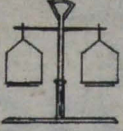


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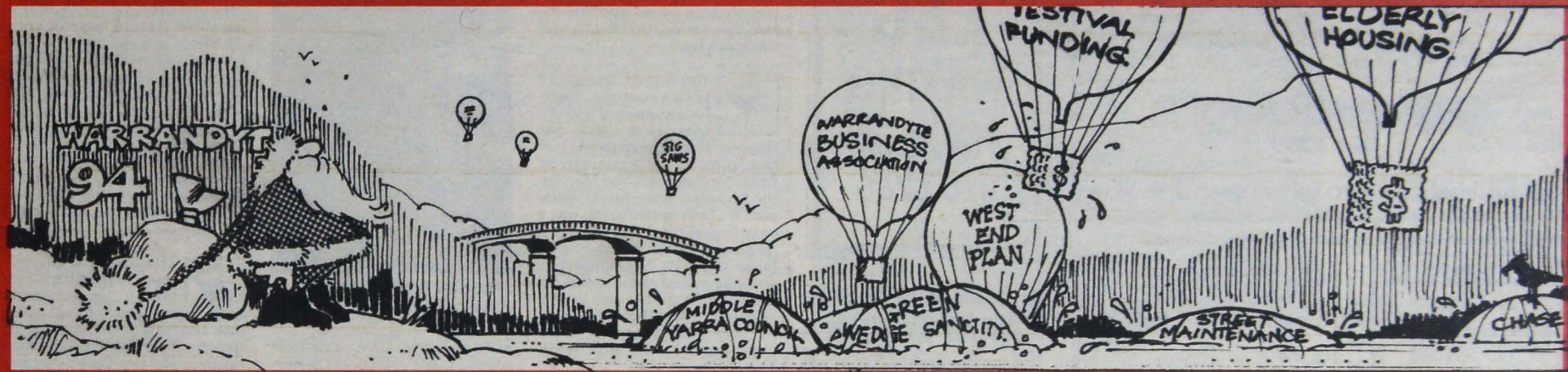
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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM ALL AT THE DIARY



Fire risk 'very real'

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Warrandyte's fire captains have called on residents to undertake their own precautions around the home this year as the brigades gear-up for what could be a devastating summer.

High dry winds brought upon by drought conditions further north are drying out local grass and scrubland, posing a very real bushfire threat, according to Warrandyte chief Bob Bird.

"We're getting the rain, but within a couple of days it's drying out. This should continue, so by mid-summer it will be quite dry.

"People should be concerned. We say every year that it could be a bad year, but one of these years a big one is going to hap-

pen," he said.

He warned residents that unless they carry out their own precautions there is little that could save them in a major fire.

"We can only tell people to please, take all the precautions they can. Nothing could have stopped the Ash Wednesday fires, not even the best fire brigade in the world."

North Warrandyte captain Michael Keating says he would only have a problem for 20 minutes if a major fire came to his area, which has one of the highest danger factors anywhere.

"A wildfire in North Warrandyte would take only 20 minutes to go from one end to the other and then it will be someone else's problem." This might sound an extreme case, but the steepness of the terrain and the number of trees and homes makes it feasible.

Captain Keating warned

against a complacency that has developed after several years without a fire, but this does not seem to have been heeded. The North Warrandyte Community Emergency Planning Group reports a small turn-out to its annual meeting.

Chairman Barry Walters told the *Diary* that few of the 12 to 15 people present were new people not already on the committee.

"We're disappointed, but we expected it because there hasn't been a fire lately," he said.

Two years ago, when the original 17 member committee was formed, a public meeting attracted 200 people from both sides of the river.

No-one living south of the river attended the meeting last month, which has led the group to continue focusing on North Warrandyte.

"With no-one south of the river coming, it's still going to be called the NWCEPG. We're happy to change, but we need people to change it. It sounds as though people south of the river are not interested," Barry Walters said.

The threat of NWCEPG being wound up was averted following support from two community fireguard groups.

"The committee will have a representative from both the Osborne Peninsula Community Fireguard Group and the Yarra Court group. It was crucial that we had their support and they

were active representatives."

He said the group would be "moving with the times" and focusing more on Displan and the fireguard groups than on the coroner's report, which initially led to its formation.

"The most positive thing to come out of the meeting was that the people were all willing to be active members. They knew that if they went on the committee they would have to do something."

The fire brigades will once more be working to raise community awareness, letter-boxing homes with pamphlets over the next month.

"People can contact their local brigade for help in lowering the fire danger around their property," Bob Bird said. "There are still many people who are not aware of the danger."

Meanwhile, the CFA has issued a release saying that some owners of LPG powered cars could be breaking the law by not having the LPG gas sticker attached. This has happened recently with the exchanging of faulty number plates. People should contact their nearest LPG installer for new stickers.

● Radio covers fires: Page 4

Ever ready: Kinder kids check Warrandyte Fire Brigade's personnel and equipment. (Picture by Jan Tindale)



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SHOP IN WARRANDYTE

Drop shot. Or how the mighty have fallen

 If you live at the west end of town and the earth moved for you one night late last month, that would have been Greg Lawrence, largish president of Warrandyte Tennis Club, falling off a bar stool at Geoff Pulford's place in Tindals Road and cracking a couple of ribs. Greg says he'd worked so hard that day he simply nodded off over a quiet beer. Knowing him to be a man of consistently moderate habits, we believe him. We also believe in leprechauns and the tooth fairy.

 You'll read elsewhere in this colossal, value-for-no-money Christmas issue about our Osborne Road Queensland kauri tree, planted 134 years ago by Baron Sir Frederick Von Meuller, the first state government botanist. We believe the baron was a very fine fellow, but there was a down side to him. It was he who loved the taste of blackberries and suggested their seeds be broadcast through the length, longth and length of Victoria's bushlands so that lost souls might survive on the fruit. Thanks heaps, Fred.

 By the time we'd fully read the handout from Doncaster-Templestowe (or is it Bulleen already?) council, we'd ripped open the accompanying large sachet, bunged its contents into the bong, smoked 'em and hallucinated. Now they tell us it was compost! A neat little promo, actually, for the council-sponsored "Compact: a Landcare and Environment Action Program (LEAP) funded by the Department of Employment, Education and Training". Please warn us next time. Gave us quite a dry cough.


 Unless you're listening to the footy or the cricket, you should be certified for wearing a Walkman—a Smokey opinion borne out the other evening on the No. 305 bus from the city. He was a distinguished, greyed gent, probably of northern European persuasion, and as he rang the bell in Manningham Road he was probably tuned in to Chopin's third, Listz's last or Beethoven's unfinished. As lack of luck would have it, the driver pulled up with the exit door pretty tight against the protective steel mesh fence outside the school they're pulling down in the name of better education. "I cannot get out," said the man, perhaps as the violins approached fever pitch and the kettledrums rolled. "You are too close to the fence!" "Sorry," said the driver, an amiable person, as the National Bus Co people tend to be. "Get back in and I'll move forward. The bus won't move while the door is open." "I cannot get out," the fellow repeated. "Get in." Eh? Possibly as the orchestra reached full, glorious cre-


IN RED & WHITE




Margaret Burke: lost and found department.


scendo and the cymbals clashed, our passenger somehow squeezed himself between fence and bus, approached the driver and said: "You stop too close to the bloody fence!" "And if you'd taken those bloody ear-plugs out you'd have heard what I said," the driver replied, with restraint above and beyond duty's call. The other passengers took a quick vote, declared the driver man of the mismatch and were still giggling in George Street.


 If you don't get the Friends of Warrandyte State Park newsletter, ignore the following or read it just for fun. FOWSP coordinator Margaret Burke appeals in the latest issue to anyone whose subscription payment has not been confirmed by bank statement to give her a call because she may have burnt the cheques in the Coonara along with a small mountain of extraneous paperwork. Rejoice, FOWSPians, for that which was lost is found—in a tray at the friends' Pound Bend library. Kindly disregard previous information. And while you're at it you might like to congratulate the lovely Marg for winning the Shire of Eltham's 1994 Environment Award.


 There are 13 signs between Blackburn and Warrandyte Roads that spell Andersons Creek Road with an 's' and only one that doesn't. Is that fair? We say no! And in its reference at the top of page 62, noting that the creek was the site of one of the earliest gold discoveries, the Macquarie Dictionary uses an 'apostrophe s'. How confusing is that? We say very! That's what's wrong with this country: we're erratic.



 It has to be a happier New Year for Glenyse Riches because the last bit of this one has been very ordinary. We told you last time how Glenyse, who runs our Op Shop, was flashed at in the line of duty (not that it fazed this unfazable lady). A matter of days later she broke ribs and punctured a lung in a car smash at the Fitzsimons Lane roundabout. The good news is she's well on the mend and may even be back behind the counter when you read this. The Op Shop sure ain't the same without her.

 The absence of anything suggesting a nibble on the occasions Smokey had cast a line into the Yarra had convinced him the river was fish-free. Warrandyte Rotary Club's fishing weekend last month taught him otherwise. Despite some of the wildest weather in memory, the field of 183 anglers landed 84 fish weighing a total of 102 kilos. There were rainbow trout (a 1.375 kilo beauty is pictured on Page 3), brown trout to 400 grams, Macquarie perch to 590 grams, redfin to 990 grams, roach to 185 grams and eels to 965 grams. There were also carp—bloody carp!—the biggest almost five kilos.

 You might never get to read this because he is a shy, retiring fellow and may censor it, but Cliff Green, the *Diary's* founding father and ongoing editor, turned 60 on December 6, an occasion celebrated at a party at the Mooroolbark home of Kathy, one of his four kids. When we say he's "retiring", we don't mean from the *Diary*. Heaven forbid that!

 That's it from Smokey for '94 and as he wishes you a sensational Christmas and New Year he urges you all to try harder in '95. Not nearly enough of you are dobbing in your mates. Far too much is being left to far too few. Your columnist needs you. Bye now.




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Fears mount on ring road

By DAVID WYMAN

The Melbourne Ring Road connection between Greensborough and Ringwood will affect Warrandyte township and surrounding areas of low density housing, and generate a large increase in traffic on Warrandyte Road.

This is the view of local resident and senior lecturer in urban planning at the University of Melbourne, Nicholas Low.

In a *Diary* interview, Mr Low said that while the missing eastern link of the Ring Road was not in the latest batch of government road proposals, the bureaucratic planning for it was "going ahead at full steam".

"It seems the intention is to build that missing link between the top end of the Western Ring Road (now partly completed between the Hume Highway and Princes Freeway) and the Scoresby Freeway reservation in Ringwood.

"After crossing the Yarra this link would cross Warrandyte Road at, roughly, Beasley's Nursery and go down Mullum Mullum Creek."

Warrandyte township would be affected by a subsequent surge in growth, particularly traffic growth. It would put a lot of pressure on widening Warrandyte Road, Mr Low said.

"The proposal to widen the road through Warrandyte of

some years ago could re-surface. There would have to be some kind of bypass—God knows where that would go. Some sort of feeder road into the Ring Road would have to be built.

"The Ring Road freeway will alter the pattern of accessibility in Melbourne, so a great deal of growth will occur around the periphery of the road. This would put a lot of pressure for development on Warrandyte's surroundings and a corresponding increase in traffic.

"There is a lot of low density housing around that area which would fairly rapidly become medium density housing. This has happened in Melbourne's outer west and the growth areas of Cranbourne and Berwick," Mr Low said.

Earlier, Mr Low gave his views on the Ring Road's impact on Warrandyte to the annual meeting of Warrandyte Environment League (WEL), as guest speaker.

The league's Doug Seymour said that the Warrandyte community needed to take a close interest in the issue.

"There are a number of reasons supporting increased interest in this issue. Many of the bureaucrats doing the planning are late of Vic Roads and no doubt rate quality road infrastructure highly," Mr Seymour said.

"Overseas experience has been that ring roads attract their own

fringe development, which puts pressure on existing land uses and planning. As building along the route increases, it generates traffic until the ring road suddenly needs widening.

"This momentum draws traffic away from the radial network serving the central city, which in turn degrades the public transport system.

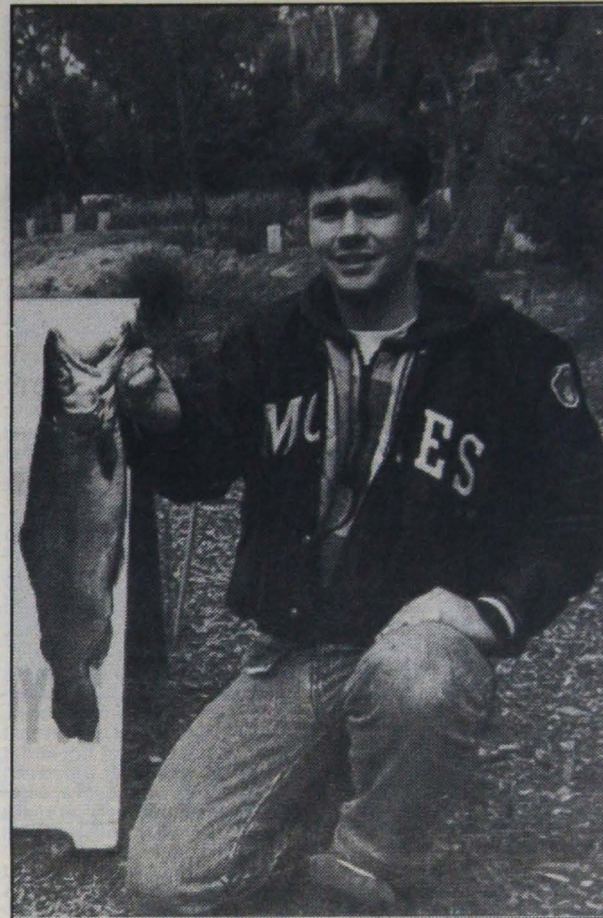
"The WEL annual meeting discussed the possible impact of various exit and entry routes off and on the Ring Road, but at this stage there is little interest in joining a broader lobby against freeway construction," Mr Seymour told the *Diary*.

Local State MP Phil Honeywood said the Ring Road construction through the north-eastern and eastern suburbs had been "put off".

"There has been a meeting of regional members of parliament about it and the feeling is that the Eastern Freeway extension and construction of the new Scoresby Freeway are the priorities for this area," he said.

"Even if the Ring Road does eventually proceed, it will be many years away."

Meanwhile, the Warrandyte Environment League commences its 22nd year with the on-going committee of Doug Seymour, Cindy Wilson, Alison White, Greg Stroot, Paul Williams and Gary McKelvie.



FISHERMAN'S LUCK: Young Nick Saunders of Diamond Creek shows off the 1.375 kg rainbow trout he caught at the Warrandyte 'Catch of the Day' Family Fishing Competition during the weekend of November 5 and 6. Organised by the Rotary Club of Warrandyte, the event carried prizes valued at more than \$7,500. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Speed down on hill

By CLINTON GRYPAS

The speed limit on Warrandyte Road leading into town has been reduced from 80 to 70kph after several accidents there this year.

Local police sergeant Keith Walker said he was "very happy" that VicRoads had responded to calls to reduce the limit.

Sergeant Walker, chairman of the Warrandyte and Park Orchards Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC), said the issue was raised at a PCCC meeting and Cr Louise Joy took the matter back to council.

"We then spoke with the council engineer and we're very pleased to see the limit's been reduced. VicRoads has the final say on whether it comes down, but they operate on what they're told through council and other local representations."

The limit has been reduced from where Tindals Road meets Warrandyte Road, just before the winding bends leading to the Recreation Reserve. The large directional signs along the strip have been raised for improved viewing. The speed limit has not been reduced all the way through to Newmans Road as called for by a Nunawading police report two months ago.

The lowering of the limit is another boost for local police in their efforts to reduce the number of accidents in Warrandyte. Sergeant Walker said the speed radar gun purchased in July last year had been a great success.

"It has been used on a regular basis here and certainly has acted as a deterrent to speeding. We wanted the gun because of the numerous and severe accidents that were occurring in the area and we've managed to reduce them."

He added that visual mobile patrols had also helped, while an increase in staff from five to seven has enabled the station to stay open longer. The increase was also a result of work by the PCCC, who have been "extremely active" in their 10 months of operation.

Welcome, Ronald McWarrandyte?

Warrandyte could become home to fast-food chain outlets, following approval of a government planning amendment which has changed controls over take-away food shops and restaurants. The Warrandyte Environment League believes this raises concerns for residents.

Under the new controls, the existing commercially zoned area along Yarra Street and around Goldfields shopping centre could now accommodate such food chains as McDonalds, Pizza Hut and Hungry Jacks without the need for a planning permit.

In the past, a planning permit was required for the cafe or restaurant component, although not for the take-away food part.

The amendment has allowed this type of use in residential areas throughout the metropolitan area, but not in the Environmental Residential or the Residential D zones which cover most of the residential areas of Warrandyte.

Cindy Wilson of WEL told the *Diary* that "Food chains, with their associated signage, distinctive building style and potential for traffic generation, carparking problems and noise—by virtue of the usual level of patronage and hours of operation—are inappropriate for Warrandyte." She added that the character,

streetscape and environmental qualities of Warrandyte would not be enhanced.

Another of the league's concerns is that residential areas directly adjoin commercial areas in much of Warrandyte, and the larger take-away food complexes would cause significant disturbance for neighbours.

"This would be compounded by another recent planning amendment, which removes permit control over late hours of operation on shops within 40 metres of residential zones," Cindy Wilson said.

Arguments that Warrandyte is not large enough to support a fast-food chain have been rebuked by industry statistics which show that the popularity of fast-food has increased to the point where the catchment areas needed to support a viable restaurant have been reduced.

Households now spend around 24 per cent of their food budget on fast food and this figure is expected to grow to 31 per cent by the year 2000.

Cindy Wilson said this information, "combined with Warrandyte's attraction for tourists and location in relation to passing traffic, could make a fast-food chain outlet in Warrandyte a possibility, without any opportunity for residents to object."

'95 festival plans

Warrandyte Festival Committee is working hard to introduce new features for the 1995 festival. The theme is "Be a Sport in Warrandyte" and it will be held over the weekend of March 25 and 26.

Committee spokesperson David Hogg said that a major sporting spectacular event was being planned for the Saturday evening, and it was hoped all local sports clubs would contribute.

He said various ideas had been discussed, including grudge football, cricket or tennis matches, round-robin competitions and the involvement of well-known sporting personalities from the area. There is a possibility it will be run in conjunction with a youth rock concert.

He said that it was an ideal opportunity for sporting clubs to promote their activities and all suggestions are welcome. Enquiries should be directed to Sue Martin on 844 3535.

The youth of Warrandyte are being given the chance to get involved in next year's festival more than ever before. Liz Marsh, of Warrandyte Youth Services, said they are planning a wide range of events for the weekend. She can be contacted for more suggestions on 844 2985.

Mr Hogg said that schools,

dance groups and other community groups who have not previously featured in the festival, and would like to put on a performance on the top stage at Stiggants Reserve, should contact him on 844 1858. The performance would be for between five and 20 minutes on the Saturday afternoon.

The committee has put out a call for local artists who would like to decorate the plastic ducks used in the duck races. The decorated ones are up for auction at the combined Rotary Art Show and festival opening on Friday, March 24. Contact Sue Martin

on 844 3535 if you can help.

Mr Hogg said the committee would also like to hear from any local traders, community groups or others who will be putting on an exhibition, display, special offer or other feature specifically for and during the festival period.

For inclusion of such activities in the festival program, which will be distributed to all retailers in early March and published in the March 1995 edition of the *Diary*, contact Mr Hogg on 844 1858. He said he hoped schools and clubs have started planning floats for next year's parade.

Housing project starts

Warrandyte's long-awaited public housing development on the 'quarry disaster' cottages site in Webb Street, on the corner of Brackenbury Street, was due to commence construction on Monday, December 5.

Designer Homes Pty Ltd will build the houses for the Department of Planning and Development on land provided by the Warrandyte Quarry Disaster Trust Appeal at a cost of just under \$500,000.

Rob Knowles, Minister for Housing, told the *Diary* that the project will consist of four family homes set in private landscaped gardens with separate service areas.

"It is appropriate and timely for this land to again

be utilised to provide homes for families in need of quality low-cost housing in Warrandyte," Mr Knowles said.

Local MP Phil Honeywood said he was delighted to know that the project is going ahead. "This new development comes after long and fruitful community discussions. The new houses will complete an historic cycle, fulfilling the original requirement of the Quarry Disaster Trust to use this land for its original purpose, housing for people in need."

The project is scheduled for completion by the end of July, 1995. The new homes will comprise three houses of three bedrooms and one of four bedrooms.

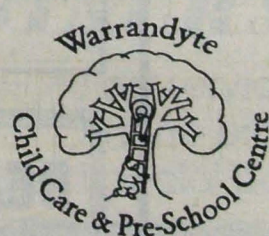
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Honeysuckle—no sweet weed

The wild honeysuckle festooning native shrubs and trees along many of Warrandyte's roads, creeks and in private properties is a very serious potential fire hazard. As it is very high up in many trees it could easily take a small roadside grass fire immediately up into becoming an out-of-control crown fire.

The Potter's Cottage corner back to Johanson's Road is very bad and Whipstick Gully and many other places will just blow up.

Some years ago I did considerable research into the honeysuckle and wrote to various departments (CFA etc) after my then young sons had some on a barbecue fire and it went off like crackers, even though green. If you look into the growths you can see all the dried material underneath it too, which would cause fierce fires. It's a quite unnecessary potential fire risk.

When the fires were bad in 1983 and the *Diary* had a big "Clean Up or Burn" across the front page, I went to Doncaster council offices to

LETTER

tell them and show them all the notes and letters I had and the proper officer at the time just wrote out a brief resume of fire clearing and wrote: "Seeing you are deaf and can't understand me I'll talk to your husband in future".

I came home, bawled my eyes out, got mad and wrote and told him what I thought of him. Keith came home a couple of nights later and said, "What did you put in that letter?" I said I told him exactly what I thought of him.

"Well, there happens to be two proper officers at council. The other one opened your letter and it's gone all around council." Keith thought it was a great joke!

Joan Ragg
Warrandyte-Ringwood Road



Wild honeysuckle

Radio covers fires

Warrandyte residents are urged to tune to local radio station Plenty Valley FM during emergencies and fire periods this summer. The 24-hour station covers the outer north-eastern areas of Melbourne and part of its role is to serve as the local emergency broadcasting station.

Brian McKean, Plenty Valley FM's emergency services co-ordinator, said the station has a plan to broadcast messages to the community from the emergency service co-ordinator in charge of major incidents such as fires or floods.

"We look back to Ash Wednesday 1983 when smoke and ash from the Macedon fires was carried over the Warrandyte area. Residents could not identify that this was not a local fire and it caused a number of concerned people to leave the area, causing major traffic jams on roads leading from Warrandyte," Brian McKean told the *Diary*.

The problem was again evident during the February 1991 fires when residents had difficulty obtaining current information on road closures and the fire situation.

"These are just a couple of situations that have arisen that Plenty Valley FM can overcome," Mr McKean said. "In doing so we can help keep the community informed whilst assisting the emergency services in disseminating important information."

Plenty Valley FM broadcasts at 88.6MHz on the FM band.



Three generations: Millie Lee (left), great-granddaughter of Joseph Lowe, with Emily White, great-great-great granddaughter and Margaret White, great-great granddaughter, next to the Queensland Kauri tree.

A living memorial

The Queensland Kauri tree at the 'Lowestoff' property in Osborne Road has had a plaque placed on it commemorating its significance.

The tree, which is well over 100 years old, is believed to have been supplied and planted by well-known botanist Baron Von Mueller, creator of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens.

The plaque was placed on it at the request of the late Beryl

Osborne, who died in December last year. She loved her garden and spent much time designing and caring for it over the years.

The 'Lowestoff' property at the end of Osborne Road is named after the Lowe family who emigrated from Scotland in the 1850s. It has been owned by the Osborne family since 1904.

The property consisted of 50 acres running down to the

river with a two-storey timber home (burnt in the 1939 bushfires) set in a large garden with orchard and grazing land.

Professor Lowe was reputed to have been friendly with Baron Von Mueller who helped design the garden. He obtained unusual trees and plants.

The Queensland Kauri, lopped after the 1939 fires, has survived to this day—a magnificent example of a now-endangered species.

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A special lady

By PHILIPPA COULL

We have a very special lady in our town who, if it's true that you get back what you give, must be one of the most loved people in our community.

Having served her qualifying time raising three young children to school age, Meryl Dawson understood the need for a playgroup and worked to achieve this through the Community Church.

Most of us are relieved, in a nostalgic way, to leave behind those days of yucky noses, smeared bananas, spilt juice and small coloured fingerprints on our pale jumpers after the requisite five to six years. Not so Meryl, who, after more than a decade of dedicated caring, is still in the frontline, relieving frazzled mums of their small bundles of grubby crossness, or applying a tissue or kiss to an injured finger or pride.

Most of us are ready to move on to other challenges as our young begin to assert their independence after one morning a week playgrouping with our littlies.

Meryl is still playgrouping at least three days a week and lending her experienced advice to all five mornings of playgroup at the Gospel Chapel centre after 10 years.

The service to mums and their children doesn't stop there though. Meryl is always the first to lend a sympathetic ear or make contact with her families in time of trouble, illness or new arrivals, delivering the first of a series of daily meals that she coordinates for the family needing them.

So, a special thank you, first to the Community Church group for making such a special service possible by supporting us with a full-time playgroup cen-

tre, but also to Meryl, whose loving care has been appreciated by upwards of 60 families each year for the past 10 years.

There are many children reaching the end of their primary years now, who still have friendships and happy memories of their playgroup days, and certainly a fair percentage of chatting in Harry Heath's must be between mums whose friendships have their roots there too.

We are a community in a million to have such a fantastic service for our young families, not only one or two days a week but five days.

Thank you again, Community Church and all the dedicated helpers. Thank you Meryl, for your foresight and on-going love and energy.

(There is usually a waiting list to get a spot in one of the playgroups. Enquiries can be directed to Meryl on 844 2528.)



Meryl Dawson: Definitely one of Santa's helpers.

Kids honour a good bloke

By JULIE MURRAY

Warrandyte Primary School's John Hutchinson Memorial Fellowship Award was established in 1988. It takes the form of a book award presented to Year Six students on their graduation from the school.

The principal, Ken Wing Jan, presents the awards each year and tells the story of how John had been presented with a book award in December 1919 and how much it had meant to him.

"The award is prized by the students," the principal said. It is not based solely on academic performance. The guidelines include disposition, cooperativeness, overall positive attitude, reliability and a positive contribution to the school.

Alma Hutchinson, John's wife, presented the award to the school after John's death. She wanted to put something back into the community in John's memory.

Alma attended every presentation night until her death last year. She enjoyed watching the winners accept their prizes and joined in the celebrations, often dancing the evening three-step with one of her daughters. She prized education above all else (particularly above housework) and was an avid reader herself.

This year the school has erected an honour board to display the winners and re-named the award to include Alma. Last year's winners were Ben McLean, Amanda Cuttriss, Shaun Irvine and Kieran Thorpe. Graduation night this year will be held on Wednesday, December 21, where the 1994 winners will be announced.

It is a perpetual award giving significance to the ability of the next generation, acknowledging faith in our future. A fitting memorial for John and the Warrandyte he so loved.

Food Bank needs your help

Warrandyte Food Bank has put out a call for extra food donations over the Christmas period. The bank has played a vital role in the community since its inception in 1991 and it is an unfortunate sign of the times that they are constantly in need of donations and help, especially over Christmas.

The bank is now run by Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, after being started by Helen Cox and Wilma Tonkin in April 1991. Helen said the idea came to them over a cup of coffee while listening to the radio.

"The news on the radio was not good," she said. "More and more people were out of work. The Salvos, St Vincent de Paul, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Wesley Central Mission; one helping agency after another was looking for food as desperate families turned to them for aid."

Eager to help, the pair came up

with the idea of a collection point in a supermarket which would make it easy for people to contribute.

"Most people are not inclined to go out of their way to drop in a can of baked beans or a packet of spaghetti at a welfare agency, but if we put a box under their noses there would be no excuse for not helping."

"I called on the general manager at the head office of Harry Heaths in Nunawading and explained our idea, asking permission to put a box in their supermarket at Warrandyte. His response was enthusiastic," she said.

Within a week Helen and Wilma had handed out leaflets informing the community of the establishment of the bank and how the food would be distributed, while asking people to donate items for it.

They notified Doncare of the project as well as church and



Helen Cox

community welfare agencies, schools, service clubs and even the local doctors.

"We would collect and distribute the food. We simply needed to be told who was in need, how many in a household needed to be fed and we would deliver," Helen said. "We maintained a

strict code of confidentiality at all times."

Several weeks after the bank's establishment they realised that North Warrandyte was not being serviced because it came under the jurisdiction of a different council. They notified the Eltham Community Welfare Centre of their existence and within a few days calls were pouring in from north of the river.

"Some days we would be driving to Eltham two or three times—or further afield. It wasn't unusual to be on the road well into the evening, delivering food parcels. One night I spent an hour looking for a house off the main road at St Andrews where a group of young people were desperate for a decent meal."

By the end of 1991, however, it was clear that the two were unable to keep up with the increasing demand for assistance. A group of interested people in the

Eltham community met with them, including the shire president.

"He had no idea the need for what we were doing was so great in his neck of the woods. Shortly afterwards Eltham began its own food bank, much to our relief."

Since those early days, scores of individuals and families have been helped by the bank. And scores of individuals, local organisations and Warrandyte traders have helped them to help others.

"Our husbands and families have supported us, helping with the collection of food, its sorting and packing and occasionally delivering. The Warrandyte Food Bank has become a local institution," Helen said.

If you can help the bank over the Christmas period with a food donation, please drop it in the supermarket box or ring Neighbourhood House on 844 1839.

Thanks: and a good time was had by all

It's that time again, when we look back on our year and thank all the folk—mostly volunteers—who have not only made our newspaper possible, but whose skills and hard work have helped create what we believe is the best community newspaper in the country.

News stories were written by David Wyman, Clinton Grybas, Georgi Stickels and Cliff Green. We are very proud of our columnists: Smokey Joe, Pat Coupar, Roger Kibell and Judy Green. Among our feature writers were Glen Jameson, Julie Murray, Ken Virtue, Judy Macdonald, Nicholas Parsons and Alison Cassidy.

The sporting pages were written by Lee Tindale, Clinton Grybas and Judy

Green. Occasional contributors included Rick Gordon, Nick Arnott, Paul Williams, John Hipwell, Claire Bloom, Louise Joy, Bob Millington and Philippa Coull.

We recorded one of the saddest events in our 24 years when we marked the sudden death of Bruce Bence. Bruce's contribution to this newspaper over many years was immense. He was our resident historian, writing feature stories, obituaries and his greatly missed 'Streets Where We Live' column. Bruce also distributed the paper and kept us up to the mark with fire brigade news and views.

A feature of our paper has always been its fine black and white work.

Artists responsible were Jock Macneish, Paul Williams, Joff Manders, Melanie Coupar, Wayne Rankin, Mal Brown and Mason Coles. Photographs were taken by Jan Tindale, Alan Lesheim and Clinton Grybas.

The paper was edited and designed by Cliff Green and Lee Tindale, assisted by sub-editor Clinton Grybas. Chief of staff Jan Tindale directed the team and held it all together.

Rachel Schroeder set the type, scanned the pictures, composed the pages and designed the advertisements. Gavin Dimmock maintained our computer hardware and software. John and Kerrie Boyle and staff ferried material around the suburbs.

Ken Allardice and his team at Allardice Graphic Arts took Rachel's computer output and translated it into beautifully sharp negative film.

The craftspeople at Streamline Press made the offset plates and printed the paper with skill and good humour, and always on time.

Di Oriander continued to charm our advertisers, sell space and manage our accounts and Colin Davis looked after our corporate affairs. Don Humphreys kept our office spic and span. Following the death of Bruce Bence, Peter Norman took over circulation, travelling the roads and getting our paper out to our distributors—whom we sincerely thank, one and all.

Almost last but certainly not least, we remember the people who make it all financially possible—our esteemed advertisers. Please show your appreciation by favouring them with your continued custom and patronage, folks.

And finally, heartfelt thanks to you, our ever loyal and enthusiastic readers, with a special mention for those who actually put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and contributed to our letters page.

Don't look for your Diary in January—we're taking a few weeks off—but we'll be back with you on the second Friday in February. In the meantime, here's wishing everyone a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a bright 1995.

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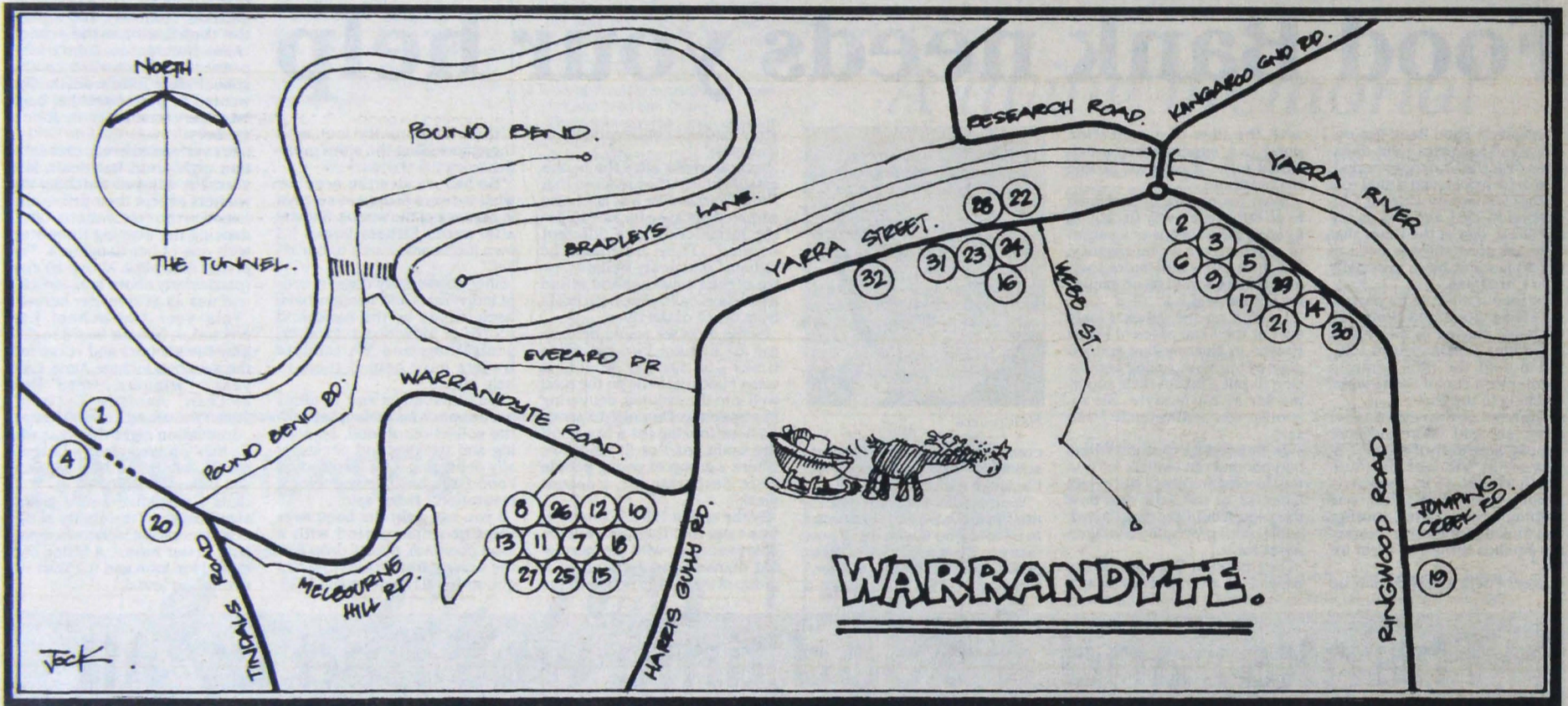
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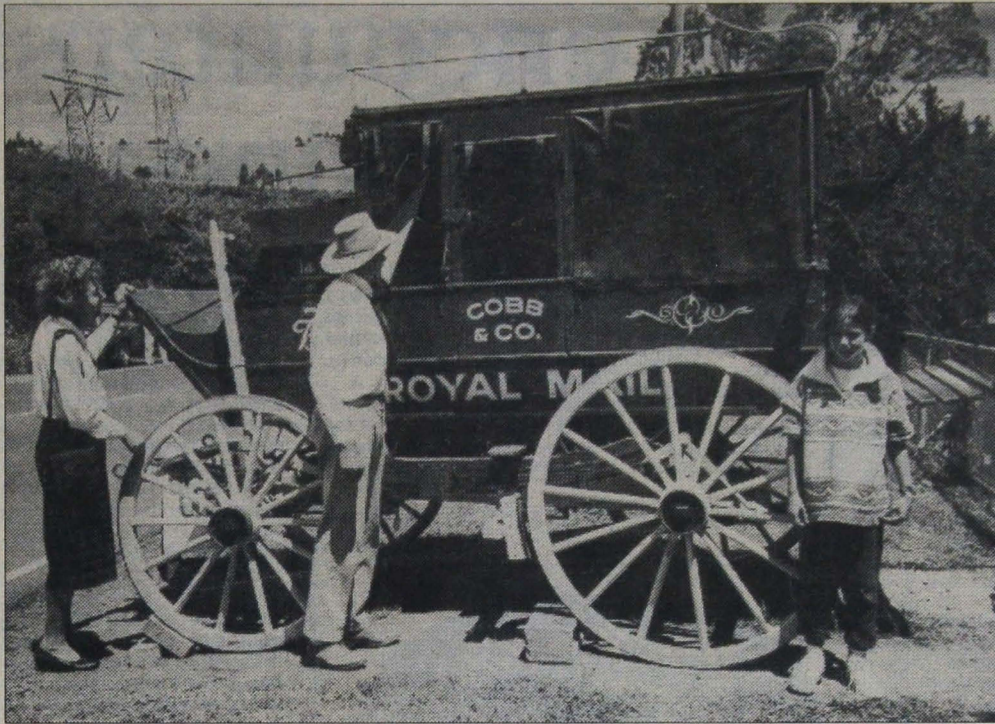


Warrandyte Business Association wishes the community compliments of the season.

(To be included in the next advertising feature of the Warrandyte Business Association contact Andrew Wegener 844 4647 or Ian Domeyer 844 1993.)



They were thick on the Ground...

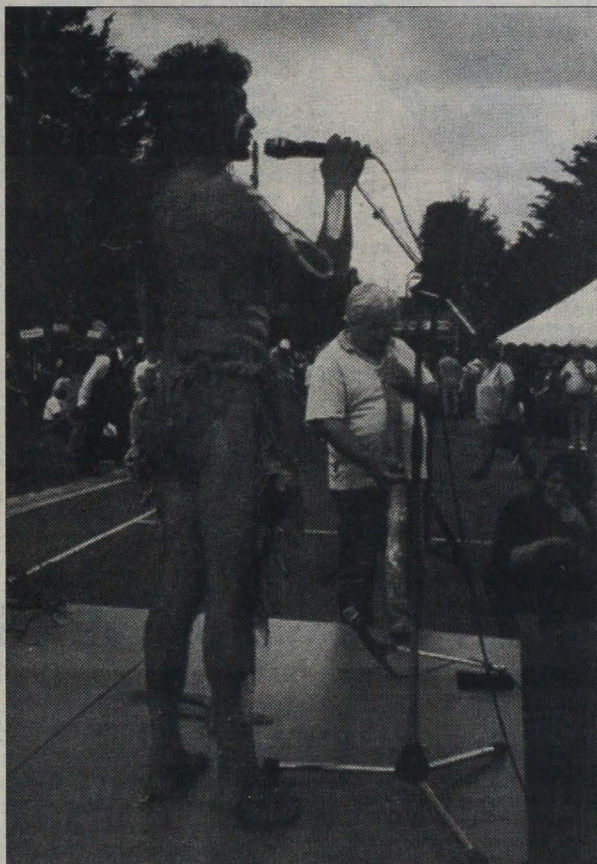


The coach road to Kangaroo Ground would have been steep and stony.



Mick Woiwood, author of Kangaroo Ground—The Highland Taken

They came from near and far to Kangaroo Ground on Sunday, 20 November, to celebrate the launching of Mick Woiwood's book, Kangaroo Ground—The Highland Taken, by former premier, Sir Rupert Hamer. As the district's first European settlers were mostly Scots, highland pipers and dancers played a major role in the festivities. Many former locals turned the occasion into a successful back-to-gathering, and there were a number of family reunions. Photographer Jan Tindale went along for the *Diary*. Details of how to obtain Mick's book can be obtained from Wendy Bradley (712 0396) or Bruce Nixon (730 1649).



The high land was taken from these people...

...by these people.

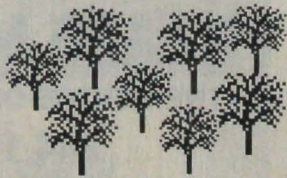


Sir Rupert Hamer admires the book he has just launched.



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WARRANDYTE

Very close encounters of a slithery kind

I HAVE had several close encounters with snakes over the years. Certainly the most bizarre occurred a couple of years ago on a warm day in late November. I was riding a horse along the unmade track that runs beside the main Warrandyte to Ringwood road. Although the strip of vegetation between the road and the houses is narrow, it is dense with an assortment of trees, shrubs and grassy weeds.

My son was following behind on his mountain bike when suddenly he shouted out. I turned to see him leap off his bike, point to the rear wheel and calmly announce, "There's a snake in my wheel".

Dismounting from the horse, I went over for a closer look and sure enough, wrapped snugly in and around the spokes, was a brown snake. We stood staring at it in disbelief, neither quite sure how to disentangle the poor creature. Eventually the bemused snake solved the problem for itself by extricating first its head, then the rest of its lithe body from the network of metal spokes. Unharmed, it slithered away to the safety of the bushes.

My son explained that he had felt something flapping against his ankle as he was cycling along. He thought that it was a piece of bark, and only when he glanced down did he realise he had gath-

NATURE



By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

ered up a venomous reptile. This was a freak incident that could have resulted in a

deliberately provoked.

Sometimes, when taken by surprise, a snake will rear up, flatten its head and even hiss. In most cases this reaction is, believe it or not, a bluff. A snake is unlikely to waste its vital venom on an animal that is much too big to be eaten. All snakes are predators.

preference. Red-bellied blacks and tigers favour frogs and are therefore more likely to be seen near water. Browns, on the other hand, feed on mice and are found more often in paddocks and near barns.

On average, snakes feed less than once a week, some larger snakes only eat about half a dozen times a year and some have been known to go without food for over a year and still remain healthy.

It is natural to feel apprehensive and even fearful of snakes, knowing that so many of them are so venomous. It is a normal reaction when facing potential danger for the heart to beat a little quicker and the mouth become dry.

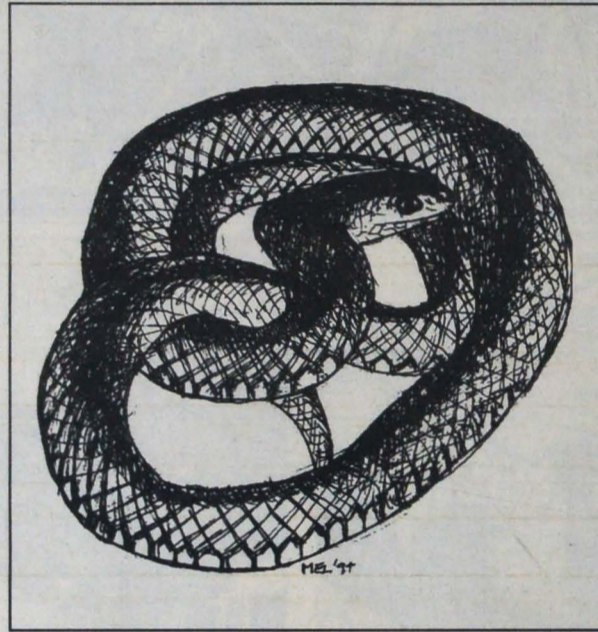
However, like most animals, snakes just want to be left alone and if encountered will either slide away or remain quietly coiled.

Snakes have reasonable eyesight, a good sense of smell, but are completely deaf.

I was always advised to make a lot of noise to alert snakes of my presence.

However, it is not the noise they pick up, but vibrations from the ground.

So when in snake country it is better to stomp than to shout, better to wear shoes than thongs, better to don longs than shorts and better not to cross the path of a snake when out riding on a mountain bike!



bite, but fortunately did not. Snake bites are relatively uncommon. They usually happen only when a snake is accidentally trodden on or

They capture live food which is sometimes, but not always, killed before being eaten whole: head first. Each species has its own food



IT'S CHRISTMAS

*This is the place I dream about,
When I am far away.
Over the bridge, and down the road,
That's where I wish to stay.
There at my home among the trees
The wattles have lost their bloom,
Possums are dancing, wallabies prancing,
Birds go to sleep in tune.*

*What a fantastic place to be,
When you are by my side.
Come for a walk along the track,
Down by the river-side.
Stiggants Reserve's the place to be,
Singing by candle-light,
Smell on the breeze the eucalypt trees,
A pleasure, both day and night.*



Chorus
*Oh-oh Christmas Eve in Warrandyte,
Stars shine to light the night,
Children singing by candle-light,
It's Christmas in Warrandyte.*

Chorus
*Oh-oh Christmas Eve in Warrandyte,
Stars shine to light the night,
Children singing by candle-light,
It's Christmas in Warrandyte.*

The Lions Corner

■ **Children's Learn to Swim Programme.** Time is running out to enrol your preschool and grade 1 children—enrolment forms are available from all Warrandyte schools and kindergartens.

■ **Smoke Detectors Available.** To compliment the door peep-hole offer to the aged and infirm, Lions now have smoke detectors. They will be fitted free of charge. Call Terry Oakley 844 4501.

■ **Christmas Cakes and Cards** The famous Lions cakes and cards which represent excellent value, are available from any Lion or the Lions Opp Shop.

■ **Ambyopia Testing.** Will again be conducted on 25th February

next year. Last year's results showed that this was one of the most important eye tests children should have. Lions have received a letter from a parent of a youngster who was diagnosed through the first Lions testing program. After subsequent treatment, it is anticipated that they will now grow up with normal sight.

■ **Golf Day Success.** Despite the weather, the recent Lions Charity Golf Day at Croydon Golf Club raised nearly \$1,000 for local charities.

■ **Opp Shop Volunteers.** There is a regular need for volunteers to work in the Opp Shop. If you would like to join in let anyone in the shop know.

This corner has been inserted by your local Lions Club to let residents know how Lions are active in the community and to inform everyone of forthcoming events.

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COPY CLOSES ON THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Enjoying a sweet and sour with the Big S

I WAS flattered that he'd agreed to the interview. With such a frantic schedule, especially at this time of the year, I had assumed that I would receive a very polite but definite 'no' to my request to interview him for the *Diary*.

From his shape, I had assumed he was keen on the old nosh so it was no surprise that he quickly suggested Mings when I said I would like to conduct the interview over a meal. He seemed preoccupied or even furtive but I assumed he was tired.

We agreed on a time and date and I said I'd make the reservation.

After I had hung up I must admit to having felt a little surprised. Chinese food? Perhaps Scandinavian or something vaguely Russian or Dutch? Chinese caught me unaware.

But his choice in food was not the only thing that shattered my preconceptions about my dinner guest. I thought I'd done my research thoroughly. I'd listened to all the music, read stories from as far back as a few hundred years, seen videos and watched his impersonators trying to strut his stuff.

By the end of the short soup and rice paper chicken I had come to the conclusion that I hadn't even got to first base. All my research was out-of-date.

The first I knew of his arrival was when his manager, entourage at his heels, swept through the door. His mobile telephone appeared to be grafted to his ears and as he marched to my table he kept barking orders to his flunkies.

"Have you teed up the Shoppingtown date?"

"Yes sir. The 23rd of December at 1pm for half an hour," replied the little man in a green and red Country Road suit. His name tag read ELF 32, obviously the name of the PR firm he belonged to.

"Have you cleared landing rights with Heathrow?"

"Still having some trouble with the 25th. We can have open access on the 26th but they're playing it hard about the 25th," ELF 56 offered.

"What! Who do they think they are! We've had Heathrow booked every year now for



as long as I can remember. What's their story?"

"Evidently Princess Di's got it booked all day to practice tearful arrivals and departures."

The manager slumped. "We've had more trouble with her than all our other competi-



tors put together. I suppose she's got a special lined up for the 25th as well, not just to dilute the press coverage on my boy but also to compete with her mother-in-law's traditional time slot. Okay. Offer Heathrow more money and promise Di that we'll write her into the next Christmas story."

By now he'd arrived at my table and I was worried. Who had I organised to interview,

the man or his PR machine?

"Hi. My name's Rudolph. Look, I'm sorry we've kept you waiting, but the Big S has been caught up in an industrial dispute at the main plant. Happens every damned year. Last year it was about thermal underwear and this year—now just listen to this—this year they're after an 'over exposure' over award entitlement.

"They claim all the TV specials are affecting their private lives. They reckon they can't go shopping or travelling without being mobbed by kids. I say put them in balaclavas and the whole thing'd be solved, but our artistic director and image consultant went ape when I suggested that, so it looks like we're up to our proverbials in tinsel over that one."

I was about to complain that my time was being wasted and that I thought I had made an arrangement to interview the master and not his dog (or even reindeer) when Rudolph sat down, his mood changed and he took me into his confidence.

"Before he comes, just a few words of advice. Things have been a bit tough for Big S. He's going through his mid-life crisis and he's a bit touchy so don't call him Father Christmas. He and his missus have split and he just breaks down and cries if he's reminded of his kids."

"What about Santa Claus?" I offered.

"No way! Too many occasions when he's been billed like that and all the kids expect him to turn up looking like something from a horror video. No, no, just stick to the Big S. Now he's competing with all the Disney characters at Christmas he's decided to upgrade his image. He's still an old traditionalist at heart, however. Our legal boffins keep warning him about kiddies on his lap but he takes no notice."

Suddenly ELF 63 interrupted. "He's here!"

There was an expectant hush as the door opened. I felt like I was on a cliff edge. Like a 10-year-old who has put out food for Father Christmas after having been told by some spiteful adult that he doesn't exist.

He walked in and we both beamed.

ROGER KIBELL

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844 2593

IN WARRANDYTE



*Everyone comes, the air is still,
Everyone hurries home.
Feeling a sense of happiness,
Knowing they're not alone.
Christmas trees shine in every house,
Children are fast asleep,
Santa Claus comes, and softly he hums:
"It's Christmas in Warrandyte".*

Chorus
*Oh-oh Christmas Eve in Warrandyte,
Stars shine to light the night,
Children singing by candle-light,
It's Christmas in Warrandyte.*

KEITH VAGG



It's CHRISTMAS IN WARRANDYTE, words and music by Keith Vagg, will be performed at Carols by Torchlight, Warrandyte Primary School, Monday, December 19.

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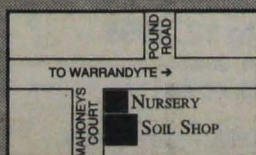
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Colour from the Creek



ANDERSONS Creek Primary School gave a sparkling performance in their Christmas Show production last month, full of colour, action and dance. The program was divided into three parts, giving an opportunity for every student to be involved in the production—no mean feat.

Grades One and Two kicked the night off with 'This is Christmas', complete with the kids dressed as Christmas Tree decorations, gingerbread men, candy sticks and presents. They sang their hearts out as colour blazed across the stage.

The students obviously enjoyed themselves during their act. They never seem to know what to do when the loud applause comes. After all, that part isn't rehearsed! The Preps gave us a story of Andersons

THEATRE

By NICHOLAS PARSONS

Creek at Christmas. In the eyes of the packed Warrandyte High School theatre, these little jewels can do no wrong. All the cast helped each other remember their lines, and sang so well. Ever notice how preps come on to the stage, with tongues in their cheeks and heads down in anticipation, as if they know what's going to happen, but we don't? Great stuff.

The big girls and boys gave us an updated version of The Wizard of Oz in 'The Wiz'. Good use of space, we even had roller bladers jumping in front of the packed au-

dience, and the performance was bright and breezy.

The musical numbers were a mix of modern themes influenced by jazz, blues and pop. Some songs were difficult, but these students seemed to take it all in their stride. Scarecrow, Lion, Tin Man and Dorothy were all very entertaining, supported by what appeared to be the whole school.

The costumes were fabulous, thanks to all the parents and teachers who must have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. There is a lot of talent that hopefully will join the Warrandyte Arts Association one day.

Walking back to the carpark at the end of the performance, you could still hear the young actors re-living what had happened. They had a wonderful time. In the end, isn't that what it's all about?



Season's gratings

THE thing I like about Christmas is how the big retailers are so sincere about the whole 'spirit of giving' deal. I mean, you have to develop an armour-like shell of resistance lest you succumb for yet another year.

They exhort you to spend like a person who could actually afford to pay ones' credit cards off by the end of January. And worse, some of them are now offering interest-free yuletide terms until March!

Whatever happened to simple crafty things made by earnest little vegemites? What about those crumbly clay ashtrays which were lovingly proffered on Christmas Day by the kids around a real piece of pine tree?

Peter Cardin grew up, I guess, and became Pierre. And even I gave up smoking years ago. Now the label says it all, and even cynics like me are vulnerable to subliminal suggestions as we cruise along the marble aisles of Shoppingtown.

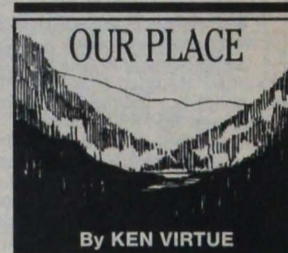
"As advertised on TV". Wow! Like that one really gets me! If they've gone to all the trouble to make a TV ad then I really must want to have one, including the bonus steak knives.

And, yes, even Liz has her own brand of expensive perfume now. You really have to ask yourself whether you want your wife to smell like Elizabeth Taylor...

Let me out of here, I screamed inside, as I tried to remember where I parked the car. Home to Warrandyte, I vowed, to shop for something more homely, more my earthy style, more like an unbadged hessian wall hanging made by a hapless peasant in downtown Morocco.

As you can see, shopping for meaningful gifts gets me a tad hyped up. What if the girls think my present is totally nerdy? What if my sons think I've become suddenly old or something? And worse, what if I buy my wife something which she insists is "just what I always wanted" but there's that nagging doubt that she just doesn't want to hurt my feelings? Arrgh! I hate that.

The quid pro quo of bad gift-giving reminds me of the poor devils in the World War I trenches. Your side would lob an offering over the top, and then the bad guys would send something back even more ugly. They all must have known that it was an utterly futile process, but they kept at it for far too bloody



long. Exchanging nice boxes of hankies between yourself and aged aunts for 15 Christmases is part of the same seasonal madness.

What about sending cards to people just because they send one to you? Now that's a present mainly for John Sands and Australia Post.

My dear Aunt Sylvia, aged 92, broke this nexus last Christmas. "Don't go to too much trouble this year, love," she said. "Just get me a Tatts ticket. I've got so many hankies that I don't know what to do with them."

Now that's true assertiveness for you. Sylvia, by the way, still enjoys a smoke and a beer, and would rather take the stairs than an escalator. She knocks out a pretty fair 'honky tonk' on her old piano, and reckons she's looking forward to a Christmas telegram from the Queen when she reaches 100.

I'm still cruising our local shops for this year's presents. I'm the guy with the Country Road shirt, the Levi 500s, the Raybans, Omega and Reeboks. I mainly use Amex or Visa, but I'm looking for a nice clay pot or perhaps a Tatts gift pack...

Local Christmas church services

The annual carols by candlelight service will be held in Stiggants Reserve on Sunday, December 18 at 8.30pm. It is a combined presentation of the local churches. BYO candles and rugs. Donations will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

Christmas services are as follows:
ANGLICAN (844 3473): Christmas Eve—11.30pm. Christmas Day—8am and 9.30pm.
Park Orchards: Christmas Eve—11.15pm. Christmas Day—9.30am.
CATHOLIC (876 1509): Christmas Eve—Midnight. Park Orchards: Christmas Eve—8pm. Christmas Day—10am.

COMMUNITY (844 4148): Christmas Day—10am.
UNITING (842 2418): Christmas Eve—7.30pm and 11.30pm. Christmas Day—9am.
 ● People requiring transport or more information should contact the church of their choice on the numbers given.

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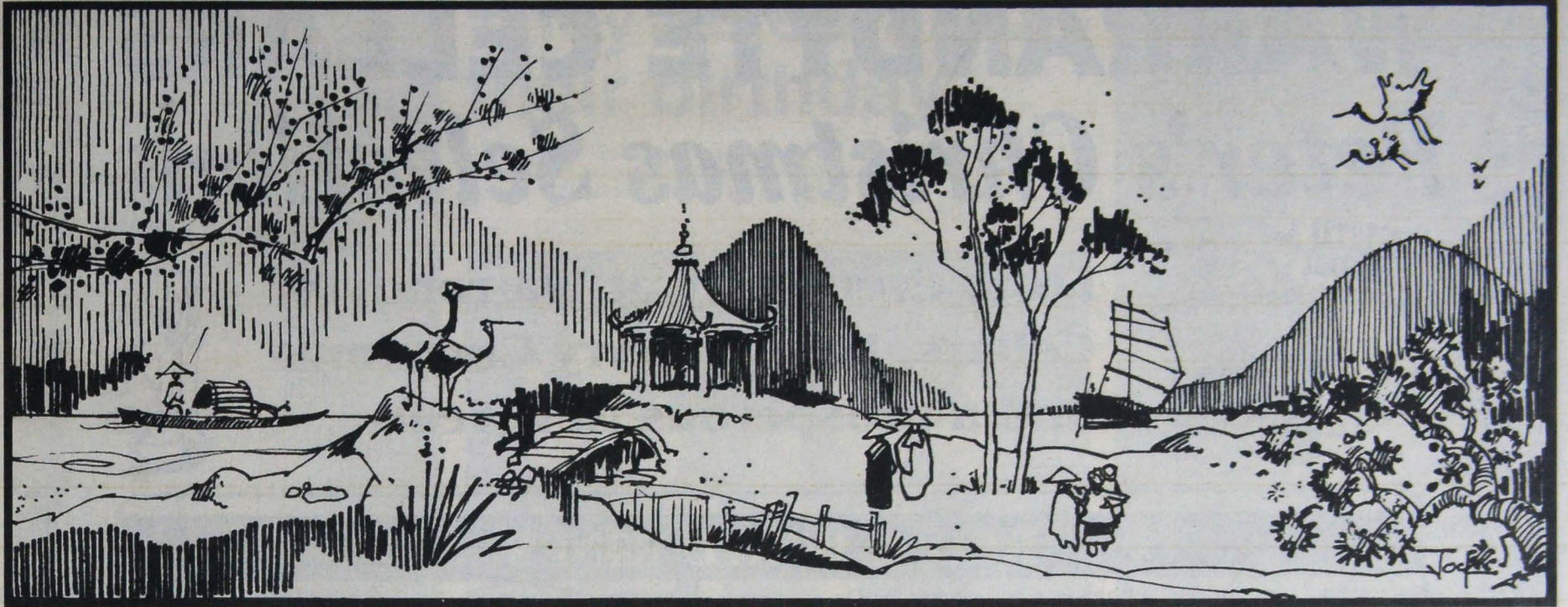
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Once upon a place

STORY BY GLEN JAMESON • ARTWORK BY JOCK MACNEISH

THERE is a place in the eastern provinces of China where the rugged Yha Rhar gorges overlook the beautiful Brown River. The small village of Feng Shui lies in the middle of these gorges. Mist from the river often covers the village until the strength of the morning sun lifts it away. Timelessness, like a green rolling moss, seems to envelop the landscape and permeate the inhabitants.

The people of Feng Shui are proud of their village. Some enjoy the hilly terrain and the soft mudstone rock from which houses are occasionally made. Others are drawn to the timeless forests, which hide and insulate the village from larger towns nearby and provide sanctuary, in their secret gullies, for a wondrous diversity of plants and animals.

The attraction for some is the restless, everchanging Brown River, carving its winding, sinuous path across many thousands of years, still remaining on course despite the momentous creation, by immense forces beneath the earth, of the great gorge walls.

A community of people has gathered on the sides of these hills. A curious mixture of artists, artisans and the anonymous all make Feng Shui their home. A few are there because it is fashionable. But all agree that Feng Shui is a magical place in which to live. Feng Shuians are proud of their cultural and natural heritage. Rightly so, for they create, cultivate and share many things that enrich the lives of all about them.

They have striven for generations to come to terms with the harsh conditions of the hill country. The soils of the village are hungry yellow clays, not suitable for the growing of

vegetable crops. Small gardens survive on the narrow river flats, but they cannot support the growing population of Feng Shui.

Therefore, the villagers must create wealth through the development of imaginative powers and artisan skills. The products of these talents are in demand in nearby towns. Thus they have gathered an appreciation of many things, such as the beauty of the natural landscape and an understanding of the spiritual healing power of nature.

The heritage of the village is shaped by long-held myths, forged from hard-edged human experience shared within the community. The villagers tell stories that go back beyond the living experience of the oldest inhabitant, back to a rich oral history that carries flecks of wisdom like the quartz reefs of the Yha Rha Hills carry gold.

Amongst these legends is the curious story of an Australian-born adventurer who came in search of gold, more than 100 years ago. He brought with him souvenirs of his native land, including seed of the eucalypt tree. Although he was destitute in pocket and soul, the villagers took him in, showing him great kindness and understanding.

They shared with him their own special aspects of Sheng Fui, be it the river, their art, or the social organisation of the village. They brought him into the wonderfully quiet forests, which absorbed his vexations and daily worries, lightening the load of living. Our traveller learned from the wise traditions of Feng Shui.

One spring he grew some seedlings from the eucalypt seed, and these he planted in the village centre, to repay the kindness of the villagers.

The people of Feng Shui loved the

'living shrine' as they called the eucalypt forest, and many tended it in its early years. It became a place of pilgrimage, attracting visitors from villages nearby. Even folk from distant towns made the holy walk to see the wondrous towering trees.

Within a human generation, the



The wild cherry plums... were the symbol and spirit of Feng Shui.'

eucalypts thrived and prospered. They even produced viable seed, and seedlings spread downriver from the original forest. Within two generations they had become omnipresent throughout the village and forests of Sheng Fui. They were tolerated because of the wood supply they offered, but some villagers began to mutter about the trouble the new trees were causing, and a few began

pulling them out.

The favourite tree of the village was being threatened by the invading eucalypts. The wild cherry plums were indigenous to the village of Feng Shui. They endured and prospered like no other food-bearing plant. They provided fruit for the people and the birds. They were the symbol and spirit of Feng Shui. They survived and created life among the harsh realities of the stony hills.

But the eucalypt forest was taking over. Arguments ensued and sides were taken. Many villagers had grown to like the new trees. They did not appreciate the strong stand being taken by the people who wanted the eucalypts chopped down. New people had come to live in the pretty village, attracted by its wealth and sense of community and were confused by the arguments.

But not only were the eucalypts threatening the cherry plums, they were also supporting weeds and exotic birds that were invading the forests of Feng Shui. The exotic birds attacked the native birds and drove them from their nests, and the weeds invaded the small vegetable gardens along the river flats and were subtly changing the vegetation of the forests. One change brought three changes and the Feng Shuians were reeling beneath the ecological onslaught.

The elders of the village thought about this a great deal and finally brought the people together to discuss the matter. They pointed to the love and homage the villagers had bestowed upon the eucalypts. This had proved more important than their horticultural support, for it had given spiritual strength to these alien trees. Once the village allowed the eucalypts to prosper it had opened a

'box of unknowns'.

The elders asked Noy Laan to address the villagers. He explained how the five elements flow in a circle: earth, metal, water, wood, fire and back to earth. If any element is out of control it affects the element on either side. Thus if wood becomes too strong it blocks the flow of energy.

This had happened with the eucalypts. They had greedily robbed water and wildly fed fire during previous dry seasons. Thus there was an imbalance, a blockage in the flow of energy though the village and the lives of the villagers. The eucalypts must not be allowed the power to invade the forests. Their seeds must be collected each season or the people will not have learned from the wisdom of their dead.

This advice was thought good by all the villagers who wanted to retain their strong community.

They knew that community decisions must be adhered to, for all the forces of heaven and earth will not be strong enough to redeem the problem later.

The fortune seeker from Australia remained oblivious to the problems he had left behind in Feng Shui. Legend has it that he returned to Australia, where he found a brown river of great beauty, joyously racing through forested gorge country to a lovely bay in the south.

One of the eucalypts he discovered there had round bluish leaves that frosted up with a silver glow on cold evenings. Their sparkle reminded him of the village lamps of Feng Shui. He ceremoniously planted some cherry plum seeds he had brought back from his travels, believing they carried a lesson about the strength of the community of things.

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Peter's Christmas Selections



From everybody at Warrandyte Cellars, have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year



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Thu 22	9-9pm
Fri 23	9-9pm
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They celebrated their birthday...

Growing old in Warrandyte can be a lot of fun. Members of the Senior Citizens' Club celebrated their 32nd birthday at their clubrooms in Taroona Avenue on November 10th.



June Mellett



Rod Edwards, Trevor Wigton, Tom Bone



Frieda Muller



Paul Williams



Shirley Stevens



Maisie Temple



Tom and Popsy Bone

PICTURES BY JAN TINDALE

...and so did we!

Working on the *Diary* can also be a lot of fun. We celebrated our 24th birthday with a banquet at Mings Restaurant on November 23.



Heather Jameson, Di Oriander



Julie Murray



Pat and Melanie Coupar



Trish Millington and husband Bob



Val and Austin Polley



Judy Macdonald, Ken Virtue, Jock and Di Macneish



Santa at South

Father Christmas will again be working with the South Warrandyte Fire Brigade on Sunday, December 18 between 9am and 1pm. Volunteer firefighters will be showing him the area covered by the brigade and small gifts for children will be distributed.

Golf

Despite cold, wet and windy conditions, competition at the Warrandyte Lions Club charity golf day was strong. Winners were Shane Haslam, Glen Canbrell, Jim Morrison and Steve Hobson. Mary Aumann won the ladies' event with Maureen Pratt, from Maffra club, runner-up. With a shot that defied the conditions, Laurie Warr won the nearest-to-the-pin prize. The club raised almost \$1000 for distribution to local charities.

Carols

Warrandyte's annual carol service, run by local churches, will be held in Stiggants Reserve on Sunday, December 18 at 8.30pm. Bring your own candles and rugs. Donations will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

More carols

Doncaster and Templestowe's Carols in the Garden will take place in Ruffey Lake Park on Monday, December 19 at 8.30pm. TV's Jason Cameron will host the event and carols will be accompanied by the municipal band and the Salvation Army band. Clowns and other entertainers will be there. Programs and candles will be available for \$1, but bring your own matches! If it rains, the event will be transferred to the Salvation Army hall, 35 Taunton Street, East Doncaster. Ring Sarah Finlay (840 9257) or Paul Cameron (848 1546) for further information.

Activities

Warrandyte State Park's summer activities are on again in January. They include nocturnal nature walks, gold walks, koala counts, children's activities, breakfast with the birds, a dusk stalk and bicycle tour. For further information ring the park on 844 2659.



Local author of bird books, Ken Simpson (above right) will be conducting a bird walk during January. Information from ranger Brian Phefley on 884 2659, or from Ken himself on 844 3947.



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.

Photography

The Warrandyte Historical Society is once again holding their annual photo competition during festival weekend, March 25 and 26. Sections include open, nature and photos typifying the Warrandyte Festival. There will be categories for colour and black and white prints and separate classes for adults and secondary and primary students. Entry forms are available from the society or can be picked up at the Village Milk Bar in Yarra Street. Engraved medallions will be presented to winners and place-getters. Further details from Ted and Shirley Rotherham on 844 2438.

Raffle

St Stephens Anglican Church wish to announce that first prize in their recent raffle went to D.Hilton. C.Montague won second, J.Corcoran took third and the fourth prize went to M.Avery.

Koalas

Friends of Warrandyte State Park's recent koala count was very successful, with nearly 40 people taking part. The younger counters usually spotted the animals first. Numbers this year show the pattern of establishment of the koala colony at Pound Bend to be stabilised, with healthy, fertile family groups scattered through the area.

Furniture

Taroona House, the Uniting Church's low-cost, second-hand furniture sales depot, is now up and running. Open from Tuesday to Saturday, 9am to 3pm, it is situated next to the church in Taroona Avenue. You are invited in for a look and cup of tea. All proceeds to the local needy. Taroona House will be closed during January.

Class acts all

Warrandyte High School teacher Rob Graham finished a very creditable 29th in the 40-44 age group of the World Triathlon Championships in Wellington, New Zealand, late last month.

The computer and science teacher, who said the going was tough in windy conditions, has run up an impressive list of achievements this year.

He won the age group for the Victorian Olympic Distance Championships, was second in the team selection race in Adelaide, third at the Australian Olympic Distance Championships in Devonport and won the Victorian Regional Series.

Rob resumes his program in Queenscliffe later this month with the start of the Victorian series.

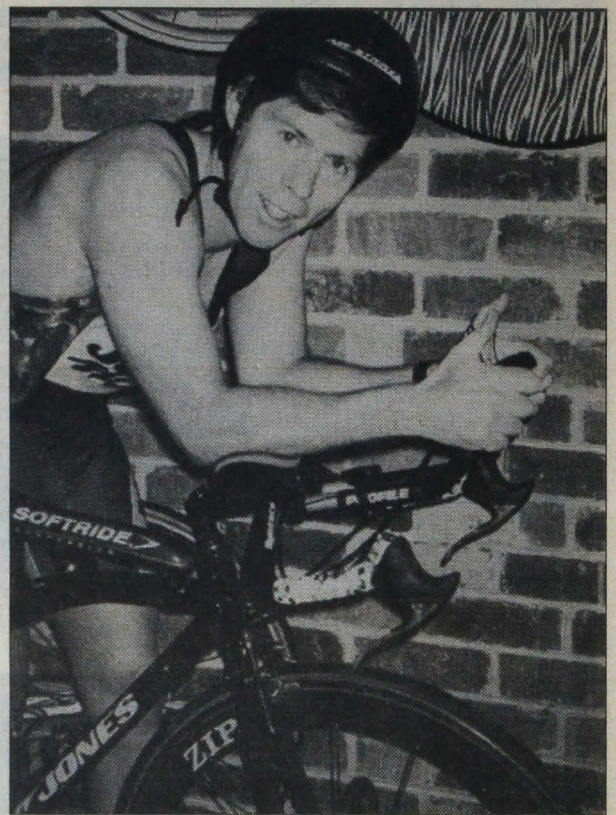
The Olympic triathlon distance is a 1500-metre swim, 40-kilometre bicycle ride and a 10-kilometre run.

Rob's typical training week includes swimming six kilometres, cycling 120 kilometres and running 35 kilometres.

Another high school staff member making a name for himself is maths teacher Bob Hickman, who represented Australia at the World Model Plane Gliding Championships in Wangaratta. The team finished third in their age group.

The school is also delighted with the performance of its under-13 girls 4 x 100 metres relay team, who finished third in the state schools athletic championships at Olympic Park.

Year seven girls Melissa Lynch, Caitlin Evans, Elysa Whelan and Perrine Veith won



their way through to the final after an extensive qualifying round and many weeks of practice largely devoted to perfecting their baton changes.

It was Warrandyte High's best-ever showing in the championships.

Above: Rob Graham: on the road, in the swim and going strong. Below: Warrandyte High's decorated relay team (from left), Perrine Veith, Melissa Lynch, Caitlin Evans and Elysa Whelan



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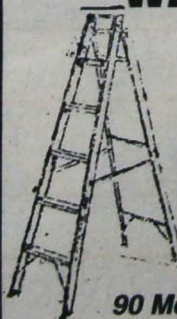
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So Watts up, Wonga?

By CLINTON GRYPAS

A career-best haul of 7/65 by leg-spinner David Watts propelled Warrandyte Cricket Club's Chandler Shield eleven to a 121-run win over Wonga Park on December 3.

The injured Watts ignored physiotherapist advice to rest until April by destroying the top order in a 23-over spell. Wonga Park were skittled for 146 in reply to Warrandyte's 267.

The Dytes' total looked like being far less, however, when for the third time in four matches the first four wickets were conceded with the score not past 25, something concerning club president Steve Pascoe. "We're worried about the batting line-up," Mr Pascoe said. "We haven't been able to settle it with David Stickle's breaking his hand and Ben Brisbane not playing."

"Hopefully, those two and Colin Dorning will be back after Christmas to stabilise things in the firsts and seconds top order." Mick Canty joined Tony Sturesteps in a steady 50-run stand for the fifth wicket, but when he went the home side



SPORT

were still on shaky ground.

That brought Brett Ratten to the crease—and a 103-run partnership in just 66 minutes. Sturesteps (12 fours and two sixes in his 93) took 21 off one over but was stopped short of making his first senior ton for the club.

Ratten included 11 fours and two sixes in his 82 and with Rodney Hogg and Gerald Walshe each chipping in 17 at the lower end, Warrandyte's total off 69 overs proved way beyond Wonga Park's reach.

The Park finished the first day at 0/25 and got to 1/55 before Watts started wreaking havoc. He took the next seven wickets to fall, in the space of 73 runs, to ruin the game as a contest.

Walshe cleaned up the last two and Warrandyte had time for another dig at the crease. It wasn't pleasant—8/73 before declaration and another brief go at the Park. They took 5/47 to boost their bonus points, but an outright result was never on.

The win gave the club a 2-2 start to the season after coming

Up the proverbial gum tree

Warrandyte opening bowler Gerald Walshe (pictured) is still having trouble living it down, but he was hit for a mighty six in the home game against Croydon North on October 28. A six so mighty it lodged 10 metres up in the fork of a gum tree on the scoreboard side of the ground. And there it stayed until that fierce two-day gale dislodged it two weeks later!

Opposition batsmen who think the years have put out the fire of former Test paceman Rodney Hogg should consult Moorool-

bark captain-coach John Salter, who led Warrandyte several seasons ago.

Hogg, captain of the Dytes' Chandler Shield team this season, broke Salter's nose in the away game on November 12 with a delivery which bent the faceguard and knocked him out (see cartoonist Mal Brown's version below).

"I tried to get out of its way but the ball just followed me," Salter said later. The incident is said to have produced a rare Hogg apology.



up on the wrong end of a thriller against Mooroolbark.

Chasing the Barkers' 8/235, Greg Tregear (91) and Steve Bell (44) added 112 for the third wicket and with Sturesteps contributing 43 the Dytes were in sight of victory at 7/200.

Captain Rodney Hogg looked set to grab the points for Warrandyte after Sturesteps' dismissal, but when he went, they still needed 11 with one wicket standing.

The target was just eight (off 23

overs) when Walshe and Watts attempted a single that wasn't there. The run-out meant the Dytes had lost 8/80—and the match.

The second eleven's season has also been helped along by a spin bowler. Veteran off-spinner Mark Davis, who will receive his life membership at the next presentation night, has struck a purple patch, with 13 wickets in the last two innings.

His 8/47 routed Mooroolbark for 116 in reply the Dytes' 145

and his 5/49 kept Wonga Park to 115 when Warrandyte's bats failed again with just 135. Brett Kline guided the team to the win with 78.

"Mark's been working hard at training and taking his cricket more seriously this summer," Mr Pascoe said. "It was a fighting win, with our batting leaving a lot to be desired. There's a couple who are not up to it right now."

The fifts recorded the season's first outright win in their

thrashing of South Croydon. Larry Fernando scored 97 in the Dytes' 288 while former VFL star David Cloke proved more than useful with the ball, taking with 3/4 in South's second innings of 77.

The club hopes for a big turnout to its Christmas dinner at the clubrooms on Saturday, December 17. Bookings for the night, which starts at 7pm, can be made through Ann Pascoe on 844 1213.

Cricket details

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 228 (Tregear 91, Bell 44, Sturesteps 43) lost to Mooroolbark 8/235 (Walshe 4/50) and 1/32. Warrandyte 267 (Sturesteps 93, Ratten 82) and 8/72 (dec) d Wonga Park 146 (Watts 7/65) and 5/47.

SECONDS: Warrandyte 145 (Gee 43) and 4/171 (Kline 60 n.o., Gee 59) d Mooroolbark 116 (Davis 8/47). Warrandyte 135 (Kline 78) d Wonga Park 115 (Davis 5/49) and 7/250 (Kline 4/38).

THIRDS: Warrandyte 9/369 (Baker 79, Sommers 67, Hylands 55) d Mooroolbark 6/344. Warrandyte 8/230 (Beattie 60, Elliot 43 n.o.) lost to Wonga Park 238.

FOURTHS: Warrandyte 259 (Bell 99, Lawrence 47) lost to Mooroolbark 9/292. Warrandyte 110 lost to Wonga Park 136 (Snadiero 4/25).

FIFTHS: Warrandyte 288 (Fernando 97, Day 49) d South Croydon 184 and 77 (Cloke 3/4, Fernando 3/23) outright.

Larkham masters them this time

By JUDY GREEN

Canberra's Todd Larkham won a thrilling Commonwealth Bank Masters tennis final in the last leg of the ACT-Victorian Men's Satellite Circuit at Warrandyte when he beat fellow Australian Allen Belobrajdic.

Larkham won the first set 6-4 before clinching victory in a second set tie-break 7-6. It was the 20 year-old's first finals win in the circuit's four week series.

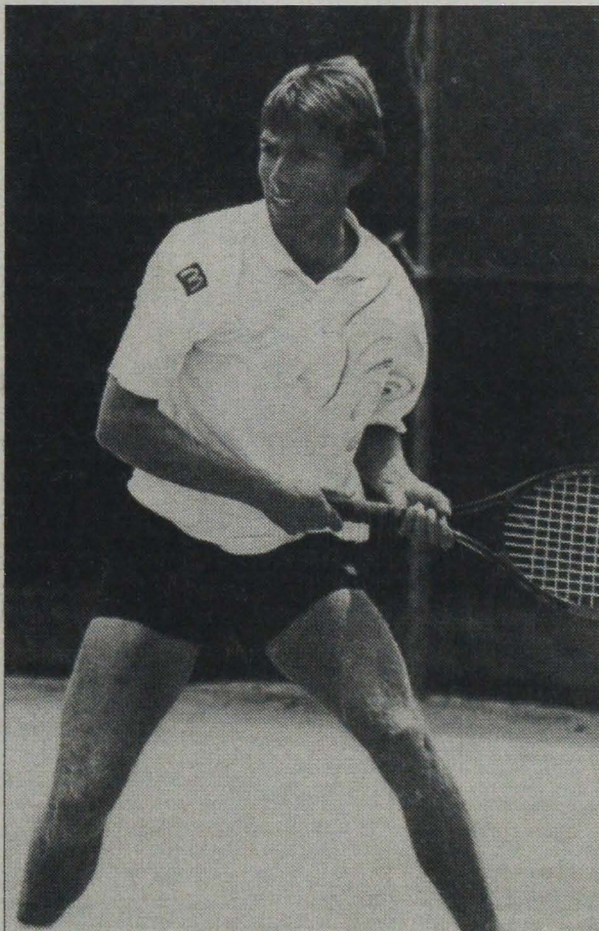
Winning the Masters is an important step on Todd's comeback trail. A promising junior in his earlier years, he was out of tennis during 1992 and 1993 following a major back injury. Both his parents are tennis coaches.

The Masters final was contested by the top 24 players from the first three weeks of competition at Canberra, Dingley and Dendy Park.

Victoria's Andrew Ilie, last year's Warrandyte winner, who was defeated in an earlier round this year by Johan Anderson, accumulated the greatest number of circuit points over the four weeks. This has earned him an automatic wildcard entry into the Ford Australian Open in January.

Another Commonwealth Bank Masters player, Scott Draper, had earlier gained a wildcard to the Open with his win in the Queensland Satellite.

The doubles final was also an all-Australian affair, Andrew



Todd Larkham, winner of this year's Warrandyte Masters.

Florent and Josh Eagle defeating Andrew Kratzman and Michael Brown in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4.

● Satellite player Johan Anderson will return to Warrandyte Tennis Club in January to join

club coach Fabio Forlano in conducting a four-day clinic for both junior (mornings) and adult (evening) players. Fabio can be contacted on 846 4898 or 015 311 745 for more information.

Hooters might have blown it!

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Top-ranked North Ringwood Hooters have crashed to 1993 champions TRHC in the first round of Warrandyte's Greyburn Cup basketball play-offs.

The Hooters were held to a season-low score in a 47-26 thrashing. Their league-leading scorers Brad Dean and Scott Snowball, who had averaged more than 38 points a game between them, were held to just nine and five respectively, also season lows.

TRHC had the Hooters' measure early, with Stewart Henderson (22 points) finding the mark, and the result was never in doubt. Ashley Grybas and Alastair Henderson both scored 10 to be major contributors.

As a result of their upset win, TRHC moved straight into this month's grand final while the Hooters face a danger game against Warrandyte's Hitmen.

The Hitmen survived a dramatic elimination final against the Hurstbridge High Fivers, hanging on 50-48.

The Fivers led 43-38 before John Moore (22 points) sank two threes to put the Hitmen in front. They edged four clear before the Fivers, through a three to Cameron Mott (16



Ashley Grybas: a major contributor for TRHC.

points) and a Chris Quinlan basket, regained the advantage.

But with just a minute left Moore again found the target from far out and there was no further score, the Fiver's Mark Asbell missing a game-winning three with seven seconds left.

It continued the Fiver's finals bogey—they have been unable to advance beyond the first round in four years.

The Hitmen are still on course

for their first premiership since 1990 and if they can maintain their momentum they will push the Hooters in the preliminary final.

Either way, it should be a classic grand final against TRHC on Wednesday, December 14, at Warrandyte High School stadium. Organisers have billed it as Showdown '94 and are expecting a big crowd for the game, which tips off at 8.30pm.

In the over-30 section the race is all but won. The Plastics have a mortgage on the title after downing Andersons Creek 46-26 in the semi-final.

David Watts scored 17 and Steve Doyle 11 as the Plastics led from the opening tip. Ian Wood (11) led a late Creek rally, but it was on the scoreboard only.

The women's Grand Hotel Cup is not as clear-cut, however. Defending premiers the PP Champs lost a thrilling semi-final 24-26 to the Phantoms, who take the quick path to the grand final.

Vanessa Brady (11) led the Champs, who missed four chances to tie in the last 30 seconds. The one desperate basket they did make came a second late, when Amanda McLellan's 'prayer shot' was deemed to have been let go after the siren.

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