventually splits, expelling the seeds.

The seeds may lay hidden amongst the leaf litter for years, or they may be carried away to another part of the bush by such animals as ants. In contrast, the seedheads of daisies are light and fluffy, rather like the plumes of clematis, and are ideally suited to be transported by the wind.

Despite an almost non-existent



spring this year, the wildflowers still bloomed prolifically. Now the explosion of color is over and it is the turn of the summer-flowering plants—the tea-trees, cassinias, burgan and sweet bursaria—all of which have white flowers.

However, summer is not without color. There are exquisite tints of cinnamon brown in the

pod of the bush peas and wattles, warm tinges of burnished copper in the swaying spikes of the kangaroo grass and not least, the plum-colored pods suspended from the silver wattles.

All, in their own way, are just as beautiful as the brightly colored flowers that preceded them.



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Living with nature is part of the scene

By JUDY MACDONALD

HERE'S something comforting about living somewhere long enough to become part of the scenery. When we first arrived in Warrandyte neighbours called around, bearing bags of lemons and advice on when the garbage man called and where to erect our letter box at the end of the road.

The new bareness of the clay around the house ensured that the local fauna didn't call bearing anything. Except the very small ant-type fauna, which barely broke step while the builders worked, then continued to treat the place like Mecca. Well, all their paths lead to it. *Mi casa es su casa* was their motto.

It took a while for the furry things to return, but little ring-tails now perch beneath the eaves on grey, dripping evenings, staring myopically towards us as we come and go, as if we are the visitors.

Our TV aerial, rather superfluous in the uninterrupted sightline to Mt Dandenong, has become a night-time adventure playground for possums, who use it to catapult themselves off the roof, back to the cliff and thence to the trees.

Lizards, large and small, make themselves at home on the sun-warmed sleepers and pavers, frequently coming in for a look around, by lying in the sliding door track until the door passes.

Birds now take us for granted too. A little queue of finches forms in the wild cherries, waiting to dart out and skim the bird bath.

They are worse than teenagers when it comes to washing their hair—or feathers—for hours, but not much else.

They also queue impatiently while madam blackbird attends



to her toilet, with great flurries and rustling of feathers as she sits in the tub up to her neck, often leaving little water for the others.

A pair of currawongs return each year, to nest and raise one squawking, demanding baby, bigger than both of them, which

stands right under mum's feet as she scratches up a meal.

Unfortunately the meal often includes smaller birds, even after I've just been outside, in pyjamas at the crack of dawn, covering a bush with a sheet to protect a sitting mother bird from these in-

vaders. They had the grace not to laugh.

Right now, a tiny finch nests in a creeper covering the house, quite sure that it was planted there just for her.

Each year, the visiting black cockatoos with their yellow crests, bring their child for nibbles above the drive. No-one here knows what they eat, but it always looks as if the council shredder has been through when they have finished. Familiarity breeds a mess.

Small bats have found the place to be quite cave-like in spots, and have had to be lured out, wrapped in towels to protect their pride, and their ears, from my muffled instructions shouted from beneath a blanket.

Instructions about spiders are less muffled, but more distant, as I'm well out of the area. Two seconds after sighting one of the portly kind. Our house is definitely not their house, as far as I'm concerned. They really do outstay their welcome, hanging around in the most unappealing manner.

Hard shelled millipedes use the house as a throughfare. Swarming at the lighted windows, they trek across the ceilings, dropping with sharp clicks onto the cork floor when it gets too much for them. It's also getting a bit much for us.

At least the snails try to scale us one at a time. A thin, drawn out screech announces their acceptance of this obstruction, leaving glistening calling cards for the next day.

Yes, it's great to be part of the scenery, I suppose, although we miss the lemon-bearing neighbour who moved, and the postie now purrs up the road on his bike and delivers.

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Old hall withstands Tempest

Shakespeare came to Warrandyte, for the second year in a row, when the Rudolph Steiner School's year 11 students presented *The Tempest* at the Mechanics Institute hall last recently.

Balancing fantasy and reality, it was well suited to performance in the round. Director Alison Cassidy used movement effectively; both with the dancers' graceful continuity, and the character actors.

The play opens with a storm contrived by Prospero to shipwreck King Alonso and his followers. The ropes which symbol-



REVIEW

By KYLIE MOPPERT

ised the ship also protected the audience as the cast members hurled themselves about the deck.

Lighting, by David Baird, added to the chaos of this opening scene, and conveyed changes from reality to magic throughout.

The minimalist set designed by David Bradtke allowed the ac-

tors to perform at different levels, which heightened the dance sequences.

As Ariel, Meran Cassidy portrayed an innocent and humorous captive fairy. Her dance and unaccompanied singing were impressive. Prospero, her romantic master, was played with majestic grace by Eden Reni, although his lines were often unclear.

This pair were ably supported by Alis Gordon, playing Miranda, and Geordie Oldfield as her bewitched suitor, Ferdinand.

Nick Burdan was Alonso, and Gonzalo, the honest councillor,

was played by Judy Earley.

The repulsive Caliban was played by a graceful Sascha Yeomans,

Kalu Ribush was Adrien, Geoff Fisher played Antonio and Mariska Deane, as Sebastian, gave a strong performance.

Stephano the drunken butler, (Oliver Barker), and Jester Trinkulo (Emma Henderson) stole the show with their foolery.

This entertaining play was produced with humor and performed with obvious pleasure, an effort reflected in the packed houses at virtually all shows.

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True colors show in locals' book

REVIEW

By GLEN JAMESON

"Flying Colours—Common caterpillars, butterflies and moths of South Eastern Australia" is a new publication, written by Warrandyte residents Pat and Mike Coupar. An excellent guide, it should be in every home to aid environmental understanding.

Arriving in the spring of 1971

from England, the Coupars were immediately struck by the vast insect life around them. Cicada orchestras on warm evenings, moths crowded around outside lights and butterflies which colored the day. The experience rekindled their interest in insects and gave opportunities to sharpen their photographic skills.

The authors' aim with "Flying Colours" is to "create an awareness and understanding of caterpillars and their dramatic transformation into the adult

butterfly or moth".

It achieves this with a superlative collection of photographs of each species caterpillar and adult form, accompanied by clear, concise and easily read text.

Each caterpillar was reared in the Coupar home and the adults were photographed on their emergence, so that their form and color are recorded as fresh as creation itself. All of the caterpillars are photographed on their host food plants.

The intimacy and affinity with the creatures the Coupars were working with comes through strongly. The book has an immediate sense of authenticity to it and empathy with the animals it records.

The text covers the fossil history of butterflies and moths, life cycles, caterpillar camouflage and defence, caterpillar structure, predators, parasites and diseases, through to rearing and attracting these creatures to your garden. There is an index of host food plants for

each caterpillar. It's good to see so many of them indigenous to Warrandyte.

There is also a section on identification of both caterpillars and adults.

This is an excellent guide for the whole family, to gain appreciation of the intricacies of the web of life in our own Warrandyte backyards. Indeed, the Coupars say their study of caterpillars began when daughter Melanie brought in the caterpillar of the Wine Coloured Moth. When the adult emerged it was photographed, and the eight-year odyssey began.

It is a fascinating winged world that the book explores and it is one we generally know very little about. There are some 20,000 species of moths and 380 species of butterfly in Australia, more than half of these unique to this country. The book looks at a select short-list of the more common species.

The local aboriginal tribe, the Wurundjeri, were intimate with the various life cycles of moths and butterflies and their relationships with plants. Wurundjeri translates as "caterpillar of the Manna gum". With their name, the tribe were focussing on an essential core of the environmental picute as they saw it. Each tribal member has a name which depicts part of the tribal totem, so that when the clan gathered, they represented the whole of that totem. A great community concept.

"Flying Colours" is also the product of a community interaction with local and interstate naturalists and scientists. John Reid and Val Himmelreich stimulated the project early on by supplying caterpillars found on bush jaunts.

Cecily Falkingham and Tim New shared their expertise, as did Fabian Douglas, Mike Braby, and Ted Edwards from

the CSIRO in Canberra. The professionals welcomed enquiries from the amateurs. No doubt many others contributed to the project, and the community spirit of endeavor.

Now I can solve the problem of the correct name of an attractive moth that visits our home each autumn. On its white, silky wings is a reddish "W". With these local footy team colours, it was always the "Warrandyte Moth".

Now I know it as the "Green Wattle Looper" or "Clara Satin Moth", scientifically known as *Thalaina Clara*. The text tells me that the food plant is Black Wattle (*acacia mearnsii*) and Silver Wattle (*acacia dealbata*) both native to Warrandyte.

We have planted these in our yard and so will continue to enjoy visits by these lovely silken moths each autumn.

What strikes the reader, poring over the 23 species of butterfly with caterpillar and 57 types of moths, is the physical beauty of the moths. Butterflies have always been admired, but the intricate patterns and bodily features of the moths come as a real surprise.

Those people with electric bug zappers are contributing to the destruction of these harmless creatures. If every home had one, texts like "Flying Colours" would not exist. There would be no subject matter. Trade in your Bug-Zapper now and buy a copy of "Flying Colours".

"Flying Colours" retails for under \$20, has 44 illustrations, four black and white photographs and around 170 colored plates, with a wealth of information. It is a true labor of love and the best available text on moths and butterflies for the family or interested naturalist. Talk to Santa and see if he can poke one in the bag for everyone this merry season.

EDITH VALENTINE

A life of devotion to many

One of Warrandyte's well known church and community identities, Edie Valentine, passed away suddenly on November 7. Her memorial service was held at St Stephens Anglican Church, where Edie had worked tirelessly ever since she came to Warrandyte 32 years ago.

Edie was born in Footscray, one of five daughters. She married Bill Valentine in 1941, and together they had four sons: twins Billy and Barry, Trevor, who died as a baby, and Darryl, who was killed in a car accident 13 years ago.

Edie was a devoted wife and mother who loved her family dearly and was steadfast as a rock in defending and supporting them. One of her greatest joys was the arrival of her three grandchildren, Rodney, Bradley and Lorena. When her son Barry married his wife Jenny, she was only too happy to welcome Jenny's children, Ben Lizzie and Trish into the family.

Edie happily devoted her life

to helping others. The 200 friends and relatives who attended the service is an indication of the regard that the church and community had for her.

She was never happier than when doing something for others, putting in many hours with the church. She was a Vestry member, a lesson reader and intercessor. She was a member and president of the Friends of St Stephens for many years and spent 17 years with the church prayer group.

Her Christian outreach extended beyond the local community. As well as her ties with the Warrandyte Senior Citizens, Edie had a close association with St Pauls in Ringwood, and was a member of Retreat House, Cheltenham, the Women's Hospital Auxiliary and with the Brotherhood of St Laurence Auxiliary for more than 30 years.

She had been associated with Meals on Wheels, the Warrandyte State School and Norwood High School.



Edith Valentine

She was also a keen gardener and regularly supplied flowers for church services and functions.

Besides all her community interests, Edie was always a fanatical member and supporter of the Richmond football club. Although disappointed with their performances over the last few seasons, she worked hard for the supporters' group and continued to be a true one-eyed supporter.

Whenever the team lost a game it was always the fault of the umpire or the other side, never her Richmond boys.

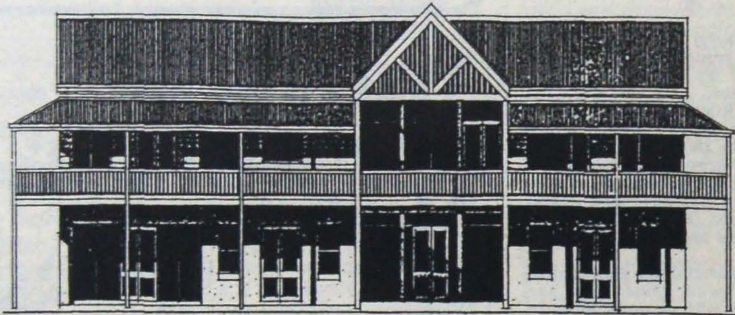
A friend said he believed Edie would argue with the opposition supporters during the game and then offer them a cup of tea at half time to show that there was no animosity.

She was also a familiar face at Yarra Glen Racing Club, and over the last 25 years had taken a great deal of pleasure in collecting Bill's winnings.

Edie will be greatly missed by those who knew her as a staunch and loyal friend, including those former Warrandyte vicars who came back to take her service.

In the words of Don Blackie, along-standing friend who read the eulogy at her memorial service, and upon which this obituary is based: "Edie, may you rest in the peace of the Lord you loved and served so faithfully".

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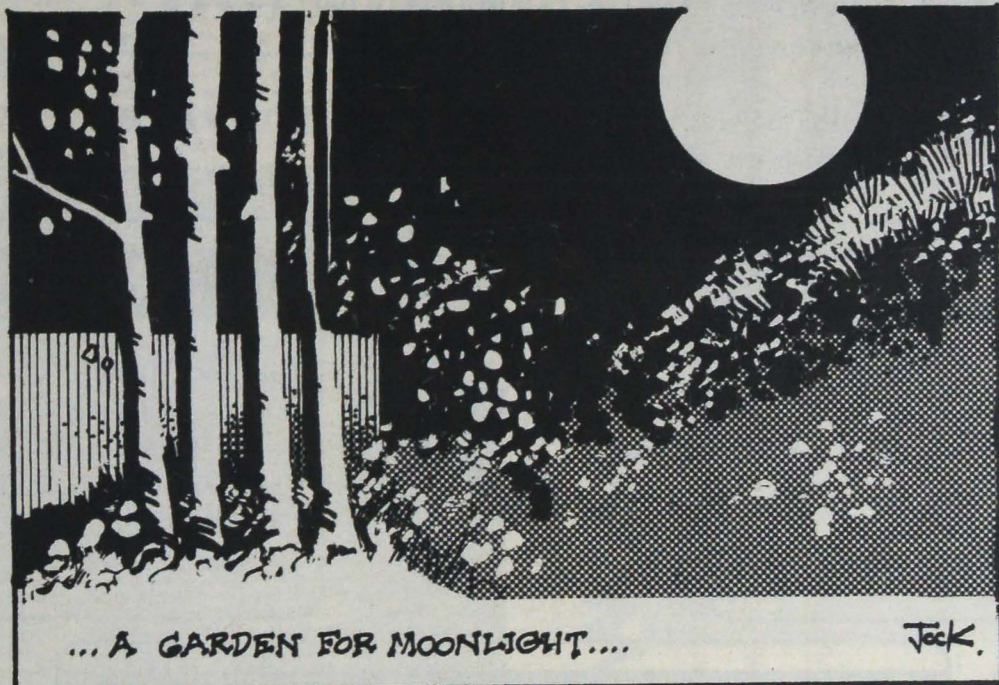
TAKE AD TO CHERRY HILL

New horizons



THE WOODEN BRIDGE

By Eve Evans



DESPITE the constant invasion of rabbits, possums and wallabies, my garden was beginning to take shape. A wire netting fence enclosed about an acre of land surrounding the house. Unfortunately, when past fires had gone through, the bottom of the fence was weakened and by now had rusted away.

I could not afford a new fence, so the best way I could wage war on the rabbits was by trapping as many as I could, and trying to keep the holes in the fence blocked up.

It became a ritual on Sunday afternoons to take a barrow load of stones to build them up against the holes in the fence. Possums, of course, could still drop down from the trees, and wallabies leap the fence, but at least I had some control over the rabbits.

I talked to an old man in the village who had worked all his life in the Agricultural Department about my garden pests. At first I did not believe what he told me and thought he must be joking. But he was insistent and so I tried his remedy.

He said I should mix human excreta with lime and paint the bark of nearby trees with it to discourage possums from ringbarking young trees and shrubs. I had to admit this was effective.

I also continued to put guards around trees and shrubs. Because of the water shortage, I mulched them with everything I could lay my hands on. Compost, straw, old sacks, newspapers and even flat stones helped conserve any moisture in the soil.

I planted many kinds of herbs given me by Watty and Patty. I still love them for their fragrance and their usefulness in cooking. Even now I use them almost every day. Fortunately the animals did not find them to their taste, and for the most part left them alone.

So my garden was filled with rosemary, lavender, thyme, hyssop and sages, and others too numerous to mention. Pennyroyal and prostrate thymes crept in and out of the stone pathways.

Ellen gave me a large sack of bulbs, which grew into masses of golden daffodils and cream and yellow jonquils that walked down the hill and clustered around the feet of the catalpa tree and the almond; thanks to Watty's advice to throw the bulbs over my shoulder and plant them where they fell.

I even had a somewhat rough, but wide, expanse of lawn. When I came to the house it was no more than a thick, coarse mat of rye grass tussocks, many of them reaching to my waist.

Watty told me I must try to cut the grass or dig it out because it could be a real fire hazard in the summer. I had no lawn mower, but it would have been useless anyway against this tough kind of grass. With the aid of a pair of hedge clippers I cut a small area each day and dug out a few tufts. These I replaced with the tough buffalo grass roots which

I had begged Roly to find me. So, with laborious work, blistered hands and a back that was often difficult to straighten, I had, in time, a reasonable lawn. I was very proud of it, despite the great boulders of rock which pushed their brown shoulders up through it.

One blue and gold day in spring I stood, wrapped in contemplation of all the beauty around me. Wattles, a fast growing tree, were now large enough to be weighed down by their golden cascades of blossom. A few soft, white clouds drifted over the mountains, casting their violet shadows here and there. We had a very light spring shower of rain and the drops rested delicately on the broad, grey-green leaves of a gum tree. When a shaft of sun put a finger over them, they glittered and glistened, till I felt I could reach up my hand and touch a million stars.

Presently I heard the phone ring. It was Watty, asking if she could bring a friend over. I had heard of Edna Walling and knew she was a famous garden designer. Watty had told her of my struggle to make a garden with no soil, little water and the ravages of animals. She said she would like to see how I had coped, and to look at the view of the distant mountains from my higher piece of ground.

We walked around and I explained to her that, while I did not like quite so much stone in a garden, I had no option but to build retaining walls to hold back the soil I carried in. As she showed

interest, I waxed more and more enthusiastically, telling her how I would like to blend the various pictures into one whole, and what else I would plan to lead one section into another.

Suddenly she said, "You seem to have a flair for this sort of thing. You should make a study of it."

I replied that while I had a great love of all plants, and had pictures of gardens in my mind, I knew the subject was a vast one. I would have no idea where to begin. And I could not leave the children to go to a horticultural school.

"Well, you can at least make a beginning," she said. "I can lend you books to study, and when your children are old enough for school, you can get more practical knowledge by working with me."

True to her word, she came again only a short while after, bringing books and sheets of brown paper. Upon the latter were pasted specimen leaves, tree bark and seed pods, their botanical names carefully tabulated.

So began a friendship which lasted many years, until her death. It also began a study for me that opened up new wide horizons. I studied every night for some years, and later I worked in big nurseries, learning more of plant species, their habitats and living requirements.

Later, Edna invited me to work with her on the gardens she was making. As my knowledge and confidence grew, I was also able to accept commissions

on my own.

I made many gardens and at one time had five men working for me. Most of the gardens I enjoyed very much. But there were some that Edna would not accept and passed on to me. They were often the commissions of rich businessmen who wanted the biggest and best. Colorful flamboyant flowers, well grown trees and shrubs, an instant garden in fact. But they paid well, and I needed the money.

I had no need to advertise for work. I was kept busy enough when my clients, nearly all of whom became my friends, sent friends to me. Some gardens stand out in my memory; in particular, a moonlight garden, and a garden for a blind person.

Once a young couple came to me. They told me they would be married soon, and that the girl's father had given them an acre of his land in Templestowe. "Later," they said, "we will build a house on it, but now, because we fell in love in the moonlight, we would like to start making a garden. Can you help us create a small part of it as a garden for moonlight?"

I told them I would be delighted to do that. I went with them to see the site, and had a tentative plan drawn up within about a week.

Knowing that white flowers and tree trunks show best in moonlight, I started the plan with three ghost gums (*Eucalyptus citriodora*). When they grew, their satin-smooth white trunks would

stand straight like marble pillars, and their leaves, crushed underfoot, would be lemon-scented.

Around their base I put white flowering shrubs and plants for all seasons of the year, sprinkled through with blue flowers. Blue always seems to fade out at night but could save the area from becoming monotonous in the daytime. I sent the young couple off to search junkyards around Melbourne for an old wrought iron seat. They found one and we painted it white.

I know this garden sounds more romantic than real, but it had its practical uses too. Years later, they told me that they always sat there to sort out their problems. Rather like my own "thinking stone", you might say.

The blind garden was also memorable. In one of the very old suburbs of Melbourne there stood a row of small shops. One of these was owned by a woman and her daughter. The daughter ran the shop, selling infants' clothing. The old lady, now almost totally blind, could no longer help in the shop, but would love a garden in which to spend her time.

The shops were narrow, as was the strip of land behind them. The piece of land was overgrown with weeds. This had to be cleaned up and the soil analysed. After my back-breaking labour at home, transforming this small piece of land was not difficult.

I made a flat stone pathway, planting the crevices between the stones with prostrate thymes that would throw up their scent when walked on. The old lady had a very good sense of smell and hearing. I put rosemary and lavender along the sides of the pathway. She could bend and crush the sweet fragrances between her fingers.

I thought the end of the garden should be the ultimate feature, so that then she would have a reason to walk there. I planted a deciduous tree there, a *Melia azadarach*, or white cedar. Its large lacy leaves would give her shade in summer and after the fall of the leaf, would let the sun through in winter.

Under the tree we put a seat. I did not know her age, but guessed she could not wait too long for a garden to grow, so what I planted had to be quick growing or well advanced.

I also planted a flowering almond, so that she could draw her fingers along the branches, feel the swelling buds and know that spring was near. Then the very fragrant *Viburnum carlesii* and *Cotoneaster* to let her hear the flutter of wings when the birds came to take the berries in autumn.

Her daughter kept the garden tidy and I called from time to time to see what more attention might be needed, and I was very glad to see an old lady so happy with her garden.

To be continued

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The sister act takes five



WARRANDYTE Diary
A COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB PUBLICATION

Editorial 844 2195, 844 2746, Advertising 844 2200.
No. 108 DECEMBER, 1980 PRICELESS

NAUGHTY XMAS EDITION

Sisters Maisie Temple and Madge Gauntlett have long been among the talented star turns at Warrandyte Elderly Citizen's Club end-of-year birthday celebration, as this cheeky front page photo (at right) from our 1980 Christmas edition reveals.

The club celebrated its 30th anniversary in style this year, with a concert on November 12. Maisie and Madge teamed up again to pack 'em

in the aisles with their Life Be In It act, a somewhat more sedate turn than the Bloomer Birds routine we featured 12 years ago.

"We're not up to doing that anymore," said Madge, now 80. And Maisie, 72, regretfully agreed. The group will be taking their concert to six nearby clubs in weeks to come.

The *Diary* despatched intrepid photographer DAVID GÄRNER to record their latest knees-up.



Maisie Temple and Madge Gauntlett are still prepared to be in life, provided they can sit down on the job.



The bloomer birds

The Christmas spirit arrived a little earlier than usual this year at the Warrandyte Elderly Citizens Club. The elders turned on a concert last month to celebrate their club's anniversary — and Maisie Temple and Madge Gauntlett really wowed 'em.

Maisie (left), of Harris Gully Road, and Madge, of Jumping Creek Road, were the stars of the show with their rendition of Maisie's composition "It's Unique To Be Antique".

More than 200 people attended each of two performances of the concert. It was judged a huge success.

Dolly Clifton (below) kisses her sergeant major Trevor Whightman, whilst nurse Margaret Perrow stands by—in case of medical emergencies.



Isabelle Bradford now performs the lovely legs routine (above and right) but Tom Bone still charms them with his fine voice (above right).



On the dance floor, fickle Dolly Clifton transfers her favors to Merle Wightman.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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School's in again for survival



A simulated rescue at the water safety and survival school.

The Water Safety And Survival Program held in Warrandyte early this year was an outstanding success and will be repeated from January 11 to 15.

The school, run by local instructors who fully understand the local river hazards, was set up after a pilot program in 1991. Organisers were agreeably surprised by the response to the pilot program, which attracted a 95 per cent attendance despite poor weather.

The children are grouped into senior primary and junior secondary school classes and instructed along the lines of the Surf Lifesaving Association's Nipper Program, adapted for local conditions.

Local boys and girls participate in "run-swims-runs", survival swims, lifesaving, first aid, resuscitation, canoeing and kayaking. River lifeguards swim and run with the groups, teaching lifesaving skills all the way down to using a telephone to get help.

The program equips children to cope with an emergency and increases their awareness and respect for their natural environment.

Inquiries about the 1993 program should be directed to The Canoe Shed, 266 Yarra Street (phone 844 2502).

And a big thank you from the Food Bank

On behalf of the Warrandyte Food Bank, the Reverend Helen Cox has asked us to sincerely thank all those community members who have so strongly supported the work of the Food Bank during 1992. The bank has been able to meet an average demand of two to three parcels each week. As a result of contributions from Warrandyte community service clubs and the Market Committee, most parcels have been supplemented with perishables. Unfortunately, the need for these food parcels has not declined and continued support is required during 1993. A special thanks goes to Harry Heath's supermarket for allowing their premises to be used for the Food Bank. The parcels are allocated on the recommendations of community welfare groups, such as Doncare and the Eltham Community Health Service, as well as local advisory bodies.



Rev Helen Cox

Party

A New Year's Eve party will be held at the Warrandyte Youth Services clubroom in the community centre. This is to celebrate the re-opening of the youth centre. The fun starts after 8pm.

Swimming

The Lions Club of Warrandyte is once again holding its Learn To Swim program this summer. The lessons, now in their 15th year, cater for school beginners up to age 10. The instructor, Rowan Jacka of Donvale, is an examiner for the Royal Lifesaving Society and is a nationally accredited level 1 coach. He has earned many distinctions as a lifesaver with the Bonbeach club over the past 13 years. Rowan teaches swimming full-time, with students aged from two to 20. Two courses of lessons commence on Monday, December 28 and Monday, January 11. Each course consists of nine half-hour

Xmas stocking

The Rotary Club of Warrandyte advises that the Annual Great Christmas Stocking, valued at over \$1300, will be on display at the Pines Shopping Centre, the Goldfields Plaza Shopping Centre and the Tunstall Square Shopping Centre over the coming few weeks. If any organisation wishes to support this fund-raising venture, bulk quantities of tickets can be supplied at a reduced rate for resale. Contact club service chairman, David George, on 844 2500, after hours.

Annual carol service, presented by the combined churches of Warrandyte and Park Orchards will be held on Stiggants Reserve, Warrandyte on Sunday, December 20 at 8pm.



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.

Thanks

The Valentine family has asked us to express their heartfelt thanks to friends and family for the kindness, prayers and support offered on the death of their beloved Edith Amy. The many messages, cards and flowers meant a great deal in this time of sadness.

Solutions

Fifteen year-old Melanie Gardiner was a member of the winning team at the Australasian Future Problem Solving finals held recently at Deakin Uni-

versity. Her team from Presbyterian Ladies College won the final in the intermediate section, contested by 146 teams from a number of Australian states and from New Zealand. This team will now represent Australia at the International Future Problem Solving final at the University of Wisconsin, USA, next June. A few days earlier, Melanie was awarded the Baden Powell badge by the Warrandyte Guides Association.

Volunteers

Helpers are needed at the Warrandyte Citizens Advice Bureau. If you are interested in volunteering, call in and see the CAB's training coordinator, Cheryl Whittington, on Wednesdays between 10am and 1pm at the bureau at the Warrandyte Community Centre.

Tell us

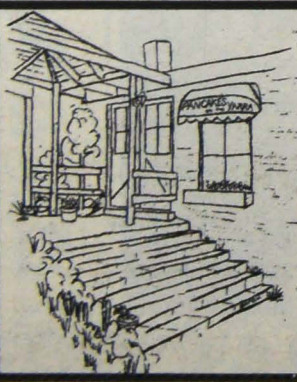
The Diary is your newspaper and we love to print news of your group's activities. Jot down all the details, including date, time, venue and contact number and drop it in our box on the old cypress tree opposite the Commonwealth Bank, push it under our door at the community centre or fax it to 844 4168—and 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. Our next edition will appear in February, 1993.

Christmas church services

ANGLICAN: Christmas Eve—11.15pm carols and service, Emmanuel, Park Orchards. **WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY:** Christmas Day service 10am, children's service, 10.30am **ROMAN CATHOLIC:** Christmas Eve—8pm mass, Park Orchards,

Warrandyte and Emmanuel, Park Orchards. **WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY:** Christmas Day service 10am, children's service, 10.30am **ROMAN CATHOLIC:** Christmas Eve—8pm mass, Park Orchards,

midnight mass, Park Orchards. **Christmas Day—10am mass, Warrandyte. UNITING:** Christmas Eve—7.30pm family carol service, 11.30pm holy communion. Christmas Day—9am family service.



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Swamped! Dytes curse the rain gods

By DAVID KUTCHER

October, November and the start of December have been brutally unkind to cricket clubs all over Melbourne—and to none more so than Warrandyte.

Torrential rains and flash flooding have reduced the first half of the Ringwood District Cricket Association season to a shambles. Most grounds have been under-prepared, unplayable, or both.

The weather seems to have singled out weekends for its most diabolical performances and most matches have been cancelled. And according to the Weather Bureau, the December prospects are not good.

The first eleven was the only senior Warrandyte team to complete a match in November. It actually managed two games, for a win and a loss.

"With another month of cricket lost, our main aim obviously is to get all out teams back on to the ground," Warrandyte Cricket Club president Mark Davis told the *Diary*.

"The players are rearing to go. We just need a little luck with the weather—then we can play cricket."

Although it is impossible to draw a line through so little exposed form, what the weather has allowed us to see suggests that success is within Warrandyte's reach if the rain ever stops.

60 up for South

South Warrandyte Cricket Club is celebrating its 60th anniversary this season. Its origins are linked strongly to John Colman, a pioneer of the area.

The club first played on a ground behind the local primary school but was forced to look elsewhere when the Education Department reclaimed the land to allow for the school's expansion.

Mr Colman formed a committee to find a new recreational site and land was bought from Mrs Flintoff, grandmother of Olympic gold medalist Debbie Flintoff-King, by a debenture loan set

up in 1957.

Thirty-one residents lent the Doncaster-Templestowe council a total of 1800 pounds and when the basic work was finished and paid for and the park—Colman Park—was functional, the council took over the administration.

Colman Park was named after the late John Colman, a councillor for 26 years and president of the then shire for three terms.

He was instrumental in the formation of South Warrandyte Cricket Club and was its foundation president, serving for the first 27 years of the club's existence.

The Dytes began the delayed season strongly with a resounding win over reigning Chandler Shield champions Croydon North, thanks to outstanding performances by captain-coach John Sharman and the irrepressible Gerald Walshe.

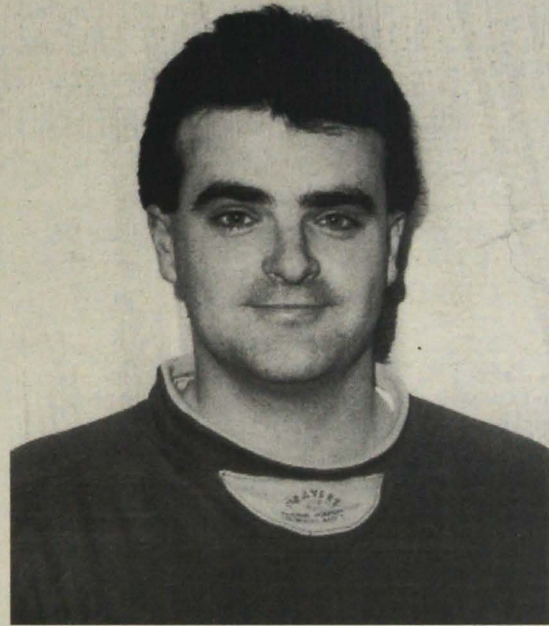
Fast bowler Walshe produced an explosive spell on the first day of the home game to take 4/43 in Croydon North's embarrassing total of 158. Then it was Sharman's turn.

The skipper hit a brilliant 104.

His innings was a treat to watch, a combination of fine placement, sharp running between wickets and frequent boundaries.

Sharman had support from Andrew Hood, who made 39, and Campbell Horlock (21), but the later afternoon belonged to last week's hero, Walshe, who took the long handle to the Croydon North attack with spectacular effect.

Walshe made a quickfire 47, which included three sixes and five fours. It was awesome bat-



John Sharman—two games for two big scores.

ting. Warrandyte finished at 9/264.

Sharman again led by example in the one-day game against Mooroolbark.

The Dytes, batting first, started sluggishly, with Horlock and Michael Day finding their way into the 20s before losing their wickets.

Sharman stepped in with a fine innings of 65. Despite support from Dale Vitiritti, Warrandyte ran out of overs at 7/180—and Mooroolbark batted superbly.

Key bowlers Walshe, Harry Drysdale and Dean Harvey battled hard but could not break through the solid Mooroolbark line-up. The Barkers lost only three wickets in the run chase. They were 3/195 at the close.

The women's eleven, premiers last season, are struggling in the VWCA pennant reserve competition and have lost their first four matches.

They need experienced players to oversee the transition to the stronger competition.

An unseasonal season of underwater netball

Spring was short, soggy and not so sweet this time for Warrandyte Netball Club. The finals of the Doncaster and District spring competition came around "faster" than usual because several weeks were washed out.

Many games were called off and many others played in heavy rain.

Warrandyte had five teams in the finals late last month—the under-13 Woodpeckers and Wombles, under-15 Giants and Wedgetails, and the under-17 Jaffas.

Only the Wombles (undefeated in the lead-up) and Jaffas made it though to the grand finals, and both were beaten.

The Wombles lost 18-7 to St Peter and Paul's Saints, but the club heaped praise on the 10 girls who had worked so hard and played so well during the season.

They are Emma Stubbs, Vanessa Taylor, Natasha Simpson, Nadia Cole, Vanessa Smith, Vanessa Northrop, Tina Di Corrado, Velvet Caplan, Anne McCutcheon and Annie Barbarikis.

The Jaffas played the All Sorts (how sweet it should have been!) in heavy rain that turned at times to hail and were beaten by just two goals. It was a great performance and another indication of netball's strength in this town.



A year of plenty for the Redbacks

By CLINTON GRYPBAS

With competition winding down for 1992, it is time to look back on the highlights of the year for Warrandyte Basketball Club. The 1991/92 summer season yielded nine premierships, but it was in winter that the Redbacks really shone, with 14 winners from 19 grand final teams.

Tournaments always provide some of the year's best moments, and 1992 was no exception.

The prestigious Australia Day weekend tournament at Eltham saw six of Warrandyte's seven teams progress to the grand finals. The Redbacks also had a strong presence at Bulleen and Nunawading (three grand finalists in each event) and had six teams through to the championship round in the big tournament in Albury in September.

Ron McLellan, Gavin Whitmore and Peter Messerle were the coaching kings, combining for eight of the grand finalists.

There was extended Friday night championship play this year and an increased number of teams provided several premierships. Most notable were Whitmore's 12AR boys, whose overtime triumph over the Melbourne Tigers was one of the year's real highlights.

The men's midweek competition also produced top action, with Makeshift winning their second straight title. They are favoured to win their third on December 16 in game two of the grand final series.

The over-30 section also has its big game that night, with the Wobblers and Peter Parkes sharing favouritism for their first-ever title.

As the club approaches the new year with even more players, its problems are in the off-court department. The need for a new playing venue becomes increasingly urgent as the sport's popularity in Warrandyte continues to boom.

Club administrators hope a 1993 announcement will produce joy.

DEADLINE!
Editorial and advertising copy closes last Friday of each month

Now here's a sporty trio, all Warrandyte chaps a long way from home. Peter Lovett (centre and apparently gone troppo) met up in Darwin with a couple of old mates during a recent safari with wife Pat.

Names and credentials (from the left, of course): David (Mouse) Mitchell, former Warrandyte Football Club player, coach, committeeman and EDFL umpire; now coaching in Arnhem Land and working on a crocodile farm. Peter, former Warrandyte Cricket Club president and football club committeeman, now gentleman of leisure at Portarlington. Nicky Day, former very good local footballer, former player and coach in Darwin and now plumbing there.

The picture represents a lot of sport and a lot of laughs.



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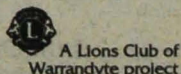
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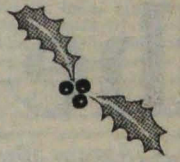
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