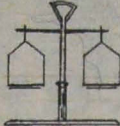


GOLDFIELDS PLAZA



W · A · R · R · A · N · D · Y · T · E

DIARY

WARRANTYTE HARDWARE

844 2622



No. 256, July 1994

PRICELESS 24th year For the community, by the community Advertising: 431 2048 Editorial: 844 3719 Fax: 844 4168

Locals face hike in cost of streets

By CLIFF GREEN

Doncaster council is considering charging residents for any future work on government roads in the area. There are about 50 roads in Warrandyte Ward that could be affected.

This follows the introduction of a user-pays policy, forced on council by reductions in government funding.

"Council's special rates and charges proposal covers a number of user-pay issues, such as shopping centre beautification, local area traffic management schemes and private local street construction," Cr Val Polley told the *Diary*.

"However, it is the implications for the many Warrandyte Ward residents who live on government roads that has caused ward councillors to call for further discussions on this matter."

There are several categories of government roads. These include main roads (such as Andersons Creek Road and Yarra Street), collector roads (such as Webb Street, Everard Drive and Park Road) and local roads (such as Stiggant Street and Magpie Lane). A full list appears below.

Warrandyte was one of the first townships officially proclaimed. The unusually high number of government roads reflects the history of the area. Most of these roads follow ridges and gullies, leading to goldfield workings and their names echo those of early settlers.

"Many residents will have purchased their properties on government roads, secure in the knowledge that they would not be charged for future road construction and maintenance costs," Cr Polley said. "They could be expected to challenge any proposed changes."

"Main government roads, such as Yarra Street, will probably continue to receive allocations from the State."

"However, it is the collector roads which are causing me most concern. They not only serve residential precincts, but also provide access to public open space, Warrandyte State Park and the Yarra River. This means they carry considerable external as well as local traffic."

"The situation has been exacerbated by the government withdrawing 'ex gratia' payments. This means that if a road abuts crown land or school sites



"The roads will further deteriorate."

CR VAL POLLEY

the State Government no longer contributes proportionately to road costs.

"With the reduction in funding, it appears improbable that money will be available for work on 'local' government roads. If residents want these roads built they may well have to contribute substantially to these costs."

"If council does proceed with its special rates and charges policy, it must be stressed that residents would not be automatically required to have their 'local' road made."

Council is re-considering its position on government roads, following strong representations from Warrandyte and Templestowe ward councillors.

"Further discussions will be held to take into account all of these issues," Cr Polley said. "It may well be that the situation stays as it is, but if so, with reduced government funding, the roads will further deteriorate."

"Everard Drive is a good example. Occasional patching is undertaken, but the road structure has been seriously degraded as a result of sewerage works, State Park tourist traffic and increased housing. If adequate funding is not provided for collector roads such as this, safety could be compromised."

The financial implications for people actually living on these roads is considerable. However, most of them are vitally important to local mobility and almost everyone will be affected if their inevitable decline is not halted.

"Residents should ensure they fully understand the implications of these moves," Cr Polley concluded.

Healthy fun on two wheels

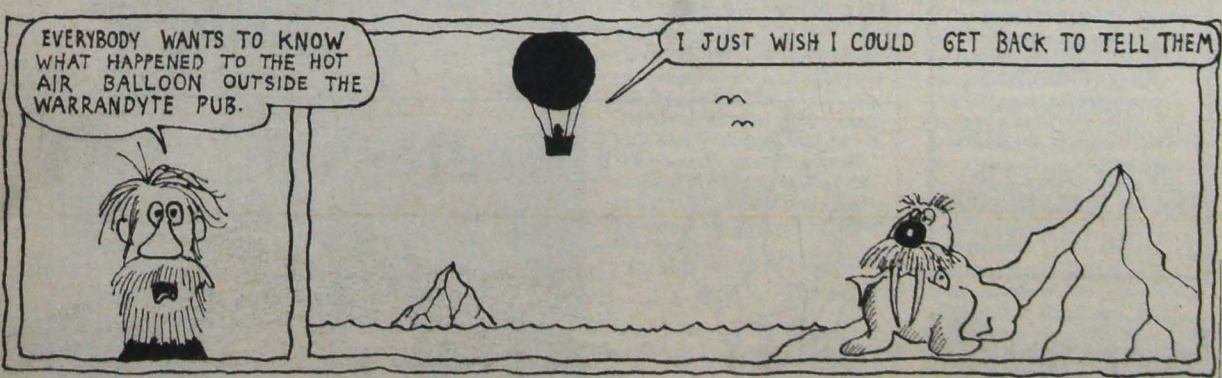


A growing band of energetic folk are getting together each Wednesday morning and pushing the pedals around local roads. Pictured above are Andrew Wegener, who organises the event, Graham Hayward, Judith Hayward and Austin Polley. Interested? Call Andrew on 844 4647, pinch the kids' bikes and join in. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Is your road on this list?

- COLLECTOR ROADS**
- McGow Road
 - Park Road
 - Heads Road
 - Glenvale Road
 - Oban Road
 - Alexander Road
 - Old Warrandyte Road
 - Tindals Road
 - Stintons Road
 - Warrandyte Road
 - Hall Road
 - Jumping Creek Road
 - Harris Gully Road
 - Beauty Gully Road
 - Husseys Lane
 - Houghton Road
 - Gold Memorial Road
- LOCAL ROADS**
- Target Road
 - Wildflower Court
 - Brumbys Lane
 - Johansons Road
 - Pigtail Road
 - Freeland Road
- Pound Road
 - West End Road
 - Taroona Avenue
 - Everard Drive
 - Brackenbury Street
 - Forbes Street
 - Whipstick Gully
 - Webb Street
 - Mitchell Avenue
- Nelson Drive
 - Harding Road
 - Hogan Avenue
 - Hodson Road
 - Blair Street
 - Brett Street
 - Betton Crescent
 - Keen Avenue
 - Trezig Street
 - Stiggant Street
 - Forbes Street
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 - David Road
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What's On at the WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY CENTRE

FILM NIGHT

Friday, 29 July 1994

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Emma Thompson

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SHOP LOCALLY

No, we haven't gone to pot. Not yet, anyway



A lot of strange stuff has been delivered as Diary mail in our long and fun-filled history.

When our letterbox was on the cypress tree, we used to get orders for milk from someone who misread *Diary* for Dairy or (more likely) was having a lend of us. Occasionally, someone who thought we'd fallen on tough economic times would drop in a little loose change and we copped enough icy-pole sticks to build a respectable bonfire. But we'd never taken a drugs delivery before. On or about June 13, some caring but misguided soul posted a pack of pot through the slot in the *Diary* office door. It was a generous gesture, the price of the commodity being what it is, and local police chief Sergeant Keith Walker estimated the street value at \$60. But really, it was wasted on us. We're not heavily into grass. And, like the US President, we never inhale.



We think the North Warrandyte bloke is being overly sensitive, but we respect his insistence on anonymity. He and three city business colleagues were in a taxi to Carlton for a Lygon Street lunch and, having been cunningly manoeuvred into the "sucker seat" in front he said okay, he'd pay the fare. Looked at the meter on arrival, saw 12.50 and, in appreciation of a smooth trip, gave the driver \$15 and said keep the change. "Last of the big spenders, eh?" asked one of the local bloke's mates as they walked into the restaurant. "Big spender? Whaddayoumean?" "The fare was \$4.50," said his mate. "The time was 12.50." Oh.



We're delighted to report that Robin Batty, of North Warrandyte, is as physically fit as a country-and-western violin again after a sudden bout of not-very-wellness hospitalised overnight last month. Unfortunately, the psychological scars may never go away. Robin will never forget the staff bloke who announced the arrival at the hospital of loving and very concerned wife Julie. "Your daughter is here to see you, Mr Batty," he said. Julie's feet have not touched the ground since. She may well be a very young-looking whatever-age-is, but we think it's time she showed Robin a little post-recovery compassion and stopped calling him "Grandpa".

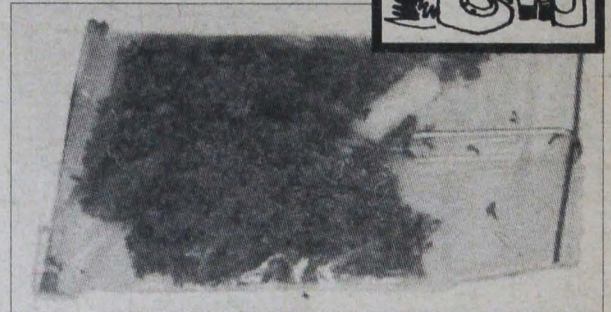


You could never accuse the SEC chaps of making a glaring mistake when they lopped a gum tree in Webb Street as part of the bushfire precautions. Still sitting in a branch after it hit the ground was a magpie nest—and still sitting in the nest was a neat pair of sunglasses. Ha! While birdwatchers are watching birds, maybe birds are watching birdwatchers. And through tinted lenses!



"The Diary's still the best paper published in Warrandyte, Ock."

IN RED & WHITE



Our very own pouch of pot (complete with filter). Nice gesture, but they forgot the papers.



Bob Green, who coached Warrandyte Football Club to the 1958 senior premiership, is a wanted man. The Bloods' past players badly want to contact Bob to invite him to a reunion of the '58 and '66 premiership teams at the clubrooms on July 30. The last address they have for him is at Mornington, but he's moved on. If anyone out there has any idea where he might be contacted, give Brian Tomlinson a call on 876 2178. Brian would also like to hear from any player of the 1950s and '60s who'd like to take a trip down memory lane at the reunion, a special lunch preceding the game against Bayswater. It's not strictly for players who were in those two premiership sides, but for anyone who pulled on the red-and-white jumper in that era. It will be a top day, starting at 11.30 am and ending who-knows-when. And in case the question is ever asked of you as the matchwinner on Sale Of The Century or something, Warrandyte have won four premierships (1958-66-83-93) in their 89-year history.



The recession is over! And that's official! How do we know? The Warrandyte Tennis Club told us so. For the past few years, the club has acknowledged the existence of trying economic times by allowing members to pay their annual fees by instalment. Advice to that effect has been included with the bill. Not so this time. Why? a long-time member was moved to ask. Well, said the club, the recession's



Power failures are so common in North Warrandyte that if the folk there get through a week without some sort of major blackout they start to feel overprivileged. Local plumber David (Bunter) McLean was putting in some overtime installing a toilet cistern the other night when everything went black again. But the job went on. Bunter says there's something eerily spiritual about kneeling before a toilet bowl by candlelight.



It got so dark in the last quarter of Warrandyte's footy match against all-conquering Donvale here on June 25 that Bloods president Lawrie Sloan turned on the floodlights with nine minutes to go. We don't know why, really, because the lights take 10 minutes to warm up and have any impact at all. Nice gesture, though, even if it was lost on the Donvale mob, who continued to wallop us. Donvale, who wear the Collingwood colours, are very good and will probably win the EDFL second division premiership by heaps. The umpires seem to like their style of play and one Bloods supporter opined that the magpie seemed to have become a species more protected than the freckled duck.



The notice on the local footy club board announces a "Happy Hour" on Thursdays and Saturdays, 7.30 to 8pm. Presumably, how happy the hour is depends on how many of the hour's \$1 pots or 60-cent glasses you put away in half an hour.



AMAZING RSL CLUB FACT: The last four people to draw the regular Friday night meat tray raffle have plucked their own number. What do you say to that, Mr Ripley?



Then there's the lord high council poobah who said, "We're not amalgamating with them. They'll have to amalgamate with us."



Smokey Joe

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Buses: Nothing for Warrandyte

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte has been largely ignored by the National Bus Company's first proposed upgrade of transport in the municipality.

Only local residents wishing to travel to Warranwood will gain any benefit from the initial new service. This, however, comes at a cost, with all buses to Ringwood diverting through Warranwood, increasing the length of the journey.

There could be some hope on the horizon, however. National's general manager, Peter Oliver, says all services will be reviewed early next year.

"We will be exploring all avenues and pursuing discussions with committees and councils. Our next step will be early in the new year after this first wave of changes. We have to contact the public, explore their needs and respond to them," he said.

Passenger numbers don't support better services to Warrandyte, but Peter Oliver concedes this could be a reflection of the number running. "Patronage is a function of frequency. The better the frequency, the greater the number of users."

Local user Betty Oke agrees. "They say that people don't catch the buses. It's because they have never tried a more frequent service to fit in with the needs of Warrandyte people. How do they know we won't catch the buses? Our service is very bad. It's not at all convenient," she said.

National aims to increase services throughout the municipality, with more buses to shopping centres, railway stations and schools. Their aim is to have a bus route within 400 metres of each residence.

This is being achieved elsewhere through new routes to and from The Pines, Box Hill, Shoppingtown, Tunstall Square, Forest Hill, Lower Templestowe and Ringwood, many going to the city. But none from Warrandyte.

"Have we been ignored? Absolutely," Betty Oke says. "There are a lot of routes going to The Pines, but none from Warrandyte. They say Warrandyte people don't go to The Pines."

"In a place like Warrandyte, which is so environmentally conscious, it's very impor-



TRANSPORT:
We're still waiting

tant to have good public transport. People should be standing up and saying we want a better service, to cut down on the number of cars, pollution and damage to the environment," she said.

Twenty-six new mini-buses, each with a seating capacity of 26, have been bought to complement standard vehicles on most new routes. A mini-bus will operate on the new 364 Warrandyte-Ringwood route via Warranwood, replacing the old 314 route. The buses will run every 15 minutes in peak periods, each half-hour in off-peak times and hourly at weekends.

Peter Oliver says the new mini-buses will become a vital component of local transport. "The bigger buses cost more to run, so if a big bus can do one journey in half an hour, the smaller bus can do two in that time. It's economic logic."

"The mini-buses are more versatile and can get people closer to home so they don't have to walk far on a dark night. It's a large investment—not cheap, but necessary. In five years, I think we will have 150 of these mini-buses out there," he said.

National took over local buses in late December, assuming the assets and services of the Public Transport Corporation. They have a seven year licence agreement with the government.

Part of their commitment is that routes and frequencies will at least equal those of the Met, prior to National taking over, and ensuring that 95 percent of all services are within five minutes of schedule and services and frequencies are expanded where appropriate.

Peter Oliver says Warrandyte's frequencies will be expanded if deemed necessary. "Overall, people will be happy with the frequency."

But in the short term, locals are critical of Warrandyte's lack of buses. Several *Diary* readers have written in response to last month's story. Gina Jones says she has often been left stranded in the city.

"Last April I left my office at 3.55pm to catch the 4.05pm bus, hoping to get home early to celebrate my daughter's 16th birthday. I arrived in Warrandyte at 6pm!"

She also wrote of a local man who left work early for a doctor's appointment, only to wait an hour before catching a bus that went somewhere near where he lived. This was while many empty Deep Creek buses passed him by.

"The current bus service to Warrandyte is virtually non-existent. I have considered taking my car down to Deep Creek, but am fearful of the dark at 6.15pm in the winter. I do not feel it really is a safe option."

"Warrandyte is a lovely place to live, but it's a pity people such as myself and my children, in due course, will have to choose between their preferred location or convenience of transport. I hate the morning and evening traffic on the freeway, and would much prefer an efficient and reliable bus service."

E. von Moller-Harteneck suggests a light-rail or monorail to the Eltham or Ringwood railway lines to solve our traffic problems. "It would be fast, efficient, quiet and relatively pollution free."

Stony Creek to be firebreak

By DAVID WYMAN

The Stony Creek area north of Research Road is being proposed by North Warrandyte Fire Brigade as a strategic firebreak.

The creek, which almost divides North Warrandyte into two halves, is seen by the brigade as a suitable place to make a stand against a major fire.

It is proposing to the Eltham Fire Prevention Committee that the sides of the creek be "cleaned up" to allow a tractor to slash grass there two or three times a year.

Alan Walker, a long-term member of North Warrandyte Fire Brigade, and its representative on the committee, said the proposals did not include bulldozing trees.

"Once it's been cleaned up a bit, particularly the old gold diggings, then we could get a tractor in to slash the undergrowth," he told the *Diary*.

"We will have to look at the Stony Creek area very carefully. We will have to call meetings, call in experts and see where we can go."

Mr Walker said the community had to accept that North Warrandyte was among the worst fire risks in the world. In the 1962 bushfires, 100 houses were burned in North Warrandyte.

He said the local terrain

made it very difficult for firefighters to make a stand against a major fire.

"Now Stony Creek Road has been sealed we should look at it as a place to make a stand to save properties."

We could stop the main fire front there but we would need to clean up either side of the creek," Alan Walker said.

"We may even plant the area up with more native trees and shrubs."

"At the moment, the grass and other growth in between the trees is over a metre high."

Fears that trees would be bulldozed along Stony Creek to allow access were also allayed by Bernie Murray, Eltham council's fire prevention officer.

"As I see it, the idea is to bring the area along the creek into a slashable state, to enhance it as a strategic firebreak," he said.

"They are not talking about bulldozing trees, just tidying up the area so that the grass can be slashed."

In the past, blackberry control works to reduce fire fuel levels in the area have been carried out along Stony Creek jointly by Eltham Shire and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Warrandyte State Park commences on the other side of Research Road and it is believed it is carefully watching any proposals upstream in Stony Creek.

Stony Creek valley: trees will survive proposed firebreak. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

to be held in the

Warrandyte Community Centre
Yarra Street, Warrandyte
at 8pm Wednesday, 27th July 1994.

ALL INTERESTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS INVITED TO ATTEND.

Further details - John Boyle 894 2233 (BH) 844 3120 (AH)

CITY OF DONCASTER & TEMPLESTOWE



Warrandyte Community Centre

Nominations for a Community Representative

Nominations are sought for a community representative on the Management Group of the Warrandyte Community Centre, Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

The Centre provides accommodation and facilities for a range of community groups. Currently it accommodates the Warrandyte Lions Club, the Warrandyte Diary, the Warrandyte Youth Services, the Warrandyte Citizens Advice Bureau, the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, and the Model Railway Club of Warrandyte.

In addition, community groups and individuals can hire the Centre to conduct activities.

The Management Group comprises four user group representatives, one Council representative from the City of Doncaster and Templestowe and one from the Shire of Eltham, and three community representatives. Overall management of the facility is the responsibility of the Group.

Due to the resignation of one of the community representatives, nominations for a community representative are sought from persons who for the term of the appointment shall be residents of Warrandyte within the area defined by postcode 3113 or members or employees of an organisation operating in Warrandyte.

For further information and to obtain nomination forms please contact Tilak Abeyrama on 840 9426.

Nominations must be received by 25 July 1994 and should be sent to:

Diane Haskings, Acting Manager, Family Health and Community Services, City of Doncaster and Templestowe, PO Box 1, Doncaster Vic 3108.

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LETTERS

School play tops

I would like to offer my congratulations to members of the Warrandyte Primary School and the concert producer, Gail Parke, for the outstanding performance of Danger Kids.

Throughout the performance, I kept on having to convince myself that this was a local primary school production and not a professional travelling theatre. The script, acting, sets and lighting were all of a superb standard. I cannot recall a single one of the actors/actresses having to be



Danger kids in rehearsal

prompted for missing a line. I left the theatre feeling refreshed and thoroughly entertained. There is no doubt that when the Warrandyte community comes together for something like Danger Kids they really do themselves proud.

Again congratulations—I look forward to next year's production.

Phil Honeywood, M.P.
Member for Warrandyte

Street signs lost

It amazes me at times about the performance of various authorities. An example of this was when the power went underground near the community centre.

When the wooden poles were taken down by the SEC, instead of handing in the street signs of Webb Street and Mitchell Avenue to the council, they disappeared with the poles.

After a period of time I rang the council to inform them of this. When another month

went by with still no signs, I was informed that new signs take about two months to make.

You would think that in this day of modern technology and unemployment that a much quicker result could be obtained. In the meantime, some people from outside the town are confused when seeking these streets and have to ask locals for their directions.

John Hansen
Webb Street

Neighbours guard against wildfire

Warrandyte's first Community Fireguard group is up and running in Osborne Road. The Landcare Group already operating in the street and working on fire prevention as part of its purpose, has extended its operations to encompass fire safety.

This program is an initiative of the CFA, funded by Electricity Services Victoria (formerly SEC), which aims to better inform residents living in fire prone areas in ways of fire prevention.

As each area of Warrandyte, and indeed each property, differs in its needs for fire safety, residents are able to obtain advice on an individual basis to enable them to better equip themselves to cope with a bushfire.

Members of the group are working closely with Jon Boura, Community Fireguard facilitator, and Mike Keating, captain of the North Warrandyte Fire Brigade, who have attended the first two meetings of the group and provided valuable information regarding fire behavior as well as simple hints at improving fire safety.

John Ward, district manager of Maroondah ESV, attended the Community Fireguard meeting on June 19 and explained to residents the advantage of the aerial bundle cabling which is now through many parts of North



Osborne Road Community Fireguard members. (Picture by Wayne Rankin)

Warrandyte. John also discussed with the group some problems that ESV are having with power interruptions to the North Warrandyte area and measures taken to rectify this.

The aim is to set up Community Fireguard groups throughout Warrandyte, north and south of the river, to take responsibility for fire protection. The role of the CFA in a major bushfire is to

fight the fire front, not to protect individual properties. Anyone interested in starting up a Community Fireguard group should contact Jon Boura on (059) 443 632.

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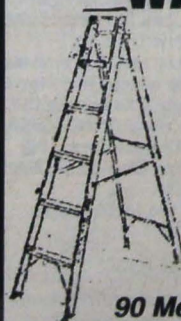
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Basketballers doomed to watch?

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Doncaster and Templestowe plans to build a mega-stadium in Doncaster, leaving Warrandyte's 500 basketballers still waiting for a facility large enough to cater for their desperate needs. And they will be waiting several more months at least for a definite announcement on a new stadium, as the response to Doncaster council's Indoor Sport and Recreation Plan staggers along.

The release of the report last year was met by the Warrandyte Basketball Club with great excitement, recommending as it did a new court to adjoin their present facility at Warrandyte High School. While that hope is not lost, council's immediate goals now centre on a 3,000 seat stadium at

Rieschiecks Reserve in Doncaster, and the development of a large netball facility at the former Templestowe Primary School site.

This continuing saga has reached crisis point for the club, who cannot cope with the basketball boom at junior and senior levels. There is now no chance of a new court being built anywhere but alongside the club's present facility.

"We endorse the principle of constructing second courts at a number of existing centres, including Doncaster Reserve in Leeds Street and Warrandyte High School," the report said.

Finding money for this is now a top club priority. President Graeme Riley told the *Diary* that the club has been invited to take part in a working group looking at the whole of the municipal-

ity, including the Rieschiecks stadium. "The club has two issues facing us," he said. "We've got to participate in this working group while independently putting in a proposal seeking funding for the next financial year which starts on October 1.

"We haven't got enough court facilities to train our players, let alone play there. We will go along with the working party and participate in it, but it won't deflect us from our desire to get another court at Warrandyte."

Plans for the stadium at Rieschiecks Reserve allow for three developmental stages for development, possibly leading to an \$8 million, 3,000 seat facility with eight courts and function rooms.

Of great concern to Graeme Riley, is a provision for gaming machines in stages

two and three of the project.

"Council should be focusing on the immediate, real needs of kids who want to play basketball," he said. "Court space. Not gaming facilities and function rooms. We've got plenty of function rooms and gaming machines but we haven't got courts for kids to play basketball on. That's the need, and that's got to be the priority."

"The club is going along with the rest of the draft plan because it primarily seeks to support basketball and I'm happy about that, but the club will be seeking funding from council in the next financial period to build a second court at Warrandyte.

"We can't wait two, three or four years or whatever it's going to take to build a venue which doesn't directly help us.

We have an immediate need for another court at Warrandyte for the current needs of our club."

Co-ordinator of recreation and development, Rob Dagnall, said there were no "cold hard facts" on details of the proposed stadium. As for the Warrandyte club's new stadium, he says there will be further discussions.

"The basketball club is participating in a working party and involved in further discussion. It will be a number of months before something is done. The Warrandyte stadium is just one of a number of issues," he said.

Concerns that council would be reluctant to fund a new stadium on Ministry of Education land at the school were not shared by Rob Dagnall. "It is not against the club," he said.

Lofty heights looking for tender loving care

By DAVID WYMAN

The area known as Mount Lofty, on the Yarra in Wonga Park, owned and controlled by Melbourne Water, is being seriously degraded by rabbits and through overgrazing by horses.

The area is destined to be part of Warrandyte State Park, but a stalemate exists because, apparently, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) cannot afford to buy it or hasn't suitable land available to offer to Melbourne Water as a swap.

Meanwhile about 35 agisted horses trample the land and rabbits abound.

"It is degrading continually and there are areas where there are more rabbit droppings than grass," Margaret Burke, co-ordinator of Friends of Warrandyte State Park, told the *Diary*.

"The land is being overgrazed—grass is very short or non-existent. Degrading of the land surface will be severe this year. The topsoil will go. There are hoof marks everywhere—hard-hoofed animals should not be there.

"I keep asking Melbourne Water about Mount Lofty. Someone there has told us it won't be handed over to DCNR. Is it possible that it could be sold for housing?" Margaret Burke asked.

But Melbourne Water's property manager, Ian LeNoury, said: "We can't sell Mount Lofty privately. We must offer it to DCNR. It is public land which will be included in Warrandyte State Park.

"We have certainly offered the land to DCNR. We would propose to transfer the property to them at the Valuer General's valuation or we can treat via a land swap.

"We know that DCNR haven't got the funds to pay for it and haven't got a piece of land that we would want for a land swap—

so the deal is at a stalemate," Ian LeNoury said.

"We're essentially holding a piece of land we can't do anything with, hoping DCNR will become more financial and then we can proceed to sell it to them. At the moment we can't do anything with it."

Accessible from the northern end of Lower Homestead Road, Mount Lofty is important public land because it has magnificent panoramic views of the Yarra Valley and the river. The land was acquired by Melbourne Water as part of the now defunct Yarra Brae reservoir project.

Warrandyte State Park has fenced some sensitive areas of Mount Lofty and regeneration of eucalypts and native grasses has been successful. "One cluster of native trees has come back really well," a state park ranger said.

"This year we proposed to fence another four or five areas—fence tongues of land abutting the river—but our request for funds from Melbourne Water was knocked back. No work is being done there at the moment."

Margaret Burke said she thought the land could easily be brought back to its native state. "We (the Friends) would like to be involved in that. We have the capacity to produce any number of indigenous plants for the property," she said. "We think that DCNR and the Friends are the best potential managers of Mount Lofty.

"One of our major worries is the future of the wetlands in the area. We are continually growing wetland species and we would like to be involved in restoring the wetlands too.

"But nothing is happening at Mount Lofty except the continuing degradation of land and native bush. It's a great shame."



Matt Le Duc (senior ranger), Lorraine Elliott (MP for Mooroolbark), Doug Cordell (ranger) and Margaret Bourke (FOWSP), enjoy the view from Mount Lofty. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Big bikkies for kids

The Warrandyte Community Childcare Co-op, situated at the corner of Warrandyte-Ringwood Road and Masonic Avenue, has received a substantial grant from the State Government, allowing it to carry out much-needed renovations to part of the centre.

Announcing the \$40,000 funding, local MP Phil Honeywood said, "I am delighted that a review recently carried out by the State Department of Health and Community Services resulted in this local organisation receiving the money towards the renovations of the 3-5 year-olds' room at the centre.

"I know the committee of management has put a great deal of work and planning into this project and they are to be commended for their work. The Warrandyte community will benefit from this upgrading at the centre."

Childcare Co-op chairman Lee Dehmel told the *Diary* that the capital works grant is really appreciated. "Whatever we can get done with the \$40,000 we'll do," he said. "It will upgrade that bigger room at the creche to the standard of the rest of the centre.

"We'd like to thank Mr Honeywood for the effort he has put in on our behalf."

Chat fest for olds

By NICK ARNOTT

Warrandyte Youth Services is developing a parent support group, following the second successful Parenting Teenagers program 'Growing Pains'.

In an attempt to offer greater support in the Warrandyte area, youth services made a commitment to working with the parents of teenagers through two eight-week courses. Since October last year, approximately 30 parents have benefited from the program.

From the two courses it became clear that many parents would appreciate continuing support and education. This has led to the development of the support group. The group will provide the opportunity for parents to socialise with others, sharing ideas and advice and discussing a variety of issues.

Warrandyte Youth Services, which has continued to expand its programs over the past 18 months, will facilitate the group during the initial phase, with the services co-ordinator and a support counsellor working with them for the first six weeks.

It is envisaged that the parents will then take over the running of the group, developing a format that meets the needs of all. This may include informal discussion, information and resource sharing and the opportunity to have guest speakers or presentations.

The first Parent Support Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 26 at 7.30pm in the youth services rooms at the community centre. All parents are welcome to attend. They need not have completed the Growing Pains course to be eligible. For further information contact Craig Milburn at the centre on 844 2985.



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BERYL DAY Great spirit of adventure

LAURA Alexandra Bertha Day was born on June 9, 1902 at Coburg. She was the youngest of a family of six, all of whom have predeceased her. They had been a close and supportive family over the years.

Beryl attended Coburg High School, although at that time the school itself had not been built, classes being held in a church hall. From there she went to Melbourne Technical College.

Her father owned a watchmaker's shop. Having completed her education, Beryl worked in the family business, taking care of the book-keeping, deliveries and other aspects.

Beryl met Charlie Day when he returned from World War One. His parents were neighbours of Beryl's family. They married on November 11, 1920, and it was the beginning of a fine partnership. They shared many happy years together and also faced some difficult times, but their love and commitment to one another always got them through.

Two years after their marriage they moved to Pound Bend, Warrandyte, as part of the Soldier Settlement Land Scheme. There they built a cottage and developed a market garden. Both worked extremely hard.

Beryl began raising pigs. When it came time to take them to market she washed them thoroughly with velvet soap. Her pigs always fetched a good price.

Their family was made complete with the arrival of Lorraine and Ron. Lorraine was only eight months old when they moved to Warrandyte. They were certainly not easy years but they had many good times. Beryl's family was very important to her. She loved music and there were always plenty of sing-a-longs, with Beryl playing the pi-



Beryl Day. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

ano. She also had a fine singing voice.

Around the late 1940s, Beryl began working with the Reserve Bank, rising to the position of supervisor in the note-printing division. She remained there until she retired. Sadly, Charlie passed away in 1949.

Beryl was keen on most sports. She enjoyed tennis, and she was able to play with neighbours who had their own court. She was a keen follower of North Melbourne football team.

When her children married, Beryl became a very proud grandmother to Ian, Wendy, Kelly, Elisa and Jamie. She also had the special privilege of becoming a great grandmother to Darren, Brad, Cameron, Christopher, Jessie, Adam,

Marlie and Osca.

She was a sociable and friendly person and had a wonderful ability to get along with people of all ages. Beryl was a member of the War Widows One Club in Melbourne and at one time was an office bearer. She was a member of the Ringwood branch of the War Widows Guild, where her services were recognised with life membership. She was also a member of Doncaster Legacy.

She travelled with friends to Gallipoli, and also to Canberra as part of the Unknown Soldier commemoration.

Following retirement, Beryl began to travel quite extensively around Australia, mostly by coach or rail. She had a great spirit of adventure and preferred camping to staying in hotels or motels.

She was a hands-on person and liked to explore the places she visited. After seeing much of Australia, she went on and visited many parts of the world.

An intrepid traveller, she often set off alone, though she soon made friends along the way. She walked along the Great Wall of China, ventured through the Grand Canyon in America, flew over the glaciers in New Zealand and did so much more. She made many friends as she travelled and it was not uncommon for people from other countries to stop over at her home.

Last year, listening to one of her grandsons describe the exhilaration of free-falling from a plane, she decided to have a go. And she did—at 91 years of age!

She will be lovingly remembered for her loving and generous spirit, her sense of humor, her positive outlook and for her many accomplishments during a long and productive life.

(Based on the eulogy delivered by celebrant Bill Newton.)

MARY DAVIDSON

Remembered with love

By JOHN HIPWELL

MARY Davidson, who died on May 26, aged 85, will be remembered by many Warrandyte residents with love and affection.

Mary was born in Korumburra and, as a child, attended the Bena State School. From an early age she developed a keen interest in the arts and later moved to Melbourne where she practised commercial art as one of a group of four young women under the title The Group of Fore.

She met and married fellow commercial artist Vernon Davidson, and after World War Two, with their two children Ian and Helen, they moved to Warrandyte. Vern and Mary played a pivotal role in the formation of the Warrandyte Arts Association. Vern was the founding president and Mary

the first newsletter editor.

Mary took part in many WAA activities including writing, painting, play-reading, pottery and film nights. She had a pottery studio under their house in Brackenbury Street and was a member of a CAE book group.

Vern was at the top of his profession, being art director at the George Patterson advertising agency. He sometimes used Warrandyte locations for filming TV commercials. For the launch of a new model Holden, he had the new car driven from the tunnel at Pound Bend, through an artificial waterfall.

Vern died at the early age of 52 and it is a tribute to Mary that over the next 25 years she lived a full and active life, travelling extensively.

She loved the Greek Islands. Her interest in biblical archaeology led her to many fascinating places in the middle east. She visited Britain on many oc-



Mary Davidson

Carmel, with their four children, now live at Mitcham while Helen and her husband Jim, with their two children, are living at Eaglemont.

In recent years, Mary Davidson resided away from Warrandyte but kept in touch with many Warrandyte friends and, until about a year ago, was a member of a local craft group. A month before she died, Mary celebrated her 85th birthday, a very happy family occasion which gave her great pleasure and satisfaction.

To quote from the eulogy given by her brother-in-law Frank Davidson: "Mary had an inner strength. She set high standards for herself and encouraged her family accordingly. It is no surprise that her children and grandchildren are achievers. Our lives are richer for having known her. We have lost a dear friend, but retain happy memories."

casions and once had an exciting trip to Katmandu, then across India and on to Europe.

At her beach house at Aireys Inlet, Mary was the focus of happy gatherings of her loving family and her many friends.

The two Davidson children, Ian and Helen, went to Warrandyte State School. Ian and his wife

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Building a new life

By JULIE MURRAY

THE spirit of determination and perseverance is alive and thriving in Warrandyte, on the high side of Brackenbury Street, just up from the RSL clubrooms where two men are building a two-storey, 30 square home.

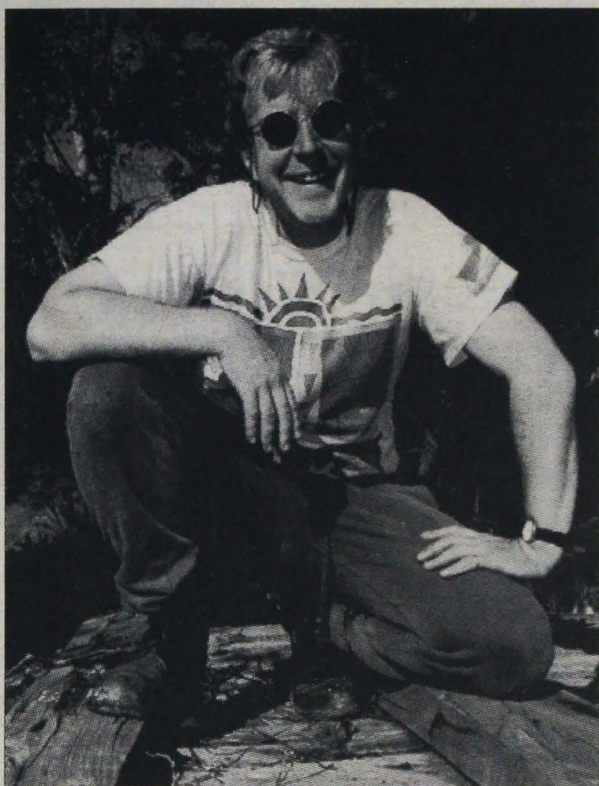
What's so unusual about that? Well, neither of them are builders. One is 61 years old and retired, the other is 33 and visually impaired.

The house belongs to Eric Houghton, whose family links with Warrandyte go way back to the 1850s. He is also known to many as a past owner of the restaurant, Pancakes on the Yarra. His helper is David Clifton, current time-keeper for the under 16 football side.

For seven persevering years, Eric's monolith has been slowly rising on the old blackberry-infested, filled mine site with a view.

"We're a good team," Eric said. "We help one another." To see the two of them working together it is obvious that there is a mutual respect and camaraderie that transcend any physical difficulties.

Although both admit to the odd argument, it's not a bad record when you learn some of the details of construction. Because David couldn't balance on the joists they had to lay sheets of ply—there's a 4.5 metre drop from the front verandah, which makes negotiating the scaffolding rather tricky. Not to mention that the fall of the block is more than 10 metres. Yet together they have laid 60,000 bricks.



David Clifton. A romantically happy ending to a story of courage and determination. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

The determination part of the story actually started when David, at the age of 21, had a serious motor-bike accident. He was in a coma for a time and as he came out of the trauma, suf-

fered a stroke. He spent the next three years in a wheelchair. Rehabilitation initially started with David learning how to walk. But it's the other functions that we ordinary folk take for granted

that needed work.

"Helping Eric to build the house has, in turn, rebuilt my confidence and self esteem. Learning to communicate and reconnect with people were important to me, and generally fitting back into a community," David said.

To see David at work and the pride he has in carrying eight bricks, it's hard to believe that he is visually impaired. Yet David is partly blind in both eyes; an aftermath of the accident that could not be rehabilitated. He can only see if he focuses straight ahead; his peripheral regions are blurred.

"My life took a turn for the better when I met Eric. I was 16 stone when I left St Vincents Occupational Therapy Unit, but thanks to the discipline of the work and the World Gym in Ringwood, I've trimmed right down.

"When you come close to being gone, life takes on a completely different meaning, but you do need purpose in life."

David's admiration of, and gratitude to Eric is as obvious as is Eric's pride in David.

But there is one more chapter to this inspiring story of courage and achievement, a chapter with a romantically happy ending. David is engaged to Eric's daughter, Milissa. They plan to marry soon and live in the back part of the house, when it is finished.

And for those who drive along Brackenbury Street regularly and have been wondering when that might be? "About 14 months," say Eric and David.

Unhappy family reunion

A PRODUCTION of Melbourne playwright Hannie Rayson's *Hotel Sorrento* was staged by the Warrandyte Drama Group at the Mechanics Institute Hall during June.

The play itself is somewhat reminiscent of the area in which it is set, presenting a facade of beauty and tranquility, but behind which, like Bass Strait itself, is an undercurrent of turbulence and conflict.

The atmospheric set design by Jack Macneish, and execution by Rob Reindorp, copes well with the production's demands, requiring several locations, from a London flat to Sorrento.

The story deals with a family, the Moynihans, who, in the course of the play, are reunited at their seaside home. Wal (Hans Duke), the father, is a colorful local identity, while his widowed eldest daughter, Hilary (Sue Dyring), runs a coffee shop in the village. She lives with her son Troy (Matt Algood). The other two sisters have both been living overseas. Pippa (Raine Dinale) has made a success of the New York advertising world, while writer Meg (Elizabeth Greenwood) has been living in London with English husband Edwin (Doug



By PAUL WILLIAMS

McManus) for 10 years.

Meg's novel, *Melancholy*, is short-listed for the Booker Prize, setting in motion a series of events and confrontations which carry this skilfully crafted play along at a lively pace, and the audience with it.

The family reunion is tense and unhappy. Meg's novel is largely autobiographical, and the portraits painted of family members by the writer are not particularly flattering. Meg has said in the novel things she could not have said to them face to face.

The play presents several entwined themes: patriotism, the cultural cringe, artistic integrity and family relationships. The arguments are presented with fluidity and confidence. The play's mood is gentle, apart from the blustering outbursts from local journalist, Dick (Ron Bingham), who is infuriated by comments attributed to Meg by an English newspaper prior to her return to

Australia. His long suffering companion is nicely played by Yvonne Morey.

The play has a somewhat cinematic approach in that it has a constantly changing focus, and, by the usual standards of stage productions, relatively short sharp scenes that work well and hold the audience's attention. It is little wonder that a screen version has recently been shot in Melbourne and Sorrento and is currently at first-cut stage, and will be 'coming to a cinema near you' later this year.

The cast of eight include some creditable performances, particularly that of the repressed homebody Hilary, played by Sue Dyring, perpetually surrounded by a haze of cigarette smoke, ironing and washing. Ron Bingham, as journalist Dick Bennet, came across as a character who would be more at home with pie and stubby at a football match rather than debating Australia's cultural cringe and emerging national identity with Meg and her husband. His performance, however, held the audience's attention and contrasted nicely with the quieter characters in the production.

The play was produced by Rae Danks and directed by Paddy Childs Green.

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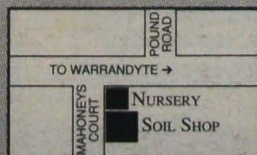
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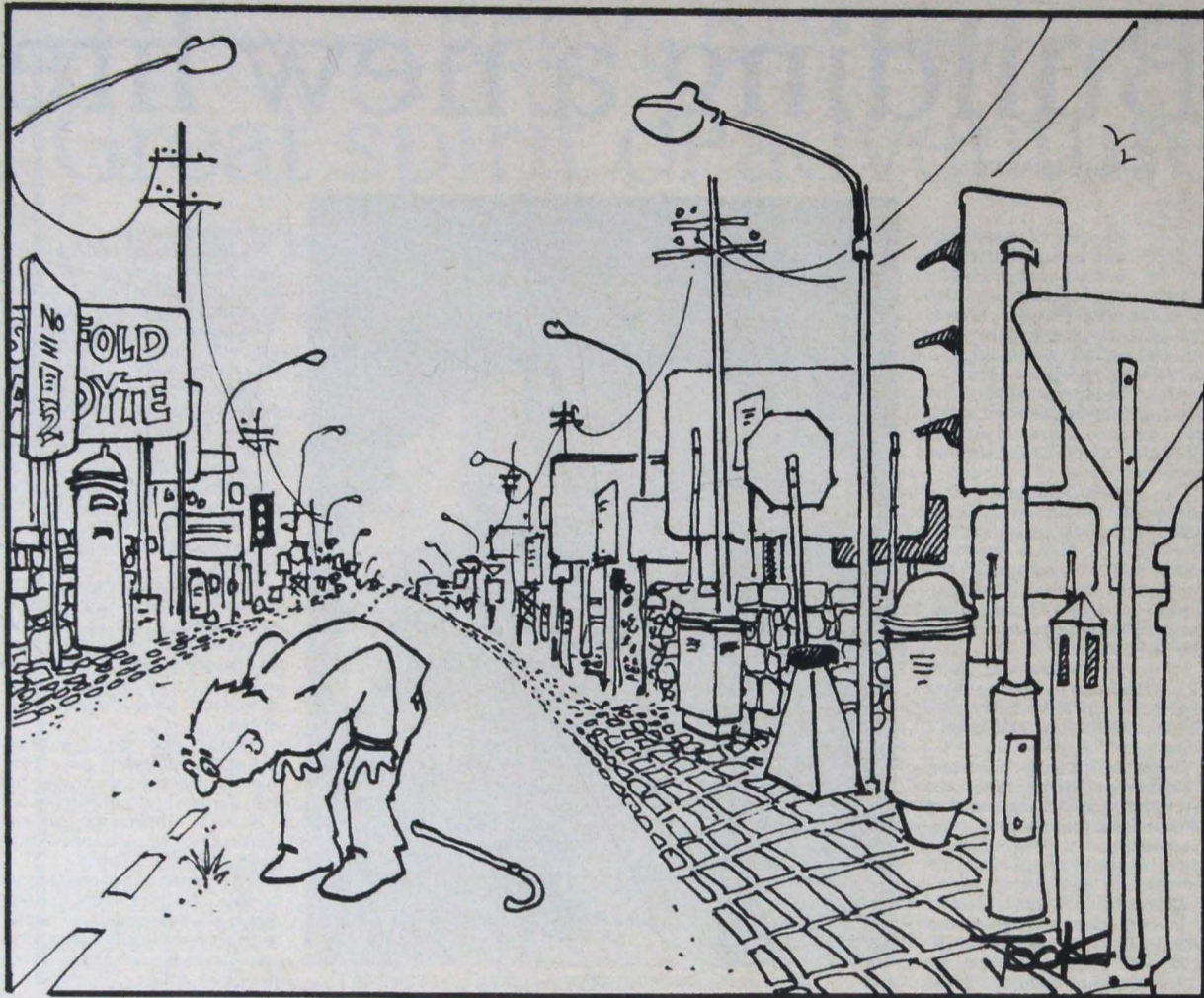
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We're still a soft touch for that ol' green grass

IT was very heartening to read Paul Molan's reassurance that Doncaster council is trying to "make things a bit softer to fit in with the Warrandyte area." (*Diary*, June).

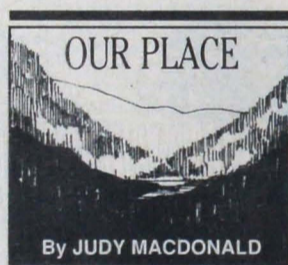
It's been a worry that while local eyes are trained on the horizon looking for Raiders of the Green Wedge, they are missing things happening closer to home, like the Westerfolding of Warrandyte.

And of course we appreciate the upgrading of facilities and undergrounding of powerlines, but gravel and rubble will never create a soft impression.

Mr Molan also remarked that council "hope to improve the open space and carparking area (opposite the end of Webb Street) by putting some type of improved surface there".

May I suggest grass, Mr Molan, for the open space? You know, that nice, soft green stuff that used to be there before it became a gravel dump.

Not the labor-intensive mown stuff, but ankle high waving grass, turf, veld—



By JUDY MACDONALD

closely resembling what was there before settlement came to the Yarra Yarra in the late 1830s.

It's virtually child-proof, user friendly and blends in with most finishes. It needs protection from motorised vehicles, especially gravel trucks. A few posts and rails can do that.

And speaking about grass, I wonder if the grim reaper who is mowing our highways and byways within an inch of their lives, could lift the blades a little. The smallest skink would find more refuge in the median strip of Hoddle Street, Collingwood, than on our shaved roadsides.

Oh, and while we have your attention, Mr Molan, could

you please find out who is responsible for the bristle of signs that has erupted recently in Yarra Street? There are 53 poles bearing 54 signs, between the pedestrian crossing at West End and the village pedestrian crossing and that is only on the north side of the street in a mere half mile!

We must be expecting the four horsemen of the apocalypse or perhaps the Light Brigade as at least half a dozen new signs in this little strip declare that horses are not to be ridden. Actually, in my 23 years in the village, I can't recall ever seeing a

horse on that footpath, ridden or otherwise.

And although we have an ageing population, it is not necessarily dim-witted. Does the new 'soft' carpark really need six directional signs? Surely 'in' and 'out' would suffice.

Even the good old bottle dump, where for 15 years, bleary-eyed mums and dads and reluctant kids have managed to work out 'in' and 'out', has four poles bearing directions!

I'm really not joking, Mr Molan. Our streetscape is looking like a rough draft for a Jock Macneish cartoon.

STREETS WHERE WE LIVE

Stinton Road is named for the Stinton family. It originally led to Thomas Stinton's property, to which he gained freehold in 1852. One square mile, or 640 acres acres in extent, it was one of the earliest freehold titles in the area.

John Hutchinson, who lived at Pound Bend, married Eliza Stinton. John was appointed

pound keeper in January 1855. He remained in that position until 1872, when he moved to Lilydale, where he had built the Olinda Hotel. William Hutchinson took over both the property and the pound keeper's job.

BRUCE BENICE



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A pedantic preformance across the generation gap to a thankless past

I WORRIED about myself falling victim to the generation gap when I began to wince at the checkout persons at Harry's saying "thank you" instead of "please": "More trolleys at the front of the store, thank you!" I began to fear that "please" had been deleted from the modern vocabulary altogether, not because rudeness had taken over from politeness, but because the language had changed with generations.

"Nah! I'm just an old pedant," I said to myself. "What's the damage done? They still communicate and are concerned enough to be polite about it."

I softened back into being one of the guys until I heard a radio reporter extolling the spectacular "preformance" at the Arts Centre. My pedantry welled. Preformance! I'd heard of "preformed steel" and "prefabrication", but never "preformance".

I started to feel twitchy. There is nothing more of a give-away about getting older than the tendency to start criticising the youngsters for not

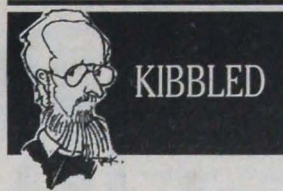
doing it the right way. That is, my way. It was then that I made a concerted effort to get with it, to "chill out". I practised saying "real" instead of "really" and how to conduct a conversation holding a can of Coke in one hand whilst chewing with a mouth full of Hubba Bubba. I never RSVPed and I turned up to dinner parties fashionably one and half hours late. When I was really winging it, I didn't turn up at all.

I did all this and threw in a good quantity of littering and authority bashing. I thought I was on a roll, but it all came unstuck when I heard a worrying interview with a director of a lunchtime theatre group.

"We want to demystify theatre," he intoned. "Get rid of illusions and artifice and learn to see things as they really are."

Why, I wondered, would I go to a lunchtime theatre to have reality poke me in the ribs whilst I was in the process of filling mine with manufactured meat and processed cheese?

I had always liked illusion. I liked to



believe that when the rock rolled down the hill and collected the hero at the end of the Saturday afternoon serial, that it really was a rock and not some papier mache snowball. I enjoyed the films that ended happily rather than in psychiatric wards, doss houses or family law courts.

Yeh! I knew what life was. It hit me as soon as I walked out of the theatre and had to pay the parking fine or arrived home to find the house burgled. I knew all about poverty, unhappiness and Ingmar Bergman films. But I still think that a willing suspension of disbelief is enjoyable for most people for just a little part of their lives.

For example. You're living in Eliza-

beth England. You've just managed to survive a night of bedbugs, rats and itching sackcloth. You wake up, open the window and are hit by the pungent odor of raw sewage and sillage running down the middle of the street. You slam the shutters, the noise sending the mice scurrying from the thatched roof to the food stores. You face the prospect of another exciting twelve hours surviving.

At age 30, you have been suffering permanent illness for the past 15 years and your skin and hair are beyond the help of Max Factor or even Red Earth. Your surviving children are malnourished and life is not fun.

The flag goes up on the Globe Theatre's flagpole and the decision is made that you could all do with a good afternoon at the theatre. You hear there's a good show by some new scribbler called Lloyd Webber who's supposed to write some wonderful escapist stuff.

You could certainly do with it. Your butcher has just diagnosed your rash as cholera and the local apothecary

has run out of leeches. You take the punt across the less than pristine Thames, squelch past the bear-baiting and cock-fighting, sight the Globe and look forward to a few hours of relief, away from the grind of normal life.

Having paid, you stand amongst the groundlings gumming a soft apple. Suddenly there's an announcement.

"We are pleased to announce that today we have begun a new policy of theatre realite. We've chucked out Webber and today we'll see a story about real-life domestic crisis. A no-punches-pulled analysis of the anguish of modern life."

You look at one another, nod and walk out.

"I don't know what they're thinking about. Plays aren't what they used to be. Modern scullery sink rubbish!"

"Don't worry, dear. We'll try again next Saturday. With a title like Hamlet it won't last a week!"

I think I've found my generation.

ROGER KIBELL

Dying to cross the road

ONE of the definitions of a corridor is "a strip of land that by geographical and biological characteristics is distinct from its surroundings".

Such is the jigsaw of bushland in and around Warrandyte, corridors of native vegetation are essential for the movement of animals. Warrandyte is no ordinary suburb. It has the rural atmosphere and community spirit of a country town, and the historical and artistic elements of a popular tourist destination.

But it is the diversity of plant and animal life that sets Warrandyte apart from other suburbs. Rare orchards and other exquisite floral gems that have died out elsewhere in metropolitan Melbourne, still survive in these hills. Koalas are at home among our gum trees, wombats roam the sandy soils of our riverbank and, most incredible of all, kangaroos graze undisturbed in paddocks only 10 minutes away from the chaos of Ringwood's new



By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

shopping complex.

Rising from the dust of old Eastland, this alleged environmentally conscious concrete construction is a naturalist's nightmare. While feeder roads carry ever more hungry shoppers, our wildlife, like displaced refugees, has no alternative but to retreat north and east to satisfy their needs.

In their natural habitat, birds and other animals are constantly moving around searching for food. Some have seasonal migrations, whilst others need to extend their range from time to time. It is vital for them, therefore, to have corridors linking areas of bushland habitat. Left in isolation on an island of native vegetation, animals are at risk from disease, predation, weakening of the species

through inbreeding and disasters such as bushfire.

Fortunately, Warrandyte does have natural wildlife corridors—the river is one. There are also linear strips of vegetation along the creeks and roadsides, as well as substantial blocks of native forest. The problem arises when these inter-connecting pathways cross our own escape routes as happens along Jumping Creek Road and Warrandyte Road in the vicinity of Deep Creek.

Over the years the park rangers have kept a chilling register of road deaths. It doesn't make pleasant bedtime reading. The victims include kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, wombats and even a tuau—an animal seen so rarely when alive that it is unfamiliar to most people.

One interesting fact to emerge is that almost all the kangaroos killed are males and most have broken legs. Their pitiful remains are collected from roadsides by the rangers with ominous regularity. The bodies are transported to a special burial ground in the bush where the 'roos are

laid to rest with dignity.

The kangaroo, symbol of Australia, has, in some parts of the country, become so common to be deemed a nuisance. This is not the case in Warrandyte. We are indeed fortunate to have a mob of around 100 individuals. Their future for the moment is not threatened. Nevertheless we cannot afford to slaughter them needlessly on our roads.

It is too early yet to say if the Slow Down for Warrandyte campaign has had any effect on the number of road kills. But as more houses, shops and roads are built, it would be unrealistic to think that this cruellest carnage will end.

We can only do what most of us are already doing. Drive carefully and always remember there are other thoroughfares that intersect our own. These routes are not marked on any map and for the travellers that use them there are no warnings to slow down, no bright yellow signs to indicate speeding cars ahead. Nothing to stop our wildlife from leaping headlong into danger.



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Rabbits are Australia's most serious pest animal as they destroy plant communities, cause soil erosion and compete with native fauna for both food and habitat. Rapid increases in the rabbit population has caused them to move from rural areas into the outer suburbs of Melbourne. They are causing serious environmental problems within the City of Doncaster and Templestowe and the Shire of Eltham.

To assist the community in protecting the native vegetation, the Middle Yarra Region Rabbit Action Group comprising of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in conjunction with the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, Shire of Eltham and Melbourne Parks and Waterways have produced a brochure titled "Rabbit Control in Urban Areas".

A public meeting to explain the ways of handling the rabbit problem will be held in the Warrandyte Community Centre on July 20th between 8.00pm and 9.30pm.

For information or a copy of the brochure, please contact Tim Rowe, City of Doncaster and Templestowe, on telephone 840 9300.

Lions take pride in year's achievement

The Lions Club of Warrandyte has just concluded a great year with their annual change-over night, held late last month at the community centre. Past president Eddie Hendricks handed over the presidency to his successor, John Penwill. A vast number of local, national and international causes were assisted during the year, ranging from a donation of teddy bears to the Warrandyte police station, \$1,927 to Warrandyte Youth Services, \$2,500 for Christmas parcels for needy locals and a pledge of up to \$7,000 for North Warrandyte's new fire truck, through \$2,000 to victims of the Benalla flood, \$3,000 towards the purchase of a St Johns ambulance, to a \$500 donation to World Vision for Rwandan relief; plus lots, lots more. Well done, Lions!

Opening

Warrandyte and District Preschool's attractive new building in Tarroona Avenue has now been completed and the whole community is invited to attend an open day on Sunday, August 7, between 10am and 3pm. Irene Goonan, mayor of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, will officially open the centre at 2pm. This will be an opportunity for those who supported the building to admire the final results and allow young families to inspect the facilities.

Seniors

The annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club will be held at their clubrooms in Tarroona Avenue on Thursday, August 4 at 1pm. All welcome. Enquiries to 844 2437.



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.

Drama

Auditions will be held at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute hall on Sunday, July 17 and Tuesday, July 19, for the WAA drama group's next production, planned for September. Enquiries to Rae Danks on 844 3819. The pottery group have arranged children's classes, commencing on Saturday, August 6. For further details and enrolment call Marjorie Beecham on 844 3206.

Festival

The annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Festival Committee will be held in the Warrandyte Community Centre at 8pm on Wednesday, July 27. All interested residents are invited to attend.

Thanks

Edith Irving of Brackenbury Street has asked us to thank the kind person who removed the body of her beloved British Blue cat, who was hit on the main road, near Stiggants Street, on Friday, June 3, while she was away on holidays. She would

appreciate a call from this person on 844 3405.

Potters

Activities underway at the Potters Cottage complex during July include a visit to the restaurant of the highly successful Cathay Pacific Jazz Band, just returned from Hong Kong. A workshop with Peter Ries is to be held at the pottery school and the gallery is hosting a major exhibition of ceramics by Malcolm Boyd and John Eagle.

Gymkhana

Wyena Pony Club is holding a holiday gymkhana on Sunday, July 17 at their club grounds, Croydon Road, South Warrandyte. All riders under 21 are invited to attend. There will be open riding rings, a novice ring, freshmans' jumping and a topy ring. A perpetual trophy is awarded on the day to the best novice combination. Enquiries to Anita McKellar on 844 2655 or Bronwyn Nixon on 844 3733.

History

Diary writer and well-known local historian Bruce Bence will speak at the annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Historical Society, to be held on Sunday, July 17 at 2pm at the Warrandyte Community Centre. Bruce's topic will be "Dr Mary, renowned local medico, army officer, writer and bread carter". Everyone is welcome and afternoon tea will be served.

Tent

The 1st Warrandyte Scout Group are enjoying their new tent which was purchased with a cash do-

nation and meal vouchers given by our Grand Hotel. They have asked us to express their heartfelt thanks.

Patience

The Diamond Valley Singers, in conjunction with the Diamond Valley and Eltham Community Orchestra, is presenting Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta Patience at the Warrandyte High School theatre on July 8, 9, 13, 15 at 8pm and at 2pm on July 10 and 16. Tickets—\$15 for adults, \$10 concession and \$45 for families—can be booked through Jill on 435 9523.

Youth

Ringwood Youth Access Centre comes to Warrandyte Youth Services at the community centre every Tuesday from 1.30 to 3.30pm. They bring jobs from CES and JOB, course information, advice and counselling and help with resumes and job applications. Further information from 871 1880 or 844 2985.

Grants

The City of Doncaster and Templestowe welfare initiatives program provides funding support to both community groups and individuals to assist with the establishment or implementation of community projects that would benefit residents of the municipality. Recent grants have helped a Christian youth drop-in centre, production of a youth discount card, help with extension to Tunstall counselling centre and funding for national volunteers week. For application forms ring the coordinator of the community programs unit on 840 9234.

Wonga Park's CFA chief

By BRUCE BENCE

A former member of Wonga Park Rural Fire Brigade is the new chief officer of the Country Fire Authority. He is Arthur Farn, who joined the Wonga Park brigade in 1965. No stranger to Warrandyte, Arthur worked on nearby grazing properties and orchards and as a school teacher before joining the CFA permanent staff in 1969.

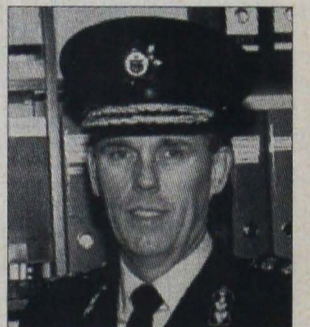
He was chosen from some 20 applicants and is the first regional officer to be appointed chief officer. His career has given him a wide and varied experience in the fire service.

He was liaison officer at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade headquarters during the Coode Island disaster.

The New South Wales fires of January this year saw Arthur spend a week at the NSW

Bushfire Brigades' headquarters at Rose Hill. Prior to his appointment as chief officer he was in charge of the CFA management department.

If former Wonga Park captain Alan Bickford was alive today, he would have taken great pleasure in Arthur's appointment. Alan was captain when Arthur joined the brigade and always had the greatest confidence in his ability.



Arthur Farn. (Photo courtesy The Fireman)

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Goodbye Fairyland

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club's honeymoon in EDFL second division is over. The Bloods, who won seven of their first nine games, have lost their last three to drop from a clear second on the ladder to a perilous fifth.

They surrendered fourth spot on July 2 by failing a crucial test against Blackburn, who have replaced them on percentage.

Coach David Purcell was angry and bitterly disappointed. "We were living in Fairyland for the first half of the season," he told the *Diary*. "We're back in the real world now."

Purcell had emphasised since they put in a very poor and under-attended pre-season that Warrandyte might be living in a fool's paradise.

"Players are not at the club, supporters are not at the club and the off-field work is being done by the same four or five who have been doing it for years, and they are tired of doing it," he said after the Bloods had capitulated to Blackburn by six goals—23.12 (150) to 17.12 (114).

"Nothing has changed since the start of the season. We had 16 players at training last Tuesday. Sixteen players for two senior teams.

"With numbers like that, how can you expect to turn up every Saturday and turn it on?"

"Teams we walloped in the first half of the season are itching to get back at us. I just wonder if we really want to play football!"

WFC president Lawrie Sloan described Warrandyte's performance against Blackburn as "pathetic". "But what can you expect when you can get only 16 players out on the track of a Tuesday night?" he said.

It was difficult to evaluate the Bloods' first quarter because although they kicked with a sub-

Bloods back in real world and out of the four



David Purcell: 'I wonder if we really want to play football.'



Joey Hassall: One of our best on a dark day at Blackburn.

stantial breeze, they were going uphill on the strangely-sloping Blackburn ground. They were just nine points (5.5 to 4.2) in front at the first change but surrendered the lead 12 minutes into the second quarter. The signs were not good, but John O'Brien goalied at the end of one of Warrandyte's better passages of play to grab a three-point advantage.

The lead changed three more times before the interval, Blackburn going in with a seven-

point break. It had been a good contest so far, but things were about to deteriorate very badly for Warrandyte.

The third quarter, the Bloods' chance to open up a decisive margin with the wind, was all Blackburn.

The Bloods levelled the score with a Terry Blythman goal four minutes in, Blackburn responded almost immediately and Luke McFarlane-Smith, playing an unfamiliar role up forward,

SPORT

twice ran into an open goal to put Warrandyte six points in front.

Then the floodgates opened. Blackburn consistently ran the ball out of the centre and used the ground cleverly against the breeze to hammer away at goal.

It was only a matter of time before they punched holes in the Warrandyte defence, and they kicked five unanswered goals to lead by 24 points (16.10 to 12.10) at the last change.

Purcell compared the Bloods' third quarter with the "dark days" of third division several seasons ago and appealed to his players' pride. The game was still there to be won, he said.

It wasn't. Blackburn kicked the first three goals of the last term (they had now kicked the last eight of the match) before Darren Peters registered Warrandyte's first in more than 30 minutes of football.

The contest of the first half was in danger of becoming a rout when Blackburn retaliated with two in a minute. Mercifully, Lachlan McLean, Peters, Tony Sturesteps and O'Brien all found the target to restore a little respectability.

Warrandyte's best on a black day were Joey Hassall, Peters, O'Brien, McFarlane-Smith and Purcell.

An encouraging aspect—the lone encouraging aspect—was the promising debut of new signing Chris Mills, a former Oakleigh (VFA) player. Mills, recruited from Parramatta in Sydney, did enough to suggest he will be quite an acquisition.

• *Warrandyte's away game against Mooroolbark, set down for Sunday, July 24, has been re-scheduled as a normal Saturday fixture (July 23).*

Lawrie Sloan calls it a day

Long-serving Warrandyte Football Club president Lawrie Sloan is to step down. Mr Sloan told the *Diary* he would not be seeking re-election at the club's annual general meeting late this year.

Now in his 11th term at the helm, he said an increased workload in his employment in the public service had prompted his decision.

"I find I can no longer do full justice to my job and the presidency of this football club at the same time" he said.

"There are simply not enough hours in a day, or in a week."

Mr Sloan said he was disappointed at the response on and off the field to Warrandyte's EDFL third division premierships last season.

"I'm disappointed that a lot of players seem to think it's no longer necessary to train, and I'm disappointed that so much of the off-field work is being left to so few," he said.

"But that is not the reason I've decided not to seek another term. Quite simply, I no longer have the time."

Mr Sloan was Bloods president from 1973-80, when he stood down to join the EDFL executive. He returned to the chair in dramatic circumstances in February, 1992, after an annual general meeting and an extraordinary meeting had failed to find a president to succeed Colin Bowden.



Lawrie Sloan

Mr Sloan walked in as the extraordinary meeting on February 10—a matter of weeks before the start of the season—was breaking up without a solution to the presidency problem. He volunteered his services "if you want me".

The meeting was hastily reconvened to vote Mr Sloan in.

"In a way, I've achieved what I set out to do then," he said. "I've seen Warrandyte Football Club out of third division into second division."

"I'll still be around the place next year, but not in a committee role. But I'll be happy to do anything I can to help out."

Makeshift make it in Cup cliffhanger

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Unbeaten favourites Makeshift have won Warrandyte Basketball Club's Greyburn Cup with a thrilling 50-48 win against the Darkhorses.

There have been no better team in recent years than Makeshift, but grand finals have not been kind to them.

They have lost four of the past seven and their only triumphs have been over the Hitmen.

Makeshift have lost in bizarre circumstances in the past and almost found a new way to lose this season, when Darkhorse guard Doug Harding let fly with a shot from half court that would have won the championship at the death.

It hung in the air for what seemed like an eternity before bouncing harmlessly off the backboard.

The game had all the excitement befitting a title match. The Darkhorses looked set early for a comfortable win, skipping to a 14-6

lead on the back of some sweet three-point shooting from David Simpson (13 points).

Ashley Grybas replied for Makeshift and it was his big three with less than a minute left in the first half that cut the deficit to 22-29 at the break.

The competition's leading scorer, Chris McIntosh, slowly began to find his mark after fighting off some defensive pressure, and with 12 minutes left Makeshift had the lead for the first time.

The Darkhorses, however, weren't about to lie down in their first-ever final, and Carter Zigmantas (10 points) made two vital shots to regain the ascendancy.

From there the lead ebbed and flowed on each trip up the court until the Darkhorses edged five clear with less than three minutes left.

It seemed time to write the final epitaph on the season, but Makeshift would come back for one last desperate thrust.

Grybas inspired it, another three-pointer taking him to five for the game and 19 points. With Graeme Pollock blocking the Darkhorses' shots at the other end, Makeshift got the ball back and went to the free-throw line several times off fouls.

And that was where the game was won. Chris McIntosh (16, including nine free throws) made four of four in the last half-minute, but still the final chapter on the season was to be written.

Simpson made a drive with 11 seconds left to make it a two-point game, and off the ensuing long Makeshift pass the Darkhorses came up with the ball for a final fling.

Harding, by his standards, had not had the best of games, but he had the chance to be a hero, as Simpson had been just two weeks before in the semi-final against Makeshift when he made a three-pointer on the siren to force overtime.

From 47 feet the ball left his hands

perfectly. The entire season was in the air, floating towards the basket. The siren sounded, but the shot crashed high left, and it was over. And nobody begrudged Makeshift their celebration.

The over-30 section of the Greyburn Cup was equally dramatic. A big crowd saw two-time defending champions the Plastics upended by the Wobblers, who were playing in their first final.

The teams looked evenly matched, despite the Plastics being 12-1 in the regular season and the Wobblers 6-7. In the last regular-round game the Plastics had fallen in by a point and the Wobblers had won the semi-final by two. That was their winning margin in the big one, 32-30.

The Wobblers came from behind at half-time to do it, with Horrie Aldenhouen turning on his best form of the season. He scored 18 points and collected six rebounds in a best-on-court effort.

The Plastics' Steve Doyle threatened to take that honour from him, though, with a typically-dominant game. He hauled in a massive 19 rebounds to complement 14 points but received little offensive support. Paul Sleeth was their second best with seven points and 14 boards.

This game also went down to the last shot. The Plastics trailed by four with three seconds left, but made two free-throws and got the ball back after an inbounds pass went out of bounds without contact.

The pass in went to Doyle, whose first shot was partially blocked. The second fell short. The Wobblers rejoiced—seven seasons of frustrating wait was over.

Capping the big week of basketball was the final of the Grand Hotel Cup, the new women's competition. Odds-on favourites the PP Champs won the inaugural title, beating the Alzheimers 47-25. Amanda McLellan starred for the Champs with 21 points.

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Your "Real Estate Professional", in advising you the price you should ask for your property will take into account the present demand and will have an intimate knowledge of prospective purchasers' likes and dislikes. Just as importantly he or she knows what the comparable properties are selling for in your area.

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