

**GOLDFIELDS PLAZA**

WARRANDYTE

# DIARY

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# Locals rallying to save Green Wedge

## Oyez! Oyez! What a great festival!



Town Crier David Hogg leads the mayoral car and the Warrandyte Community Band at last month's bumper 18th festival. Photo by Alan Lesheim. More festival pix and stories inside.

By CLIFF GREEN

Local residents are deeply concerned that a Doncaster council decision on the future of the Green Wedge has been delayed yet again. Many believe the time has now arrived for urgent resident action.

This follows the outcome of a special meeting of council's physical services committee on March 16, called to consider public submissions to the Warrandyte-Park Orchards non-urban zones review. Council decided not to vote on the issue but to debate the matter at a closed council forum, then to bring it to a further physical services meeting and ultimately to a regular council meeting for final decision.

This continuing delay is alarming Green Wedge supporters. Mr Maclellan, Minister for Planning, has informed Doncaster council that they have until May 10 to advise him of their resolution on the Green Wedge, otherwise he will take over the process.

"The council initiated a review of the Warrandyte Green Wedge over two years ago," MP Phil Honeywood said.

"This unilateral action has caused great anxiety in our community and given council's latest decision to again defer the matter, in the interests of the whole community I hope council will now swiftly recommend that the integrity of the Green Wedge be maintained."

The Warrandyte Advisory Committee is calling a public meeting to discuss the matter in the Warrandyte Community Centre on Friday, April 22 at 8pm. Speakers will include Phil Honeywood and Cr Val Polley.

"If the Warrandyte people want to save the Green Wedge, now is the time to draw up the battle lines," WAC chairman Alan King told the *Diary*. "There's almost a feeling of complacency in the community. We've fought it all before, the battles have all been won, and the people think the Green Wedge is safe forever."

"We know our own ward councillors are solid on this issue. Each of them was elected on a pro-Green Wedge policy. However, everyone should be aware of the enormous pressures being applied to other Doncaster councillors."

"At the recent physical services meeting it was disturbing to note that at least two non-Warrandyte Ward councillors appeared to be openly supportive of subdivision, and arguments targeting increased rate revenue for the Warrandyte Ward were still being advanced."

Alan King pointed to the recent strong stand taken by Cr Bob Beynon over a proposed subdivision. "This is the attitude needed from all councillors," he said.



"Future generations will never forgive us if we do not preserve this special area."

PHIL HONEYWOOD

Quoted in the Doncaster Templestowe News, Cr Beynon branded the proposed Woodhouse Road subdivision a "blight", and went on to tell council, "It's a magnificent environment. How anyone in their right mind can think subdividing is the right thing for there astonishes me."

Alan King believes "previous pushes for subdivision have attracted some sympathy for the problems of very large landholders, typified by two orcharding families."

"However, these people have now been joined by a dominant group of landholders, many with properties as small as five acres, who see an opportunity to subdivide. These people would have us believe that the only way to save the 'degraded' Green Wedge is to subdivide it."

They argue that the area can only be rehabilitated if it is cut up into "manageable" lots, down to one acre.

"This is hardly just a local issue," Alan King said. "The communities of Warrandyte and Park Orchards are looking after this valuable resource, not only on behalf of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, but for all Victorians and indeed Australians."

"This has been the view of governments of both persuasions for many years. If our Green Wedge is destroyed, similar significant areas, such as those in the municipalities of Lilydale and Whittlesea, will surely follow."

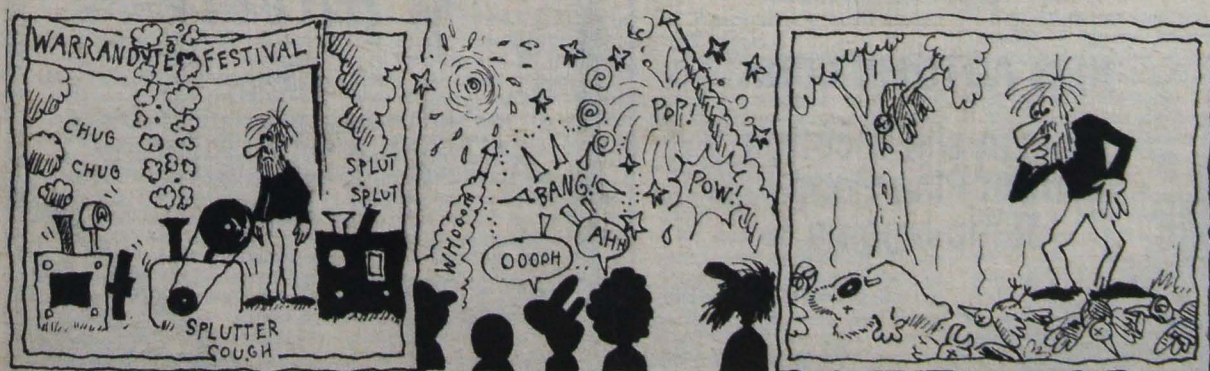
The Warrandyte Advisory Committee has called the public meeting on April 22 to alert people to this very real threat to their lifestyle and environment.

"Make no mistake," Alan King said, "the threat is real and the battle needs to be won—once and for all. We know that the people of Warrandyte and Park Orchards will respond."

• Page 4—Letters  
• Page 10—Comment, Cartoon

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By PAUL WILLIAMS



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## WARRANDYTE DIARY

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# Of course, that's only one dog's view of it



Max Cox, of Brackenbury Street, is one very smart pooch, a Gordon setter doted upon by his owners, Bob and Paddy Cox. You get the impression when you talk to Max that he not only understands every word but is actually a couple of paragraphs ahead of you. Astonishing, then, that he should so disgrace himself! Bob was taking Max on his daily riverbank walk on Tuesday, March 22, and in the vicinity of The Bakery passed a film crew shooting an episode of A Country Practice, which has been resurrected by Channel 10. On the way home, Bob noticed half a dozen cast members sitting on or around a rug eating their lunch (fine Bakery fare, presumably). Max noticed them, too. He trotted up behind one of the actors, cocked his leg—and piddled down his back! Bob was aghast. Not so the young actor, who turned, grinned and said: "There is a true critic."



This was the 18th Warrandyte Village Festival, and it was a beauty—as always. There were many highlights, and one sensation: the local pub's brazen hi-jacking of the tug o' war on the riverbank at Stiggants. Every year the tug has been won by one of our fire brigades or by a gang from the SES. But the Grand Hotel fielded a team of mean-looking musclemen who walked away with the prize. They're not getting any younger, those firefighters and emergency blokes, and they might have a bit of trouble winning it back. So prepare for a new touch to the fire brigades' and SES recruiting drives. Applicants under 18 stone need not apply.



All three winning entrants in the Warrandyte Festival Duck Race came from Andersons Creek Primary School. They're a pretty competitive lot down there at the Creek, but organisers are still denying claims that the top bird was jet-propelled or the second and third placed fowl were attached to their owners by fine fishing line. Given that it was the same weekend as duck opening, the plastic ducks probably took a lesson from their feathered cousins: get quick or get dead.



Peter Bool, who trades as Andersons Creek Plumbing, was very proud of his beard, but he's starting to wonder if it really mixes with his line of work. Boolie was operating a sewer roofer (yes, folks, that's what it's called—no gratuitous smut in this column) on the job a couple of weeks ago when his beard became hopelessly entangled in the infernal machine, which is about the size of a middling compressor. He managed to switch it off before it ate his face, but it refused to release its hold. Help, cried Peter. Help. Many helps later, the owner of the property

## IN RED & WHITE



The short arm of the law maintained a police presence in the festival parade last month. His name's Ben Dennis. Junior Constable Ben Dennis. (Pictures by Alan Lesheim)

answered his call. He saw the funny side, but Peter kept his cool. "No camera," he said. "Just bring scissors."



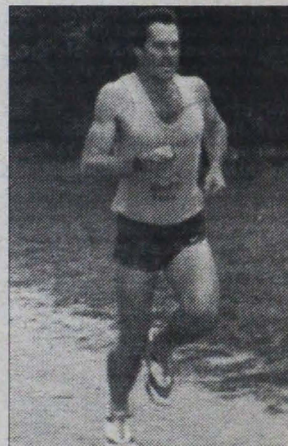
Everyone at Warrandyte Basketball Club knew Evan Zigmantas was a bit of a lair, so it surprised them not at all to see him making a gig of himself in his undies on national television. Evan, 19, appeared on Man O Man, the newish Saturday night Channel 7 show which puts down blokes. He sang, danced and hammed his way into the last three of 10 contestants before being given the raspberry and an involuntary swim in the pool. That's showbiz, Evan.



One of the nicest hangovers from last year's footy flag (and we refer the early bewildered to Page 15) came from a bottle of premiership port bought and unbottled at presentation night. Thankfully, there is still some left (although not out of that particular bottle, we assure you). Yum. And it is available at a ridiculous \$10 at the clubrooms or from John Ryan (844 2552). For an even more ridiculous \$9.95 you can still take up one of the last rare examples of Smokey Joe's own personal port, still on sale at the Warrandyte Cellars.



They were thinking of making April 23 a cross-dressing night at the footy club pavilion, but then they figured that seeing there's so much confusion about who wears the handbag these days anyway, there'd be chaos in the cloakroom. That's why it's now a '70s Bad Taste Night. Tickets (great DJ) can be had from Cheryl Dobbie (844 4230)



Who is this mystery man? We don't know. Neither does the local Apex Club, which should, because he won their Festival Fun Run. We tried to identify this fine athlete, but our trail of inquiries ended with an Apexian who sheepishly admitted he'd lost the results. All we know is that he's from out of town. Congratulations, sir, whoever you are.



## What's On at the WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY CENTRE

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# Is Warrandyte set to be a major river crossing?

By DAVID WYMAN

Will the Yarra River bridge at Warrandyte be the river crossing place for a major ring road, planned to carry high volumes of heavy traffic around Melbourne and beyond?

"Warrandyte must be high on the list of sites for such a road, which would bring a flood of traffic to Warrandyte." So wrote Neil Tessier in a letter in last month's *Diary*.

Mr Tessier was referring to the State Government's February announcements of road construction activities over the next 15 years—and particularly completion of the ring road around Melbourne and its unknown route between Greensborough and Ringwood.

The *Diary* has obtained copies of Vic Roads documents which outline strategies and plans for improving Melbourne's road network. Key actions include completing the Western Ring Road

between Werribee and Greensborough and to "determine the most appropriate means of joining the Western Ring Road and the Eastern Ring Road".

All the maps provided by Vic Roads show Warrandyte in the middle of the link between Greensborough and Ringwood—an area under "investigations", "subject to investigations" and the "missing link (no reservations)".

This means that the ring road between Greensborough and Ringwood has nowhere specific to go.

But the road will be built. Vic Roads corporate and public relations manager Mac Henshall told the *Diary*: "There are no plans or lines on a map (for the road). And we are a year or two or more away from looking at it, so there's not a lot we can say at this point."

"But the minister has said that the ring road has to be



built—it's part of a requirement to get a ring road right around Melbourne. So it's going to happen and we've got a difficult time ahead working out how it's going to happen."

There are obvious factors in favor of building the ring road through Green Wedge land—it would be cheaper to acquire because the land is less developed and lot sizes are larger, there may be less political clout against the move because of fewer people, Warrandyte is suitable for the route, and it has a river crossing—"the only river crossing between Fitzsimons Lane and Yarra Glen," as Neil Tessier pointed out.

There is also a strong

suggestion abroad that a new bridge could be built, somewhere to the north of the end of Springvale Road.

The lack of a strong road route between Ringwood and Greensborough is seen by Vic Roads as a "weakness in the network" and "will continue to constrain the efficient delivery of transport services until acceptable solutions are developed".

"The government will commission a study on how best to provide for circumferential metropolitan traffic and regional traffic needs through the north-east of Melbourne," according to Vic Roads.

"Even when the Eastern Freeway is built eastward out to Ringwood and the Western Ring Road is completed from the Hume Highway to Greensborough the lack of adequate north-south roads will mean that travel between the east of the city and the north will remain poor."

"This hole in the ring road

network forces traffic into congested areas closer to the centre of the city, focuses traffic on inappropriate river crossings and encourages the use of local roads by long distance traffic," Vic Roads says.

"Over the years the need for and desirability of building a new link between Ringwood and Greensborough, or the upgrading of existing roads, has been debated. However, no decision has been made on how best to provide for future traffic services through the region."

"It is now time to make a decision on how best to meet the medium to long term metropolitan and regional traffic needs, and how best to balance these needs with local and regional environmental, social and economic concerns," the Vic Roads document states.

Among the "key actions" listed by Vic Roads in its future road plans is the

duplication of the eastern end of Reynolds Road.

Meanwhile, a committee of mayors from the municipalities of Ringwood, Nunawading and Doncaster-Templestowe has given its support to the government's road strategy.

Doncaster mayor Cr Irene Goonan said in a press release that the strategy "effectively provides a ring road around Melbourne," and "we are gratified that the government has taken note of the mass of evidence submitted by the community in the eastern suburbs and has recognised that the planning and implementation of interlinking roads will achieve a significant net community and economic benefit".

How "gratified" the people of Warrandyte and surrounding communities will be by these still unknown future road proposals is yet to be seen.



## 'R' marks bushfire safety refuges

Terminology used on signs indicating fire refuge areas has been changed. Signs will now have a big letter R with an arrow indicating the location of the refuge. The only name that will appear on signs is 'Fire Refuge', in red lettering on a white background the size of traffic speed signs.

The new signs have already been erected for refuges at North Warrandyte Community Centre, Pantom Hill Hall and Hurstbridge Secondary College.

These places have emergency water supplies for fire protection purposes, but according to Eltham's emergency management officer, Bernie Murray, the home is usually the safest place during a fire.

"Obviously if all the right things have been done around the home to protect it from fire, it should be the safest place to stay. The majority of fatalities on Ash Wednesday occurred on the smoke and fire-filled roads," he said.

He recommends the halls for people who are not in a position to stay and defend their homes during a fire.

*Andersons Creek Primary School's kookaburra, a feature of the festival parade, won third prize in its category at Moomba. (Picture by Alan Lesheim)*

## Park program cutbacks

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte State Park will have to rely on increased community effort after budget cutbacks to its successful Parkcare program. Co-ordinator Fay Vulcanis' position will not be renewed beyond June this year, with the Parks and Waterways Program only providing "seeding" funds.

It is expected one of the park's six rangers will have to fill the breach as Parkcare co-ordinator, while others will perform some of the duties as part of their normal roles.

Bob Brinkman, chief ranger for the Yarra Valley region, said that all parks were being reviewed in

light of financial constraints. "Warrandyte has great community involvement at the park. There are quite a number of friends' groups and we're relying more and more on community involvement and capitalising on that," he said.

He added that Parkcare had provided tremendous value and achieved what it set out to do since its inception in March 1992, but now had to be delivered differently with budget changes.

Whether the park's six rangers have the time for this is being questioned however, after smaller local reserves have also been placed under the control

of Warrandyte's head ranger Matt le Duc.

He told the *Diary* that "Parkcare is a big commitment. This will stretch our resources even further, which may mean the parks do not get the attention they deserve."

"We're flat chat now, and will be expected to do more with less."

He said the community had been very supportive of the Parkcare program and were an integral part of its success.

"Parkcare was excellent. I hope community interest doesn't wane because it's not continuing in its present form," he said.

Bob Brinkman said the Warrandyte rangers' workloads would be reviewed to see if it justified having an extra ranger appointed to the park.

Parkcare's inception came about after the release of the Warrandyte State Park management plan in June 1990. "A large scale participation program involving as many neighbours of the park as possible is required to ensure the long term protection of the park's conservation values," the plan said.

"A Parkcare program is proposed to involve the community in actions that will complement the existing park management."

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 to a briefing session to highlight

# Threats to the Green Wedge

at the  
**Warrandyte Community Centre**  
**Friday April 22, 8pm**

A recent Doncaster and Templestowe council review of the non-urban zones within the Warrandyte/Park Orchards area is seen by many landholders as an opportunity to push for subdivision in the Green Wedge area.

Speakers:  
 Phil Honeywood, MP  
 Val Polley, Ward Councillor

**ENQUIRIES TO ALAN KING, 844 3622**

## WARRANDYTE HARDWARE

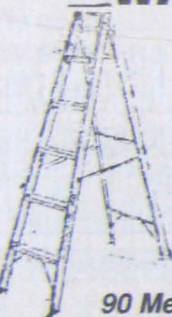
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# Wedge battle

## LETTERS



On the evening of 16 March a number of Warrandyte residents attended and spoke at a special meeting of the Physical Services Committee of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. The meeting was called to give interested residents an opportunity to speak on the options paper prepared by council to explore ways to better manage the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Green Wedge area, but most of the five hours of submissions consisted of calls by residents to be allowed to subdivide their land down to one acre.

While there has always been some sympathy for the difficulty faced by some residents, the majority of land-owners purchased property in this area after the present Landscape Interest zonings were declared and are therefore in no realistic position to plead "hard done by".

It is everyone's right to be heard, but self-interest will always bring in the numbers and this was further exacerbated by some of those speaking in defence of continuing "Green Wedge values", taking the trouble to organise fewer representative speakers. We are facing a well-organised, sustained and determined campaign.

Local MP Phil Honeywood further confirmed his value as our local member by presenting the opening submission and clearly sees the issue as one of strategic importance to the city of Melbourne. Unfortunately, only four councillors were present at this stage, three of them our battling Warrandyte Ward councillors. The evening degenerated into a series of sharp exchanges with development oriented councillors complaining about "the greenies" as they called for subdivision of the Green Wedge to raise more rates revenue from this area.

Forget the middle Yarra municipality—what we need to work for is to amalgamate the Doncaster and Templestowe Green Wedge and Warrandyte township with the Shire of Eltham, who know how to administer such areas. No doubt this value of Eltham is itself under threat from possible amalgamation with Diamond Valley, so both Green Wedge areas could benefit from casting off their denser urban neighbours.

Doug Seymour  
 Warrandyte Road

## No subdivision

We have been concerned recently that large landowners have been pushing strongly for subdivision within the Green Wedge. A survey taken of War-

randyte residents 20 years ago found that the majority of residents felt that a buffer zone between Warrandyte and the suburban sprawl was important. Then 15 years ago a report by Loder and Boyly stressed the crucial importance of such a zone. To quote—"This area is extremely vulnerable to any increase in density; each new house will jeopardise the character." In 1978 a Green Wedge was established.

Surely some of the large land-owners who want to subdivide bought their land after 1978 knowing the rules, and possibly knowing the work it would take to maintain their large blocks.

There have been numerous meetings lately concerning this matter, yet it seems to be large landowners only who are let known of such meetings. We consider the Green Wedge to be of significance for the whole of the Warrandyte/Park Orchards area, indeed Victoria.

Recently our property has been given a 'site of significance' rating. We are thrilled about this, as it means that our property will be preserved for future generations. If the Green Wedge goes, there will be no bringing it back. We feel that it would be a short sighted decision; rather than thinking of future ramifications.

In recent years the majority of voters in the area at council elections have voted for candidates who were pro-environment. We urge these people to become active in trying to preserve the Green Wedge before it is too late.

Beverley and John Hanson  
 Webb Street

## Youth response

It was with great interest that I read the letter in the February *Diary* by 'A Parent' and saw not one reply in the March issue. As the local youth worker (and at times 'babysitter') I have regular contact with a large number of parents who have similar concerns and questions as expressed in this letter.

Being a parent today is not easy and for many, parenting their teenager brings fear, guilt and uncertainty. Let me make a few comments about the issues raised in that letter.

The issue of control is not an easy issue to address in such a short space. If parents have fostered a sense of mutual respect,

trust and honesty in their relationship with their child as they have grown up, then controlling them as a teenager will often be seen more in terms of giving them room to open their wings, to grow and mature.

However, this is not a perfect world and reality dictates that control is an issue in many homes. For teenagers, testing, bending and breaking the limits set by their parents is part of growing up and discovering who they are outside their family. Parents can help this process by setting reasonable limits and allowing the young person to be part of the process of negotiating the limits.

Listening and understanding by parents in particular (as young people go through a stage of temporary deafness) is very important. I would also encourage you to always check where your teenagers say they are going, to confirm this with other parents. Make yourself known to other parents and talk about your concerns. The chances are that they will be feeling the same.

The recent festival did cause me some concern as I heard stories from the local young people of how the parents supplied alcohol to them and their friends and it appears that many parents give their teenagers almost total free range during this weekend. I wonder how many parents, whose teenagers regularly use the drop-in centre, thought their children were at the film night on Saturday night?

Finally, Warrandyte Youth Services is running its second parenting teenager program during second term this year, information is available from the youth centre. Given the numbers of parents who come in seeking support and assistance in parenting issues we would also be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in participating in a parent support group for parents of teenagers, if one was established here in Warrandyte. You can contact me on 844 2985.

Craig Milburn  
 Co-ordinator  
 Warrandyte Youth Centre

## Good work

Well done to all who contributed to another terrific community festival.

In particular, congratulations to nine-year-old Sandra Coull who won the ladies' section of the nine kilometre bike race in a time of 27 minutes 40 seconds.

Proud Father  
 (Name & address supplied.)

# Berni unpacks out north

By JULIE MURRAY

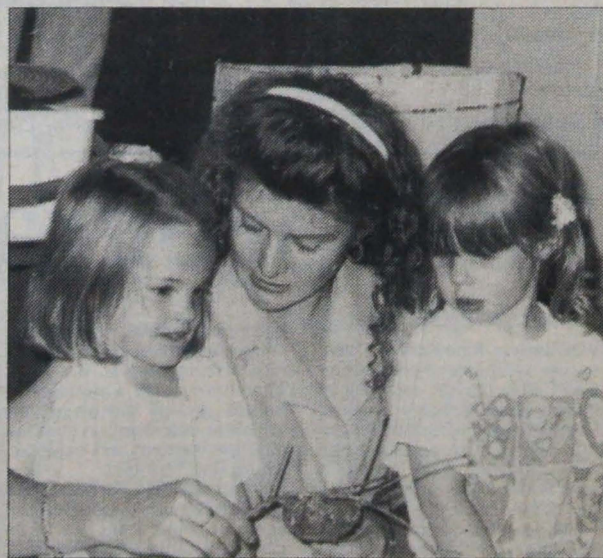
"Pack away time" takes on a whole new meaning at the Yarra View Preschool, North Warrandyte.

To the new director of the centre, Bernadette Duggan, 21, there is nothing but advantages to a "pack-up kinder". With relative ease and great enthusiasm from the children, the preschool quickly reverts back to a community hall. The shelves are on castors, the play equipment is easily stored and the tables are stackable.

"This versatility is interesting for the children and they can have a say in how the room looks each day. It is also convenient for me to design for different activities," Bernadette said.

Bernadette (known as Berni to the mums and children) comes to North Warrandyte from Geelong and "loves the place". This is her first posting since graduating with a diploma in early childhood training.

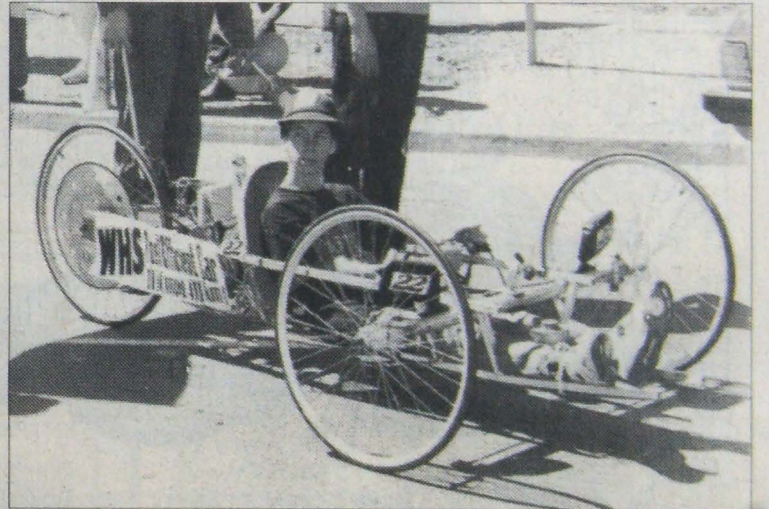
She admits to learning as much from the children as she does from experience, and revels in her ever-changing work



Bernadette Duggan charms her charges.  
 (Picture by Jan Tindale)

environment. She feels it is important to present a program that the children can enjoy and work through at their own pace.

"Each child is an individual. Whatever you plan or want to achieve you will find someone will do it differently."



PICTURES BY ALAN LESHEIM

# Record crowds at festival

Warrandyte's 1994 Village Festival attracted record crowds last month, with police estimating 4,000 people attending each of the two days.

Magnificent weather allowed the good-natured crowd to enjoy all the activities throughout Warrandyte, particularly at Stiggants Reserve where changes to the lay-out of stalls showed off the riverbank area at its best.

Saturday afternoon's "On Stage at Stiggants" concert drew a noticeable increase in crowd numbers.

Having comprised mostly of parents and friends in past years, this year's standard of singing, dancing and playing attracted a far wider audience.

This peaked at more than 500 when Warrandyte High School put on a brilliant excerpt from their forthcoming production "Grease". Other highlights included the high school band, a jazz band from

Copies of all *Diary* festival photos—and many others not published—are available for sale. Phone Alan Lesheim on 844 2818.

Donvale Christian School, singing by groups from local primary schools and some very professional dance routines from local dance schools.

International dancing and music acts on the riverbank stage were extended this year to run on the Sunday as well as the Saturday. The riverbank's revised lay-out, with tables and chairs in the centre to watch the entertainment, replacing tents and stalls, proved a hit.

Its success has prompted the festival committee to investigate erecting a permanent stage on the riverbank area. A committee spokesperson said that the stage has been a resounding success at

the last four festivals.

"We started off with small rostra provided by Doncaster council, but the requirement has grown annually to the point where we are now hiring a very large stage at a cost of over \$1,000 per festival. It would make good economic sense to erect a permanent stage there, that could be used for the festival and at other times by community groups," the spokesperson said.

In other happenings at the festival, Warrandyte Fire Brigade won back the Yarra Bent Branch competition from Warrandyte North, who had won the past two events. Warrandyte South came

a respectable third.

The Combined Churches Open Air Service, staged for the first time, attracted a large congregation. Religious bands combined with conventional prayer and the release of balloons to make the experience enjoyable and moving for all.

A similar enjoyable time was had at Warrandyte Primary School's festival parade, as all grades had fun with the "Once upon a time in Warrandyte" theme. Cinderella's masked ball, the aboriginal dreamtime, the duck race and undie 500 were just some of the highlights of the parade. Entertainment from the bush band provided a fitting finale to the morning's festivities.

Meanwhile, the festival committee thanks the SES and North Warrandyte Fire Brigade for their help in freeing a number of cars which became bogged in the paddock at the bottom of Forbes Street during the weekend.

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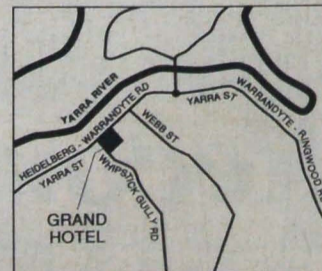


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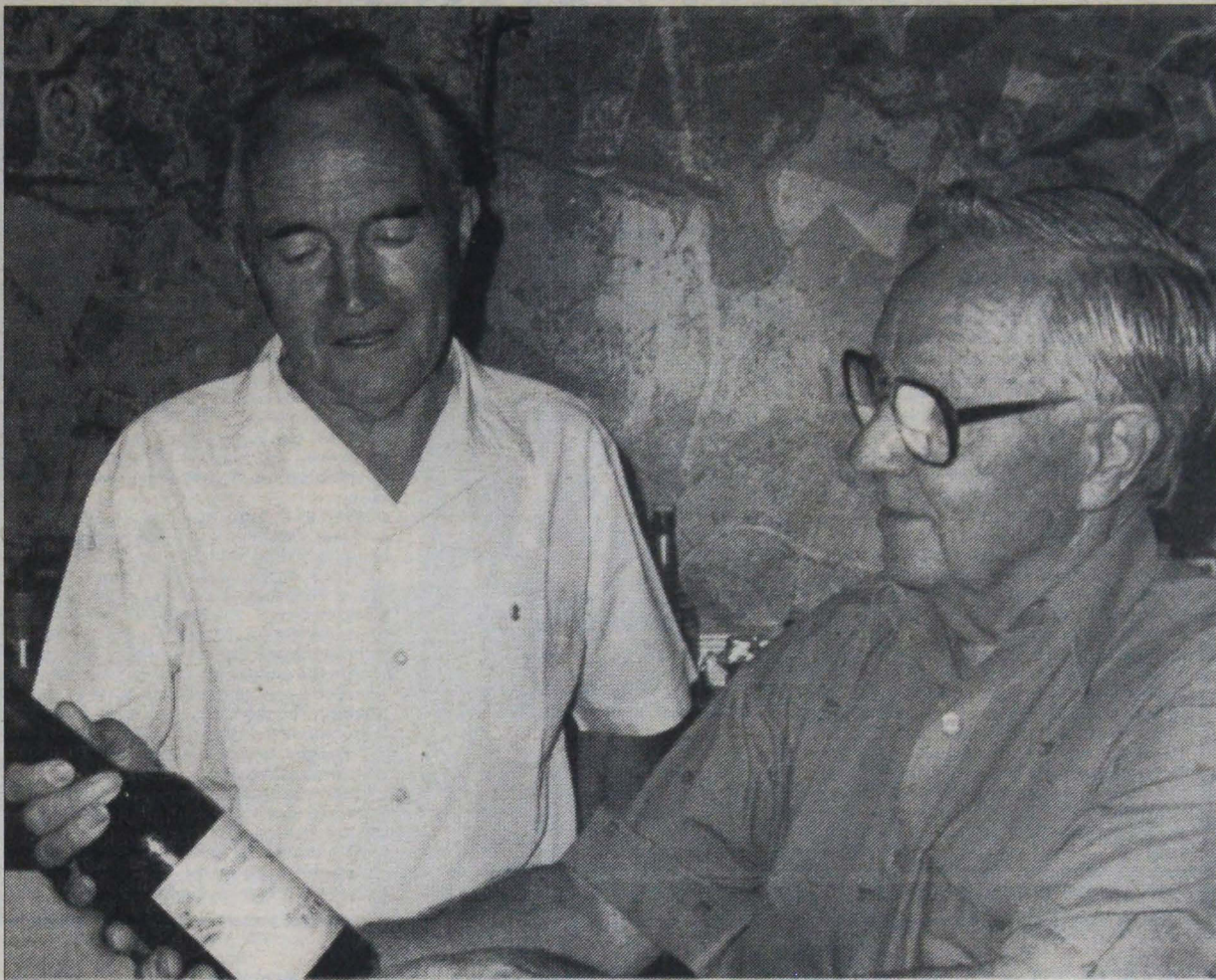
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REAL MONEY **POKIES** REAL POKIES



Bob Cox (right) presents George Doherty with his Battle of Britain port. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

# They won't forget

By LEE TINDALE

“Is that the Bob Cox?” asked the voice on the other end of the phone.

“Yes.”  
“Is that the Bob Cox, of 15 Squadron RAF?”  
“Yes it is.”

And with that, plans to personally rekindle a close wartime mateship going back half a century were immediately set in motion.

The caller was George Doherty, rear gunner on the Lancaster bomber which Bob, of Brackenbury Street, had navigated over Europe in World War 2.

George, an Irishman who also served with the RAF in India and Korea before settling in South Africa, was in Australia

recently with wife Colleen to visit their daughter in Sydney. He'd kept in touch with his old Aussie mate over the years by exchanging Christmas cards. Now he was on his way to Warrandyte to relive old missions, refight old battles and relive old memories.

Among those memories would be the night of March 27, 1945, a night on leave in London, when George introduced Bob to a very cute Irish girl named Claire at the Hammersmith Palais. We know her as “Paddy”, Mrs Paddy Cox.

“After George phoned me from Sydney, I thought—as I had done hundreds of times—how lucky I was when he came up to me in 1944, when we were ‘crewing up’ on operational training, and asked me to be his navigator,” said Bob.

“And I thought again how lucky it was that I said yes.

“It was a very heart-warming experience to see him again after all that time. Inevitably, out came my old flight plans and navigation charts. As all old airmen do, we relived our wartime operations.”

Bob has no doubt that George Doherty saved the Lancaster and crew during a night raid on Berlin by shooting down a German fighter which was poised for the kill.

“I asked him when we met again in Warrandyte if he had got that fighter that night,” Bob said. “As modest as ever, he said he thought so. There’s no doubt in my mind that he did, but the RAF would not award a ‘kill’ without supporting evidence.

“He got a pat on the back and a ‘well done’ from the top brass,

but no medal. The pilot, though, was promoted for the third time in six months. It was a pilots’ air force in those days.”

George must have liked the Cox hospitality because he was going to spend a couple of days in Warrandyte and stayed a week. His next port of call was to be London, to catch up with his old bomb-aimer.

He took with him a gift—a bottle of 50th anniversary port, commemorating the Battle of Britain, which had helped pride of place in Bob’s bar.

Bob Cox retains his links with the RAF as a member of the “Odd Bods”, Australian airmen who flew in Britain with other than Australian squadrons.

Officially, it is the Odd Bods (UK) Association, RAAF 1939-45. Their Anzac Day reunion is always a lively affair.

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Anzac Day is a particularly special day in Warrandyte and the local RSL Sub-Branch has appealed for a maximum turnout for the march and memorial service on April 25.

Pastor Peter Keep, of the Gospel Chapel, will conduct the service. Andrew Ogilvie will be the lone piper and Chris Coates the bugler. The march from the chapel to the RSL memorial grounds opposite the bridge will start at 10.30am. Local scouts and girl guides have again been invited

to take part.

Refreshments will be available in the RSL clubrooms after the service.

The Warrandyte sub-branch believes many people in the district are unaware of their eligibility for RSL membership. “Membership rules have been relaxed to remove the ‘returned’ qualification,” sub-branch secretary Ennio Torresan told the *Diary*.

“It is now open to anyone who has served or is serving in the reserve of any

branch of the armed forces.

“It also includes anyone who has served in a peace-keeping force.

“We think there may be several people—or many people—in the Warrandyte area who are eligible for RSL membership but don’t realise it.

“If they are interested in joining our sub-branch we would certainly like to hear from them.”

Mr Torresan can be contacted on 844 1178 (H).

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## PETER MANN

# The final touch-down

By BRUCE BENCE

LONG-TIME Warrandyte resident Peter Mann died at his home on February 3, 1994. He was 62 years of age. A regular visitor to Alex, David and Robert Hughes for morning and afternoon tea, Peter was found by Robert that afternoon after failing to arrive for their regular get-together.

Peter was the last surviving member of the Hastings family, which came to Warrandyte last century. William Hastings, a miner, was Peter's great grandfather. The family had occupied the land that Peter lived on since the freehold was granted in April 1890. The family probably held the land on a miner's right before that time as the family was living at Andersons Creek.

The Hastings family was the most tragic to have lived in Warrandyte. By the time William died, his wife and 10 of his 12 children were dead.

Daughter Ester died at the age of 10 in 1866 and was buried at Templestowe, as Andersons Creek Cemetery had not yet opened. The oldest tombstone in Andersons Creek belongs to Caroline Hastings, who died aged six in January 1873.

Two daughters survived William. Elizabeth, Peter's grandmother, who married



Peter Mann

Joe Duter, and Isobell, who lost her only daughter as a baby and died soon after at 22. Elizabeth and Joe had two children, Ivy, Peter's mother, and Bill.

Peter inherited the property from his mother, with the family having lived on the site for some 100 years. Peter got to

know David and Alex Hughes, who lived on a neighbouring property, when he came to Warrandyte to visit his grandparents. They formed a friendship which lasted almost 50 years.

Peter had similar interests to the Hughes boys, including a keen interest in restoring cars. His ambition was to set up a car museum to display his collection of some 40 cars. Having worked as an aircraft mechanic, he had accumulated a vast knowledge on Morris and Austin vehicles.

Peter and Joan married in 1951 and had one daughter who died young. They came to live in Warrandyte in 1977.

Peter's death came as a shock to his many Warrandyte friends as he looked so fit and well. Typically, he was full of plans for the future. He was always there to lend a hand and help where he could within the community, while Joan was an energetic and enthusiastic worker, particularly for the Citizens Advice Bureau. Peter was also involved in the Australian Air League where his technical knowledge was invaluable.

Peter was buried in New South Wales at Sutherland where his family and daughter are buried. His Warrandyte friends held a memorial service for him in the community centre on March 23, to say their own farewell. Goodbye, mate!

## Open Season on local politics

HAVING spent some 13 years intimately connected with a small parent-run community school in the area, it was with a certain sense of déjà vu that I watched the Warrandyte Drama Group's performance of Open Season in the Mechanics Institute Hall.

Perhaps it was the sight of a motley crew of such varying ages, shapes, sizes and talents that touched a nostalgic chord. Or perhaps it was the "Oh no, you can't do that" attitude of the president and council of the local amateur dramatic society that reminded me so vividly of my days at the Hurstbridge Learning Co-op.

In any event, the program warned the audience that "you will see yourselves in the performance", and I, for one, certainly did.

Open Season is an original two-act musical comedy which has been adapted from bits and pieces of past festival follies sketches by scriptwriter Alan Cornell.

The story is set in a small town rather like Warrandyte in a drama group not unlike Warrandyte and involves the politics of that town, rather like Warrandyte. The result is a show which is essentially Warrandytian.

### THEATRE

By ALISON CASSIDY

The first half of the evening explores the trials and tribulations of director Crispian Idol, and his futile attempts to stage West Side Story for the local amateur dramatic society. The second half, Inside Story, is the resultant musical.

At times the script is a bit thin on the ground and the bits and pieces that make it up could do with some more careful editing, but all in all it works, and the musical score and lyrics by David Billings, Alan Cornell, Mark Leehy and Kevin O'Mara are most impressive.

In particular the opening number, "If you could see it through my eyes" is a beautifully written song which stayed in the memory long enough to be hummed on the way home.

Now there is an old adage among theatrical circles that an audience will absorb only 10 per cent of what they hear and see. Well, Inside Story has so many changes of scene and so many complications of script that the audience could be forgiven for becoming a trifle confused.

There is obviously something in the air in Warrandyte at festival time that infects the members of the drama group and instils in them an extraordinary level of energy and panache.

True, a more imaginative directorial hand and the use of more stage movement could have improved the visual effect of the show, and at times the comedy was lost through garbled vocal style and poor timing, but such was the ebullience of the cast that the result was a worthwhile night's entertainment.

Newcomer to the group, Caroline Shaw, was most impressive as the thick-skinned and ever optimistic Hedy Load-bearer, president of the dramatic society (do I detect a hint of type-casting here?). She certainly looked impressive in her Barbara Cartland hairdo in the second half.

Alan Cornell, as the beleaguered Crispian Idol, director of the show, had a relaxed delivery and agreeable singing voice but the love affair between he and Ally Basinski (Mandy Stevens) seemed a trifle lame. Stevens, incidentally, looks stunning and sings well.

Olivia Harkin, as the Inside Story female lead Polly, has a comfortable stage presence,

good vocal delivery and sense of comedy that could probably earn her a place on the professional stage should she be mad enough to try.

Chris Cornell as Joe and Mat Allgood as Ben tackled the difficult roles of the young juveniles very well and Sue Dyring's Edna Everage look-alike Mrs Doors, replete with hideous spectacles, was always in character, with a good crisp vocal delivery and easy vocal style.

As usual, the Warrandyte Tappers were as delightful as they were accomplished—I'm sure the audience could have done with a second helping of this popular dessert.

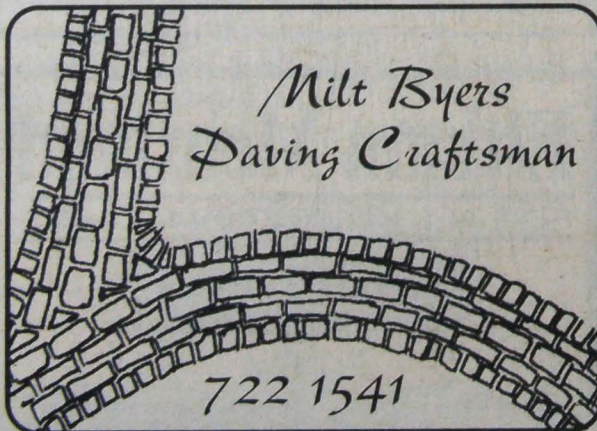
The musical direction and performance was first-rate and technically the show was most professional—Warrandyte is certainly very lucky to have the resources of someone like Brian Laurence to direct sound and lighting.

The sets and costumes were effective (I particularly liked the chook outfits) and the stage management, efficient and competently handled.

Finally, my compliments to the drama group for staging an original work of this calibre and to the writers, musicians and performers for its enthusiastic presentation.

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# A reluctant hero

**O**N a chilly autumn day at Wonga Park Reserve, Warrandyte Cricket Club's first eleven were about to start the match to decide a grand final berth.

As the batsmen set out for the middle, a tall man with greying fair hair and solid build carefully stepped out his run-up, looking as though he'd done so a thousand times before.

He had—for Northcote at the district level, South Australia and Victoria in the Sheffield Shield, and for Australia.

This was one of Australian cricket's favourite sons, who had set a record for wickets against the traditional foes as he knocked over 41 Pommie wickets in 1978/79.

This was the Rodney Hogg, international fast bowler, and the expectation was that a Wonga Park wicket would soon fall. It did, in his second over.

Rod's match results—13 overs, two wickets for 13 runs. Great bowling, but ask the man and he'll convince you that he was more concerned that the team would win and get into the final. It did.

Think of international fast bowlers and apart from their aggressive style on the ground, one normally expects a fiery personality to go with it.

After introductions, Hogg focused his steel blue eyes on me and announced that he didn't like reporters. It appears they had written some rubbish about him in the past.

Good bouncer Mr Hogg, and I was already on my back foot ducking and weaving. Taking pity on somebody new at this kind of thing, he spent the rest of our time together displaying a humanity unlike that which one would expect from a fast bowling great.

Why, at the age of 43, did he come out of retirement? Rodney considered this question for a moment.

"Rod Marsh once said that he wasn't good enough to retire. He just stopped playing. So did I."

Cricket is obviously still one of his great loves. After two years concentrating on his successful greengrocery shop at the West End with his wife, Denise, he wanted to get back on the 'strip' again, pacing himself so that he could be relatively injury free. For a fast bowler at his age he needs to be careful.

Rodney was "just another Sheffield Shield bowler" until thrust into the Australian team after the defection of Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson to Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket in 1978.

In his first Test season, he claimed 41 English wickets at an average of 12.65. It is still a

## LOCAL FOLK

By NICHOLAS PARSONS

record for an Ashes series. He went on to take 123 wickets in eight years of Test cricket.

Not being chosen for an English tour, Hogg went to South Africa with Kim Hughes' team. Don't suggest he did it for the money either. He joined the likes of John Dyson, Terry Alderman and Carl Rackerman for the experience of playing in South Africa against one of his

coached at Waverly at the district level, was full of praise.

"I've loved it, the club has loved it and everyone else has loved it. If they say they haven't, then they're not part of the Warrandyte Cricket Club."

It was with little surprise then that Hogg won the club's bowling award for the season, and received further kudos from Sharman.

"It's been fantastic," he told the crowd gathered at the club's presentation night. "What gives me the most amount of pride is that he really enjoys it here. He's

7pm, seven days a week. Thankfully, Denise shares the load in the business, which "relies on quality, not mere price for its custom". He reckons that they were lucky to buy the business and is very modest about his own contribution to its success.

Not getting much information there, I turned the focus back to cricket. What highlights was he going to remember from his distinguished career?

Another thoughtful silence. "What I remember most is the frustration of all those plumb LBWs and caught behinds that I was never given. Once, in the West Indies, I had Viv Richards plumb leg before—right in front and half-way up his pads. Of course, you couldn't get Viv out there to an LBW decision. I often think of those sorts of situations," he said with a wry smile.

What about the current trend of rules—caged helmets for batsmen, one bouncer per person per over and so on? "I think the administrators and rule makers have got to remember that it's the personalities that sell the tickets. They tend to make rules so that the personalities of the game like Ian Botham and Merv Hughes get so frustrated they can't play their own game."

Then quiet. Clearly Rodney didn't want to talk about administrators any more.

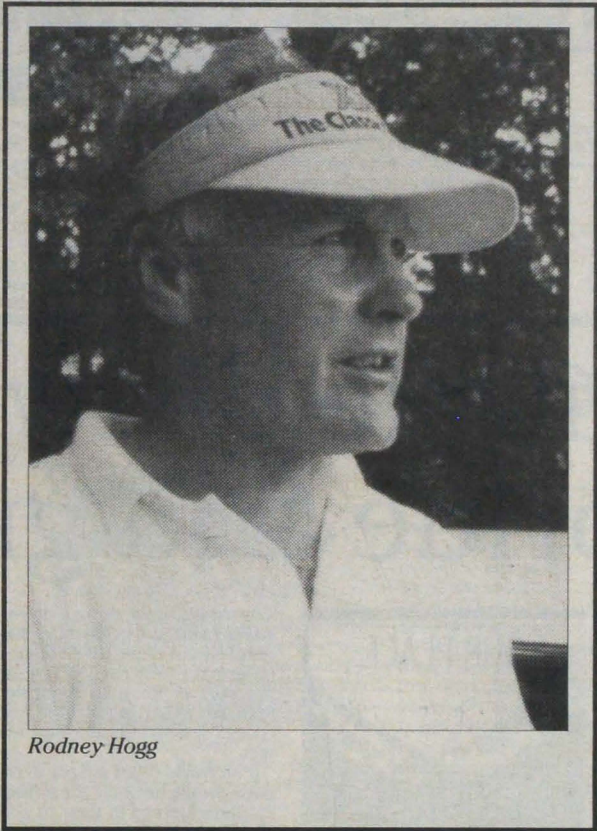
The Hogs have been in Warrandyte for seven years. Why Warrandyte? Rodney thinks it's a great place—quiet, clean air. Wildlife. Again my idea of a fast bowler's personality took a stumping. I get the feeling he's playing with me, the way he plays with the opening batsman—and he was out for a duck!

With a shake of the head, Rodney Hogg asked if we were done and then took his son over to the nets to spend some more time with him.

Almost oblivious to his beloved cricket out in the centre, time has matured him and the responsibilities of fatherhood now take first place. But maybe Hoggy's got one or two seasons left in him. The Warrandyte eleven sure hopes so.

I left the ground as Ben Brisbane whacked the Wonga Park bowlers for another boundary. I wondered about my own perceptions of fast bowlers. This one is different to what I expected—he is a quiet, considered and humble man who enjoys his family as much as listening to his team mates yell out "well bowled, Hoggy".

I'd rather be on his team than face him with a ball in his hand—or one of his best tomatoes for that matter.



Rodney Hogg

own heroes, Clive Rice. After that, his first class career was over but one senses that the trip was worth it.

His competitive streak is still very much there. He couldn't wait to have a bat, even though the match result was posted. Cricket is still part of his life. He still loves to bowl a short one to get rid of his frustrations.

Rodney said that he really has enjoyed this year, playing for Warrandyte, as much as higher level cricket. "It's just as competitive," he said.

And there's no doubt that the cricket club have enjoyed having him. Captain-coach John Sharman, whom Hogg

played in every cricketing country in the world, and it's been a thrill having him with us. He's given the club, supporters and everyone else in the community a great deal of pride in that he's put the whites back on."

Rodney Hogg is now a family man. He and Denise have two children, Matthew, 10, and Lauren, 6, both of whom attend Andersons Creek Primary School, only a boundary throw away from the family greengrocery.

He wishes that he could spend more time with his children, but often he's up at 3:30am to go to the market and the shop doesn't close till

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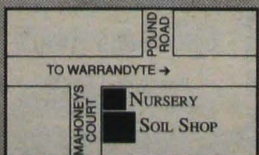
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# How Green is our Wedge?

**T**HAT'S right, the Green Wedge is back on the front page. Did your eyes glaze over as you read the familiar headlines? Have you seen it all before? Heard all the arguments long ago? Yes, we feel the same way.

But perhaps, after all these years, after all the surveys, inquiries, public meetings and council elections we can knuckle down and win this one last battle—just as we've won all the previous ones—and hope this precious tract of country is safe forever.

The Mad Hatter's teaparty arguments have remained the same. Basically, the contention is that the Green Wedge is so degraded it can only be saved through subdivision. "Sensitive" subdivision, mind you, but we still hear the phrase "one acre lots" being repeated over and over.

Twenty years ago, nothing could have been more degraded than the Crown Land areas that have now been incorporated into the Warrandyte State Park.

Mining had cleared the timber and turned the country upside down. Generations of people had dumped their nightsoil in the gullies and left their car bodies and household rubbish in the bush. Pines had been planted and allowed to escape, rabbits and blackberries permitted to run rampant and trail bikes and water pipelines had caused erosion that scoured out the hillsides and gullies.

Had any crazy "save through subdivision" arguments been heeded, one of Melbourne's green jewels would not exist today.

Despite promised rate rebates and technical assistance, some landowners may still believe themselves incapable of caring for their land. So unless they sell it to someone who will look after it, it will remain degraded. That's not necessarily the end of the world—or the end of the Green Wedge.

If some future generation chooses to devote its resources to buying this country back for the people, for the native birds and animals, they won't be facing an impossible situation. They will be able to spray the blackberries, drag out the car bodies and replant the native bush.

But if it's covered with bitumen roads, houses, tennis courts and swimming pools, it will be gone forever. If we don't win this last battle, we might have lost the war.

CLIFF GREEN



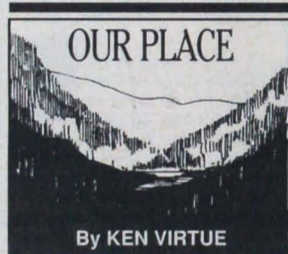
# A stubbie or two for the bride and groom

**F**OR many of us the year has slipped past so fast that we're surprised to realise that it's April already. What am I doing with my life, I thought, as this fact hit me? I needed a change to recharge my batteries...

And so I decided to accept an invitation to the wedding of an acquaintance from work and leave Warrandyte behind for a few days.

The wedding was in Ingham, about an hour's drive north of Townsville and about another planet away from Melbourne. Flying to FNQ (Far North Queensland) is equivalent to flying from Los Angeles to Atlanta, which is something of a coincidence because the bride used to live in Atlanta.

She was a country girl from a sweet Beverley Hillbillies kind of family and her parents were called Homer and Ruth. Whilst working as a security guard at the swanky Carlton Ritz Hotel she was spied by the bridegroom, Steve, from Ingham FNQ. He, a smash repair shop owner, was on his first ever business



trip, and was wearing a Three Stooges tie (no, not on a dare).

The rest, as they say, is history. Steve and Karen fell madly in love, and got married at the Uniting Church in Ingham.

The wedding guests were a mixture of dorks from Sydney and Melbourne wearing suits and ties, and the smarter locals wearing short sleeved shirts from Hawaii Five O. Steve and his best man, cousin Mark, were both wearing white tails with red bow ties and matching cumberbunds. The only white socks they could find were their footy ones (but you couldn't see the stripes on the tops).

The bridal limo from

Townsville broke down half way, so the bride and bridesmaid had to ride to the church with Steve's mum in the farm car. Doris is not the sort of mum to be trifled with, so I'm betting that the limo company won't be sending her a bill.

It all worked out alright in the end though, because the stretch Fairlane arrived in time to pick them up from the park after the photos had been taken. Meanwhile, the guests were all at the pub trying to cool off. Last week they had 11 inches of rain in two days and you could almost see the mould growing on the walls.

As with all good receptions in Ingham, Steve and Karen decided on The International Club. This is a monument to the mostly Italian cane farmers in FNQ and is handsomely constructed from concrete blocks with a cyclone-proof Cliplock roof.

Inside the family had hung both American and Australian flags behind the triple layer wedding cake on the bridal table. It was a great party. I don't know how many hundred beers were served but the grog bill was more than \$1500. To say that the lo-

calls 'like a drink' is merely to state the bleedin' obvious.

Steve and Karen, our friends and salt of the earth hosts, were the last ones to leave at 2am and everyone had sung a lot of country and 60's songs before then.

Outside the cane toads were like a vast brown knobby carpet on the bore sprinklered lawn. The moths were like flying foxes and it was still about 30 degrees celsius.

Back at the Bates Motel the ceiling fan was wupping around in the thick tropical air, the room was spinning nearly as fast as the fan, and it began to rain like it had for Noah.

All of the above is absolutely true, and not even the names have been changed to protect the innocent. Life goes on in FNQ and as I flew down south and finally drove back into Warrandyte I really felt as though I'd had an out-of-state experience. What a huge and vastly different country we have, I thought, as I cruised past the Mechanics Institute Hall.

Looks like a good place for a country wedding reception!

## STREETS WHERE WE LIVE

Dingley Dell Road was named after Dingley Dell Farm. The land was taken up by Joseph Ayton when he came to Warrandyte last century.

Joseph had migrated to Australia and then, like many others, enlisted to fight in the New Zealand Wars. He was rewarded for his patriotism with a grant of land, which he sold. He used the proceeds to finance the land in Warrandyte.

Almost immediately, Joseph and his daughter became involved in the community and sang regularly at local concerts. He planted an orchard and the

family built a house, which is still standing in Dingley Dell Road.

According to family tradition, the house was threatened by a bushfire around 1900. Nina Ayton carried water to the fire-fighters in four gallon tins. When she got back home, Joseph said, "We've saved the house."

"Yes," Nina replied, "but you've lost me." Three days later she died. Both Joseph and Nina Ayton are buried in unmarked graves in the Andersons Creek cemetery.

BRUCE BENCE

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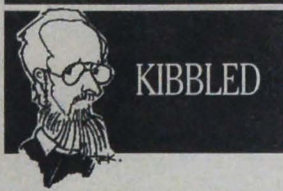
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# A terrible tale of ratsbreath horror and spider bites

“UK! What on earth is it?” I was sitting quietly in the TV room



watching a program on bird promiscuity when I heard Herself's strangled cry. She was in the kitchen, and from what I could make out, something nasty was taking place.

I quickly went through my last hour's actions. I hadn't spilt my tea, I hadn't made a snack and left the makings all over the bench. In fact, I had been my usual careful, neat self. So what could it possibly be? The scene that greeted me was little less than carnage. There was Cat 2, sitting on one of the kitchen rugs, munching through the head of a rat.

“Get rid of the revolting thing!” Herself cried, her feminist principles flying out the window. “You know I can't stand that type of thing!”

Obviously I love them, so with relish I wrestled Cat 2 for the prize and thoughtfully disposed of its warm, furry body. Two things did upset me though.

One was whether the rug had been flooded and therefore whether I was going to have to wash it rather than sponge it; and secondly, how to deal with the reactions from the rest of the family, and the pitiful meows and the searching looks from Cat 2, who kept following me around, looking hopefully at my hands and his food bowl.

If he develops permanent psychosis, I know who'll be blamed. Whilst I was reassured that the new rug would survive and, if fact, bore no trace of the massacre on Albert Road, I still had to cope with the obvious anguish of the rest of the family members.

Herself was concerned about the cleanliness of our house and property and whether we were the van-

guard of a new bubonic plague. Cat 2 was decidedly p'd off that all his hard work in stalking and catching the object, for which cats are purchased, had been for nothing.

Gorgeous Creature was frothing at the prospect that the rat may not have not been an introduced exotic nasty but one of the last remaining examples of the native rodent thought possibly to harbor within its skull the solution to all the world's evil. Boy Wonder was dismissive of the whole affair and stomped off to the comforting squalor of his flat. I'm now just realising why the cats beat on his door to get in!

By the time the birds on the TV program had finished copulating, Herself and I had discussed the issue and reassured ourselves that rats always live around chooks, and as we have chooks in the neighbourhood, it was logical

that we could expect some to come and visit us on R&R.

In the inevitable quiet that follows such traumas, I had time to consider all the dangers that seem to beset us nowadays. Apart from the rats and the nightstalker possums that wait until you are almost asleep and then don their Blundstones and caper across the roof, we also have a new terror—the White Tailed spider.

What is it about this country that insists on creating or developing critters who delight in inflicting pain and suffering in the most outrageous way? Just when we've become accustomed to the search of the outback dunny for the redbacks, onto the scene patters the evil White Tail.

Like all other physical ailments, it only takes one mention of a hitherto unknown complaint to hear of it affecting almost half your

known friends, their relatives and neighbours. This happened when Herself was mauled by a White Tailed spider. Evidently we are in the midst of a quietly insidious attack of unprecedented proportions.

Whomsoever we spoke to knew of countless casualties, but has the *Diary* run a front page or an editorial? Is it a plot?

Herself felt a stinging sensation on her left temple and brushed her forehead to find a White Tail parachuting through the air. The pain and indignity were intensified by the fact that the guerilla attack had taken place in our bed.

Now, the White Tail cannot be native. If it were we would have songs, short stories and a pub devoted to it. No, it has to be an introduced nasty and, I can only assume, from somewhere like Transylvania. Why? Well, the White Tail

causes “necrosis”. That is, the area of the flesh around the bite dies and the victim is left with a gaping hole when the dead flesh is removed.

After the bite, Herself developed a nasty rash and her whole head became incredibly itchy, admittedly a much better scenario than could have occurred. Our local GP, Dr B, reassured us that the more flesh around the bite, the more trouble. So in fact it was fortunate that Herself was bitten where she was. Just think, all those opportunities lost!

Herself's rash still reappears months later as a reminder that we should not become complacent about living in this paradise called Warrandyte. Eden had its serpent, but we too have our dangers.

At the moment, I think I'm just coping with the rats, redbacks, leaves, possums, fires and now White Tails. But I think when they discover that the prunus is carcinogenic it definitely will be time to leave. I may even take the cat, if he's still speaking to me.

ROGER KIBELL

# Fear of death in gossamer fairyland

IT was early morning. A diffuse golden-white glow across the eastern horizon told of the approaching sunrise. Gradually, from behind the hills, the blinding ball of the sun appeared, flooding the valley with light. There were no clouds to mar the perfection of the pale blue sky. It was going to be a fine day.

I stood on the balcony taking slow, deep, lung-filling breaths—the purity of the air was irresistible. It was so good to be alive. No camera or paintbrush can capture the feeling of vitality and freedom such a morning brings.

Below me the garden was a fairyland adorned with strands of gossamer, gilded with dew. Overnight thousands of silken threads, woven into intricate cartwheel webs, had been spun across branches on every tree and bush. I savored this shimmering spectacle, seen only occasionally in the early hours of morning, before the sun dispels the dew, leaving the webs invisible.

It is an ironic twist of nature that these crystal palaces are constructed by one of the creatures we dislike most. Spiders first made their appearance a long time ago—400 million years to be more



By PAT COUPAR  
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

or less precise! They feature in myths, legends, fairytales, nursery rhymes and—of course—films. In most cases they are used to create fear in the mind of the reader or viewer, fuelling the fire of our abhorrence.

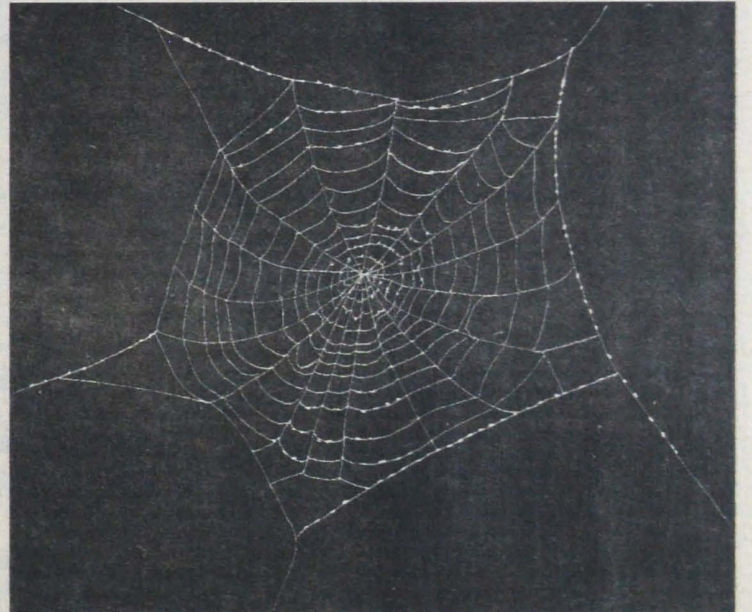
It seems extraordinary that this innate hatred of these hairy eight-legged Arachnids can be explained by the existence of a small number of dangerous species. However, the British zoologist and author Desmond Morris suggests that our present-day feelings are the legacy of a provocative response from our tribal ancestors, whose encounter with some species resulted in death.

I must admit to having no great affinity for spiders myself. I grew up in England where there are no funnel-webs, no redbacks and no white-tails—just the occasional harmless spider in the bath. My first encounter with a

huntman in Australia sent shudders down my spine. Over the years my interest and indeed love of nature has escalated and I now have a consuming commitment to the environment and by understanding the natural world, fear has been replaced by respect and hatred by admiration.

For those who have studied spiders in detail, rewards have come in the revelation of some fascinating and bizarre behavior, including a courtship and mating ritual that often ends with the males becoming meals for the females. Spiders are fierce predators. There are the hunters and the trap-setters. Silk is used extensively by the trap-setter in a number of different ways. Some construct silk-lined tunnels in the ground with precision spring-loaded lids, others assemble messy cobwebs in dark corners.

But the masters of their craft are the orb-weavers—they are the spinners of the classic Charlotte's web. Surely even the most ardent spider-hater's heart would be touched by the sight of hundreds of these bejewelled, geometrically woven webs sparkling in the sun of an early autumn morning.



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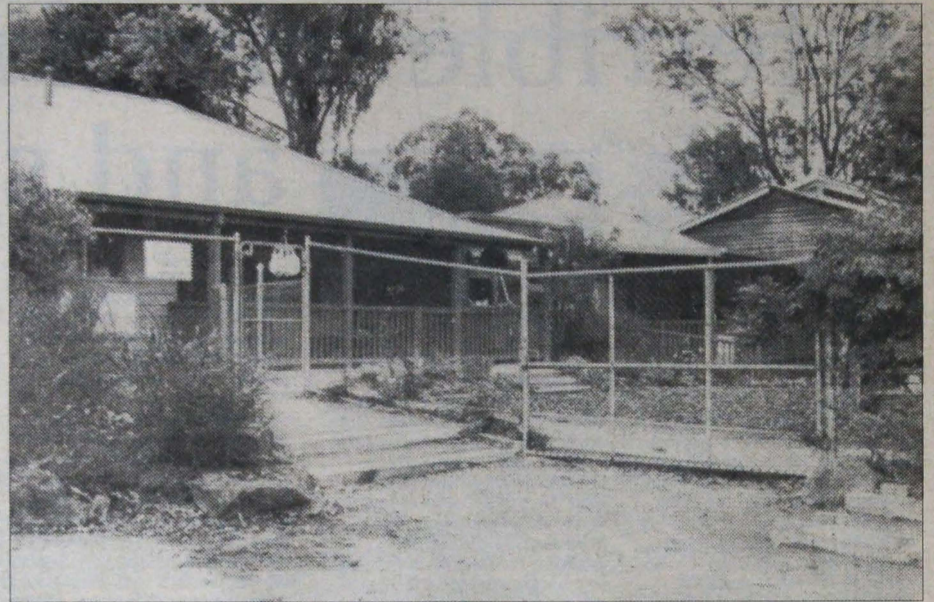
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The bucolic charm of Warrandyte's Community Childcare Co-op. Vacancies still exist in both full-time and part-time day care programs at the centre for children from newborn to six years. Phone 844 1205 for further information. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

# Run for fun

The Lions Club of Warrandyte are holding their inaugural Goldfields Fun Run, commencing at 9am on Sunday, May 1. Proceeds from the run will go to the Doncaster Palliative Care project and local CFA brigades. There will be two courses—10km and 6km—both starting and finishing at Goldfields Plaza. Trophies will be presented for the first three male and female finishers in each event, as well as for the best male and female competitors in the over 40 and over 50 age groups. Spot prizes, entertainment and hot food available. Entry forms available at the Opportunity Shop, or by phoning Steve Hobson on 725 5532 (AH). Entry fees range from \$3 per school team member to \$15 per family. Entries will be taken up until 8.45am on the day.

### Parenting

Warrandyte Youth Services have organised a Parenting Teenagers Program, to be held on Tuesday nights from 7.30 to 9.30 at the Warrandyte Community Centre, from May 10 to June 28. Cost is \$15 per family. For registration forms and further information, contact Craig Milburn at the youth centre on 844 2985.

### Trivia

To raise money for their new building in Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte Pre-School is holding a trivia and auction night on Saturday, May 14 at the Warrandyte Community Centre. Alan King will be quizmaster. Tickets are \$10 per head and be booked individually or as tables of 8-10 by phoning Judy Finger on 844 3150 or Maree Burns on 844 2897.

### Thanks

North Warrandyte Fire Brigade have asked us to thank the community for their generosity and support to the brigade over the festival weekend.



Conducted by **JUDY GREEN**

Drop your news in the letterbox in the front door of our office at the Community Centre, fax it to 844 4168, or post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte, 3113, by the last Friday in the month.

### Stay abreast

The Warrandyte group of the Nursing Mothers Association of Australia meets regularly for informal morning coffee and discussion evenings. The next morning coffee will be held at 10am on Wednesday, April 20 at 110 Brackenbury Street, Warrandyte. All mothers of babies and toddlers, as well as pregnant women, are welcome. For further information ring Judy on 844 3150 or Maree on 844 2897.

### New kinder

The Warrandyte and District Pre-School committee of management will be offering places in the 1995 four year kinder group early in May. The kinder will be located in their brand-new building in Taroona Avenue and there are still some vacancies. For further information, or an enrolment form, contact the enrolment secretary, Lisa Saunders, on 844 1921, or the pre-school on 844 3363.

### Plants

The North Warrandyte Fire Brigade are conducting a plant sale on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1 from 9am to 5pm. The sale will be at the Warran-

dyte Community Centre in Yarra Street. Proceeds will assist the brigade's truck replacement fund.

### Fun night

North Warrandyte Pre-School invites you to attend a humorous, entertaining and informative talk on children's literature with Chris Wilkes from The Picture Book on Thursday, April 21 at 8pm. Cost is \$2 and supper will be provided.

### Speech

On Wednesday, May 4 at 10.30am in the North Warrandyte Infant Welfare Centre, Joy Carbone, a community health centre speech therapist, will give a talk on children's speech development. She will discuss ways of stimulating children's language at home. Bookings may be made with Gael Carter on 2547.

### Heritage

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will be celebrating our heritage at Warrandyte State Park during April. On Saturdays May 9 and 16, there will be gold history walks, commencing at 10am. On Sunday April 10 and Saturday April 23 you can join in miner's bus ride with local historian Bruce Bence, from 10am to 2.30pm. Other events include a day in the life of a miner (Wednesdays April 13 and 20 and Saturday April 23 at 10am), a journey through time at Pound Bend (Saturday April 16 and Sunday April 17, from 12noon to 7pm) and on Sunday April 17 t 3pm you can enjoy a corroboree and learn some traditional dancing. The heritage activities culminate with a miners' bush dance on Saturday April 23, commencing at 7pm. Further information is available from Anita Pickering, telephone 844 2659.

# Former local honored

By **BRUCE BENCE**

Former Warrandyte fire-fighter John Nicholson was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in the Australia Day Honours list. Deputy chief officer of the CFA's western division, John's distinguished career began in Warrandyte in 1965 when he walked into the local fire station one hot afternoon and asked how to join the brigade. It was to be a tough initiation. Less than 30 minutes later he was turning out to fight his first bushfire. Two days later he was in East Gippsland, fighting a massive blaze burning on a 160 kilometre front as part of the Warrandyte group crew. After being appointed to CFA permanent staff in 1967, John

became brigade communications officer. He went on to fight some of the country's worst fires, including 1975 when he spent long periods interstate as commander of a CFA taskforce. His lengthy spell was a record until the recent New South Wales fires. In 1983 he saw action during the devastating Ash Wednesday fires as regional officer for an area which included Mount Macedon. Following this experience, he was selected to form a special CFA fire prevention department, was then further promoted to assistant chief officer of the western zone, and finally to deputy chief officer in charge of the western division. During the New South Wales fires he was liaison officer with

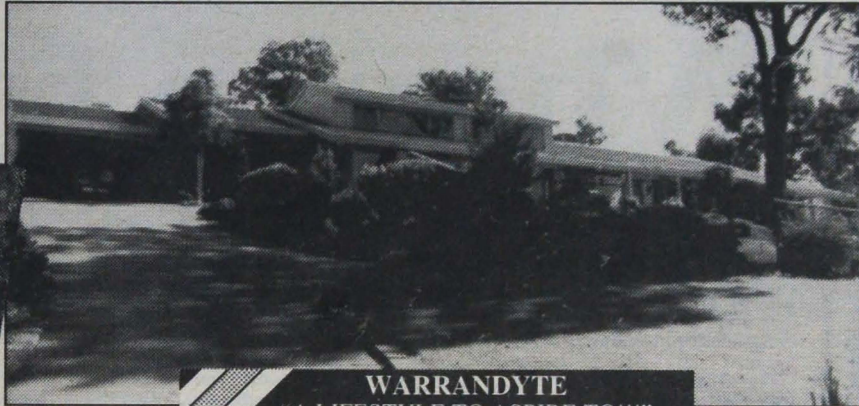
the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, arranging logistics with another former Warrandyte fireman, Joff Manders. He spent several days at the bushfire control centre at Rose Hill. John paid tribute to his wife Sandra and children Sarah and David for their support during his career. Sandra was secretary to the training wing when they met at CFA headquarters. Only two service medals were awarded out of 94,000 personnel in the CFA, the other going to Bill Jones, who with wife Bette have given dedicated service over their lives. Shane Murphy of the Warrandyte brigade was one of 42 winners of the chairman's senior scholarships.

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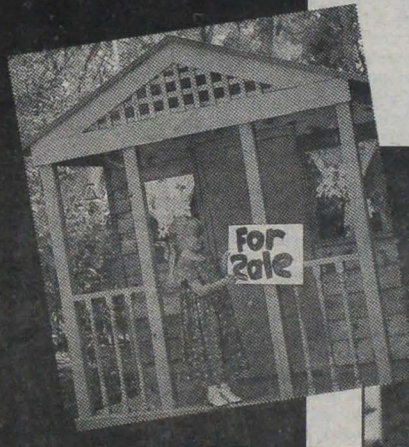
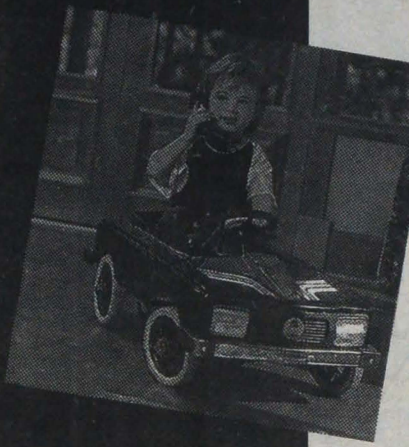
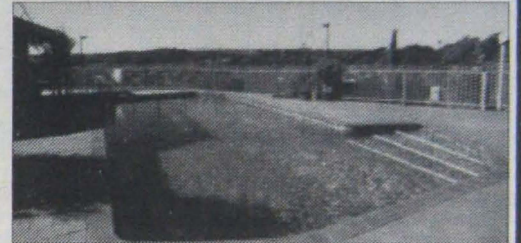
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# Sharman's shocker stops the cricket club party

John Sharman's four-year plan to bring the Chandler Shield back to this town came so close to fruition, and those at Warrandyte Cricket Club's presentation night were shocked when it was announced he will not return for a fifth year.

Club stalwart Tony Graf made the announcement halfway through the evening, the night before the unscheduled fourth day of the grand final.

He said Sharman was going to

England for two years on business. Sharman told the gathering: "The amount of people I'm close to is quite extraordinary for a cricket club. I really do appreciate all the kind words and thoughts."

"I'll never be able to repay my debt to the Warrandyte Cricket Club, but tomorrow I hope the flag will go some way to doing that."

The captain-coach was given a prolonged standing ovation. He

was also given WCC's top award, the Jack McAuley Shield for club champion, for his outstanding performances.

Opener Andrew Hood put some of his grand final disappointment behind him by taking out the batting trophy, Gerald Walshe won the fielding honours and Tony Sturesteps the captain's award.

It was with little surprise that former Test star Rodney Hogg won the bowling award. "He has

just been fantastic," Sharman said. "He has given the club, supporters and everyone else in the community a great deal of pride in that he's put the whites back on for us."

Geoff Taylor's dedicated work for the club over many years was recognised with life membership. He becomes only the 17th recipient of the honour.

"It's a marvellous club to belong to and this is a very special award. Thank you for letting me

be a part of it," he told the crowd.

President Steve Pascoe scooped the pool with both the batting and bowling trophies in the seconds and the McCartin Family Shield for best club-person. He also accumulated enough points before promotion to the ones to win the Daryl Valentine Memorial Trophy for the best player outside the Chandler eleven.

Other awards:  
Seconds: Chris Snaidero (cap-

tain's), Jon Barker (fielding).

Thirds: Grant Brisbane (batting), Steve Warr (bowling), Tex Highland (captain's), Matthew Elliot (fielding).

Fourths: Richard Webb (batting and bowling), Trent Gathercole (captain's), Mark O'Loughlin (fielding), Darren Peters (grand final award).

Fifths: Zac Smead (batting), Rob Leavir (bowling), Angela Tunbridge (captain's), Geoff Casey (fielding).

## Room for six more

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Basketball Club arrived home from the recent EDJBA grand finals with half a dozen more pennants for their already awesome collection.

Six of the Redback's 13 finalists were successful, coach Gavin Whitmore providing half the winning combinations. Three of Whitmore's four sides prevailed.

His under-18A girls provided the day's best result, defending their pennant jealously to beat Bulleen 41-35.

With only five players for the main game there was little rest for the girls, particularly after one fouled out with plenty of time left. But with Christie Lawrence (the game's Most Determined Player award winner) and Amanda McLellan contributing 20 points, they hung on.

The other high-graded winners were Whitmore's 12A2 boys. Simon Arsenis led the way with 17 points and the MDP award in a 51-44 victory over Doncaster.

Whitmore's warriors did it again in the 16B2 girls grand final with an easy 51-35 win against Marcellin, Amanda McLellan collecting 17 points and the MDP award. It completed a remarkable turnaround by the girls, who had started the season horribly.

Malcolm Anderson's 12CC boys were always in control against Bulleen. With Adrian Love making 14 points and Michael Sleeth also playing very well, they won 28-20.

John Zigmantas and Trudy Pegram coached the 12D1 girls to a premiership

against Eltham. Kali Hubbert and Lucy Zigmantas led the way in the 16-12 scoreline.

The day's other winners were Dale Templeton's 10DD boys in the supplementary final. They dominated against Heidelberg, with Travis Robinson (15 points and MDP) and Joshua McKellar firing in the 31-21 win.

There were several unlucky Redback losers, none more so than Lauren Clark's 10D2 girls. They lost 5-6 despite Kate Fox winning the MDP and scoring all five points.

Peter McDonald's 14A2 boys also lost by just a shot. Despite the great work of MDP Leigh Evans, they went down to Eltham 30-32.

Ron McLellan's 18A boys had Eltham's measure for a while, but the Wildcats pulled clear when it mattered. Russell McIntosh scored 22 for Warrandyte in the 49-56 loss.

Ben Hay's 10CW boys also suffered a seven-point defeat, Adam McLaren scoring six of the Redback's 14 points against Eltham.

Warrandyte's other three defeats were all by eight points.

Melinda Anderson's 14D2 girls trailed by just two at half-time after Jenny Willis' solid play, but Eltham pulled away to win 20-12.

Karina Reid started with 16 points and the MDP award in the 18C girls final, but the team, Whitmore's only losers, went down to Doncaster 24-32.

So did the 12A2 girls of Nick Arnott. Phillipa Bottomley scored 12 and Caitlan Evans was MDP in their defeat.

# Whacko for our Darren

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Cricket Club's fourth eleven went part of the way to atoning for the defeats of the firsts and seconds by winning their grand final against Vermont.

Paced by a blistering 188 from last year's premiership football coach Darren Peters, the Dytes were always in control after winning the toss and batting.

With captain Jim Gathercole playing his final game for the club before retirement, Warrandyte won 464 to 315.

Peters set the tone for his big knock with a six to open his account "That's my natural style," he said. "I'm not going to hang around and wonder."

While acknowledging he had "a bit of a day out", Peters also had plenty of praise for his teammates.

"Mark O'Loughlin batted very well. He stuck around for a long time and was the backbone with 52," he said.

With Jim Tsiontas and Richard Webb each contributing 44, the Dytes' big total was always going to be unreachable.

Vermont had a go at it after tumbling to 5/160 and reached 6/270 before Serg D'Angelo came on to clean up a frustrating partnership.

His 4/10 off just four overs sent everyone home early, after Peters had earlier topped off a great game with 4/52.

For Jim Gathercole, the win was a great swansong to a long career.

"It was a real grind at the start of the season," he said. "We had an uphill battle and lost three of our first five games. But since Christmas we've just annihilated the opposition. I'm extremely happy with our guys, and Darren Peters was brilliant."

Peters paid tribute to Gathercole for his efforts with the club over many years.

"He's been fantastic. Full of encouragement. He gives the young guys a chance and has great spirit," he said.

"While he's not the most el-

egant cricketer in the world you can never question his attitude or commitment to the game. He gives it his all."

Meanwhile, the seconds were ruing what could only be described as a blown chance, allowing Croydon North to score 156 after having them 9/39 in their final. Warrandyte could manage just 95 in reply.

Steve Warr had crashed through the top order with a superb 6/30, but just as the Dytes were thinking about donning the pads the two tailenders took to the bowling and hammered 68 and 49 respectively.

The 117-run partnership was helped along by a couple of grassed chances.

When eventually it was broken Warrandyte was still in with a great chance, but a couple of disastrous run-outs put paid to their chances after Dale Vitritt had made 24 and Jon Barker 19.

Captain Russell Dorning was in two moods after the game. "Most definitely I'm disappointed to lose the game, but I'm happy about how the season went," he said.

"The object of the seconds is to teach the players for the first level. If your twos are having a good season, it normally goes that your ones are also having a good season. But we're disappointed with the grand final—that's what you aim and play cricket for."

## A young roughie romps in

Vermont's Craig Wallace, an outsider, easily beat 29 other riders home to win the inaugural Warrandyte festival cycling race. Wallace set a cracking pace over the nine-kilometre course to finish in 14 minutes 51 seconds. Mark Carlton was second.

A hotly-contested junior event was won by Cameron Donald by just three seconds from Mat Chable. Baden Hall was third.

Sandra Coull, 9, defeated her only rival, Lynne Cappellani, by 56 seconds in the women's race.

# Young Mike's day

By JUDY GREEN

Warrandyte tennis has a new men's club champion. Sixteen year-old Mike Howell defeated Gary Busby in three sets to take out the title at the club championship finals, held at the Tarroona Avenue courts last month.

The ladies' singles title was won by Melanie Rankin for the seventh successive year and Rob White defeated Jim McHugh in the newly-established men's veteran section.

Warrandyte teams, at both junior and senior levels, were well represented in the finals of the Eastern Metropolitan Region Lawn Tennis Association's summer season held recently. Seven junior teams reached the grand finals, with four victorious on the day.

They were: Mixed 12 (Hayden Waterham, Nick Pelich, Jarrod Casey, Jessica Bennett, Lorena Valentine, Zoe White); Boys 8 (Michael Clarke, Clayton Swain, Damon Gauntlett, Liam Mulcahy, Marcus Meade); Boys 13 (Philip Rance, Alex Thomson, Mathew Lynch, Wesley Ballinger, Jason McGauchie); Girls 4 (Suzanne Beasley, Lisa Cuttriss, Jacqui Dick, Fiona Dawson, Justine Peterson).

At the senior level, Section 15 (Ken Adlam, Tim Oriander, Dale Farmer, Jenny Van Der Haar and Heather Farmer) were winners on the day, while the Section 20 team were runners-up.

Also completed in March were the finals of the mid-week ladies' Tuesday competition, where Section C7 (Marg White, Di Fraser, Marg Molloy and Lynette Hose) brought home the flag. Section A9 were runners-up.

The club has entered four teams—three men's and one ladies'—in the upcoming Tennis Victoria Pennant competition.

### CHAMPIONSHIP DETAILS

A Grade: Men's Singles—Mike Howell d Gary Busby; Ladies' Singles—Melanie Rankin d Janine Phillips; Men's Doubles—Fabio Forlano-Luke Bennett d Claes Ruegg-David Green; Ladies' Doubles—Melanie Rankin-Melissa Kerkhof d Janine Phillips-Kim Edwards; Mixed Doubles—Fabio Forlano-Christie Lawrence d Gary Busby-Jenny Stubbs.

B Grade: Men's Singles—Richard Lowe d Paul Reid; Ladies' Singles—Pat Adlam d Zoe White; Men's Doubles—Geoff French-Richard Lowe d Paul Reid-Cameron McBain; Ladies' Doubles—Michelle Gilling-Val Mackintosh d Pat Adlam-Sue Thomas; Mixed Doubles—Ian and Marilyn Moore d Rob and Zoe White. Men's Veterans: Rob White d Jim McHugh.

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A prize of \$5,000 is being offered every two years to enable the winner to further their career as an artist.

Applications close 30 June 1994 and the winner will be announced in March 1995, during the Warrandyte Festival.

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

Warrandyte Youth Arts Award  
PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113

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

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A lot of sports news — and it's mostly bad

# You gotta be joking!



Jubilant Warrandyte players congratulate each other after grabbing a three-run first innings lead. Unfortunately, nobody told Ainslie Park the final was over. (Picture by Clinton Grybas)

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Warrandyte Cricket Club's Chandler Shield eleven lost a dramatic RDCA grand final against Ainslie Park with just three balls left of an epic four-day battle.

Ecstatic after apparently sewing up the premiership by taking a three-run lead on the first innings, the Dytes crashed for 113 in the second dig to give the Park an outside chance of stealing the shield with an outright win.

And they did just that. Needing 117 off 19 overs, they grabbed the glory with a leg bye off the third ball of the last over.

The match was played on a tidal wave of emotion, with controversy, anger and excitement punctuating a dominating display by the fast bowlers, particularly our own Rodney Hogg.

RDCA officials were amazed by the contest, which attracted the biggest crowds in the history of the competition.

From day one it was clear that the match would be a gruelling struggle. After winning the toss and batting, Warrandyte staggered to 2/20 in the first hour, with openers Andrew Hood and Colin Dorning both going cheaply.

Young gun Ben Brisbane joined captain-coach John Sharman in a steady 97-run partnership which appeared to put the Dytes in the box seat in a game that was to have more twists than an Agatha Christie whodunnit.

When Brisbane was given out lbw for 42, it started a collapse which saw Warrandyte lose 7/58. Sharman fell almost immediately for 64 and Harry Drysdale made just two before being trapped in front.

Cam Day and Tony Sturesteps added 32 before each fell only minutes before stumps and the match was delicately poised with the Dytes 7/166.

It swung sharply Ainslie Park's way early on day two when Warrandyte lost three wickets in the first half hour to be all out for 175 off 90 of the maximum 120 overs.

With Ainslie Park needing 176 off 150 overs, time was never going to be a problem, particularly when they raced to 0/24 off the first four. But then the match took another remarkable turn.

Former Test quick Hogg found the stumps for his first wicket and Drysdale grabbed another moments later to have the Park

## Dytes snatch defeat from victory's jaws



Rodney Hogg: his best figures for Warrandyte.

2/26. Ainslie Park steadied, however, and the score mounted.

Animosity and tension between the two camps and their supporters heightened when Sharman fielded a ball near the boundary. The Park supporters claimed it had hit the fence and were furious when Sharman's return stranded one of the batsman mid-wicket.

The umpires ruled no run-out, the first of several controversial decisions.

At 3/141 and just 35 runs from winning their inaugural shield, Ainslie Park were wrecked by a stunning Hogg spell that was to give him innings figures of 7/33 off 25 overs, his best return for the Dytes. Hogg took 4/11 in a collapse of 7/31.

When stumps were drawn because of fading light—and after Hogg had appealed unsuccessfully off his first ball to the last batsmen—Ainslie Park needed five for the lead and Warrandyte needed one wicket.

The 12th ball of the third day was a Hogg bouncer which flew so high it was deemed a wide. The next ball, a yorker, flicked a pad on its way to uprooting leg stump.



John Sharman: off to England without a pennant.

Ainslie Park all out for 172. Warrandyte had done it! Or they thought they had. The wild scenes of excitement turned out to be a trifle premature.

The Dytes had only to bat out the day to win their third Chandler Shield, but they succumbed to some brilliant bowling and tight fielding.

They lost Hood, Dorning and Day in the opening 14 overs to be teetering at 3/27 with 64 overs left.

Sharman and Brisbane again steadied the ship and at tea Warrandyte were 3/57 with just 40 overs to go.

Brisbane, however, went without adding to the total and when Drysdale pulled a ball into the hands of one of seven men in catching positions, it was 5/73.

So much depended on skipper Sharman, who was playing his last game for Warrandyte before leaving on an extended business trip to England.

But he was bowled for 36, with the score on 75, and when Dave Mooney was lbw for one, it was 7/77.

### Details

FIRSTS: Semi-final: Warrandyte 2/100 (Sharman 51 n.o., Brisbane 28 n.o.) d Wonga Park 79 (Drysdale 3/15, Ratten 2/11, Hogg 2/13). Final: Warrandyte 175 (Sharman 64, Brisbane 42) and 113 (Sharman 36, Sturesteps 27) lost to Ainslie Park 172 (Hogg 7/33, Sturesteps 2/21) and 5/117 (Hogg 2/48).

SECONDS: Final: Warrandyte 95 (Vittrilli 24, Barker 19) lost to Croydon North 159 (Warr 6/30).

FOURTHS: Final: Warrandyte 464 (Peters 188, O'Loughlin 52, Tsiontas 44, Webb 44) def Vermont 315 (D'Angelo 4/10, Peters 4/52).

### SPORT

Dytes president Steve Pascoe joined Tony Sturesteps in a partnership which would occupy a precious hour and produce 36 runs. Sturesteps' 27 included some crunching boundaries.

With 21 overs to go Warrandyte were breathing easier at 7/113—but again the game refused to die. Sturesteps was caught behind, Hogg was run out and Pascoe was bowled. Three for none in three overs and all out for 113.

Ainslie Park needed 117 to win off 19 overs, and after just two of them were 0/28. Unthinkably, Hogg was despatched for sixes off the first and third balls of the innings.

But then, yes, another twist. Hogg grabbed two wickets, there was a run-out and the Park were 3/34 off five overs.

The day's final three overs went for 15, but were punctuated by a Hogg bouncer which struck the Park's keeper, delaying play while he was taken from the ground.

Again the light became topical and with 11 overs remaining RDCA officials announced that play would be extended to an historic fourth day.

And what a day it was. Ainslie Park needed 68 off 11 overs. Despite a run-out in the second over, the Park batsmen kept their cool and kept the required run rate in their sights.

Sixty-two needed off 10 overs, 55 off nine, 50 off eight, 46 off seven, 41 off six.

Three times edges just eluded the diving grasp of wicketkeeper Mooney, substitute fieldsman Richard Neagle put down a difficult chance in the outfield in an over which yielded 10 runs and Pascoe dropped one on the run. Luck had turned sour.

The third-last over, delivered by Hogg, cost just three runs and included a vital run-out as Pascoe redeemed himself with a throw to the bowler.

Sixteen runs were required off the last two overs and Warrandyte edged ahead in the equation until Sturesteps was plundered for a massive six.

Eight required from seven balls, then six off Hogg's final over.

The first ball was a bouncer which went for a bye. Mooney returned to Hogg, who knocked down the stumps and appealed very confidently for a run-out.

Not out, said the umpire, a decision Warrandyte supporters hotly disputed.

The second ball was up in the slot but was flicked over mid-wicket to the fence to tie the scores.

The field came in, the third ball hit the pad and the batsmen ran a leg bye.

All over. Ainslie Park had won after 239.3 of the game's possible 240 possible overs.

And Warrandyte were left to ponder the Chandler Shield they allowed to escape.

## Bloods in crisis: so what now?

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club is in trouble. Desperate trouble. Unless a magic cure is found—and quickly—an extraordinary malaise which has decimated player ranks could prove fatal.

The outstanding symptom of the trouble is acute apathy. Very few people want to play or do a bit off the field for the Bloods any more. Surprising, seeing we won the flag last year.

Perhaps some of the players who haven't shown up this time don't consider themselves up to the higher standard of EDFL second division. Perhaps they think they've done it all.

Coach David Purcell wants to know if Warrandyte really wants a football club. He has grave doubts. Purcell is bitterly disappointed that players and supporters have dropped off in droves since the heady days of last August-September when this town was celebrating its first premiership for 10 years.

He finds it hard to believe. "I have heard of it happening elsewhere," said Purcell, who coached the Bloods into the 1991-92 EDFL third division finals in as many tries and was a member of last season's premiership side.

"I've heard of players, of a club, winning a premiership, thinking that was the pinnacle of their career and giving it away. I never thought it would happen here."

Purcell had just come off the training track, directing a squad which, almost on the eve of our entry into second division, could not muster two sides, seniors and reserves.

"At this time last year we had enough players to fill three sides," he said. "Thirty-two have gone missing since then. Of our best 25 players, only 12 have shown any pre-season commitment."

"You've got to ask the question: does this community want a footy club? I doubt it. And if we don't get an extra 12 or 13 players to the last training session before the season starts (on April 9), I'd say the future of this club is one or two weeks."

Purcell said it seemed a lot of last year's men needed a personal invitation to attend training.

"Norm Carrington (recently-retired football manager) wrote to every one of them, and I must have made 60 phone calls," he said. "But they are lazy, lazy people who must be personally invited to train with a premiership club. It's amazing."

"If we can't get more players back on the track, and if it's left to four or five committeemen to do the work which was being done by about 20 enthusiastic people

when I came here, then it's relegation for sure."

Bloods president Lawrie Sloan can't believe it either. "I don't know whether the prospect of stronger competition has frightened some of last year's players off, or if they think one premiership is it" he said.

"We thought we'd be sitting on top of the world, aiming to make the second division finals. Instead, we're going to have trouble fielding a reserves side."

"So many players won't make a commitment. We expect some who haven't will appear at training when they smell the limiment and all that bullshit, but it's going to take them six weeks to get fit and be of any use to us."

"We've played two practice matches, for two hidings. The Basin, the team we humiliated in the finals last year, beat us by 16 goals or more in the night premiership at Upper Gully and Ivanhoe, a fourth division amateur side, beat us by seven or eight."

"We used the players we had, but a lot of them were kids who would have battled for a game in the reserves last year."

Mr Sloan said there was no possibility of the club folding. "Sure, we're in trouble—a big trouble—with our player numbers, but we'll make it. There is no question of us going out of business."

"The sad part is that our grand final side of last year would have been quite capable of making the second division finals this season. Now we are looking at a position down the ladder."

"What we must do is avoid relegation at all costs."

A rare item of good news is the return of Dale Comrie, the obvious replacement for premiership captain Kimberley O'Connor in the ruck. Comrie applied for a clearance late last season but is back and training well; O'Connor wants to go to Montmorency, in the Diamond Valley league, but the Bloods will fight to hold him.

"We can't afford to let Kim go because we are so desperately short of players," Mr Sloan said.

How short? The malaise goes right down to the under-18s. Warrandyte badly wanted to field an under-18s side this year after the 1993 debacle which saw them disband mid-season.

Every known candidate was invited by mail to train with a resurrected under-18 side. Only a handful bothered to respond.

The Bloods aborted their campaign at the last minute, rather than risk a \$1000 EDFL fine for nominating a team then withdrawing it.

## Simply the greatest

RDCA secretary Lindsay Trollope thought he'd seen it all in local cricket, until the four days of drama at East Ringwood.

"That's the most thrilling final we've ever had," he said. "There's never been one closer. Never."

"It's the first game that's

gone to a fourth day and it was watched by the biggest crowds ever at an RDCA match.

"On day three, when we expected the game to be over in five minutes, it was the biggest crowd I've ever seen. It really was quite incredible."

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