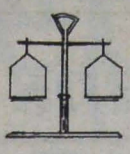


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No. 254, May 1994

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# Extra lots in Green Wedge compromise

By **DAVID WYMAN** and **CLIFF GREEN**

Doncaster council has resolved to preserve the essential features of the Green Wedge, but with an amendment to the original motion that could result in the building of up to 30 new houses in the Warrandyte-Park Orchards non-urban zone.

Following a number of surveys and studies, strong community debate and fiercely contested council elections, planning officers finally recommended to council that the three zones in the Wedge should be consolidated into one landscape interest zone, with additional uses allowed in the zone.

Their only compromise, following agitation from some landowners for the right to subdivide, was to allow pre-1978 owners—who had bought land prior to the Wedge being proclaimed—to take off one additional block, if their site was 7.2 hectares (18 acres) or larger.

Last month, council's physical services committee approved this recommendation by six votes to five, with the three Warrandyte Ward councillors voting for the recommendation.

However, when the resolution was brought before full council for ratification earlier this month, it was amended to allow for the subdivision of properties of four hectares (10 acres) or larger, purchased before 1978, into a maximum of three lots, each to be no smaller than two hectares (5 acres).

This means that 10 acre properties owned before 1978 could be subdivided into two lots, and properties 15 acres or larger could be subdivided into no more than three lots.

"It's impossible to give an accurate figure on the number of properties eligible without doing a detailed title search," Roger Collins, council manager for environmental planning, told the *Diary*. "We think there are about 30 pre-1978 landholders and we don't know how many of those have four hectares or more.

"We anticipate—our best estimate—is that there will possibly be 25 to 30 additional allot-



ments and detached houses if the amendment is finally adopted."

The amendment was passed, nine votes to three, with the Warrandyte Ward councillors voting with the majority.

"I am disappointed that changes to the original recommendation will lead to more houses being built in the Green Wedge," Cr Val Polley said. "Other ward councillors have expressed their concern for pre-1978 owners, while supporting the Green Wedge concept. The Warrandyte Ward councillors supported the amendment, moved by a Doncaster West Ward councillor, rather than see the entire recommendation changed and the work of several years disappear."

Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte was also disappointed.

"I am intrigued by council's decision to reverse its previous recommendation on pre-1978 landowners' rights to subdivide," he said.

"Council's latest decision goes somewhat further in permitting subdivision of the Green Wedge by this group of people than has ever been expressed before. "Given that all three of our Warrandyte Ward councillors voted to support this latest move, I intend to have further discussions with these three councillors in particular to determine the justification for their subdivision recommendation."

Council officers believe the best ways to preserve and enhance the Green Wedge do not lie in subdivision. "Perhaps the answer lies in giving landowners greater flexibility and more options in ways they can use their land," Roger Collins said.

"We're talking about uses like restaurants, medical practitioners, veterinary surgeons and wholesale plant nurseries."

More than 120 people attended a public meeting on April 22, called by the Warrandyte Advisory Committee "to highlight threats to the Green Wedge". This followed the collection of 1,234 signatures to a petition circulated in Warrandyte and Park Orchards, supporting the Green Wedge. The petition was presented to council, as was a joint letter supporting subdivision, signed by 400 people.

Cr Polley hopes that owners of properties purchased since 1978 "will now accept that there is broad support for the Green Wedge concept and work with council to achieve the protection and enhancement policies that have been proposed".

The amended recommendation does not yet have the force of law.

Mr Maclellan, Minister for Planning, has made public his staunch support for the principles of the Green Wedge. His approval is required before the amendment can be displayed for public comment.

Roger Collins estimates that the amendment will be on public exhibition in July or August for a minimum period of a month. "We will receive submissions from the public and council will then consider these and make a decision on whether it abandons the amendment, changes it or refers the submissions to an independent panel appointed by the minister.

"Assuming the submissions go to the independent panel, which is more often the case, it has to consider them, report back to council and council then decides whether to abandon, change or adopt the amendment.

"If it adopts it, council then submits the amendment to the minister who can approve or reject it. This whole process can take up to 12 months."

● **COMMENT: Page 5**

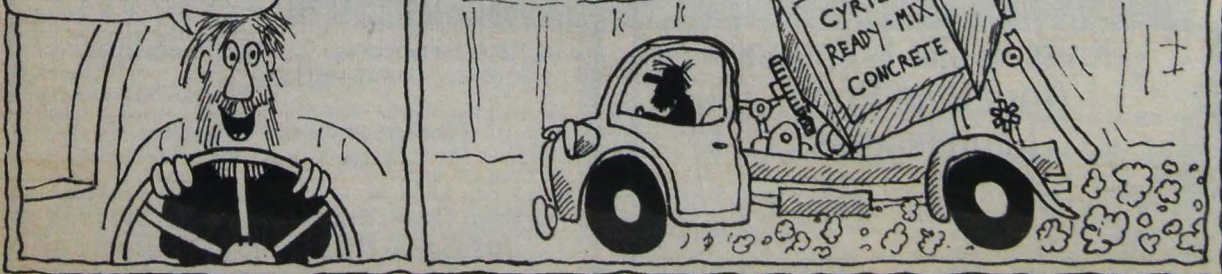


Local resident Olive Davis will lead her Papua New Guinean dance group at a concert to celebrate International Year of the Family in the community centre foyer at 8pm on Friday, June 10.

**CYRIL**

By **PAUL WILLIAMS**

AT LAST WARRANDYTE HAS A NEW GROWTH INDUSTRY APART FROM GIFT SHOPS



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# What's cooking at Port Fairy? Fish 'n' chips



When Rod Le Gassick quit the building trade and North Warrandyte last year to run a caravan park at Port Fairy, he knew as much about cooking fish and chips as he did about performing brain surgery. He still knows nothing about brain surgery—but his fish and chips have become the talk of the town and beyond. "I did a lightning apprenticeship under a few people in the fishing industry here and business certainly is booming," said Rod, who took over a pretty run-down Catalina Caravan Park on the outskirts of Port Fairy last July. It was quite a wrench from Warrandyte and a considerable change of lifestyle for Rod, wife Kerrie and kids Shae, Kirra and Justin, but a decision they're mighty glad they made. Fish and chip nights at the Catalina are Thursday through to Sunday and it's an ongoing struggle to cater for the demand. "People come from out of town and our regular customers include the local health inspector and just about the entire Sunday evening congregation of the Catholic Church," said Rod. He specialises in flake (shark), which he buys direct from the local pro boats. His apprenticeship included the delicate art of filleting and, being a resourceful fellow, he's largely eliminated waste by flogging the offcuts to the local Chinese restaurant for its shark fin soup!



The Catalina has kicked right on since the Le Gassicks moved in and they have big plans for the future. Besides dispensing the best fish and chips in the district, it has a stock-everything shop and a petrol station. Rod will tell you the hours (7am to 9pm) are long and tiring—yet he still finds time for plenty of fishing. Smokey and the War Office spent a couple of idyllic days and nights at the Catalina this month and Rod suggested a trip in his aluminium runabout to a couple of top ocean fishing spots known as Dead Man's Reef and The Graveyard. We said thanks but no thanks, Rod, we'll settle for your excellent fish and chips. If you've not spent time at Port Fairy, you've missed a treat. And we highly recommend the Le Gassick hospitality. Their phone number is 005 68 1608.




Warrandyte Tennis Club bid bon voyage at Pasta Mania this month to coach Fabio Forlano, off around the world as personal coach to Australian star Rachel McQuillan (accompanied by Rachel's mum, we might add). The Mania's famous belly-dancer was there strutting her stuff and red-faced Fab was the first invited up for the audience participation spot, followed by several club stalwarts. Then it was president Greg Lawrence's turn. Far be it for Smokey to hang it on a very fine fellow like Greg, but his tummy is by far his biggest

**IN RED & WHITE**





Rod Le Gassick with an 'average' Port Fairy whiting.


physical asset. It was a case of touch and bump (or belly-dancing by remote control, as one diner described it). Greg retrieved his reputation later in the evening when he joined the band to deliver a fair rendition of that mournful melody, *Crying*. He certainly got closer to the microphone than he did to the belly-dancer.



No names here (not even the name of the school) for obvious reasons, but the local mum was aghast. Nay, mortified. Outraged, as well. Her Year 7 lad was into pornography! Mum found a porn computer game in his room and, under interrogation, he said he'd got it at school in a swap deal for a copy of Playboy he'd picked up from the Apex paper drive bin. Good Lord, does this mean they'll have to censor all future paper drives?




Winter is a-comin' and we can't think of a more pleasant way to while away a chilly evening than sitting around an open fire sipping port. And what better port, you might ask, than Smokey Joe's own personally autographed Famous Old Tawny? Peter Maher of Warrandyte Cellars has just announced a new release of this smooth yet spirited classic. It's a dollar dearer than the first release, but at \$10.95 it's still top value.




There's a lot of people around this town who contribute a heap to the community, and Colin Bentley, founder of the Warrandyte Community Transport Group, has to be among the best of them. The group runs the buses you'll see around the place, usually carting a load of kids somewhere and often driven by Colin. Often, that is, until recently, when ill-health forced him off the road. They had an afternoon tea in his honor at the community centre a week


or two back, and the tribute was more than deserved. But Colin isn't disappearing from the local scene. No way. He also founded the Warrandyte Model Railway Club and you can see him there, at the community centre, most Friday nights, playing trains with the kids: big and little.



Jack Barr, who is no stranger to this column, is not at all averse to a bit of a punt and we're happy to report that in his case, the luck of the Irish continues to hold. We're not saying Jack hasn't had a losing Saturday on the ponies or the pokies since he scored a \$4300 trifecta for his Grand Hotel betting syndicate a couple of years back, but it will take him a while to feed back the \$1350 jackpot he pulled on one of the pub's 22 new machines a couple of weeks ago. Jack has been the biggest winner so far on the Grand's new pokie equipment, but win, lose or draw, you can safely bet he'll do it with a big grin.



Tough luck, hoon or hoons who tried to put a brick through the Op Shop window on the night/early morning of Saturday/Sunday, April 9/10. Tough luck it was reinforced glass which shattered rather than broke. Tough luck you couldn't get your hands on the merchandise, morons. And 10 out of 10 for idiocy to whoever trashed the donated stuff left outside the Op Shop the following weekend. So why would anyone want to victimise such a worthy cause? Only a cretin would know for sure.



Relax, Doug Wright. All is forgiven. Geoff Feltham is no longer sticking pins into that little effigy he has of you. Doug, cleaner/gardener at the Warrandyte RSL Club, committed what was considered the unforgivable sin several weeks ago when he broke one of Geoff's most treasured possessions—a 1990 Collingwood premiership pot—while he was doing the dishes. We don't know how many times he apologised (it probably ran into four figures), but words are mere words. It took him a long search of the city shops to get him back into Geoff's good books—with a splendid replacement Magpie pot, and a Collingwood coffee mug to boot. They're a fun lot at the RSL Club.

**Smokey Joe**



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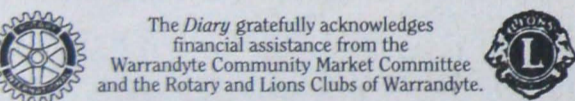
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# Senior housing land deal close

By DAVID WYMAN

The provision of accommodation units for local retirees could be coming closer. The Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Project Committee is currently negotiating to purchase land for the project in a central location.

This follows growing concern over a number of years, as elderly folk find they are unable to cope with the task of looking after their larger houses and gardens and are forced to leave the district in search of affordable and manageable accommodation.

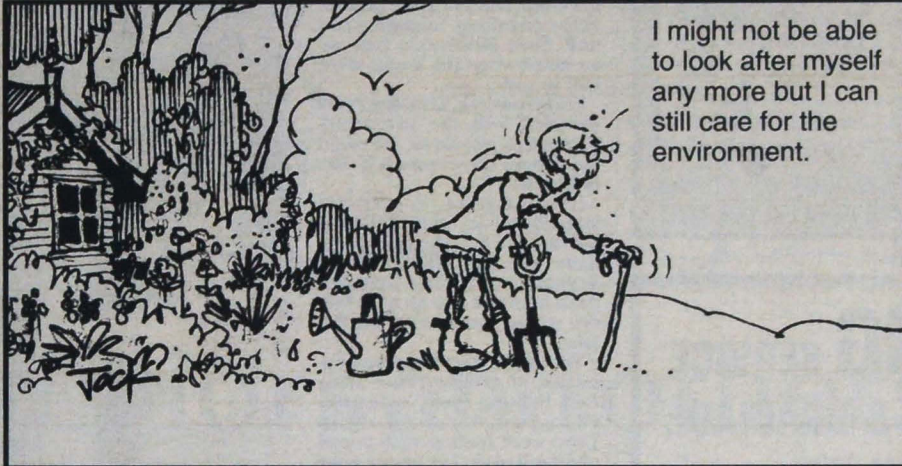
A community survey, conducted by the committee last December, indicated strong support for local retirement housing. Of 118 replies, only one was negative about the proposal and 15 said they would be prepared to buy and occupy a retirement unit in Warrandyte now.

Committee secretary, Margory Lapworth, told the *Diary* that the location of the land under negotiation was very good and was handy to most facilities.

"We had some other land in mind but it's not for sale at the moment," she said.

The committee is in the process of forming a company which would take over all the legal and financial responsibilities for the housing project.

"One of our committee members is looking at the financial options available and we are hopeful that the finance will come from local sources," Margory Lapworth said.



I might not be able to look after myself any more but I can still care for the environment.

A major objective of the project is to have enough land for both self-care housing units and a hostel for 24-hour nursing care.

In the survey, 59 respondents indicated they would be prepared to buy a unit at some stage and a majority of people favored two or three bedroom units. Ninety-one respondents said that hostel-type accommodation should be considered at the same time as self-care accommodation.

The survey, delivered to 2130 homes in the 3113 postcode area, asked residents if they felt there is a need for special purpose retirement housing in Warrandyte.

Views on the type and size of accommodation, preferred loca-

tion and cost of units was also sought.

Efforts to get a senior citizens' retirement village off the ground in the 1980s in Warrandyte had been frustrated by verbal attacks on the people involved and misconceptions of what the village would be like.

The Rev Stan Fishley, then minister at Warrandyte Uniting Church and one of several people involved with those efforts, told the *Diary* this after reading our story on latest moves in the February issue.

Rev Fishley said that preliminary plans had been made to purchase properties in the area bounded by Trezise Street, Yarra Street and Cemetery Road, and nearby areas in the 1980s.

"We looked at getting preemptive rights to purchase homes in that area as they came on the market," he said. "We also looked at legal and financial matters."

"Two of us were subject to vicious verbal attacks over the proposal."

"People also didn't seem to understand what the project would look like. If the people at the time could have visualised what we had in mind then the retirement village would have been built by now."

Rev Fishley said he was very happy about the latest moves. "I hope it goes well for you," he said.

Rev Fishley is now minister at the Monbulk Uniting Church.

## Community bus cash crisis

Warrandyte Community Transport Group, which has run the local school buses for the children of Warrandyte for the last seven years, is suffering severe financial difficulties.

The transport group is administered by Warrandyte Neighbourhood House.

Co-ordinator Margory Lapworth told the *Diary* that major repairs to the larger bus, costing more than \$15,000, were made

over the Christmas period—including a complete overhaul and new engine—before it could be passed for a roadworthy certificate. The smaller Toyota bus required some minor repairs.

Two anticipated contracts covering continuing use of the bus have not eventuated. These amounted to almost \$9,000.

A loan was obtained at very short notice from the bank, as it was necessary to have

the buses on the road by the start of the new term to honor existing contracts with the schools.

"Approaches to local service clubs and organisations for assistance have been without response," Margory Lapworth said. The Neighbourhood House has stood security for the loan. "If no assistance is forthcoming, a certain part-time co-ordinator will be giving her services next year without pay."

## Pub pokies pull punters

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte's Grand Hotel had 22 new poker machines installed last month, bringing to 27 the total number of machines at the hotel.

The additional coin-operated machines have been placed in a new gaming room alongside the bistro. The original five machines have remained in the public bar.

Doncaster mayor Irene Goonan officially launched the machines and played the first coin. Hotel manager Stephen Beaumont said that the new machines have been well patronised in its opening month, with tourists having a big effect.

"The weather makes a difference. If it's nice weather they come out for a drive and have a walk around town and come in. I've noticed particularly with a lot of the ladies who come here—they come to do other things in town. They go to the craft shops and look around, and while they're here they call in and play the machines."

The arrival of the machines has signalled a busier time all round at the hotel, with more people using the bistro as well.

"We thought we'd have fewer people, considering we're now seating 100 and not 150 as before, but the opposite has happened and we're busier. Those who come to play the machines



Grand Hotel manager Stephen Beaumont (left) with gaming room manager Jacki Parish. (Picture by Clinton Grybas)

will often book in and have tea first," Stephen Beaumont said.

The arrival of the machines further increased the need for staff at the hotel, which now employs around 40 part-time and full-time workers, making it one of Warrandyte's largest employers.

But it's not just the tourists and employees who have benefited from the new machines—several residents have successfully "tried their luck". There were three wins in excess of \$1,000 in the first month.

The machines have capped a very eventful year for the hotel,

which underwent an extensive facelift.

They have also recently agreed to sponsor several local sporting groups, including the basketball club's new women's competition, the cricket club's players' association and the football club.

## Warrandyte Community Market

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Special Rates and Charges  
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At Council Chambers  
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Councillors and officers will be in attendance at a public meeting being held to explain Contributory Projects Special Rates and Charges to the community. We are seeking your thoughts and participation in the development of a policy which will, ultimately, affect you.

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This is an important issue. A discussion paper has been developed which has been on public exhibition from 17 January, 1994 to the present at the Planning and Engineering Counter, Council Offices and at the libraries.

Submissions should be made by 1 June, 1994 and the submitter should state in their submission whether they would like to make a presentation to a committee of Council on the issue.

We welcome your input – come and have your say.

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# Light to the past

By BRUCE BENCE

One of the town's early street lamps was put on permanent display at the old post office museum by the Warrandyte Historical Society during festival weekend.

Elva Bull (formerly Strudwick) is pictured at right, unveiling the lamp. Many of those present at the unveiling, including Ted and Elsie Strudwick, can remember when the lamps were still in use.

Les Strudwick, Elva and Ted's brother, was the last lamplighter in Warrandyte. He could not attend the ceremony, due to illness.

Les resigned as official lamplighter in August 1934 at the age of 15. He had taken over the job from George Bryant, purchasing George's push-bike and a small hook ladder so he could carry on the job.

The lamps were temperamental and it couldn't have been easy lighting them, especially on cold and wet wintry nights. They were fuelled with petrol and each night Les would pour a measured amount into each lamp and then heat the burner with a methylated spirits burner.

The lights, which were similar to a Tilley lamp, had a mantle and burned with a pure white light. When the fuel was used up the lamps went out. On one occasion Les had only just finished lighting all the lamps when his grandfather arrived home to tell him they had all gone out.

The lights became redundant when electricity was connected to Warrandyte in December 1935. Fortunately Bill Norman obtained three of the lamps and installed them in the grounds of his tea garden.

After lengthy negotiations, the historical society obtained one of the lamps from Peter Norman. Preserved, it is on display



in the museum to provide a glimpse back on Warrandyte life.

In the 1930s the lights were located outside Tommy Jones' shop, opposite Andersons Street, between the Presbyterian Church and the old post office, beside the bridge and opposite 290-292 Yarra Street.

The lamp is now on display, thanks to the efforts of Bill Norman in preserving it, Peter Norman making it available, Alex and David Hughes removing the layers of old paint, Perce Billney from Sovereign Hill restoring the light and Barbara Cartwright (formerly Bence) painting it.

# In defence of a spider

Last month Roger Kibell's amusing article described his wife's experience with a white-tailed spider. I sympathise with herself as he calls her, for her uncomfortable bedtime bite.

However, readers should rest assured that white-taileds, which incidentally are native spiders, do not in any way deserve their 'terror' status inferred by Roger in his article 'A terrible tale of ratsbreath horror and spider bites'.

Contrary to popular belief, white tailed-spiders (*Lampona cylindrata*) do not cause extensive 'gaping holes' in their victims skin or necrosis.

Case reports published in the Medical Journal of Australia of patients whose spider bites have definitely been attributed to the



white-tailed show that they experience a stinging sensation or pain. Later there is reddening of the skin and in some cases blistering which may extend to an area roughly the size of a five cent coin.

No necrotising lesions were ever recorded. The Museum of Victoria's Entomological Department continues to monitor such encounters, but likewise has no scientific evidence associating necrotising lesions with white-tailed spiders.

The question remains as to what causes the very rare condi-

tion of skin necrosis that requires treatment by skin grafting.

The problem is still under investigation, but be assured that the scientific spotlight has turned well away from the humble white-tailed spider and focused instead on a rare soil microbe.

This suspect called *Mycobacterium ulcerans* may cause necrosis if it enters via cuts or open sores.

Its entry via the fangs of soil-living spiders cannot be discounted, but this theory should not be allowed to tarnish the reputation of one of our native spiders.

Mike Coupar  
(pharmacologist)  
Brackenbury Street

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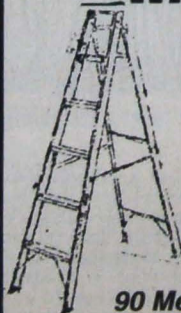
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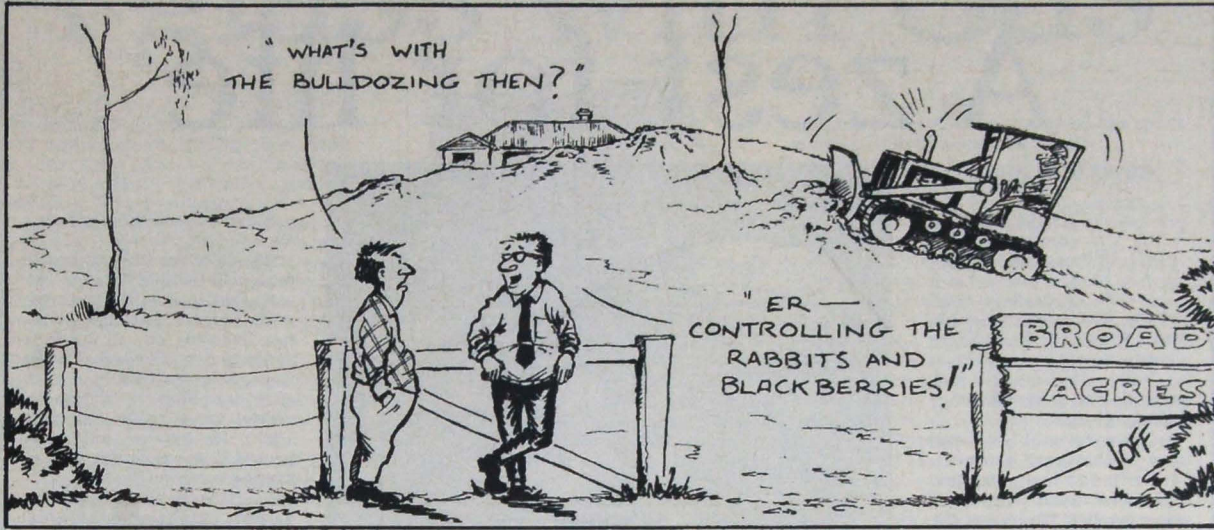
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**WARRANTITTIES**

By JOFF



# Councillors and others. Have you been conned?

By DAVID WYMAN

Listen to some of the broadacre landowners (and particularly their consultants) in the Green Wedge and you may be inclined to the view that the whole of rural Victoria should be cut up into one acre blocks to prevent its degradation.

These poor guys, particularly those with the larger holdings, say some of their land has been degrading because of restrictive regulations put in place by governments. They reckon there's been a loss of trees and soil, and an increase in vermin and noxious weeds because, apparently, they can't do anything about it. Solution: Better land management by reducing lot sizes.

And they say that to maintain the condition of their present lot sizes, other ratepayers in Doncaster-Templestowe council area may have to subsidise them.

Some other broadacre landowners believe that once they've finished with their land they should have the right to rezone and subdivide.

First, let's look at some of the problems these broadacre landholders claim they have. Noxious weeds—blackberries in particular—can be safely and easily controlled at an affordable cost in materials, equipment and labour, even on 20 acres. And if you are on an acre or more you should have good spraying equipment for weed control anyway. Or be able to afford to pay someone to do it for you.

Vermin, such as rabbits, are a problem which we are all living with, but they are

**COMMENT**

hardly degrading our land. If they are, then dogs and fencing are good deterrents. If you've got burrows, safe burrow traps, ferrets and fumigation can be used. Conservation and Natural Resources may help you.

*'Some landowners believe that once they've finished with their land they should have the right to subdivide.'*

Soil erosion can be tackled by using advice from Conservation and Natural Resources too, and better grazing practices. All it needs is know-how, common sense and some hard work.

And if you've got canopy loss or lack of vegetation, then surely you can plant trees and shrubs. Indigenous and other native plants are readily available. It is possible to bring land back to its native state and you can easily learn how to propagate your own indigenous plants.

All the so-called problems of the broadacre landholders are common to most of us in the Green Wedge. They are soluble. And we must expect some hard work and a commitment to knowledge of these problems and their solution.

If you can't handle the problems then you may have to consider—like all of us will have to eventually—where you should be living.

To suggest that broadacre landholders should receive financial relief to solve their problems, supplied by other ratepayers in Doncaster-Templestowe, is just not on. Are the problems the result of ignorance of land management or bloody-mindedness about subdivision and dollars?

We all have moral and community responsibilities when we own land. We should want to maintain it in a clean and stable condition, and enrich the soil, fauna and flora, all at our own cost. It is ridiculous to even suggest that if we have these problems on our land, other ratepayers should help pay for their solution.

By all means, council, provide information on noxious weeds and vermin, and what plants we should grow—but don't let it get out of hand and become a few extra dollars on our rates.

And, council, you already have the powers to force landholders to fix up their places in your Local Law No 3. So why not start using your council powers and help the Green Wedge get back to normal?

## Sights set on tests

Warrandyte Lions Club is considering holding an Amblyopia sight test day annually after a successful initial screening last month.

Of 126 children tested, 13 were found to require further testing and possible treatment against Amblyopia, also known as 'lazy eye'.

If undetected and untreated by age eight this can cause sight impairment. The results were in line with the national average, where one in 10 children are considered to have a chance of

having a potential problem.

Co-ordinator Bill Butler said that all schools and pre-schools in the area were notified of the tests, while children aged four to seven were also invited to attend the Lions' free screening.

The club has urged local parents to be aware of the potential damaging condition that may occur to their child's sight and to present them at the next screening. The tests were run as part of the Lions International 'Sight First' program.

## Emergency unit wins top service award

Doncaster's State Emergency Service unit has received a Meritorious Service Award, only the seventh time the award has been made.

The citation praised the unit for "providing an exceptionally high standard of service beyond normal expectations to the community over many years".

Locally the SES unit is known for its role at fires, flooding and storm damage in the area. It has assisted police at crime scenes and in searches.

Rescues at three separate air-

craft crashes included one operation lasting four days. They were also involved in flood-related incidents at Maribymong, Traralgon and Benalla.

Webb Street resident Alan Alder has been a member of the unit since it was originally formed as a civil defence unit. He is now unit controller.

He takes great pride in the efforts of his team and their willingness to pitch in and dedicate themselves to the tasks. They voluntarily donated 4,076 hours on operations during 1993.

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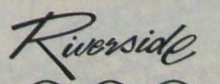
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# CYRIL ARDERN

# A zest for life

By JULIE MURRAY

WARRANDYTE mourned the passing of Cyril Crompton Ardern on April 6, 1994, five weeks after his 88th birthday. A Warrandyte identity, family man and artist, Cyril had a zest for life that was reflected in his paintings and his lifestyle.

An adventurer at heart and lover of the great outdoors, Cyril planned many exciting trips for his family. Whether it was a boating trip down the Shotover River in New Zealand, a safari to central Australia or canoeing down the Bega River near his holiday home in Tathra, New South Wales, Cyril returned with a sense and feel for the place which he applied when he painted his landscapes at home, mainly from memory.

He participated in many group exhibitions over the years, selling two out of the three he entered in a Rotary exhibition at Boronia, and culminating in a solo exhibition at home four years ago. Distinguishable qualities that were part of his character emanate from his work. There is a vitality, freshness and freedom about his recent florals,



Cyril and Elsa Ardern, on one of their whitewater adventures.

while his landscapes have a sense of serenity and peace that draws you into them.

Cyril's love of camping started in his early days. He and wife Elsa camped on their block of land on the corner of Pound Road and West End Road while Cyril built their first home in 1945. They moved in when their son, Gray, was 11 days old, with only a pressure lamp for heating.

It was a time, Elsa recalls, when it took half an hour to boil a kettle. Their daughter Linley was born before their first home, "Eildon", (named

after the place where he met Elsa) was gutted by fire. Cyril then proceeded to build their second home, retaining the name.

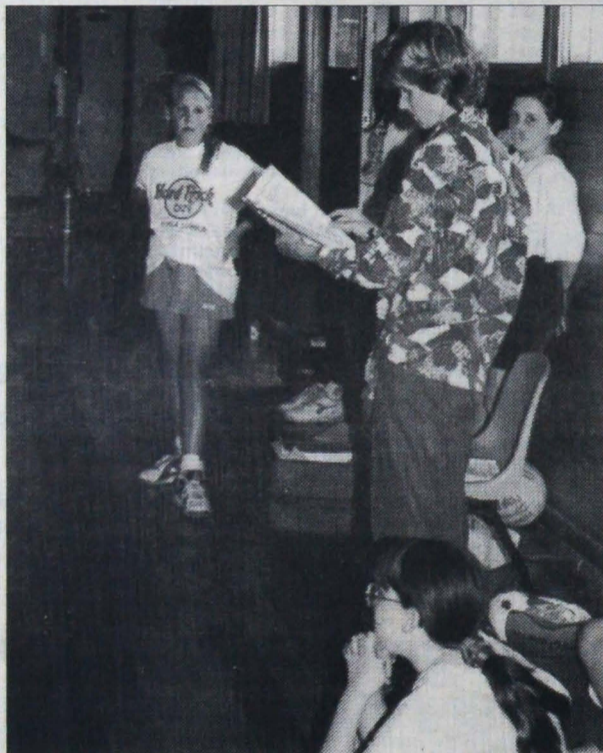
Often distinguishable by his black artist's beret, Cyril had a strong sense of community and a good sense of humor. He was very active in establishing the Warrandyte Arts Association, and was subsequently made a life member. As treasurer of the fire brigade he devised a way of remembering names on subscription day. He would get everyone to write their own receipt and then look at the

name and thank them personally.

Master of the old fashioned pun (now handed down to his son), Cyril was very fit and kept well all his life. The only deviation from his love of the outdoors in over 50 years of marriage, Elsa remembers, came after a holiday in which he vowed never to go camping again. He subsequently returned home and started designing camping gear.

He was known as "Poppie" to his two beautiful grand-daughters, Tahlia 14 years and Asha 11. They spent many hours together and were a great source of enjoyment to him. As were the many creative hours spent with Elsa, often in silence, in the studio with Cyril painting and Elsa on her potter's wheel.

Cyril was a man who learned very early that life was for living. He left an envelope for Elsa titled, "To be opened after my death", in which he looks back and reiterates that he had a very good life. In it he requests that a favorite piece of music be played at his wake, Litolf's Concerto Symphonic, a fitting finale for a life of zeal. Cyril's ashes will be returned home to Warrandyte.



Rehearsing Dangerkids

Warrandyte Primary School parents are once again locked away at night with hammer and paint-pot, building sets and scenes for the new musical, Dangerkids—Or Where The Heck Is Carmen Sanfrancisco? The show was written by Lynne Bartlett and school parents Mark Leehy and Kevin O'Mara, with Rob Fairbain contributing to the song-writing. It marks Warrandyte primary's eighth original musical and will feature the entire school, with special appearances from the instrumental groups and Warrandyte's own community band. Starting on Monday, June 6 and playing for four days at the Karralika Theatre, Ringwood, locals are urged to don their hats, trench coats and dark glasses to join the super-sleuths in their hunt for the villainous Carmen Sanfrancisco.

# STREETS WHERE WE LIVE

Russell Road is named after James Grey Russell and his wife Ruth (formerly Houghton) who settled in the area last century. The house they built is still standing, now much enlarged. Ruth Russell was a beautiful woman, as testified by her photo in the Warrandyte museum.

One cold, wet night in 1866, a stranger knocked at the door of the Russell house, looking for somewhere to sleep. Ruth was home on her own, but let him spend the night in a hut on the property. Next morning her brother Harry Houghton rowed

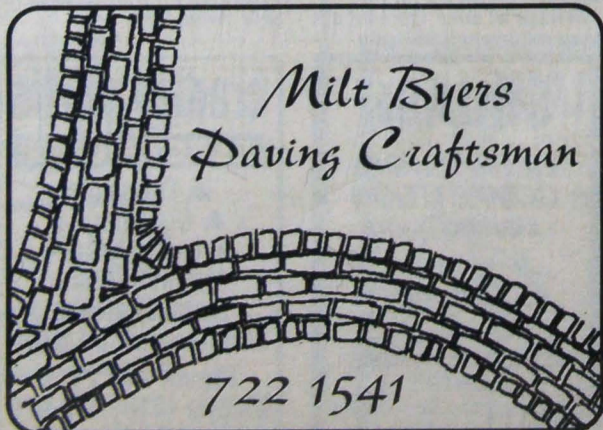
the man across the river. He spent the next night at Wellers in Kangaroo Ground and went on to the Hurst property, where he received breakfast. Ellen Hurst noticed he was armed, her brother confronted the man, firing at him with a shotgun. He missed, they grappled and a pistol was fired, wounding them both.

Hurst died from his wound and the man, a notorious bushranger named Burke, was tried and hanged for murder.

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# A glass with Gus

**N**ESTLED on one and a third acres rolling down to the river from Bradleys Lane, is the home of one of Australia's well known potters, Gus McLaren. Born November 7, 1923, Gus has lived in Warrandyte for over 40 years.

An evening with Gus turned from a fact-finding mission to a chat among friends, fuelled by "cardboard whites and reds", where he recalled colorful anecdotes of Warrandyte in the '50s, and how it has changed over the years.

He bought his lovely block of land for 225 pounds through Peggy Ward, one of the two part-time real estate agents in the town (at other times she ran the Riverview Tearooms, now Pancakes On the Yarra).

Peggy had a boyfriend, a Frenchman called Bernard who never came to terms with the Australian bush. Bernard saw "monsters" in this lovely leafy place of ours. When Gus was trying to settle the poor man down one day, he explained that there had only been about 10 adult deaths through redback spider bites in recorded history—all male and stung whilst seated in the men's outdoors. From that day on, Bernard only ever used the lady's toilet.

What has this got to do with Gus's Warrandyte? Everything! Through his artist's eyes, Warrandyte is all about the people who live here and the fun you can have with them. Gus was attracted to Warrandyte by the characters who lived here in the '50s—artists, free thinkers and fun-lovers.

By the time Gus came to Warrandyte, he was already well-known as a cartoonist, having worked for Women's Weekly, Sydney Daily Telegraph and the Brisbane Courier Mail. But 40 years ago Gus was influenced by locals Reg Preston, Betty and Danila Vassilief, Adrian Lawlor, Dave Robertson, Howard Mathews and the rest of the gang.

He decided to quit his lucrative job earning 30 pounds a week at The Argus, fancying the lifestyle of a potter, earning the princely sum of five pounds a week. Gus liked the idea of working without the constant pressure of producing cartoons for each edition of the paper, where he would have more time to reflect and be his own boss, rather than be at the bidding of others.

He soon learnt that this wasn't going to keep his family of four children—he actually had to make things that sold! So over the years he combined his different talents to service the needs, both of his own artistic endeavours and his pocket.

At the suggestion of Reg Preston he started making pottery animals, which he sold through joint exhibitions with a number of other Warrandyte potters, at Reg's studio. The success of these shows led to the formation of Potters Cottage, now a landmark tourist attraction at Warrandyte.

Gus also became a film animator and combined this financially rewarding work with his pottery.

These were great times, lots of work, lots of parties and loads of fun. One gets the impression that liquid debates with his artist friends were the order of the day.

In those glorious days, of course, the grand old wooden bridge was still part of our landscape. Every New Year's Eve, people would come down from their parties just before 12 o'clock and take up positions along the bridge. On the stroke of midnight, the new year would be welcomed by one Mick Johanson (as in Johansons Road) exploding gelignite along the banks of the river, accompanied by great cheering from all.

Everyone—all the important people anyway—would congregate outside the pub and have debates and chats on the pathway. It

## LOCAL FOLK

By **NICHOLAS PARSONS**  
Drawn by **MASON COLES**

was an intellectually stimulating place where folk would communicate openly.

"We didn't care if there were any footpaths or the road was neatly paved," Gus remembers. "It was all part of the character of the place. Now this once-rural, fun village minds its manners, keeps itself nice, has neat little walkways; not the reason that many of us came here. Today Warrandyte has a middle class air about it. There are too many people, there's too much traffic. People are always complaining about something or other."

The Warrandyte Drama Group was born

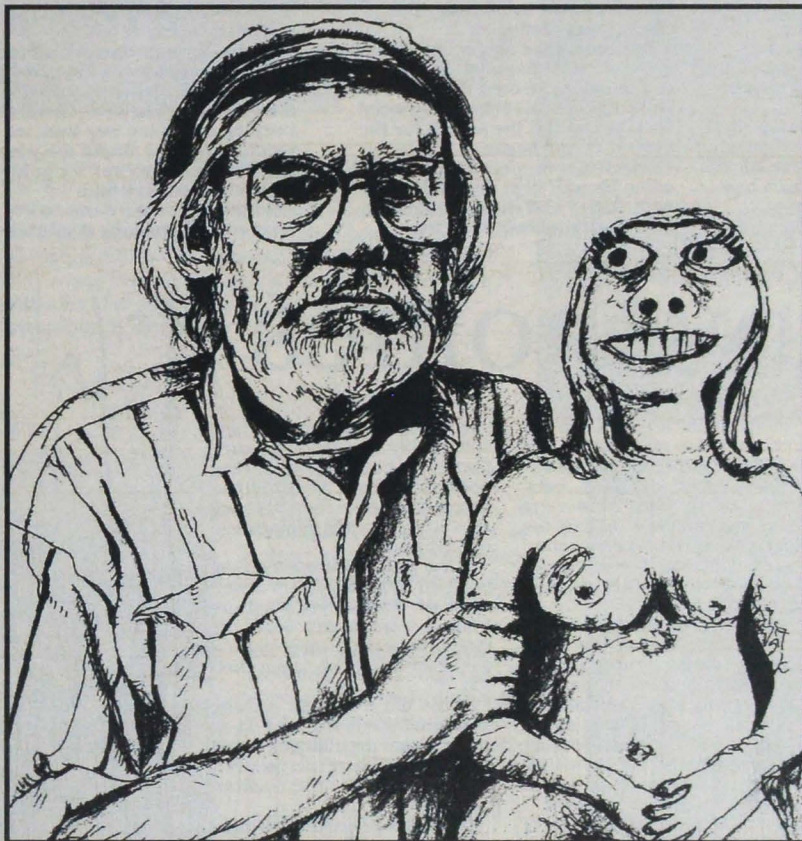
is the flip side of this potter, who has spent much of his life alone in a studio.

His work is studied in art colleges, yet Gus doesn't see himself as a great potter. He uses pottery to express himself as an artist, not merely as a way of making a piece for the dinner table.

Gus McLaren has worked for daily newspapers and television studios, created and run his own businesses. Yet he is a modest man. "I spent my life fiddling", he said. "I've built my own home, run restaurants and such but I've never stuck with them. I stayed only as long as I had fun."

This may be the essence of this artist. It can be seen in his work, when he creates fun through his pottery pieces, or when he's on stage at the Mechanic Hall, performing in a drama group production.

But Gus is not so positive when he considers the future of Warrandyte: "If the people



outside the pub. Gus and others were recruited as actors in its first play, Happiest Days of our Lives. It was the most appropriate place for the group to begin.

These were heady days for Gus, who at the time owned a John Perceval original purchased for 90 pounds, 10 pounds down and a quid a week. Many years later, during Perceval's last exhibition, Gus strolled up to him and asked if he remembered selling it. Perceval asked if Gus still had the painting, but by this time he had sold his original, to which Perceval replied, "I hope you made a mint out of it!"

Gus McLaren is a man who still loves life—and a glass of wine. He obviously enjoys company and is a great raconteur. At the dinner table he leans forward, rubs his white beard like a sage and listens intently, then openly shares his experiences. Perhaps this

don't treasure the essence of why they came here in the first place, it'll be stuffed. The community centre, for example, is totally out of character with the place and it dominates the landscape of the village.

"Oh well, maybe at 70 I couldn't give a stuff." But Gus doesn't sound convincing. He does care.

"There used to be a real community here, where people used to go every Saturday night to the movies, but we only had one projector. We didn't care. We talked to each other, or ate and shared a drink, while the next reel was being loaded."

We can learn from the likes of Gus McLaren. He has seen Warrandyte change over the years. Some good changes, some... Well, in the end it's up to us. We have to treasure the place, as he said. Thanks Gus, for the chat and the odd glass or three of cardboard red.

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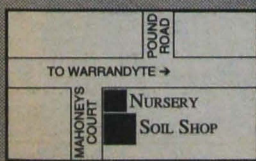
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# Making a fuss at GC's afternoon tea —when a good time was had by all!

**W**had been to the marquee and Dennis Farrington band type, the garage and esky type, the reception room, black tie and sequins type and now it was our turn again.

I say again, because Boy Wonder turned 21 two years ago, before slipping dramatically into middle age. After his 21st, life seemed to race on with various family crises and joys happening at such speed that Gorgeous Creature's 21st had somewhat snuck up on us.

When the subject of 'the 21st' was raised, she had been adamant that she didn't want any type of celebration at all. She certainly didn't want a fuss. By 'fuss' I assumed she meant parents being bossy, organising and 'there' in front of real people. You know, other 21 year-olds.

Herself did have some reservations about not having any celebration. Life, she told us, is punctuated by such events and it did seem a pity that because of a temporary angst, GC wouldn't have something to look

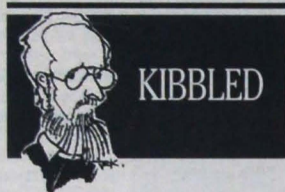
back on later in life.

After a great deal of coaxing, eliminating, revising and conceding, we came up with a solution. We would have a quiet, simple Sunday afternoon for a selected group of close friends and relatives.

I started to worry when the guest list reached 80. Afternoon tea for 80 was getting very close to being a fuss. I was assured, however, that I was being an alarmist killjoy as usual and the whole thing would be absolutely marvellous.

In keeping with 'things being done properly', handwritten invitations were posted and we sat back to await the avalanche of grateful acceptances. By this stage, GC had warmed to the idea and was positively enthusiastic. However, she did find it hard to accept that a simple afternoon tea would require planning.

Herself, with infinite patience and wisdom pointed out—more than once I hasten to add—that having 80 people in the house, be it for a mere afternoon tea or a five course dinner, does require more



organisation than checking if there are tea bags in the pantry 10 minutes before the hordes arrive.

The kitchen groaned under the weight of lovingly-made sausage rolls, mini quiches, filo pastry, filled things, wholesome pizzas and dips of every known trendiness. The freezer was crammed.

Then came the agony over which types of cakes to make. It didn't take us long to agree on a chocolate mud cake, but which recipe? The word was spread and the search for the perfect recipe began.

I started to suspect husbandicide when Herself kept presenting me with tastier and richer cholesterol bombs masquerading as trial

birthday cakes. Too dry! Too bland! Too cloying! The recipes were discarded like so many Victorian public servants.

Eventually we found the winner. It was chocolately, moist enough for a mud cake and sank sufficiently in the centre to be filled with at least a litre of whipped cream. "Don't be ridiculous," I was instructed, "it doesn't need cream. All it needs is a dusting of cocoa and some chocolate leaf decorations!"

Suitably re-educated, I kept to the grog side of the affair. After seeing what we had organised, I twigged. 'Afternoon tea' didn't really mean afternoon tea. What we had was an afternoon blast—under the guise of a refined taking of tea.

As the day approached, all family members were given the game plan. Boy Wonder was appointed to furniture moving, deck cleaning and keeping out of the way and not mentioning how stupid the whole thing was and weren't we going a bit overboard, as usual.

Gorgeous Creature was to be relaxed and gracious at all times.

Herself and I spent a few sleepless nights worrying about what GC might wear on the day, but as it broke I had worse to contend with—the weather.

After a brilliantly sunny week and Saturday, Sunday began ominously with grey clouds approaching from the south-west.

"What if we can't use the deck? The house isn't suited to 80 unhousetrained people," I wailed. "And the ankle biters will run amok if they can't get outside! And what about the hundreds of cars that will slide into each other? My God! There won't be enough room for all the cars anyway. The whole thing's a mistake—it'll be a disaster!"

By 6pm the house was intact, no cars were destroyed, everyone had had a wonderful time, Herself's planning and cooking had been praised, GC had cried satisfactorily during the speeches, Fisherman had relaxed, Boy Wonder was admirably mature and I was my normal, reasonable, lovable self.

ROGER KIBELL

## Happy hollow homes

**S**OME of Warrandyte's most prized trees are dead. When a tree dies its leaves cease to transpire, desiccate and fall to the ground, leaving only a stark grey skeleton as testament to its former glory.

But these 'stags' as they are known are not merely a memorial to the dead, they are a sanctuary for the living. Dead trees are full of cracks, crannies, knot-holes and hollows that make snug homes for an array of animals from bats to brushtails.

Hollows form in living trees of a reasonable age. The process often starts when a branch is ripped off in a storm leaving a wound which is open to invasion by insects such as termites and by tiny fungal threads and microscopic bacteria.

Over time these agents effectively break down the inner wood to form a cavity. Sharp beaks, teeth and claws of potential occupants then put the finishing



By PAT COUPAR  
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

touches to a home that is safe from the elements and practically impregnable to predators.

It is said that small hollows suitable for leather gliders can take 100 years to form; those of medium size used by parrots take double that time. Large hollows required for breeding by those rarest of Warrandyte residents, the powerful owls, take longer still.

Hollows do not form in just any old tree or for that matter, any tree that is old.

In Warrandyte the best hollow-producers are messmate, manna and swamp gum. Sadly in some areas of the bush these eucalypts are being displaced

by introduced pine and willow which do not form hollows suitable for our native wildlife.

In all, about a quarter of our native animals make use of tree hollows at some time or another. These include possums, bats, frogs, skinks and numerous small invertebrates. Among the hollow-using birds are kookaburras, cockatoos, tree-creepers and surprisingly the ungainly wood duck.

Some of these animals use hollows only for shelter, but there are a significant number of birds and small mammals that are totally dependent on tree hollows.

Among these is the sugar glider, a sociable little possum that spends the day in a leaf-lined cavity with up to seven other adults and their young.

In the semi-darkness of dusk they emerge one by one through a slit-like opening in the side of the tree. Silently, on wings of fur, they glide across the trees like some ghostly apparition.

When hollows are in short supply, as they are in Warrandyte, a substitute must be found. Wooden nest boxes nailed to trees have proved reasonably

successful. However, although specifically designed for each particular native species, they seem to suffer even more than the real thing from usurpers such as starlings, Indian mynahs and honeybees.


In the past, axe-wielding miners and timber-getters felled most of Warrandyte's mature trees for props and firewood. Fire, drought and other natural elements have also taken their toll.

Of the old trees that remain, most grow along the river. At all costs these magnificent forest giants must be preserved, but so too must their dead counterparts.

There is a desperate shortage of housing for Warrandyte's native residents. While some people find dead trees unsightly, these naked, weather-worn relics provide much-needed homes for our local wildlife to whom the bush truly belongs. And I don't believe we can justify chopping down their homes to make way for ours.



### DRIP BUSTER



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WARRANDYTE

### BEACH VOLLEYBALL

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HEALTH & FITNESS  
CENTRE

57 Yarra Street, Warrandyte  
844 3001

### ELTHAM ART & CRAFT MARKET

PRYOR STREET

9am - 2pm

February to October  
first Sunday of each month

November-December  
first & third Sunday of each month

LIONS CLUB OF WARRANDYTE

### TENNIS COURT HIRE

Bookings may be made at  
The Village Milk Bar  
844 1240

### TAXATION AND ACCOUNTING

- Taxation Return Preparation
- Electronic Lodgement Service
- Accounting & Business Consultants

SHOP 2, 35-37 DRYSDALE ROAD, WARRANDYTE  
844 2661 A/H 844 2540

## JOHN ROBERTS

and Associates

Certified Practising Accountants

### WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY CENTRE

has facilities for

- Receptions • Meetings
- Social Gatherings
- Community Functions

Rates available on application  
Enquiries: 844 4503, 844 2527

## ELGAS Heatane



45kg Cylinder changeover

7 Day Home Delivery Service  
to Warrandyte and surrounding areas

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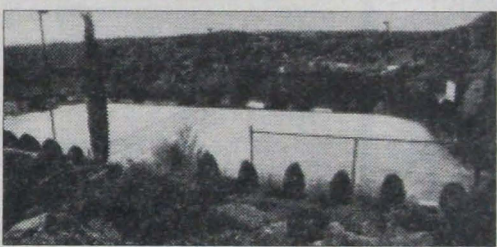
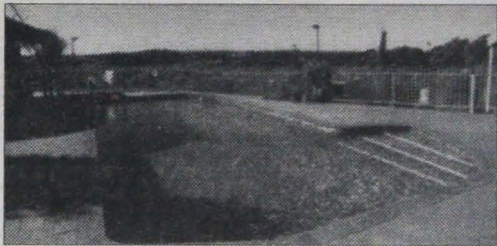


**AUCTION**

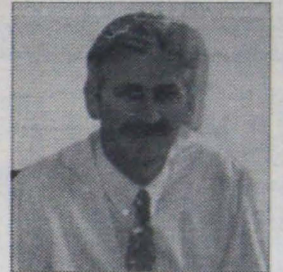
**WARRANDYTE**  
"A LIFESTYLE TO ASPIRE TO!!!"

**S**ituated in a prime golden court location, set upon a superb landscaped acre allotment. This substantial contemporary style residence by "GLEN EAGLES HOMES" offering spectacular mountain views. Craftsman built from Daniel Robertson bricks, providing full size N/S floodlit tennis court plus fully tiled heated pool. Featuring: 5 bedrooms plus study, formal lounge (OFP) with cathedral ceilings, large dining room, well appointed kitchen, meals/family room, huge rumpus/billiard room, gym with sauna and indoor spa adjoining cabana with bathroom. Ducted heating/cooling, vacuum/intercom system, and ample car accommodation completes the picture.

**Auction 21st May at 3.00pm**  
**Inspect 1/2 hour prior**  
**17 Margaret Court**

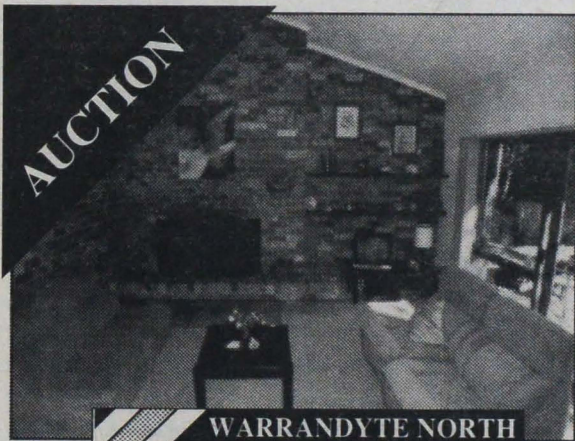


**ATTENTION  
ATTENTION  
ATTENTION  
WARRANDYTE VENDORS**



Over the last 2 years I have enjoyed selling real estate in the Warrandyte area. I have been extremely pleased with the outstanding results that our Barry Plant offices have achieved for our vendors. We have the power to put you in touch with more buyers and a better market price. So if you are considering selling your property please don't hesitate to contact me now.

**ROMEO RIGONI**  
**(A/H) 459 0918 or 018 350 594**

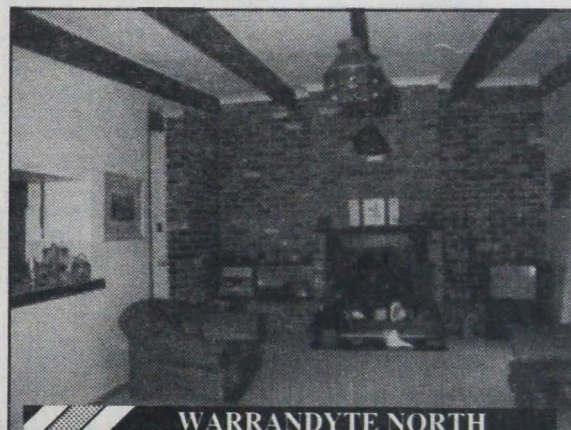


**AUCTION**

**WARRANDYTE NORTH**  
**EXECUTIVE HOME**

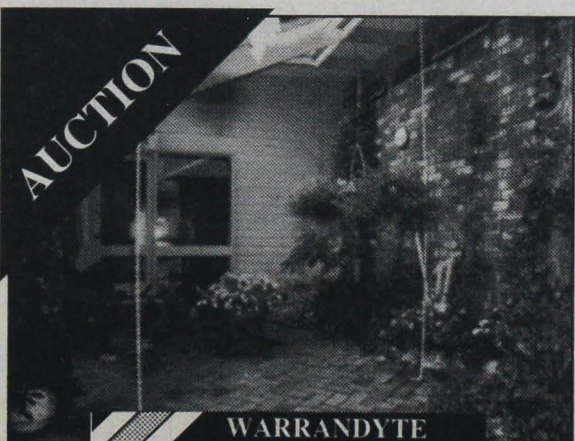
**A** home of flawless standards in space and comfort on 1 acre of natural Australian surroundings. This attractive architect designed home offers generous open living areas with separation of formal and informal spaces, privacy and seclusion, yet also well suited for entertaining—here you can enjoy it all. Five bedrooms plus study, sauna and spa, inground concrete pool.

**Auction This Saturday**  
**14th May at 1.00pm**  
**Inspect 1/2 hour prior**  
**18 Boyd Street**



**WARRANDYTE NORTH**  
**WHY SETTLE FOR AN EVERY DAY HOME?**

**B**uy growing space for your children with this charming rustic contemporary home on approximately 1 acre. Built from second hand bricks with features that you'll fall in love with, glowing warm timber floors and kitchen bench tops. Cast iron baths, 4 bedrooms, great multi living accommodation for added interest. Car space, more than you bargained for, double carport plus double lock-up garage.

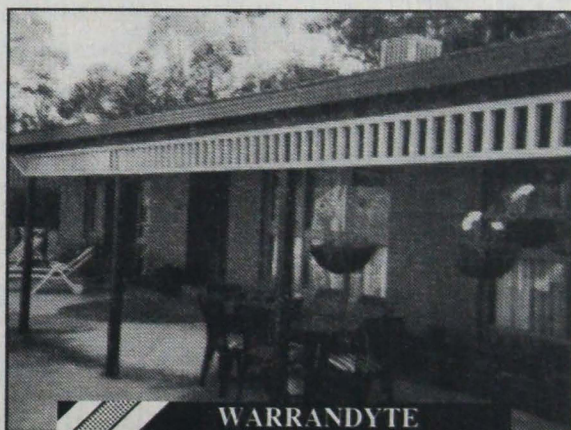


**AUCTION**

**WARRANDYTE**  
**VIEWS/COURT LOCATION**

**A** mellow blend of second hand bricks cover the exterior of this lovely family home. Featuring a stunning near new kitchen, superb homely living areas with gas ducted heating and wood burning stove, 4 bedrooms (master with ensuite), double car accommodation and tremendous storage or workshop area. Take in the views and enjoy the court location. Act now to avoid disappointment.

**Auction 21st May at 11.00am**  
**Inspect 1/2 hour prior**  
**8 Milton Close**



**WARRANDYTE**  
**SUMMER NIGHTS ON 1 ACRE**

**Y**ou'll fall in love with this outstanding dream property set in nature's own private 1 acre secluded garden. Entertain in this bigger than big outdoor patio with tree top views. Enormous rumpus room with feature clinker bricks, bar area and wine cellar. Ample bedrooms and living accommodation to suit the growing family.

Don't miss seeing this today.

AH Lou Silluzio 439 8577 • AH Romeo Rigoni 459 0918 • AH Matt Cust 429 8558 • AH Jenny Bakken 894 1298

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**844 3085**  
**WARRANDYTE**  
 183 YARRA STREET

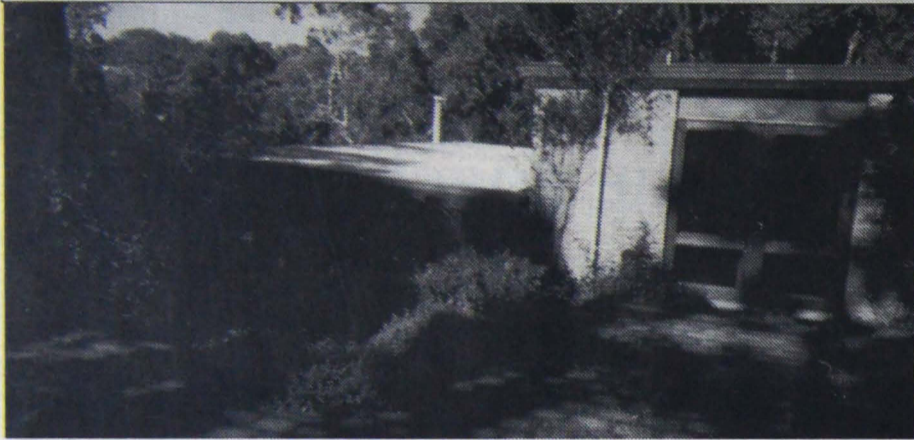
**Wilson McDougall**

**718 2376**  
**HURSTBRIDGE**  
 905 MAIN ROAD

This office is independently owned and operated.

**WARRANDYTE**

**MORTGAGEES AUCTION**

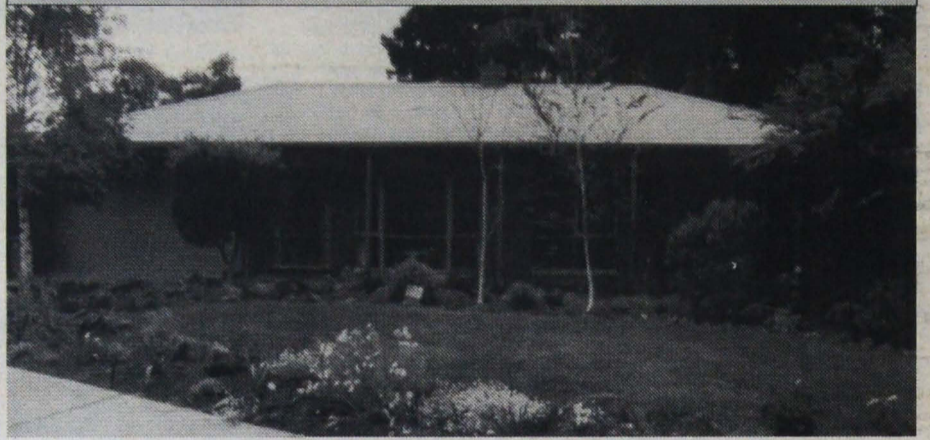


**SATURDAY 11 JUNE AT 12PM**  
**"BELL BIRD"**

Character and charm abounds in this tri-level home with rustic features including slate flooring, timber lining, and exposed beams. Comprising spacious bedrooms, two bathrooms, study and large entertaining areas. All set amongst extensive landscaped gardens complete with sparkling inground pool and separate potters studio. INSPECTION WILL ENHANCE!

**CROYDON HILLS**

**AUCTION**



**SATURDAY 28 MAY AT 11AM**  
**"A TOUCH OF AUSTRALIANA"**

Built with uncompromising standards this meticulously presented home would ideally suit the most fastidious buyer, a blend of the old with the new. The home comprises formal lounge, OFP, separate dining, large family room (OFP) and three double bedrooms. Features include quality kitchen, fixtures and furnishings, ducted heating and double lock-up garage. Inspection highly recommended.

**WARRANDYTE**

**AUCTION**

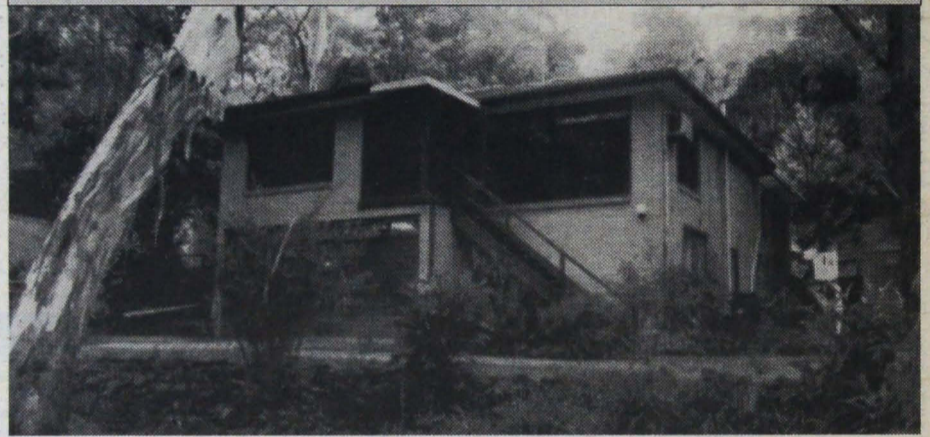


**SATURDAY 11 JUNE AT 11AM**  
**"B.Y.O. PAINT BRUSH"**

First home buyers form a queue. This Victorian home on a fully useable 1/3 acre offers the opportunity of a lifetime. Comprising two large bedrooms, spacious lounge, central dining area, kitchen and bathroom. Not for the faint hearted, but with a little TLC this home will restore to its former glory. INSPECTION WILL ENHANCE!

**WARRANDYTE**

**\$169,000**

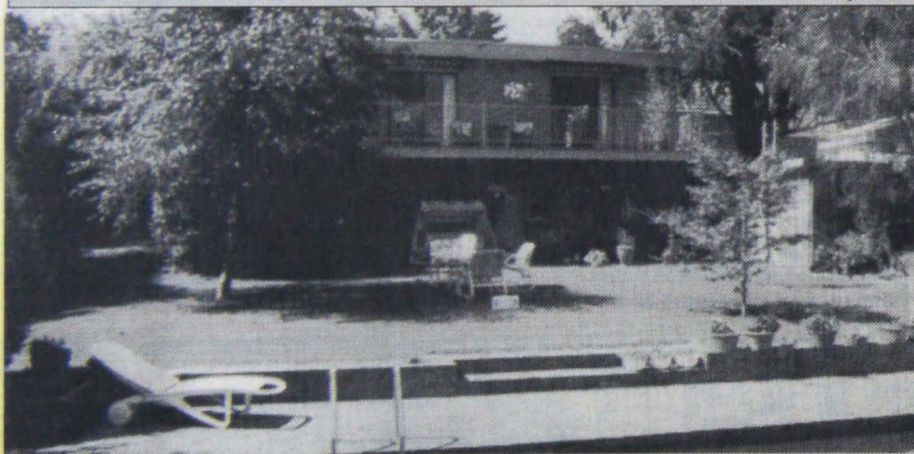


**"PROMINENT POSITION"**

This beautifully situated double storey brick veneer comprises four bedrooms, ensuite and WIR to master, large living area, galley kitchen and meals area, spa and sauna, down stairs games room and workshop, undercover BBQ area and large bungalow on a lovely 1/3 acre. Priced to sell, inspection a must.

**WARRANDYTE**

**\$269,000**



**"YARRA RIVER FRONTAGE"**

Generous family home in a great location offers 4 bedrooms, study, workshop, formal lounge dining, family room, huge rumpus with bar, 2 bathrooms, spa room and double carport. Also situated on this 2/3 of an acre is a large inground pool amongst beautifully landscaped gardens with river frontage.

**WONGA PARK**

**\$129,000**



**"LOOK NO FURTHER"**

This charming brick veneer home has been tastefully decorated with quality new carpets and freshly painted. Comprises three bedrooms with BIR's, atrium with spa off master bedroom, large lounge/dining, dishwasher and polished floor boards in kitchen, carport, large back yard with timber decking.



Director  
**Peter McDougall**  
 AH 712 0322



Director  
**Andrew Wilson**  
 AH 846 1888



Sales Manager  
**Nello D'Aquino**  
 AH 354 0003



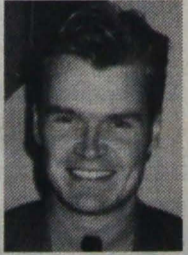
Property Manager  
**Leanne Dean**



Sales Consultant  
**Stacey Oracz**  
 AH 870 7641



Sales Consultant  
**Dylan Baker**  
 AH 435 5584



Sales Manager  
**Rod Pringle**  
 AH 899 6353



Receptionist  
**Caitlin Baker**

**183-187 YARRA STREET, WARRANDYTE**

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