

Ring road warning

Which way?

Informed sources believe there could be two possible routes for a ring road, one west of Warrandyte township, the other to the north-east.

● The first, most 'popular' suggestion, is that it would cross the river from Eltham at the bottom of Alexander Road, proceed up to the high school corner where it would cross Warrandyte Road, find its way to Mullum Mullum Creek and continue through Donvale and Park Orchards to Ringwood. A variation here could replace Alexander Road with Target Road (running beside Beasley's nursery) and crossing Warrandyte Road at Crystal Brook caravan park.

● The second route, still very much in the 'rumour' category, finds the ring road traversing countryside close to Kangaroo Ground school and on to Menzies Road and Bouchiers Road, crossing the Yarra into Wonga Park somewhere in the vicinity of Stane Brae, crossing Jumping Creek Road and heading through South Warrandyte to the Warrandyte-Ringwood Road.

By FIA CLENDINNEN

Warrandyte and Eltham residents are bracing themselves for a major fight as they join together to oppose the proposed eastern section of a ring road circling Melbourne.

A group of locals has been formed to fight what they claim is the biggest battle for the environment yet staged in Warrandyte.

VicRoads plans to spend \$3 billion on the ring road, a 92 kilometre six-lane freeway that would circle Melbourne at a distance approximately 15 kilometres from the central business district.

"This plan for the construction of so many new freeways in Melbourne lacks sense," a group spokesperson said. "We don't want a freeway in Warrandyte, Eltham or anywhere else. It will be much too expensive, will wreck Melbourne and will not solve our transport problems."

The eastern section of the road would link the Greensborough by-pass with the proposed Scoresby freeway in Ringwood. It would involve a "third crossing of the Yarra", possibly somewhere around Alexander Road in Warrandyte. This would have a huge impact on both the landscape and the community, according to the new group.

A senior VicRoads spokesman, who preferred not to be named, conceded that traffic levels in Warrandyte would rise as a result of the road. "Certainly a fair bit of traffic would be attracted to Warrandyte to get on the ring road," he said.

In addition to this there would be a lot of pressure to further subdivide the

land around the ring road, according to Nick Low, a senior lecturer in urban planning at Melbourne University and a Warrandyte resident.

"The push for the ring road is led by developers wanting shopping centres, industrial parks and high density housing. The ring road would not be built to serve demand because there is no demand."

Official VicRoads policy on the eastern section of the ring road is that "no decisions have been made". However, the VicRoads official said that this does not mean no progress is occurring.

"Just because nothing has been revealed doesn't mean that someone isn't

working away behind the scenes. Work was being done on the grand prix for two years before anything was publicly announced."

Of concern to local residents is that some council commissioners are actively supporting the building of the ring road.

"We have written to the Minister for Roads and Ports, Bill Baxter, indicating that we would like to see the matter on the agenda sooner rather than later," John Pizzy, a commissioner with the City of Banyule, told the *Diary*.

"No one wants to say too much because it's a politically sensitive issue. It could be seen as an Albert Park on

the perimeter of Melbourne. We, as commissioners, are somewhat detached. We're here for two years, we're not standing for re-election," he said. "If there's something that needs to be done, we can promote it without fear or favour."

"It is inevitable that groups in the community with vested interests will take advantage of the ring road through local speculation, unsympathetic tourist developments and possibly industrial re-zoning," said David Cameron, a Warrandyte botanist and member of the new group opposing the road. "If the ring road is built through the area, I fear that the Green Wedge is at risk of being dismantled."

Robert Marshall, who was a councillor in the Shire of Eltham for nearly 20 years before being replaced by commissioners, is also deeply concerned.

"I have no evidence that there is an agenda to weaken the Green Wedge, but several alarming factors point to that possibility," he said.

The sentiments of another commissioner are not reassuring. Kevin Abbot from the Shire of Nillumbik has been reported as saying "the Green Wedge won't last forever. It was only created to last until the turn of the century. It has to be re-assessed."

The group opposing the ring road will be holding two public information nights in Warrandyte. The first is on Monday, June 19 from 8pm at the community centre. The second is on Tuesday, August 1 at the Mechanics Institute Hall. Further information from Marcel Cameron on 9844 3849.

● Running rings around us —Page 9.

Track honours Bruce



Phil Honeywood



Bruce Bence

The memory of Bruce Bence, well-known Warrandyte identity, will be honoured in a newly-developed walking track through Whipstick Gully, to be opened by local MP Phil Honeywood later this month.

The track has been constructed by the Department of Conservation with assistance from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park. Bruce researched the historical notes for

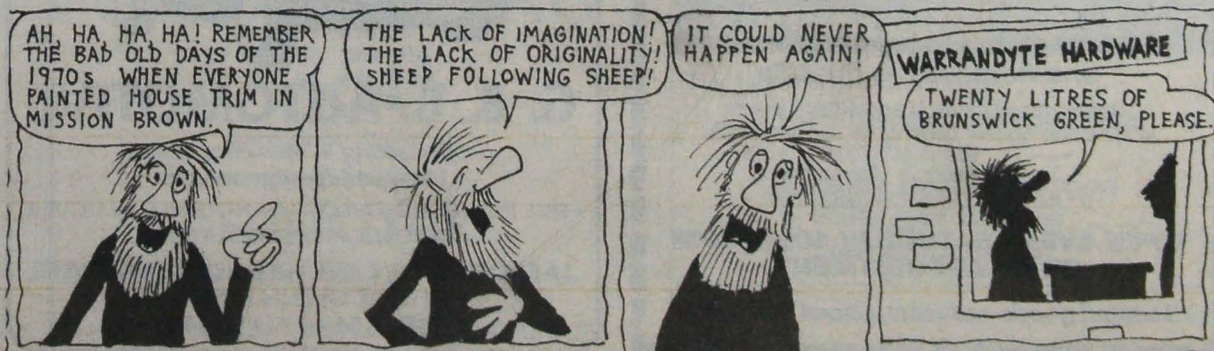
signs along the track.

"The Friends are delighted that Bruce is being remembered like this," co-ordinator Margaret Burke told the *Diary*. "He served this community in so many ways for so many years."

The official opening will be on Sunday, June 25 at 2.30pm. Refreshments will be served and everyone is invited.

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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Telltale tracks of a multitude of horses



Everybody likes a happy ending to a real-life drama and the search for those two girls lost overnight with their horses in the state park near Wonga Park last month ended happily enough. Not that it didn't have its moments. At one stage of one of the darkest, dirtiest nights in the history of the world, a local "expert" was at the forefront of police and SES personnel searching by torchlight for hoofprints which might lead them to the horses and, therefore, the girls. And did he find any? Millions! He was in the riding school paddock which is part of the park.



Neil Dusting, of Osborne Road, is a model husband first and tennis enthusiast second. So when his wife, the lovely Pauline, was laid low by a virus last month he gave the opening of the new night season a miss—despite his recent appointment as captain of the Vegies, a team of four—to stay home, take care of the three kids, make her a vat of chicken broth and spoonfeed her with one hand while he tenderly stroked her fevered brow with the other. That's the kind of guy he is. Warm and wonderful. Neil had been phoning his mate Geoff Pulford for most of the day to have him come off the interchange bench at the interclub event at the local courts that night and, being almost as warm and wonderful as his skipper, Geoff said sure. Unfortunately, only he and the opposition turned up—because Neil had neglected to tell the rest of his team the game was on. Warrandyte forfeited the match and the tennis association mob fined Neil \$20 for dereliction of a captain's duty.



Wait, there is more. Quizzed at length by your columnist, Neil turned cad/bounder and heaped the entire blame on Pauline. "She forgot to tell me I'd been made captain!" he bleated. Yeah yeah, Neil. What's more, he's insisting she pay his fine. You'll hear more of this because Pauline has just been elected secretary of Warrandyte Tennis Club. Thereby hangs another tale, for our next edition.



Honesty may be the best policy, but it can cost you a helluva lot of shots on the golf course. Neil Pearson, of KG Road, pulled his tee shot off the eighth at Healesville into tall timber country a couple of games ago, played a provisional ball straight down the middle and went deep bush in search of the errant original, hoping like hell he wouldn't find it. This was unexplored territory—although Neil swears he caught a fleeting glimpse of Daniel Boone—and if the ball was found, the lie was going to be horrific. It was. And it was. Honest, upright citizen that he is, Neil fessed up that the ball was his—and took six shots to get it back on to the fairway. So he was lying seven. If the ball had been lost, his provisional

IN RED & WHITE



Margaret Burke

would have been lying three. Quite a deal of time later, Neil tapped in for a nine-over-par 14, a personal record for that particular hole.



Late flash from Moama! Vic Grybas, your perennial Page 2 favourite, managed a 10 on a par three at Rich River during a fun-filled golfing trip across the border late last month with a bunch of his mates. It wasn't so much the enormity of the score, but the way he contributed to it by taking so much sand as he attempted oft times to blast out of a bunker that he built his own little desert on the green. It took him four putts to get through the sand and into the hole. Those following had a lot of putts as well. Vic actually won the comp, which speaks very little for the standard of golf played.



Later flash from Moama! Robin Batty was on the Rich River jaunt and on consecutive holes managed to put his tee shot over the trees into the practice fairway. It would have been a fairly simple matter to get back on course—had the fairway not been occupied by a bloke putting in some heavy practice with a couple of hundred balls. In each case, Robin's ball landed right in the middle of them, and play was delayed while he picked through 30 or 40 to identify it. John Ryan also went to Moama—but don't remind him!



A lot of irregular things are likely to happen when Alan (Scruffy) Edhouse, Alan (Coatsy) Koetsveld, Geoff Feltham and Laurie Holmes go away together—but this was their first case of police intervention. The frivolous four took off to the touring car races at Winton, near Benalla, last month, enjoyed the events like good petrolheads should and returned to the roadside camp they'd pitched outside the circuit. While his three mates sat

there enjoying a convivial, Scruffy produced a chainsaw and began cutting up a fallen tree for their camp fire. And that's when the sheriff arrived. "You can't do that here!" he gruffed, pointing out that this here was national park and cutting or removing timber carried a \$1000 fine. He took Scruffy's name and drove off into the gathering twilight. Scruff took it as a caution and didn't really expect to hear any more of it—until a very ominous letter arrived several days later. It purported to be from the police, but we think someone's having him on. Just think of a roly-poly bloke you know pretty well. Scruff, a bloke badly in need of a shave. Got it? Meanwhile Coatsy, Geoff and Laurie promise that if there is to be a \$1000 fine, they'll chip in a dollar each, which would leave Mr Edhouse only \$997 to find.



We reckon the Friends of Warrandyte State Park are unsung heroes (and heroines, of course). They're volunteers devoted largely to undoing the damage man (and woman, of course) has done to our bushland and they do a damned fine job. One of their tricks is to put down tracts of old carpet underlay to kill off weeds (particularly near the river), then mulch the area to give the native plants a chance. They'd just put in a big day mulching the riverbank in the Koornong recently when a local resident approached Friends co-ordinator Margaret Burke and said the strangest thing. She didn't like the colour of the mulch! It was new mulch, which tends to be a little bright. But don't worry, lady, it'll fade with age. Or maybe you'd like something in pastel or paisley.



And to whoever pinched one of those huge ornamental barrels which was part of the furniture in the bar of the local pub: take a crane along if you go back for the other two—they're now full of sand.



They're calling it the Baby Bloods' Mother's Day Massacre. Warrandyte's under-10s indicated that this town's football future is in very good hands indeed by donkey-licking all comers in a lightning premiership on May 14. Read about this joyous event—and catch Mal Brown's cartoon—on Page 11.



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Traders, festival rift hotly denied

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Business Association and the Warrandyte Festival Committee have denied there is any rift between them and are looking forward to meetings soon to plan the 1996 festival.

A recent report in a section of the local press criticising the festival committee and its handling of local businesses at the time of the festival has met sharp rebukes from both the committee and the association. "We were disappointed by the article but we don't take these things to heart," said John Boyle, president of the festival committee. "There are hundreds of positives and good letters to come out of the festival, so we don't dwell on the one negative. That doesn't worry us. It was dramatised a bit for the paper anyway."

Business association president Tony Summers said the implications of the article were untrue. "We're quite upset about it, particularly as it comes at a time when we will shortly sit down

CLYDE & OCKER



"Heard they're putting a GP track through Stiggants Reserve, Ock."

While some businesses were concerned about a certain loss of trade, it's not an us-and-them mentality, it's a co-operative thing," he said.

The business association, which began in October last year, has more than 60 members from the local business community. Tony Summers told the *Diary* this figure represents some 90 per cent of local businesses. "There are very few shop-run businesses in Warrandyte that aren't members of the association," he said.

The association's involvement with the festival included sponsorship of the "Tea Bags" quintet, which John Boyle said was one of the most popular attractions.

"The Warrandyte Business Association are very positive and supportive of us," he said. "We work very well with them and have for a long time worked well with the Warrandyte traders. They approach us and are very involved, always looking for positives and new ideas."

Tony Summers said the association is looking to extend its involvement next year. "The festival committee has the absolute full support of us and vice versa.

We do talk. There is no stand-off, disagreements or warfare, that stuff is nonsense. Everyone is supportive. We're meeting soon so the local businesses can be an even greater part of it in 1996."

Meanwhile, the wash-up to this year's festival has revealed an outstanding success, both in terms of crowd numbers and financial figures.

"The financial side of things was quite good this year," treasurer Lynne Cappellani said. "The attendance was incredible and the number of market stalls were up. We also received great support from Manningham and Nillumbik councils."

The committee ended slightly in front on the balance sheet which will give them a start for next year.

"The festival overall was another great success," John Boyle said. "You just can't stop it. There are so many enthusiastic people it will go on forever, such is the great community support."

Despite that they are always on the look out for fresh ideas and new faces to join the committee. These will be elected at the annual general meeting in July.



One of Julie Pryor's patients, this injured young koala cuddles his stuffed friend. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Care for wildlife

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Increasing incidences of injuries to local wildlife have led to a surge in telephone calls to the Wildlife Care Network, a 24-hour group that assists with sick, orphaned or injured native wildlife.

The state-wide group has hundreds of volunteers that work on 24-hour shifts, with calls to the 016 373 931 number being paged through to the nearest member.

Julie Pryor of Wonga Park has been a member of the network for five years. She will shortly release two kangaroos back to the wild after caring for them for the past 12 months.

"They were orphaned after nine kangaroos were killed on Jumping Creek Road in just a three month period a while back. We wait until winter's over before releasing them because it's just too cold and we don't release any in summer when

it's too hot."

The network takes calls from people who find sick or injured wild animals. They don't deal with domestic animals. The number of calls can peak at up to 70 a day in summer, when the volunteers are forced to shorten their 24-hour shifts.

"This is good because people know we're around, although we're always in need of funding for phone calls and things," Julie Pryor said. "We have more success with nursing the orphaned animals, because many of the sick ones are not found until it's too late to do anything."

People wishing to be a part of the network, or anyone finding an injured or sick animal, should call 016 373 931. Julie Pryor says the role is rewarding, having cared for koalas, kangaroos, possums, sugar gliders and many others in her time with the network.

Line up for new dance craze

Line dancing, the dance craze for all ages which has swept across Victoria in a wave of publicity recently, has finally reached Warrandyte. Thursday evenings and Friday mornings sees line dancing classes at the community centre, organised by Warrandyte Neighbourhood House.

House co-ordinator Margory Lapworth said the first night of classes was a huge success with 28 people attending. Most said they will be back in the future, with new steps to be learnt each week, so as to not bore regulars but not be too difficult for first-timers.

"The first night was wonderful," she said. "At some stage in the future we will have to limit the numbers due to a lack of space on the Thursday, although not many turned up on Friday morning."

The two hour sessions cost \$6 and can be booked through 9844 1839 or attended on the night, Thursdays 8-10pm and Fridays 10am-12pm. Margory has put out a special call to get the men involved. Of the 28 present on opening night there were no males.

Scouts' new president

By JOY SAYERS

Ruth Chandler has become the first woman president of the Warrandyte Scout Group after their annual general meeting last month. Group leader John Diggle farewelled Barry Auman, who had served five years as committee member and president and welcomed Ruth Chandler, who has been a long-serving committee member.

Many awards were made on the night, including a special appreciation to scout and cub leaders Ron Cook and Jenny McVeigh. Thanks were also given to Bruce Hawkins for his long involvement with the venturers and for initiating the new rover crew.

A presentation was made to Dot and Joe Hernandez in acknowledgement of their tremendous involvement in committee and other affairs over the past two years. In thanking the parents

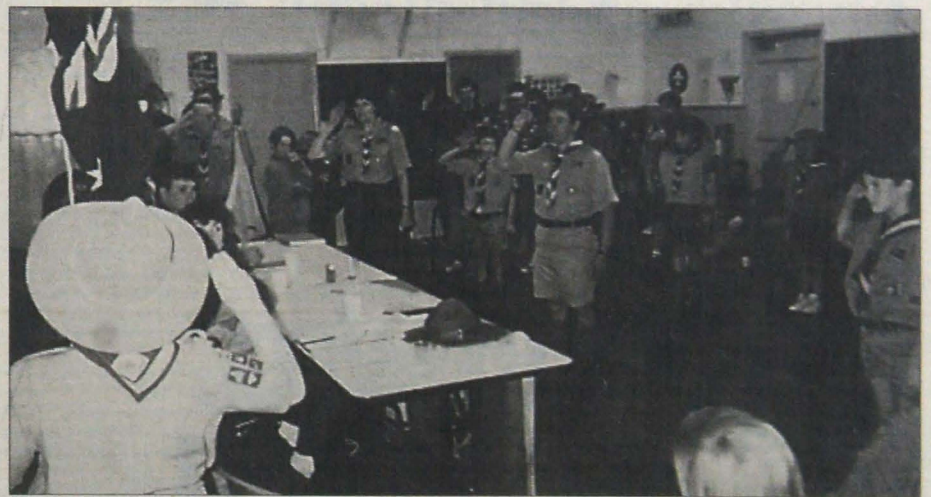
for their support and involvement, John Diggle said all groups were now looking healthy.

The highest award within the scouting section, the adventurer scout cord, was presented to Stephen Cook by scout leader (and father) Ron Cook. Stephen was also awarded the patrol leader of the year award.

Cub Jason Smith was awarded the gold boomerang by cub leader Jenny McVeigh. This is the highest award within the cub section. Jason is now earning his link badge into scouts.

The inaugural trophy competition was won by the Scorpion Patrol and was received by patrol leader Simon Carter. Numerous other badges were presented to other scouts and cubs.

Recent queen scout, Peter Diggle, will receive his award in a special presentation evening in the near future.



Warrandyte scouts salute the flag at their annual general meeting.

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LETTERS

No willows for canoes

Thanks — from Phil's family

To our family, friends and the community of Warrandyte, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your thoughts, wishes, flowers, cards and offers of help since the sudden passing of Phil—our mate, husband and dad.

Words are hard to find to express how we feel, but the wonderful spirit of our families, friends and community has certainly had an impact.

Phil always said, "No b— will come to my funeral." They didn't, only many, many friends and acquaintances who appreciated his companionship, humour, support and ability. He'd be proud to have seen so many! We as a family certainly were. He'll always be around in so many ways, forever loved.

To my family, Phil's family, Denise and Paul Sleeth, our close friends, Pastor Peter Keep, the Dawsons and Riverside gym, Warrandyte primary and Warrandyte high school staffs, students and families, Warrandyte Basketball Club, our friends and neighbours—please accept this as our thanks and appreciation.

Janet, Nic, Chris & Sami George, Blooms Road

• A tribute to Phil George will be published next issue.

In reply to S. H., Gina Bevan-Jones and B. I. Sinclair, I would like to express my feelings about willows in Warrandyte.

As a 14 year-old I have lived most of my life in Warrandyte, near the river, and I too love the river bank with its large willows.

I also realise with growing concern the damage they are causing.

I have also grown up surrounded by native (indigenous) eucalypts and other beautiful local trees.

As the willows have grown they have pushed out the native plants and choked up the beautiful banks of our river.

As I canoe down the river I now have to duck my head as we pass through narrowing channels. And it's not because I'm growing taller, it's because the willows we all love so much are choking the river up.

What is the point of having river banks with beautiful willows everywhere if the banks will be clogged up and disgusting in 20 years time from these trees?

Isn't it worth killing the willows if it saves our river?

What is Warrandyte without willows you ask? Well consider this. What is Warrandyte without river banks?

Nothing, that's what.

No more city people will visit for picnics by the river will they? They won't want to sit

among muddy roots and neither will we.

We'd all rather sit on native grasses under beautiful white manna gums.

If the willows force out the giant manna gums, what do the koalas eat? Will they too be gone?

Our rare friend the platypus is not totally gone by any means, but with willow roots clogging their burrows they may well disappear.

I have grown up in Warrandyte and hope I can come back in 50 years and still enjoy the most beautiful part of Warrandyte, the river.

J.W.
(Name and address supplied.)



Wintry willows near Stonehouse. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Platypus memory

Congratulations to the writers of letters in the April and May editions of the Diary, on their condemnation of the destruction of the willows along the banks of the Yarra River.

Warrandyte has now lost a great deal of its former beauty. My parents bought a property with river frontage in Warrandyte at the beginning of this century. A stand of willows on the river bank below the house formed a sheltered swimming pool which we shared with a family of platypus, native fish and yabbies. The platypus did not appear to resent our presence,

but where are they now?

Over the past 90 years the willows have not increased greatly in numbers or size or blocked the flow of the river, which is the excuse given for their removal within the last year. The willows have now gone, so what next will the officious busybodies, mainly new residents, think up now to alter Warrandyte.

I mourn, as do the majority of residents, the loss of some of Warrandyte's long time charm.

Audrey Cahn (Osborne)
Osborne Road

Destroy waterway

Those people "crying in the wilderness" (May Diary) over the removal of willows from the riverbank seem ignorant of the fact that those willows and the introduced species could eventually destroy the health of the waterway and deprive birds and native animals of their food and habitat. As a resident of the Dandenongs for many years, I know of the devastation caused in Sherbrooke Forest and state parks, due to the proliferation of sycamore, holly, ivy and other exotics. Their eradication is an enormous and costly exercise.

left of the Dandenongs without the English trees". The answer; the majestic mountain ash and fern gullies which the tourists flock to enjoy—rather than the exotics which are bare for months of the year.

If you want English and other exotic trees that's fine, have them in your garden or visit Melbourne's excellent parks, but leave Warrandyte a small oasis of Australian in suburbia for present and future Australians (and others) to enjoy.

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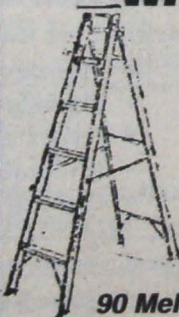
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New Wedge group

A groundswell of misgivings about directions being taken by commissioners of the Shire of Nillumbik has led residents to form the Green Wedge Protection Group.

The group, formed in the North Riding, is seeking a return to the previous open, environmentally sensitive administration.

This follows a protracted campaign, waged by the Warrandyte and Park Orchards communities over many years, to protect the Green Wedge south of the river from subdivision; such development often encouraged by sections of the old Doncaster-Templestowe council.

Most members of the new group have been involved in environmental and community matters for a number of years and will focus on the "big picture" of preserving the Green Wedge. A spokesperson said they have been meeting with commissioners since December 1994 and "appear to have overcome some extremely negative attitudes".

"As a group we welcomed the municipal restructure, as we saw a golden opportunity to place the entire Green Wedge within one environmentally focused municipality," the spokesperson said. "This hope formed the basis for a very detailed submission to the Local Government Review Board who, while accepting the philosophy behind it, came up with slightly different boundaries."



These yellow robins nesting along Jumping Creek would be affected by the destruction of the Green Wedge. (Picture by Wim Kerkhof)

The group aims to assist other localised groups within the area on the broader view of preserving the wedge.

Meanwhile, Doug Seymour from the Warrandyte Environment League said the league is planning a public meeting in July to bring together residents who have concerns or suggestions about how Warrandyte is likely to be affected by the new

style local government.

"Members of the environment league have been very concerned at the staff changes taking place at Nillumbik and we are keen to know if a similar picture is emerging at Manningham," Doug Seymour told the *Diary*.

"Residents who use home community care services are anxious about the disruption

being caused by staff turnover and loss and by contracting out programs.

"Warrandyte has always been effective in its representation to local authorities; now may be a time to plan a different approach and start to focus on the situation we may face when local government elections are called in the future."

We should have been asked about willows

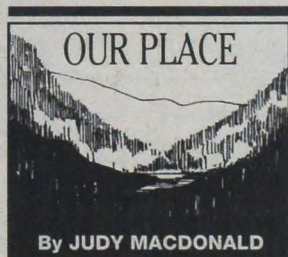
An eleventh-hour bid to identify the authorities proposing poisoning of all the willows upstream of the Warrandyte bridge ("Don't weep for the willows" *March Diary*) exposed a marked lack of communication within the Warrandyte community.

It is of grave concern that this project, which would have a major impact on the visual qualities of our historic village, has not been brought to a public forum for discussion.

The people of Warrandyte have traditionally sought a platform from which both sides of an issue can be aired. They have taken on state government, local government, town planners and each other in public meetings which usually resulted in mediation between opposing views and a tempering of radical proposals.

Contrary to the impression given by the *Diary* article, there are not several authorities involved in the poisoning. The removal of the willows is not being engineered by the Upper Yarra Valley-Dandenong Ranges Authority. They are currently being made redundant! Nor is it organised by Melbourne Water, although they expect it to be carried out within their policy, more of which later.

The proposal to poison the willows has come from our own state park office. In which case it would seem even more desirable, in fact expected, that the community at large be officially informed that work is to take place and how extensive that work



is to be.

It is obvious that certain community groups were informed, as that is where the "volunteers" mentioned in the article are coming from.

The majority of the Warrandyte community are concerned with the retention of the special blend of historic and native trees in the village. They are usually the silent majority, plucking up courage to write letters to the press only when their chosen environment is threatened. It is a shame that they feel unable to sign their full name to such letters, as they could in a more cohesive community.

Warrandyte people deserve to be informed of plans which will effect their living environment and to have some input into those plans if they wish.

Perhaps the local rangers only intend se-

lected removal of willows, but if the community doesn't know the agenda, then it is too easy for those with their own agendas to "launch a full scale war (on all willows) from land and from water".

In future, let us have some sensible debate on the number and type of trees which need removal. If our local authority can't help us perhaps we could take advice from those who caretake the great rivers of this state: the Snowy, Upper Murray, Goulburn, Mitta Mitta, Nicholson and Tambo, all of which have stretched glowing with colour in autumn to the tourists' delight.

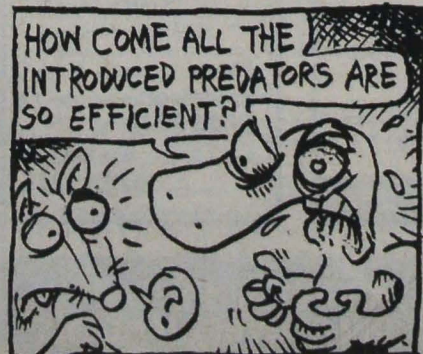
At the eleventh-hour plus five minutes, an extremely helpful team at Melbourne Water, headed by Peter Rankin, were able to offer reassurance that Melbourne Water's policy would be upheld during the exercise, that the work would be in the state park area of the river and that weeping willows would be left alone and basket willows would be removed.

They stressed that the practices and policies of Melbourne Water differ markedly from the old MMBW which removed willows below the bridge several years ago with no replanting. Revegetation is now their top priority.

It would be of benefit to our community if, in the future, plans which affect our special place be made public well in advance of implementation to allow consideration of all the implications and for reasoned discussion to take place.

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The Lions Corner

■ **Youth Award.** There was not one bright Warrandyte youth who brought to our attention the date mix up in last months issue—shame on you all! Note your nomination should be in by the **29th June**. (Not July as we published last month—the writer is still hanging up by his thumbs for that). Don't forget it's always later than you think so don't leave it to the last minute! The presentation at the dinner on the 24th August will account for no more than 10% of the total points to be awarded so don't be put off if you think you will be a nervous presenter. There is no special application form needed, just a 600 word summary from the nominator that is signed by the candidate. There were further details in last months *Diary*, or details from any Lion Club member.

■ **Hearing Tests.** There were over 120 children attending from a wide area that included Greensborough, Doncaster, Ringwood, Croydon and Boronia as well as Warrandyte, indicating the importance being placed on early detection of hearing disability in youngsters. And this before they become heavy metal affectionados!

■ **Trivial Pursuit.** By the time this is read, the Lions would have had another enjoyable evening, in the process they will have raised funds for the community from all those participating.

■ **Red Shield.** We would like to thank the community for their generosity on 27-28 May filling rattling tins of volunteers from Lions and Apex—a good effort all round!

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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Lots of laughs at a balcony picnic

NATURE

By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

BIRDS on our balcony are nothing new, but five species in five minutes was something of a record. The rainbow lorikeets came first, ringing the bells for food as their custom. I obliged by taking out to them a dish of bread soaked in sugary water. No sooner had I returned inside than the lorikeets commenced a high-pitched screeching frenzy. The cause of their vocal agitation was a kookaburra which had arrived and ousted the little birds from their feeding tray. Not only that but the intruder was proceeding to eat the soggy pieces of bread, albeit with apparent disdain.

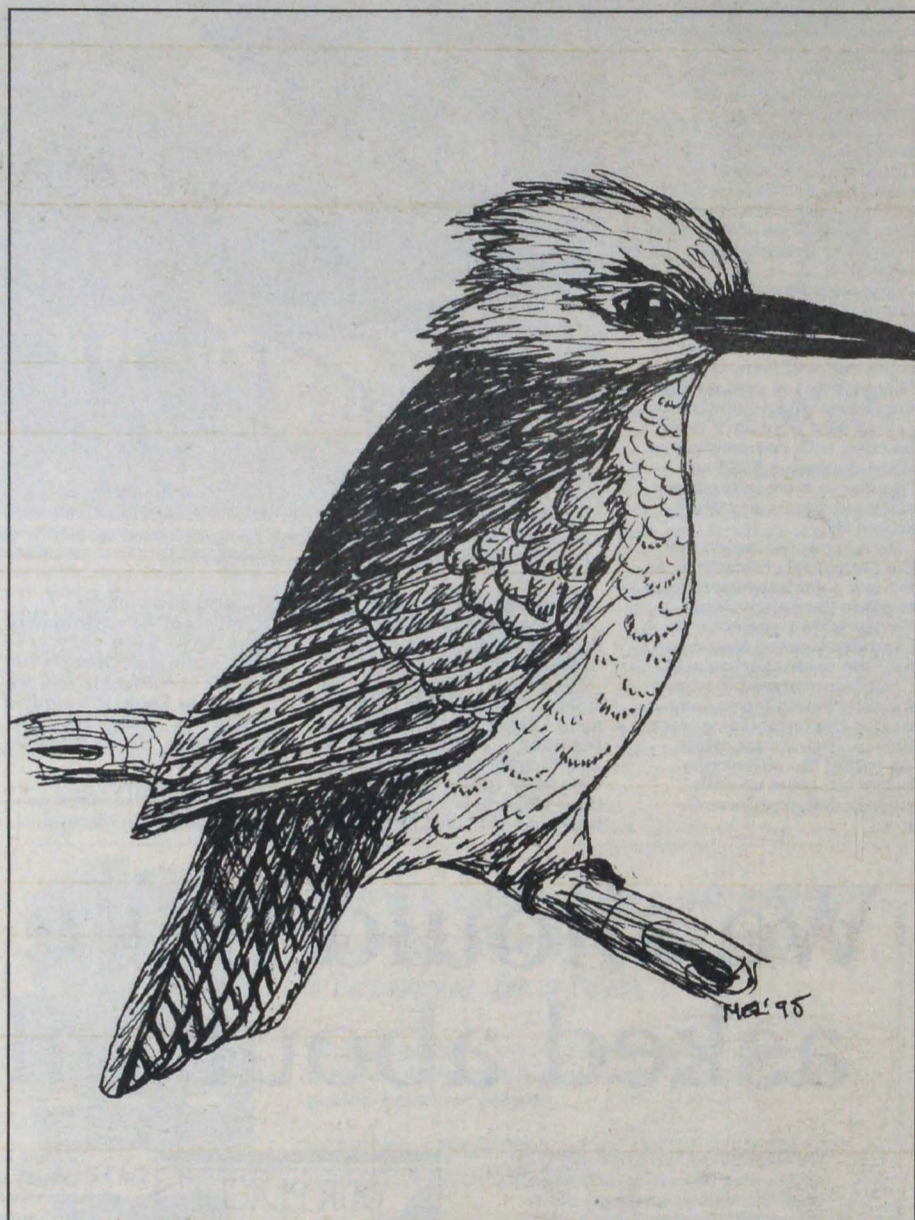
I tried to calm the situation by moving the lorikeets' dish further along the balcony and replacing it with some meat—a more suitable meal for a bird of prey.

Peace returned to the balcony only briefly; from nowhere a carolling currawong landed in a nearby tree. The other birds took no notice until it boldly descended to the balcony to share in the meat feast. The large black and white bird was immediately molested by the belligerent kookaburra and sent on its way empty-handed—or rather, empty-beaked.

Shortly afterwards the lorikeets and kookaburra also flew off only to be replaced by a lone sulphur-crested cockatoo which landed on the balcony demanding its ration of sunflower seeds with an ear-splitting squawk. Finally, predictably, a small flock of yellow-legged, yellow-beaked Indian mynas flapped in to scavenge the scraps.

When they had all departed I was left wondering what had prompted this sudden influx of species. I had no idea. Lorikeets and cockatoos are regulars to the feed tray, currawongs come seasonally and the mynas are always around, but the kookaburra was a rare treat.

I realised that of all the visiting birds it was the kookaburra—Australia's most famous feathered ambassador—that I know least well.



Over the next couple of hours I dragged out all my bird books and thumbed through piles of nature magazines to unearth some interesting facts.

The kookaburra is the largest member of the kingfisher family. It has acquired a variety of names over the years: bushman's clock or clockbird after its habit of calling regularly at dawn and dusk; laughing jackass for obvious reasons, or simply jackie.

Its scientific name is *Dacelo novaeguineae* which is the same in any language and

literally translated means New Guinean kingfisher. Being a kingfisher you would expect fish to make up a large part of its diet. Not so. Its main prey consists of reptiles, including snakes, frogs, small mammals, birds and large insects, which it captures in its dagger-like bill.

Kookaburras lead sedentary lives in groups with a dominant pair. They breed in spring and early summer. A favourite nesting site is a large hollow in an old tree—a luxury that is becoming increasingly rare these days. In fact to help the situation a

local craftsman is selling nest boxes at the Warrandyte market especially designed for kookaburras. So big are they that he felt the need for an accompanying sign which reads—'this is not a dog kennel'!

Much to my disappointment, the kookaburra did not return to my balcony, perhaps it found a more tranquil dining table. I know it is still around though, for I hear its gurgling laughter sometimes when the daylight is fading. A familiar, well-loved sound—the sound of the Australian bush.

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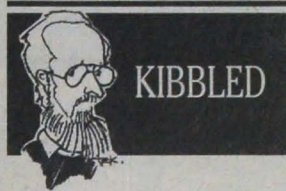
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The timeless tale of a missing cat

66 **H**AS anyone seen George? I haven't seen him since dinner last night!"
 "He'll be all right. Don't fuss. If he's hungry he'll turn up and if there's anything wrong there's nothing we can do about it right now."



"I can't get over how you can be so unfeeling," Herself chastised. "You're all over him like a rash sometimes and yet at other times you don't seem to care at all. Poor George could be bitten by a snake, run over or could be lying poisoned somewhere!"
 "Or all of the above," I muttered, under my breath.

George, dare I admit it, is a cat and is usually as regular as clockwork when it comes to smooching up for food morning and evening.
 We humans have archaeologists who salivate over our forebears' skill in inventing various techniques for organising time into hours, days and years. Evidently, without clocks based on stone, sun, water or chicken entrails, the populace wouldn't have known whether they should be having breakfast, high tea or a post-sacrificial snack: "My Zeus, it's half past the crack in the stone lintel; it must be time for maize muffins and sauted slave."

Cats, on the other hand, have an unerring ability to regulate their days without artificial means. Basically it's a simple ploy. Wake in the morning and demand to be fed; sleep for eight hours, wake, demand to be fed and then sleep it off for another eight hours. Eating, it appears, is an exhausting activity. A few frantic rubs on the tucker-provider's legs, head in the trough and it's off to bed without so much as a burp or a thank you.

On this particular day, however, George's time clock had obviously failed. By dinner that night he had still not turned up. The problem was reaching the epic proportions

of the fall of the Roman Empire!
 "Roger, stop being pathetic; this is getting serious!"

"Should I call the SES?" I offered.
 "Oh, very funny!" Herself left me standing there bewildered as she wandered around the house calling "George!"

When she got down to the lower bedroom area, Herself met Gorgeous Creature who had just arrived home.

"GC, have you seen George? We haven't seen him since dinner last night and I've been home on and off all day but he hasn't been in any of the usual sleeping places."

"I haven't seen him but I think I've heard him miaowing. I thought he must have been on the roof," GC offered.

"Shhh! Listen ... George! ... Shhh! ... Did you hear anything?" Herself's mood and eyes brightened.

"There ... I'm sure that's a miaow."
 We all moved further down the house and the muffled miaow became more obvious and more specifically positioned.

"Perhaps he's on the roof and can't get down," GC suggested. "Or he may have broken a leg or something and has been up there in pain all night and day."

"No," I consoled, "we would have heard him when we left to go to work. His miaow would have been much louder than it is now and none of us heard anything. No, he's under the house!"

If this had been a film, on that line, there would have been a drum roll, a major chord or one and a half minutes of the Hallelujah chorus.

Instead all I got was, "Well come on, hurry up and let's see what's happened to the poor cat!"

There I was, the saviour of our moggy, the one who'd tracked him down o'er dale and hill and all I got was a hurry-up.

"It sounded awfully weak. I hope he's all right."

"He'll be fine," I comforted. "He's a cat, he's a survivor."

I opened the door under the house and the miaow became louder.

"Where on earth is he? He still sounds awfully weak. His voice seems muffled. Perhaps he's flat out and can't move."

I scrambled over rubbish in the direction of the miaow.

"There's nothing here but tea chests," I called. Then the penny dropped. I lifted a chest off the ground and there lay a confused, pathetically bedraggled George.

The chest had rested sideways on top of another. When he'd jumped up, the chest had overbalanced and fallen, trapping him in a room without a view.

George was overwhelmed with affection. He managed to summon up a few obligatory plaintive miaows that saw him carried triumphantly back to his rightful kingdom.

"Just think. If we hadn't found him today, he might have died. He must be traumatised."

Whilst we laughed, conjectured and breathed a collective sigh of relief, George sauntered to his bowl, gulped his food, felt his pulse, observed the omens, the moon and the Gold Omega and decided it was time to catch up on some sleep—food was only eight hours away.

ROGER KIBELL

RHEE TAEKWONDO

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Raine Dinale, Greg Hilderbrand and Mathew Henderson are crazy about their roles in 'Cosi'.
(Picture by Jan Tindale)

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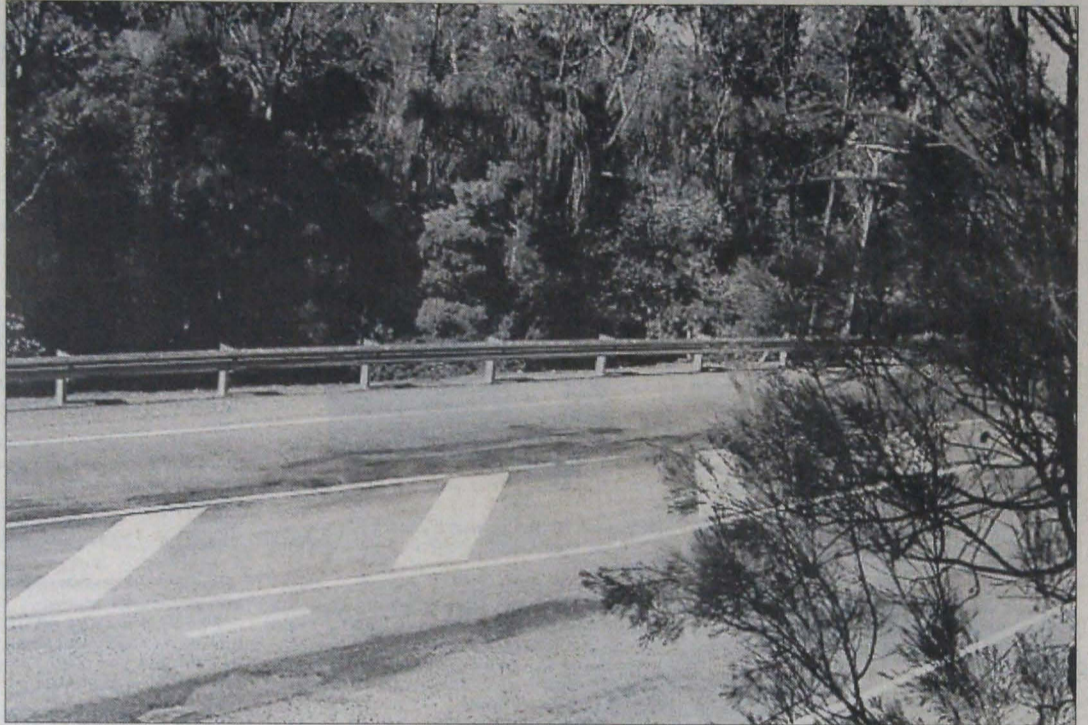
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Is Ringwood Road falling to pieces?



PRESSURE POINT



Winter has only just begun, and already the recently-completed renovation of Ringwood Road, Warrandyte, immediately south of Jumping Creek Road, appears to be collapsing.

Cracks have appeared on the bitumen surface and severe water erosion is damaging the newly-

located fill on the downhill side.

This suggests that this fill has not been properly compacted and that some sort of reinforcing material should have been laid over the bank.

● **PRESSURE POINT** is a new picture-series highlighting local 'black spots'. If you know of a problem that deserves pictorial exposure, call Jan Tindale on 9844 3719.

The bitumen surface is breaking up (above) and severe erosion is damaging fill (below and right) on the Ringwood Road. (Pictures by Jan Tindale)



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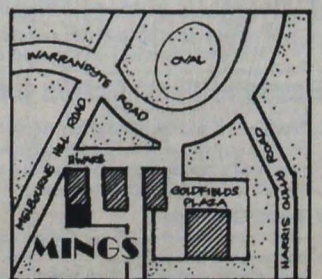
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Running rings around us

The possibility of a major ring road through Warrandyte is concerning residents. **NICHOLAS LOW**, local resident and senior lecturer in urban planning, takes a look at the problem.

THERE is to be a complete ring freeway stretching around Melbourne, from Frankston through Ringwood, Warrandyte or Templestowe to Greensborough and then to Sunshine and Werribee.

This ring road is not intended to serve a demand but to create one. The aim is to stimulate the development of shopping centres, industrial estates, office parks and drive-in food outlets. Housing densities will increase, parkland will be lost, the creeks will be bulldozed, there will be increased air and noise pollution.

Houses along the route will be demolished to accommodate roads, others will need 'Berlin Walls' to protect them. Property values along the route will fall.

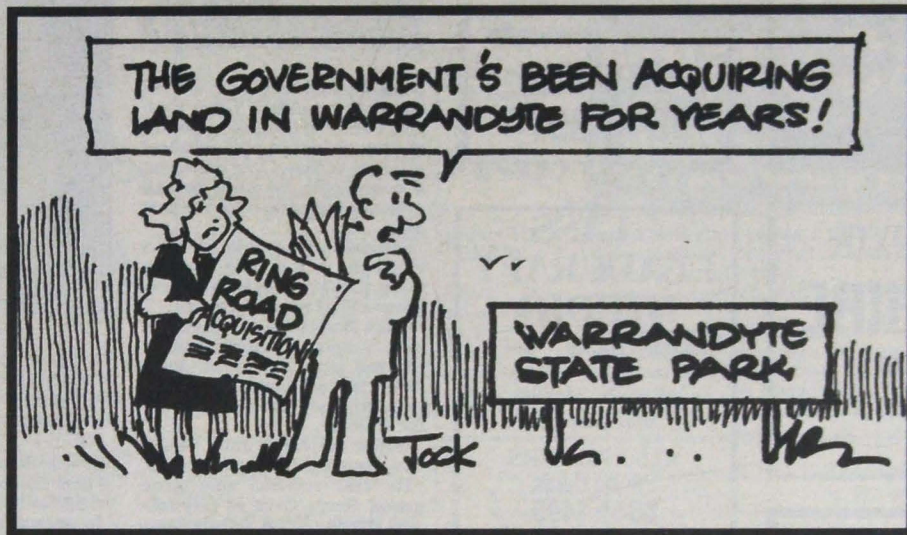
New road links will be needed to serve the freeway—in Templestowe and Warrandyte. The Yarra will be bridged. The breeding grounds of the Eltham Copper butterfly will be destroyed.

Whatever route is finally chosen it could mean the end of the Green Wedge.

In the long run, urban development will sprawl out into the surrounding countryside. Journeys to work will get longer. The pattern of development of Melbourne will be radically and irreversibly changed from radial (the spokes of a wheel) to doughnut (with a decaying inner core).

VicRoads has identified a 'missing link' in its freeway ring between Ringwood and Greensborough. We are told by VicRoads that a study is to be carried out to decide on how this missing link is to be filled.

The most likely route of the new ring freeway will cross Maroondah Highway at Heatherdale and proceed along Mullum Mullum Creek through Park Orchards and cross Warrandyte Road at the Crystal Brook caravan park. It will then run across the Yarra and find the least damaging route through



Eltham to Diamond Creek and Greensborough.

VicRoads will conduct a public consultation exercise which will propose this option, plus several others which the community will reject as being even more damaging. One option will be to cross the Yarra upstream at Warrandyte Gorge and circle through open country around Kangaroo Ground and Eltham.

The building of freeways in Melbourne is promoted by a narrow but powerful group of interests connected with the freight and road construction industries and the engineering profession. These interests play upon the fact that everyone would like to drive on uncongested roads.

Freeways are the best bits of flat concrete and tarmac it is possible to build. They are the Mercedes Benz of all roads. But freeways are not the best transport system possible and they are not even the best road planning solution to the problems of road congestion or traffic movement.

No case has yet been established, on the basis of need, for the building of an eastern ring road. The planners identify two outer economic regions in the north-west and the east between Frankston and Ringwood. Each is to have a freeway spine along a 'freight corridor'.

There is no evidence for the existence of either a western or an eastern economic region. There is no 'freight corridor' other than in the minds of the road planners. Freight journeys are quite easily dispersed across the metropolitan area and cannot logically be channelled on to a ring road.

The real economic regions are radial—outer to inner Melbourne.

The ring freeway will change that pattern in such a way that the existing rail system will become obsolete. This is the system which earlier Victorian governments borrowed heavily to build. It is part of the reason for Victoria's \$30 billion public debt.

The ring freeway will create a new pattern of development which will require a new transport infrastructure. That new pattern will mean, in the long term, more than one ring freeway.

Road logic demands a grid of freeways—as in Los Angeles. But we know that is hopelessly unsustainable. The grid needs to be so dense that there would not be room for other land uses.

All major cities have peak hours for travel. In spite of more flexible working hours those peaks obstinately remain. For the peak journeys which cause congestion, the only sustainable and cost effective option is public transport.

A freeway building program which includes the ring road will cost something close to \$6 billion. It is perfectly clear that for private enterprise to cover that cost with tolls on the freeways will mean charges of at least \$5 per trip. No car driver I know will pay that. Drivers will simply use other roads.

So the government must impose a 'shadow toll'. This is doublespeak for raising taxes. The road contractor will count the cars using the freeway and bill the government for each car trip (\$5 per trip). The government will then recover the money, either by raising petrol tax by six to 10 cents per litre, or by charging all road users each time they use any road in the metropolitan area.

The government will charge each motorist \$30 to fit a transponder tag to their car which will record each trip as the car passes overhead sensors. There has to be total coverage, otherwise there will be mega-congestion on roads which are not covered by the charge. This tax is economically rational—and about as popular as the GST.

Planning for the ring road is advancing. Cost-benefit studies have been carried out. A preferred route has already been put forward. But, if people know the truth and get organised, there is ample time to stop it.

The treasurer, Mr Stockdale, knows that the vast expenditure involved is financially irresponsible. The increased taxes needed to pay for the freeways, once they are known, will be highly unpopular. The people of the outer suburbs control the destiny of the state government. Public opinion will stop this monster, as it has in many cities around the world.

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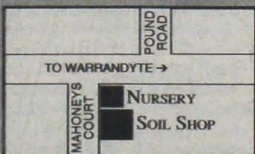
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Buller Black Label—Muscat, Tokay, Port or Madeira.....	\$14.95 each

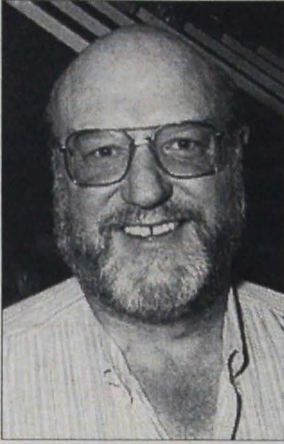

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Game, set, match

SPORT

Long-serving Warrandyte Tennis Club president Greg Lawrence retired from the position at the club's annual general meeting in May. Greg had been a committee member for 18 years and president for the past nine.

Retiring vice-president Jim McHugh, in a presentation to Greg, thanked him for his enormous effort over the years.

Frank Waites, treasurer for the past 14 years, was unanimously elected new president. John Roberts was elected treasurer and Pauline Dusting secretary for 1995-96.

Junior convenor Judy Green was awarded life membership. The club recently won three grand finals flags in Lilydale and District Night Tennis Association's Tuesday men's competition. Section 4 was won by Cactus, Kirwan Mazda took out Section 8 and Coldies were victorious in Section 9.

In season one of the association's Wednesday night mixed competition, Burran was successful in Section 12.

Two Warrandyte teams participated in the grand finals of the Ferntree Gully Mid-Week Ladies Association summer season. Section 17 defeated Holy Xavier, while Section 13 were runners-up.

Catholic jubilee

The Catholics of Warrandyte and Park Orchards will celebrate 25 years as a parish on June 28. Events will include a special mass at St Annes, Park Orchards, where the celebrant will be the Archbishop of Melbourne, Sir Frank Little. A celebration dinner will be held at the Chalet in Park Orchards on Saturday, July 1. The first St Gerards catholic church was built on the corner of Brackenbury Street and Mitchell Avenue in 1907. This was destroyed in the 1939 bushfires. A second church was built on the same site and was in service until 1976, when the present church was built next to the cemetery on land formerly owned by the late Bill McCulloch. A special booklet is being prepared to commemorate the silver jubilee. Further information from Bruce Liddell, 9844 2280.

Appeal
To assist the Nadia Maffei breast cancer appeal, residents are invited to attend a special exhibition of Nadia's flower arrangements at the Manningham Artspace, rear of municipal offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster on Wednesday, June 14 from 6 to 8pm. The exhibition will run until Sunday, June 18 and the gallery is open from 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Friday, and 2-5pm Saturday and Sunday.

OUT OF THE BOX

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.

Films
The first Manningham Film Festival will take place over the Queens Birthday weekend, June 9, 10 and 11, with five sessions over the three days. For detailed program call 9848 8735.

Mural
The 'Marvellous Manningham Mural', 120 feet of community involvement, will, after initial display at the Manningham Artspace, be placed on permanent display at the Warrandyte Community Centre. The mural has been created by people of all ages and ethnic groups.

Cubs and scouts
Warrandyte cub and scouts have a few places available for boys and girls between 8 and 15 years. Cubs meet each Monday from 7 to 8.30pm, and scouts meet on Thursdays, 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Scout Hall in Yarra Street. Information from group leader John Diggle, 9844 3516.

Congrats
Local member of parliament, Phil Honeywood, can arrange special congratulatory messages for some anniversaries, such as golden and diamond weddings and 90th and 100th birthdays. Special occasions may be recognised by the queen, governor-general, prime minister, premier, governor and local members of parliament. For further information contact the electorate office at 44 New Street, Ringwood, or phone 9870 7395.

Nursing mums
The next meeting of the Warrandyte Nursing Mothers' Association will be held on Tuesday, June 13 at 8pm at 127 Research Road. The subject will be 'Mothers Matter Too'. Next morning coffee will be on Wednesday, June 28 at 10am at 8 Caloola Drive, North Warrandyte. Further information from Andrea on 9844 1112 or Jenny on 9844 4730.

Auxiliary
At their 65th annual general meeting, the Warrandyte auxiliary of the Royal Women's Hospital handed over a cheque for \$1230, completing the \$6000 needed for three beds in the oncology unit. Guest speaker on the day was president of auxiliaries, Mrs Launder, who spoke on proposed changes to hospitals. The cake stall at Harry Heaths on May 13 raised \$322. Gol Gol the goliwog, donated by Gwen Gibson, was won by Fern from the Goldfields Hot Bread Kitchen.

Doncare
Doncare is seeking volunteers for a new program to get older people out and about in the community. If you can help, please call Alison Herron on 9848 4433.

Visitors
Last month, 'Out Of The Box' reported a visit to the Senior Citizens Centre by local police and the Rev Peter Keep. In fact, these visitors attend the centre every Thursday to help members in any way they can and give advice on security problems.

Craft
The second city access exhibition of craft at the Manningham Artspace will be opened by Irene Noonan at 7pm on Thursday, June 22 and will run until Sunday, June 2. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Thursday, 10am-5pm, Saturday and Sunday, 2-5pm.

visual attention PRINTING SERVICE

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Croydon? Bloody hell!

Bottom-dwellers give us a bath and call us names

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte's 1995 football season took a shock turn for the considerably worse on May 3. The Bloods were set on their backsides at home by bottom side Croydon to be flirting dangerously with the relegation zone.

It was a game we had confidently (obviously overconfidently) expected to win and win easily. But the visitors



Stuart McLean ... a candidate.



won the start, the four premiership points and new respect from the other teams in EDFL Second Division. The result—19.7 (121) to 12.14 (86)—left Warrandyte in a 3-5 limbo one game short of the home-and-away season's turning point. Coach David Dickson, whose attitude to the Blood's ineptitude on the day ranged from anger at quarter-time to one of throwing caution to at the last change, does not buy for a moment the prospect of running last and spending 1996 in Third Division. "No," he said after the game, "we are better than that, but we badly need a key forward who can take the big marks and kick goals and we badly need a ruckman." "We also need a change of luck with injuries." Dickson said he would disregard reputations in team selection to fill the first need. Among candidates for full-forward are Stuart McLean, who has played a couple of reserves games since returning to the club and showed encouraging form against the Croydon Twos, and youngster Chris Quinlan, the Bloods' best

The Baby Bloods did their mums (and dads) proud on May 14. In what has been dubbed the Mother's Day Massacre, Warrandyte Junior Football Club's under-10s made a clean sweep of an EDFL lightning premiership at Heathmont.

They won all their four games in the most comprehensive fashion, kicking a total of 14.28 to 1.1.

The only blemish was a fit of the misses in the final match, against The Basin, in which they kicked 2.12 to nothing.

Warrandyte's under-12s almost repeated the dose the following week when they won three of their four matches in a similar competition.

"We were a bit stiff to lose our opening game, against Rowville," said under-12s official Neil Riddell. "We

in a two-point win by the Reserves.

The coach's second prayer might be answered by the return from overseas this month of 1993 premiership captain/ruckman Kimberley O'Connor.

Injuries continue to plague the seniors but were no excuse for the Croydon defeat. The bottom-dwellers sprang from the starting gates and were never going to lose.

Their first goal, after three minutes, was a bit of a worry, their second, three minutes later, a problem, and their third, fourth and fifth (at 12, 20 and 23 minutes) matters of grave concern.

David Purcell eventually made the goal umpire at our end go for the two flags when he marked in front 26 minutes in, but Croydon replied and 7.2 to 1.2 at the break was very depressing reading on the scoreboard for those who had come along to relish a formality.

Mum's Day Massacre

took a little time to warm up." Twenty teams took part in each lightning premiership. Games are played over two 10-minute terms.

"Every one of the 25 under-10 boys who took part deserves a mention," said team manager Tony Mirabella.

"Players like Ben Finocchiaro, Sam Sheedy, Sean Brown, Andrew Briffa,

Dickson berated his players in the huddle, demanding hunger for the ball and talk, talk, talk.

This was to be the claw-back quarter, but Croydon didn't see it that way because they goaled within 30 seconds, then again.

They were superb in defence, dominant in the air and using the backline as the spring-board of attack.

They had so many loose men it seemed several Warrandyte players had gone to the races instead.

And that's without paying tribute to uncanny accuracy—11.2 to 3.8 at half-time.

A whisper went around at the interval that "this mob" always played a good first half but stopped thereafter. And so they did—just a little, but not nearly fast enough for Warrandyte.

Croydon took three minutes to extend their lead to 48 points, but Doug Searle, who

had promised much but done little, got one back and Purcell replied to the next.

Searle again, then Luke McFarlane-Smith running out of defence, and it was just five goals the difference and just a faint whiff of hope.

The deficit at three-quarter time was still 30 points—14.4 to 8.10—and Dickson made wholesale positional changes.

Warrandyte had their chances to put fear into the enemy camp. We missed. Croydon didn't. Their goal nine minutes in put it beyond doubt at 15.8 to 8.13 and another eight minutes later was quite unnecessary.

Not quite done yet, the Bloods restored a little decency via Ben Brisbane, John O'Brien, Andrew Schaffer and McFarlane-Smith (again). But Croydon always had the answer.

It was cold, getting dark apace and ever so nice to get away from the young Croydon

chaps in the stand who had taken to referring to us as "The Inbreds". Seems an unexpected victory can bring out the worst in congenital cretins.

● Warrandyte's Reserves withstood a late onslaught to defeat Croydon 9.9 (63) to 8.13 (61). It was their second win of the season and a credit to their ability to adapt to an unfamiliar standard of umpiring.

● The Under-18s were beaten but are still going strong. Their best were Adam Murray, Ray Bellinger and James Logan.

● Upcoming social spectacles: Man O Man (June 17) and Priscilla—Queen of the Footy Club (June 24). If you wonder about the latter, it's reverse dress. And Trivia Night on July 8.

● Warrandyte's next games are at Bayswater on June 17. There will be no club games on June 10 because of the interleague game between the EDFL and Footscray District at Bayswater Oval.

Welcome home

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Warrandyte Cricket Club's playing stocks are expected to improve dramatically next season with the return of several stars from the 1993-94 campaign.

Opening batsman Andrew Hood has confirmed he will be back after a season off and another former firsts player is tipped to return with him.

As an added bonus, former captain-coach Jon Sharman is returning to Australia from England in late November and is believed to be considering a return to Warrandyte.

Negotiations are continuing for a coach, with a high-profile district player under consideration. If the player decides not to come to Warrandyte, Sharman could resume his old position several weeks into the season.

Meanwhile, Russell Dorning is the new club president, succeeding Steve Pascoe, who

Returnees to bolster the Dytes

stepped down at the annual general meeting last month after two years in the job.

Steve's wife Ann relinquished the secretaryship and has been replaced by Elizabeth McGhee and Mick Canty replaces Jenni Chapman as treasurer in a complete shake-up of executive positions.

Fifteen others will join them on the general committee.

Jenni Chapman reported that the local business directory was keeping the club afloat financially. It raised \$9000 last year, but the club still reported a final loss of \$1200 (its second loss in a row). Ms Chapman blamed the result on a continuing disappointing response to



Andrew Hood ... back.

social functions.

On a positive side was the announcement that Brian Chapman will receive life membership at presentation night next year. The former outstanding junior has given more than 20 years' service to the club in various roles, including coaching the women's side for many seasons.

Redback touch of Magic

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Warrandyte Basketball Club's ties with the NBL's South East Melbourne Magic have strengthened with three Magic players taking clinics at the club last month.

Almost 100 Redback juniors received coaching from Shane Bright, Jason Smith and Axel Dench on the finer points of the game. This follows last month's presentation day appearances by Andrew Parkinson and Chris Anstey.

Participants in the free clinic, sponsored by the Grand Hotel, asked questions and went home with posters, stickers and autographs.

The success of the day has ensured that more clinics will be arranged, giving other Redback players a chance to attend. Numbers were limited by restricted court space.

In the senior competitions the pressure is on as teams prepare for the grand finals. In the Greyburn Cup, the 10-2 North

Ringwood Hooters have again set the pace but are still haunted by the spectre of past final defeats.

They are 0-3 in their previous finals game, but with Brad Dean and Scott Snowball averaging 17 and 18 points a game are very well placed to finally grab a playoff victory.

Providing stern opposition are traditional finalists the Hitmen, Cup rookies the Haris and the young Thunderbirds.

The competition has been a tipster's nightmare this season with each side capable of beating the other on any given night.

David Thwaites and John Moore will again give the 8-4 Hitmen the firepower while the 8-5 Haris captain Tony Davis has amassed 30 points a game to

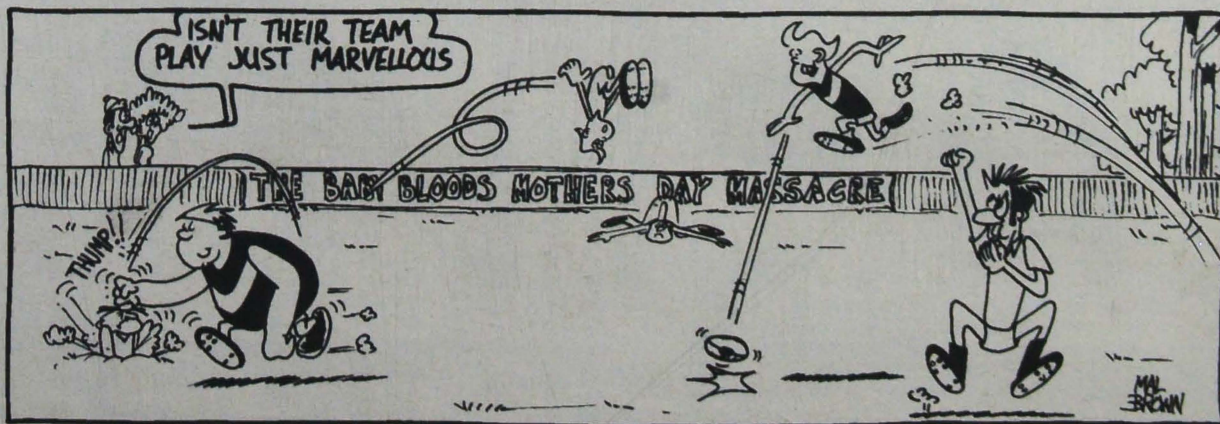
lead all scorers.

The grand final is on Wednesday, June 28 at 8.30pm at the high school stadium, and entry is free. The game preceding it will determine the over-30 premier. Defending champions the Plastics are 9-1 but still not having it all their own way against Andersons Creek and the Wobblers.

The women's Grand Hotel Cup grand final will be played the following night, starting at 8.30, and shapes up as a replay of last season's big one between the Phantoms, led by Alison Aldenhoun, and Amanda McLellan's PP Champs.


In what should be a close finals series, I expect the Hitmen, Plastics and Phantoms to emerge as 1995 premiers.

A SPORTING CHANCE



By MAL BROWN

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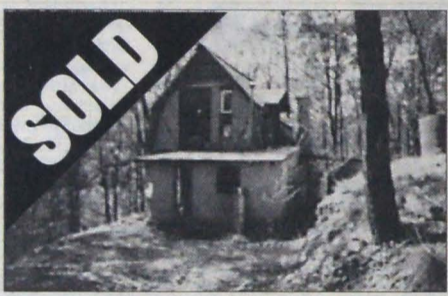
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Can I do my own conveyancing?

A question often asked of a real estate agent during the sale of a property is whether the client can themselves do the conveyancing.

In the past, do-it-yourself (DIY) conveyancing, which refers to the transfer of a property tile, had some attraction due to it being cheaper.

However, there are sufficient cases to show that transactions often suffer hiccups through the DIY approach.

The Professionals Real Estate Group in Victoria recommends the use of qualified personnel in property matters.

Using a Solicitor is a wise move when buying or selling a property, which is most likely to be the largest single financial transaction of your life.

DIY conveyancing runs the risk of missing some key point, and the lack of legal experience means potential problems cannot be foreseen.

Often after striking a problem during the DIY method, turning to a Solicitor to seek help results in transaction delays, and can end up costing more.

A Solicitor will carry out the necessary gathering and checking of documents, including the title or any existing mortgage, and make a range of searches, including local municipality and utility rates.

The DIY approach is now less attractive due to the introduction of fixed price conveyancing being offered by an increasing number of law firms in Victoria.

Solicitors in the past used a scale of fees based on the price of the residential property, but in response to Government pressure for more competition, this rigid practice no longer applies.

As a result, Solicitors now generally charge about half the conveyancing fee that applied ten years ago under the old scale of charges system.

Delays can increase the costs. The advice is to hand the Contract of Sale immediately to the Solicitor, and to keep them promptly informed of any problems that arise.

If I can be of any assistance with this or any other real estate matters, please call me personally.

REGARDS,

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