

# Houses: Locals fight 'Port' win good sign



## A long drink for a grand occasion

The Grand Hotel has been a favourite Warrandyte watering hole for 100 years. Special functions to mark the centenary included the return of renowned local folk band Paradiddle on Friday, September 1. Many his-

toric photographs are on display and staff at the hotel are wearing period costume to help celebrate the occasion. In this Sandy Burgoyne picture, barmaid Halina Jeczmonka pulls a perfect beer.

By FIA CLENDINNEN and CLIFF GREEN

Local residents have been battling hard over the past month to prevent the demolition of three rangers' residences in Warrandyte State Park and the proposed sale of the police residence in Warrandyte township.

In a last ditch effort to save one of the rangers' houses from demolition, violence erupted when about 30 people staged a demonstration at the site on August 24. Marcel Cameron, one of the demonstrators, was punched in the face and suffered a broken tooth.

Police arrived and removed the demonstrators. One demonstrator commented that the police appeared to be on their side. "One of them said to me, 'We think it's disgraceful what's happening to government housing. We're with you to a man but we've got to do our job.'"

When *Diary* reporter Clinton Grybas visited the site the following day to photograph the partly-wrecked house, he alleges he was threatened with violence by one of the demolition crew. He later returned under police protection.

The protest group says that resident rangers are important for a number of reasons. These include after-hours security, interaction with the public and the ability to act quickly during emergencies, such as a bushfire or missing children.

The state park management plan, drawn up in 1990, specifically allows for the provision of three ranger residences in the Pound Bend area.

Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte, told the *Diary* that the houses were purchased by the Labor government in the 1980s, "for the specific purpose of being demolished to add to the

state park's open space".

Mr Honeywood stated that one of the houses was offered to the Friends of Warrandyte State Park for use as a community resource centre. The Friends "decided against taking up the offer as it would stretch their volunteer labour resources. Advice was that if the houses were left vacant they could become potential drug swap venues and targets for arson attempts."

Meanwhile, despite rumours that the police residence has been saved, as far as Sergeant Keith Walker and his wife Peta know, they will be moving out on December 23. "We've had no communication from the powers-that-be," Peta Walker said. "We've been left out in limbo. We've been living like this for 10 months and it's awful."

Warrandyte people have rallied strongly against the sale of the police house. Apart from the well-attended demonstration outside the house several weeks ago, a petition, drawn up by Louise Joy and Jean Chapman, has attracted more than 1,700 signatures. It was presented in parliament on September 5 by Mr Honeywood. This followed a deputation of Warrandyte and Park Orchards representatives to the police minister, Pat McNamara, led by Mr Honeywood.

"Notwithstanding the police department's concern to be masters of their own budget, I have mounted a strong argument that Warrandyte has special requirements which warrant reconsideration of the decision to sell the police house," Phil Honeywood said.

"I am pleased that the police minister has now put everything on hold until he personally reviews the decision and takes into account community views."

● Another rally in support of the police house is being held at Stiggants Reserve at 2pm on Sunday, September 10.

## 'Port' win good sign

Warrandyte residents battling to save the police house can take heart from a story at Portarlington, a small town near Queenscliff with a population of 1,240. Like Warrandyte, Portarlington was one of the 62 police residence sites across Victoria which the state government had nominated for sale.

When the community of Portarlington learned that their police residence was under threat they were outraged and took action.

They wrote letters to the local newspapers, organised public meetings and drew up a petition.

It worked.

Two days before the house was due to be auctioned MP Pat McNamara, Minister for Police, announced in parliament that the Portarlington police residence would not be sold.

The 'for sale' sign was taken down.

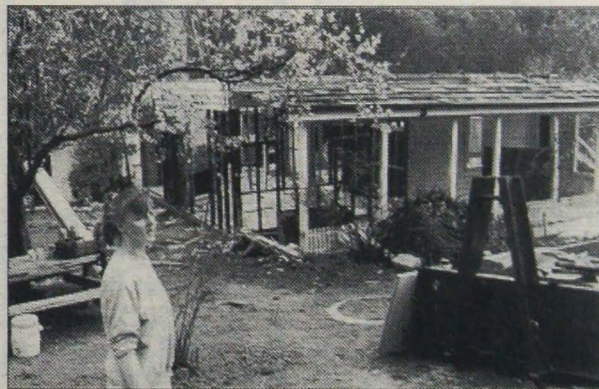
Alex Finney was the leading light in the campaign and he revealed to the *Diary* the secret of his success. "Persistence. I kept the pressure on. As someone said, I was a bloody nuisance."

A Warrandyte spokesperson said the public pressure was the key to Portarlington's victory.

"I was talking to Elaine Carbine (the local ALP candidate who was also involved in the campaign) and she said that basically what worked in Portarlington was immense public pressure.

"That's what we've got to do here in Warrandyte. We've got to keep up the pressure."

Alex Finney told the *Diary* he had a message for all Warrandyte people: "I wish you all the best."



One of the partly-demolished state park houses. (Picture by Clinton Grybas)

FIA CLENDINNEN

## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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# Little Athletics can be poetic prose in motion



We like the style of Marilyn Moore, who is nice enough to contribute Little Athletics news to our sports pages. And we particularly liked the introduction to her latest offering: "There's always a freezing wind blowing at Brimbank Park, Keilor, when the VLAA State Cross-country Championships are held. Character-building for competitors and spectators alike, the icy blast from across the basalt plains swirls vengefully down the deeply-incised valley of the Maribyrnong, challenging the resilience of all in its path. Out on the course, the young competitors pit themselves mentally and physically against the hills, the buffeting headwinds and the best of the state's cross-country runners." Hey, Marilyn, want a full-time job on the *Diary*? Pay's lousy—but you'd be working with the nicest people.

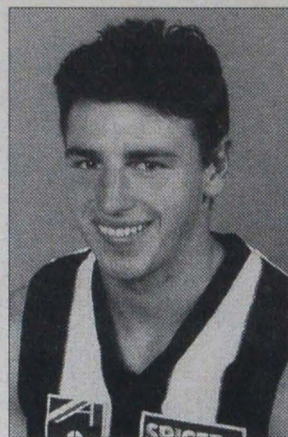


We'd heard of and actually seen barefoot water-skiers, but barefoot snow-skiers? Never! The degree of difficulty must be enormous, but it seems some intrepid folk from Warrandyte Tennis Club have mastered the sport. Why else would they go on a skiing trip to Dinner Plain without skis and without hiring them when they got there? Don't tell us Neil Dunning, Terry Booth, Greg Lawrence, Geoff Pulford, their wives and a few other couples sat around all weekend drinking, eating and having other sorts of fun without risking chilblains, frostbite, injury and death on the slopes. No, we could never believe that. Lucky devils.



The Wattle Day parade was but a fleeting thing, a sort of blink-and-you-missed-it mini-spectacle that has a way to go before it seriously challenges the world's great assemblies like bus queues and lining up for AFL grand final tickets. Fittingly, Wattle King Andrew Wilson provided the highlight by throwing handfuls of jellybeans to his young subjects as he rode past, smiling regally, in his horse-drawn carriage. We were going to suggest they wrap the lollies next year, but as one local lady observed as she watched the kids pick them up off the street and eat them: "That's good clean Warrandyte dirt. Do 'em good!"

## IN RED & WHITE



Jon Hassall



There was no chance of the invited VIP getting lost on his way to the recreation ground late last month to present the 100-game medals at Warrandyte Junior Football trophy day. He knows the territory very well. Quite appropriately, the club chose Jon Hassall, of North Warrandyte, to do the honours. Jon, of course, played all his junior footy here and represented Victoria umpteen times before making the big time with Collingwood. Having presented the medals, he was put on the receiving end and given one himself—belated recognition of his contribution to the junior game in this town in well over 100 games.



Laurie Warr admits he'd had a few beers before he sat down to watch the Friday night footy. But he refuses to blame them for his nodding off—or for the fact that the pizza he'd put in the oven at 8.30 was a trifle overdone when he woke at 3am.



The last stop *Diary* slaves Lee and Jan Tindale made on their road trip to Sydney to check out newest granddaughter Lucinda was Bomaderry, on the northern outskirts of Nowra. Jan phoned daughter Sarah from the Bomaderry Motor Inn to give



the ETA in the big smoke next day and left the message on the answering machine. But Sarah had a devil of a time returning the call. Nobody at Directory Assistance seemed to have heard of Bob and Mary's Motor Inn at Nowra.



One of the discoveries of the Tindales' trip was that there IS such a thing as a free lunch. At Sailor's Grave Beach, just east of Marlo, you just press a button to light up the public gas barbecue. Not a cent spent. Amazing!

## Smokey Joe



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Edited by Cliff Green and Lee Tindale  
Sub-editor: Clinton Grybas

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# Market was a mud-dle!

By DAVID WYMAN

After almost six months of inactivity, Manningham City Council seems ready to upgrade Stiggants Reserve for the community market.

Warrandyte market committee has cooperated with the council since it took its advice on use of the reserve in April. Since then, only one market has been held on the reserve. The April, May, June, July and September markets have been held on the river bank, often in wet and excessively muddy conditions.

"We were told by the council's parks staff that the trees in Stiggants Reserve were showing signs of dying because the soil was badly compacted, and we agreed to hold the market down by the river until the upgrading was completed," Margory Lapworth, secretary of the market committee, told the *Diary*.

"We felt that it would be three to six months before we would be back on the top part of the reserve. But no work has been done and the market has been chaotic down by the river."

The *Diary* contacted several people at Manningham council to find out what was happening. No-one seemed to know.

Geoff Young, manager of parks and gardens, said: "Nothing's being done at present. What's going to be done hasn't been quite decided. Plans are being drawn up at this moment."

Kristan Allen, of council's economic and environmental planning department, did not know what was going on, but said she would find out. She referred us back to Geoff Young.

Geoff referred us to Tim Rowe, who is parks coordinator at Manningham. Tim had been on holiday, but knew all about the new proposals for the reserve.

"We've advised the market committee to consider rotating the site of the market around the whole reserve to avoid concentration of soil compaction," he said. "Some of the established eucalypts are showing signs of die-back due to intense soil compaction."

"We are proposing to upgrade the reserve's surface by top-dressing, seeding and replanting to enhance the existing vegetation. We also plan to install a

split rail fence around the reserve and to remove some of the ugly rocks on the boundary.

"Another proposal is to re-define the bottle dump car park, to make it look better than it does now, and to extend the fence around there.

"We are also proposing to move the existing entry gate to the reserve; to move it 15 or 20 metres up towards Yarra Street. This would be an entry gate only, away from the eucalypts near Stiggants Street. We would put in a new exit gate at the bottle dump car park area. This would reduce traffic problems for stallholders."

Tim Rowe said the market and festival committees had been fully consulted and informed about the proposals and were "happy with them". He said the work on the reserve had been delayed mostly because of the wet weather.

"It's all due to go if the weather remains fine. There will be some weed control work within two weeks, and we will shortly start doing some rock removal and begin erecting the new fence."

# Ring road puzzle for pollies

By FIA CLENDINNEN

The possibility of the Anti-Ring Road Organisation (ARRO) standing an independent candidate for Warrandyte in the next state election has been abandoned. "We just don't have the resources to stand a candidate," an ARRO spokesperson told the *Diary*.

The fact that the ALP has now come out in formal opposition to the proposed ring road freeway may have also influenced this decision.

Last month, State Opposition Leader John Brumby issued a press release stating: "Labor's opposition to the eastern ring road is unequivocal".

In a letter to ARRO, Mr Brumby further stated: "The ALP opposes the eastern ring road on environmental grounds and because of the enormous disruption it would cause to property owners whose homes would be demolished to enable the road's construction."

"The ALP strongly supports the preservation and protection of Green Wedge areas in the Shire of Nillumbik," he said.

Jenny Stray, ALP candidate, explained how she invited John Brumby to visit Warrandyte and Park Orchards. "I said, 'look, John, this is the lungs of Melbourne, and this is the area you're talking about putting a freeway through.' He agreed with me that it was ridiculous."

However Marcel Cameron of ARRO is not so sure. "The ALP doesn't have a commitment not to build the Scoresby Freeway, and if this freeway is built, we're finished," he said. "In Queensland and New South Wales, Labor governments are building freeways which are both hugely unpopular and very destructive. ARRO will continue to call upon the Victorian ALP to develop a serious alternative to the current freeway building program."

ARRO has welcomed the statement by Phil Honeywood, Liberal member for Warrandyte, that he "could not in all conscience vote in parliament for any project that threatened Warrandyte's unique environment".

However, they are concerned at a statement by a spokesperson for Bill Baxter, Minister for Roads, who said: "The hoo-ha the ring road has attracted lately is undeserved. Labor is making a political issue out of it. The Liberal Party has no policy on the ring road."



This little girl had a nice paddle at one of the winter markets by the river. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

# Our young folk took a great LEAP forward

By CLINTON GRYPBAS

A landcare and environment training program for local unemployed young people has been hailed as a success as it reaches the end of its six month life.

The Landcare and Environment Action Program (LEAP), based at the West End shops, saw eight of the 18 young people involved leave early after gaining full-time employment. The others have all developed skills which co-ordinator Derrick Wigley says will make it easier for them to obtain employment.

The program's aim was to promote and encourage conservation, recycling and waste minimisation in Warrandyte, through newsletters, brochures and information displays. Derrick Wigley says that while this was achieved, the skills obtained by the group members was the highlight.

"They've enjoyed the program

and obtained many benefits in the process," he said. "They gained interview and job searching skills and learned how to work on the phone and get in touch with a whole lot of people. They have also increased their confidence and self-esteem."

"It's been very successful. In terms of the original project outcomes, of educating the local community, we've experienced a reasonable degree of success, but in terms of the participant outcomes it's been highly successful."

The group held stalls at the Warrandyte Festival, the market, outside Harry Heaths Supermarket and conducted recycling activities at Warrandyte South Primary School. Their magazines and pamphlets were distributed through local businesses.

Derrick Wigley says the program, a Department of Employment, Education and Training initiative, received federal government funding with sponsorship by Warrandyte Youth Services.



Rebecca Klein, Kelly Woodhouse, Michelle Kluckhena, Angelo Minos and Rebecca Campbell: Hard at work on their LEAP program.

# Diary ads up

Reluctantly, after an unprecedented seven years without a rise, we have been forced to increase our advertising rates by 10 percent. This means that a column centimetre now costs \$4.10 (casual) and \$3.85 (permanent). The cost of larger spaces (quarter, half and full pages) and mini ads remains the same.

Our last price rise was in May, 1988. The upward creep of costs over the past years—through the recession and beyond—has been offset by the installation of computerised typesetting, picture processing and page makeup technology in the Di-

ary office and the increased use of volunteer local labour in the production of the paper.

The circulation of the *Diary* has increased by 25 percent across this period. Because the newspaper is available free to its readers, the cost of the longer print run has had to be met from advertising revenue. Our printers were forced to pass on a 15 percent increase in the cost of paper recently. This, coupled with our rising circulation, convinced us that we should marginally increase our rates—the first in more than seven years—to protect the financial viability of the newspaper.

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# Honoured scouts remembered

A large group gathered together last month for the unveiling ceremony of the Queen Scout honour board at the Warrandyte Scout Hall. Peter Diggle was presented with his Queen Scout award at the same function. He received his badge from his mother, Judy Diggle. His father, also a Queen Scout, is group leader. The Queen Scout award is the highest a teenager can achieve in the Venturer section of the scouting movement. The honour board was unveiled by Peter and past Queen Scout Tania Curwood, revealing 15 names listed across the 40 years of the 1st Warrandyte Scout Group.



Conducted by JUDY GREEN

Drop your news in the letterbox in the front door of our office at the Community Centre, fax it to 9844 4168, or post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte, 3113, by the last Friday in the month.



It's great fun at the Warrandyte Toy Library. Now situated at the community centre, the library is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 to 11am and on Fridays from 7 to 8pm.

## Pre-school

Yarra Warra pre-school, (formerly North Warrandyte and Yarra View pre-schools) have vacancies next year in both 4 year-old and 3 year-old groups. The 4 year-old group receives 12 hours contact time—one six-hour and two three-hour sessions, while the 3 year-old group has either one or two, 2.5-hour sessions. For information ring 9844 3808 or 9844 1038.

## Friends

The Friends of the Andrew Ross Museum group at Kangaroo Ground was formed when the museum was opened in 1993. Members have been involved in working bees in the grounds, in building, gardening, setting up displays, recording audio tapes and so on. Anyone interested in being involved can contact Denise Denyer on 9712 0530. The museum is open from 2 to 4pm every Sunday, and at other times by request.

## Garden

The Van Der Haar family is opening their beautiful garden for a spring-time showing on the weekend of October 7 and 8 from 10am to 4pm each day. Admission is \$5 for adults and proceeds will go to the Asthma Foundation. Light refreshments will be available. The garden is entered through the Albatross Pool Centre, near the corner of Orchard Grove and Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte.

## Planting

There will be a spring planting festival on Saturday, September 9 from 2 to 4pm at the Timber Reserve, Warrandyte State Park, at the top of Webb Street. A sausage sizzle will be enjoyed after the planting. Call 1800 806 555 for further information.

## Platypus

Manningham City Council and the Australian Platypus Conservancy will present Conserving Urban Platypus, an illus-

trated lecture on platypus and the Mullum Mullum Creek population, on Tuesday, September 12 at the Mechanics Institute, Yarra Street, Warrandyte. The lecture, by Dr Melody Seran, commences at 7.30 pm and is free to all.

## Band

Warrandyte Primary School's bush band has played in many locations over the years, from the Dallas Brooks Hall to the National Gallery, on national TV and for the Dalia Lama on his last visit to Australia. Recently, they visited Yarra Warra pre-school and entertained the children, parents and teachers there. Some of this audience are undoubtedly future bush-banders at Warrandyte Primary.

## Rally

A rally has been organised at Stiggants Reserve on Sunday, September 10 at 2pm to support the campaign to keep the police house in Warrandyte. For infor-

mation call Jean Chapman on 9844 3326 or Louise Joy on 9844 3600.

## Workshops

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is running a series of workshops during September and October. Leadlighting a terrarium, paper tolle and floral art all take place on Saturday, September 16. Time for each workshop is 10am to 2pm and they cost \$35. On Saturday, October 28, from 10am to 2pm, there will be a workshop on decorative sewing—cost \$25—and on Sunday, October 29, from 10am to 1pm, abseiling will be workshopped, cost \$25. Relaxation massage for partners is a beginners' workshop to be held on Sunday, September 10, 10am to 2pm. Cost is \$10. Further information from 9844 1839.

## Traders

Information Warrandyte (the new name of the Citizens Advice Bureau) has compiled a file on

Warrandyte traders. They would be glad to receive information from new traders. Ring 9844 3082.

## Volunteers

Warrandyte Historical Society are seeking volunteers to help man their museum at the old post office on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Please ring Gina on 9844 3662 if you are interested.

## Heritage

The City of Manningham has announced that consultants Context Pty Ltd have been appointed to undertake the Wonga Park Heritage Study. The study will identify significant buildings, structures and properties in the area. The first stage of the study will seek out interesting features and stories associated with Wonga Park, and information from individuals will be vital in this process. Enquiries from Sonia Rappell, strategic planner, 9840 9402.

## Identify

Warrandyte Historical Society is arranging a display of photographs of past Warrandyte identities, to be held at the community centre on Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22 from 11am to 4pm. Anyone who may be able to identify the "unknowns" will be most welcome.

## Information

An information kit for school leavers has been prepared by Kevin Andrews, federal member for Menzies. A guide to the many services available to young peo-

ple finishing school, including employment, training, TAFE colleges and universities and financial assistance, the kit is available from Mr Andrews' electorate office, 651 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, or by phoning 9848 9900.

## Tell us

The *Diary* is your newspaper, and we love to print news of your group's activities. Just jot down all the relevant details, including date, time, venue and contact number, drop it in the letter slot in our door at the community centre, post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113, or fax it to 9844 4168, and we'll do the rest—gratis! But please check your calendar. We close copy on the last Friday of each month for the issue appearing on the second Friday of the month following.

## LETTER

### Thank you

Just a note to say thank you to the Grand Hotel for a very pleasant luncheon and afternoon, organised by the proprietor of the hotel and Bradley Valentine. Everyone was happy to be invited. Thank you.

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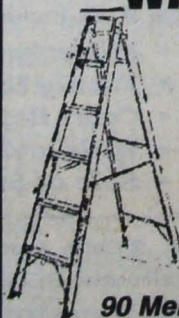
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# Dogs take bush lives

By CHRISTOPHER MUELLER

The recent death of a swamp wallaby in North Warrandyte points up the plight of our wildlife. Steve Clendinnen, a local resident, spotted two dogs chewing on a dead wallaby in Glynn's Road. Although he did not see the dogs attacking it, they are well-known in the Warrandyte area for causing trouble. "One was a black male dog with no collar, the other a tan colour, looking very guilty."

The description matches two dogs that have been observed chasing and killing kangaroos in Warrandyte State Park. Denine Moloney, a ranger from Yarra Valley Parklands, witnessed a black labrador cross and a pale yellow coloured dingo-german shepherd cross on a kangaroo chase, which ended in the death of a young joey. "This dog had killed and will probably kill again. This type of disturbing event cannot continue to occur," Denine Moloney said.

With the demolition of the rangers' houses in the park, however, locals believe the problem is likely to continue. The dogs' usual early morning arrival in the past stirred the rangers and their families into preventative action. But now that they have been forced off the site they will no longer be able to protect the wildlife in the early mornings.

Another local concern is the effect traffic is having on our native fauna. Mark Gough, whose property backs onto Laughing Waters Park, believes the kangaroos are disappearing. "Since February, about seven or eight kangaroos have been hit by cars on Research-Warrandyte Road."

Whereas Mark used to see a large number of kangaroos on his property, over the last few months there haven't been any sightings. Obviously, kangaroos aren't the only casualty as echidnas, possums, birds, blue-tongues and wombats appear throughout the year on local roads.

Some locals are pondering the question of what can be done to solve the problem. One suggestion for the roaming dogs is for them to be "shot on sight". While council takes a hard line over wandering dogs in terms of fines for owners, it is believed that most of the damage is done at night.



Warrandyte High School students producing their anti-bullying video.

# Bullying is exposed

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Warrandyte High School's Year 11 drama group students have tackled the issue of school bullying head-on by writing and acting in a new video, Stop Bullying. The video and accompanying booklet package are part of an Options project which aims to raise awareness of bullying issues in Victorian schools. The outstanding success of the short video, broken up into five sections depicting various types of bullying behaviour, has surprised the school's student welfare co-ordinator Greg Stewart.

"The message that we wanted to deliver to schools was that you can do this yourself," he told the *Diary*. "You should make your own video, include your students in it and have them help in the accompanying workshops so the younger students in the school can relate to it."

"But the Options group decided to market our video to other schools across the state. Judging by the enquiries we've had, schools are keen to grab anything current and effective on the subject."

So far the school has received requests from as far away as Traralgon, Geelong and Echuca for the video, with one school even wanting the drama students to present the workshops. During the first stage of the workshops, younger students are asked questions on what they consider bullying is and are encouraged to ask the older students questions based on the scenarios.

In the second stage the younger students are told what they can do to help.

"The presence of the Year 11 students in the workshops has really had a powerful effect," Greg Stewart said. "The whole project has been an outstanding success."

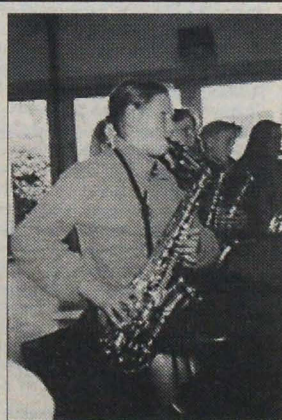
Funded by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, the Options project was co-ordinated by the Victorian Mental Health Foundation and the Victorian Council for Civil Liberties. Before asking Warrandyte High students to produce the video, Options assessed the school as having very low levels of bullying.

"Bullying is not really a problem here," said student Danielle Weston, who acted in the video. "At other schools it's quite bad so we can hopefully help them to deal with it and raise awareness."

"The Year 7s and 8s responded well in the workshops and asked many questions. Those of us acting in the video were able to experience how everyone would feel in the types of situations, like being left out of a group."

In response to the high quality of the video and its success, the students have now been approached by two other groups to produce videos for them. Due to the students doing much of the script work on Stop Bullying during lunch times—because there is no actual drama class—their acceptance of the offers will depend on time constraints.

The other students involved in the production were Laeleigh Benson, Jacqui Brookes, Ross Byrne, Sarah Lowe, Chris Schurmann, Amber Bottomley, Daniel Bullen, Peach Courtney, Sarah Fulton, Liam Riley and Laura Swindley.



Year 7 student Robert Colvin on the saxophone.

# They played up

Sixty-four of Warrandyte High School's talented young musicians went on a three-day music camp to Monbulk last month, where they crammed the equivalent of six weeks rehearsals into just three days.

The students, from Years 7 to 11, were involved in concert band, training band, percussion ensemble, flute choir, brass, clarinet and saxophone ensembles and the student choir.

The school's Claire Bloom said the camp was an outstanding success. "It enabled the students to meet other music stu-

dents in a working and social atmosphere," she said. "A great sense of togetherness was achieved between the students, staff and parents who helped transport the equipment to the camp and helped for their final concert."

The concert, played in the school's theatre before more than 250 people, was composed by John Byrne. It was very well received and has led to the school hoping to run the camp again next year, but in an expanded form to include the strings big band and the intermediate band.

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## The Lions Corner

■ **Youth of the Year.** The finals for the Youth of the Year Award were held on the 24th of August at a recent Lions dinner. All the finalists gave a talk on a topic of their own choice. The winner, Jemima Coates', category was sport and the speciality swimming, second place getter was Alexandra Colvin who had an academic category. Both Jemima and Alexandra were sponsored by Warrandyte High School. Third place was awarded to Justin Edwards whose presentation topic was football, his sponsor was the Warrandyte Cricket Club. The finalists shared a total of \$1,600.00 prize money with a similar amount going to their schools.

■ **Deb Ball.** Despite attempts in recent years to dispense with them, they are alive and well! 23 young Warrandyte ladies and their escorts will be attending the Deb Ball at Heidelberg Town Hall on the 22nd of September. Among the attendees

will be one of the Japanese exchange students experiencing first hand a unique cultural event. For any readers interested in attending, phone Keith on 9876 3500. Proceeds from the night will go to the Warrandyte High School.

■ **Monkami.** Recently the Lions made a donation for the purchase of an indoor bowling green for the use of the Monkami clients. A Colleen Dealy Memorial bequest to allow ten Monkami participants to attend the Licola camp each year has been put in place. Colleen was a long time friend of Lions and had a particularly close association with past President Jack Huxtable and his family. Three participants in the Ambylipsis will be assisted by the Lions this year.

■ **Lions Cakes and Mints.** If you would like to have cakes or mints they can be ordered through any of the Lions or by phoning Dennis Robertshaw on 9874 1660 during business hours.

## FIENDS OF THE PARK

By MATTHEW BISSETT-JOHNSON





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# Almost the last of a local beauty

**T**HE plant is dying before my eyes and there is nothing I can do about it. I pass it almost every day either on foot or by car. Usually, when on foot, I stop to check its condition and lately it has not been good. Woody branches, having lost most of their leaves, show prominently like the bones of a sick person. There is virtually no new growth. And, at a time when the plant should be bursting into bloom, flower buds are noticeable by their absence.

The plant, which goes by the rather pleasing scientific name of *Lissanthe strigosa*, commonly called Peach Heath, is growing a few metres from my house. It was first pointed out to me soon after I moved into the street; about nine years ago. At the time it was thought to be the only surviving plant of *Lissanthe strigosa* in Warrandyte. But even then the fate of this singular specimen was already decided by its precarious position half-way up a crumbling, clayey, roadside bank.

Heavy rains have eroded the soil from below, exposing delicate roots. From above, the plant is bombarded by the seeds of weedy grass that somehow germinate in spaces between the bare branches and compete for meagre nutrients in the stony soil. Under such stress this plant will surely die. All attempts to grow the *Lissanthe* from seed

## NATURE

By PAT COUPAR  
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

and cuttings have failed. Like many of the native heaths, *Lissanthe strigosa* is a woody shrub with small, pointed, somewhat prickly leaves—unimpressive until it flowers. The revelation comes in early spring when rosy buds open to uncover clusters of pale pink, semi-transparent flowers, each one shaped like an ornamental vase and filled with sweet nectar.

Native heaths belong to a predominantly Australian family called Epacridaceae, not to be confused with Ericaceae to which the heaths and heathers of northern Europe belong.

Most native heaths do not propagate easily. Seeds are tricky to extricate and often require specialised treatment. Cuttings are slow to strike, and when roots do eventually develop, they are transparent, hair-like structures which are easily damaged.

About a year ago another plant of the *Lissanthe strigosa* was found. Yet again it was growing in a vulnerable location, this time on the edge of a well-used track beside a road. The plant is smaller than the one in my street but considerably more healthy. However, it is still a forlorn indi-



vidual floundering in a hostile sea of weeds.

Recently, though, I had some exceptionally good news—a group of the *Lissanthe* had been discovered in North Warrandyte growing in a remnant strip of native vegetation along a roadside. The other day, with anxious anticipation, I was taken out to see them. I hardly recognised the plants, so different were they to the ailing specimen in my street.

These were young, flourishing shrubs covered profusely with clusters of rosy flowerbuds and they were growing harmoni-

ously with wattles, bush-peas and other wildflowers.

I am confident that with this new source of seed and cutting material we will crack the code for propagating this rare heath. There can be no reprieve for the plant growing on my roadside bank and I will be saddened when it finally dies. Consolation comes, however, with the knowledge that there is at least one group of fine young plants which now offer hope for the future of *Lissanthe strigosa*—the Peach Heath—in Warrandyte.

# Phoebe takes out big award

Outstanding local musician Phoebe Briggs won the prestigious Foster Memorial Award for a repeteur at a gala night at the Sydney Opera House last month.

The national award comes with a \$6,000 cash prize and is administered by the Sydney Opera House Trust. It's awarded every second year to a young repeteur—a pianist trained to coach opera singers in repertoire and technique.

Phoebe, 25, told the *Diary* she plans to use the prize-money to study Italian. "With the assistance of my scholarship I will be taking up an intensive Italian course in Siena early next year and



Phoebe Briggs

then later travel to London to continue my studies."

Born in Warrandyte and educated at Warrandyte Primary School and Eltham College, she graduated from

the Conservatorium at Melbourne University. She started piano lessons with Ann Arnold and then studied with Max Cooke. Her studies took her to London under Nina Walker, former repeteur at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

After returning to Melbourne, Phoebe taught piano at Eltham College while pursuing a career as a repeteur and accompanist. In 1994 she worked as a pianist for the Victoria State Opera Schools Company production of *Software*, which was invited to appear at the Scottish International Children's Festival held in Edinburgh in May this year.

The show went on to tour the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

Most recently she has worked as a repeteur for the Opera's production of *Tosca* and *The Pearl Fishers* and will work on Eugene Onegin and *Ruddigore* for the spring season.

Through all this, however, she has brought her talents back to Warrandyte. Many local people would remember her work on the piano in the Warrandyte High School's production of *The Sallow Wattle*. A finalist in several Warrandyte Youth Arts Awards, she has also been involved in local music groups and WAA productions.

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# Sheeting it home away from home

I'm not the first person to comment on the fact that we tend to organise our lives around important events or celebrations.

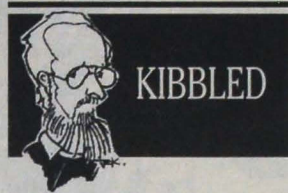
We are social animals and were David Attenborough to compile a series on The Secret Lives of Humans we would be presented with a fascinating parade of furtive nose-picking, navel fluff removing, dandruff scratching and armpit sniffing; as well as how we cope with a malfunctioning septic tank, an in-law gathering and how we manage whilst the spouse is away for longer than a few days.

The persona we present to the world is one thing, but our secret lives are often something else again. A person who, on the surface, may appear cool, calm and as nerveless as a Jeff Kennett at an anti-Grand Prix fund-raising ball may, in private, be an incompetent bumbler.

We were enjoying the party in the top-storey penthouse of Warrandyte's Grand Hotel. An un-named local identity was celebrating her unmentionable birthday and all the old guard were assembled to commiserate and recall what they felt like on the same birthday all those years ago.

We had looked forward to the celebration because we hadn't seen X for a while and wanted to catch up on the hot goss since our last meeting. Such celebrations keep us in touch with local attitudes and help us re-establish and locate our own values.

We arrived and had a wonderful time talking about old times, children and the incompetence and foolishness of ourselves and others. And it's here that my comment about how we organise our existence around events—and how most of us live Walter



Mitty lives—proves to be true.

For the sake of his good name and my front teeth, let's call him George. George had arrived early—lest the beer ran out—and was talking to us about life in general and that his wife was away for some weeks on an overseas trip. Now George is a very capable and admired member of the community. He is a professional, with all the stuff that goes with it. A man beyond reproach, apart from the few deviant habits I won't go into.

It came as a surprise, therefore, when the subject of washing arose. How was he going with cooking? Fine, it seemed; take-aways had come a long way in the last 10 years. Cleaning? Well there was a bit of a problem on that front, but nothing that two days and a crew from Warrandyte Industrial Cleaners couldn't put right just prior to his wife's return. God forbid, however, an early flight or a shortened holiday!

Washing was a bit more of a problem. What was the norm for sheet washing? A week, two weeks, a month? George and I pondered this one for some time. I suggested the "does it snap when you fold it" test, but was met with an icy glare from Herself and the assembled Clean Brigade. George, however, seemed to have it un-

der control. His sensible solution was to sleep on alternate sides of the bed, week about. The off-week provided time for that side of the bed to air. With a little more anti-perspirant and an occasional shower, the technique should last for the time of an overseas trip through most of Europe, America and the odd stop-over in Hawaii and Hong Kong.

I must admit I was sold. It was logical, environmentally sound and required little effort. It was a ploy I might have considered for myself; but not for someone of George's social standing. Here again was proof positive that underneath us all there lurks the picture that normally hangs in the attic, only to be seen on SBS documentaries or at occasions where desperation and Carlton and United gets the better of us.

I was silly enough to let slip on the way home that I thought George's approach had some merit.

"Typical," Herself quipped. "As long as it doesn't require too much effort. If I were not around I'd give you about a month before the place was a pigsty and your personal hygiene would be questionable, to say the least."

I ran into George the other day. Everything was fine, he assured me. He'd solved the washing problem with typical male logic. He'd immobilised the washing machine and left the pile in the laundry.

"It had worked fine until the last time I went to use it," he'd cooed to his returned wife. She was concerned but understanding. They bought new sheets.

Professionalism—you just can't beat it!

ROGER KIBELL

## Oldest living treasure?

By GLEN JAMESON

At the time of Melbourne's settlement in 1835, the massive yellow box of Longridge Park (pictured) was already more than 200 years old.

Overlooking the Yarra River, the tree marks an important natural and cultural crossroads. Wildfires from the north came along a natural fire corridor towards it. Bruce Bence's book 'Fire' notes that all the major fires in Warrandyte's history either started or jumped the river here. The tree has survived them all so far.

Just below the yellow box is recorded an Aboriginal ford. The Wurrundjeri crossed the river here on their way to destinations either side of the Yarra. A probable cultural crossroad for the songlines and the dreaming pathway, the tree watched them travel along this ancient route.

It must have been the sheer majesty of the tree that saved it from the woodcutters, who prized yellow box above all other Warrandyte timbers. Its presence may have been one of the reasons why that site was

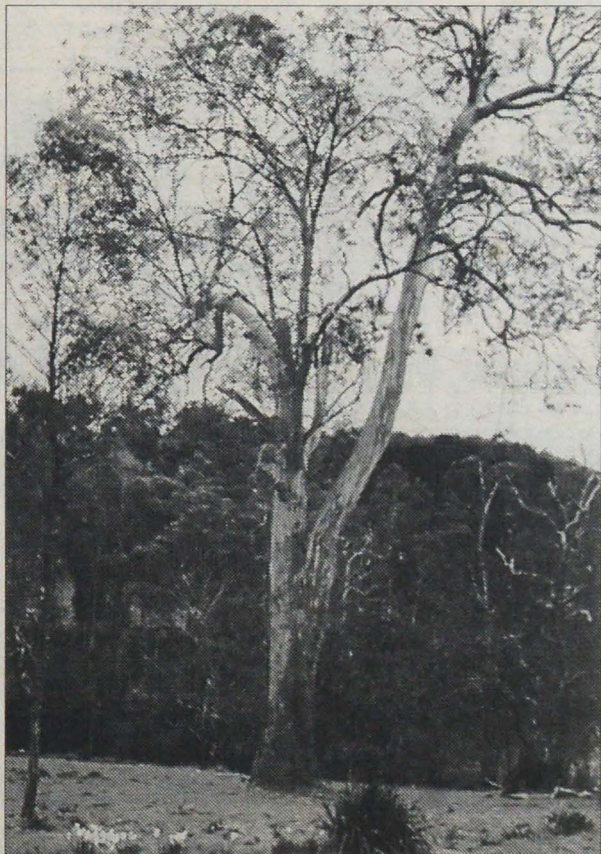
chosen for the original Longridge house, named Nilja, which later housed the first female councillor for the district.

Many Warrandyte children played around the tree or rode Scamp the pony on the nearby river flats when Dorothy Ruttledge ran the Moloka holiday camp with Margot Bennett during the 1960s.

During the 1970s it was admired by the political elite of the Bolte-Hamer governments as the then attorney general, Sir George Reed, entertained in its elegant shade out the front of Nilja.

Today, the yellow box remains an awe-inspiring sight, some 4.2 metres in girth and easily the largest example of its species in Warrandyte. It is home to many faunal species such as the tawny frogmouth, which flew from it whilst I was measuring it.

Growing and now protected in Longridge Park at the bottom of Alexander Road, part of the Yarra Valley Parklands, it will hopefully gather many more treasured memories under its gnarled and ancient limbs.



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# The drover's wife

STORY BY GLEN JAMESON • ARTWORK BY MATTHEW BISSETT-JOHNSON

**T**HE 22 roomed house is built of round timber, slabs and stringybark, and floored with split slabs. A big kitchen standing at one end is larger than most Warrandyte houses, the verandah included.

There used to be bush all round—bush with no horizon, but the country has been flattened. There is nothing to relieve the eyes save the darker green of a few she-oaks which are sighing above the river.

The drover, an ex-entrepreneur, is away with a live sheep consignment to the Middle East. His wife and children are left here alone.

Four over-dressed, dried up children are playing "Killer Thriller" computer games on the television and do not observe the snake as it makes its way into the family room. It finds a place amongst the rocks that decorate the 30 foot waterfall that is the feature of the room.

The gaunt, lamp-browned woman of the house comes in from the kitchen and sees the snake and assumes the children have yet another pet to look after. It isn't until some time later when she decides to confront the children about the new pet that she sees the compassion, kindness and earthy humour in the snake's eyes and her life with its materialistic dreams and hopes suddenly appear as pointless and



hopeless. Obsession with the pursuit of the material dream creates spiritual destitution; we are left to face death, ill-prepared for its journey.

The snake is coiled upon a large log that was once part of the forest that surrounded Warrandyte, when suddenly the eldest boy—a sharp-faced, excited future salesman—spots the snake and sools the family pet, an expensive big, black, yellow-eyed dog of all

breeds on to the snake. The dog knowingly leaves the family for the cedar-clad, canine condominium in the garden.

It is near sunset, a thunder-storm approaches and the family gather upon a table to get a better view of the snake. Motionless upon the tree trunk, it occasionally licks the atmosphere so as to know what the family are thinking. Their first thought is to kill,

for all they have learnt tells them that snake means death.

It is a standard response from a society out of touch with nature. But as the family sits there, in awe of the creature in front of them, thoughts of killing the snake depart. Compassion for every living thing fills their souls and their consciousness seems to soar to new heights. They look around their environment and see it for

what it really is for the first time: An appalling collection of stone and wood mechanically collected and stacked together.

Midnight and the thunder-storm finally hits and blows the television out. Winds coming through the expensive french windows threaten the candles they have lit to make a shrine to the snake. But a calm has enveloped the room; time seems suspended.

The family is lost in cosmic wonderment of a powerful creature.

The wife is not a coward, but recent events have shattered her nerves. A son of her brother-in-law has been ruined on the stock exchange and died in mysterious circumstances. Besides, she has not heard from her husband for six months. He was a drover, and started entrepreuneuring when they married. The drought ruined him. He had to sacrifice the factory and go droving again. He intends to move the family to the best part of Warrandyte when he returns. In the meantime the wife has a couple of credit cards for provisions.

Near two o'clock and the snake lies there, emanating wisdom, knowledge and power. The wife, lost in thought, looks deep into the circle of life, with its revolving wheel of birth, aging, sickness and death. Her life is tossed hither and thither by 'karma', that implacable law of cause and affect which dictates that what we have sown, so shall we reap.

It is near daylight, the family has travelled to the philosophical far end of the bush and back again. The reality of other dimensions is now apparent. The wife and children, wielding large green sapling clubs, begin to break the backbone of the 22 roomed mock Tudor mansion. (With apologies to the ghost of Henry Lawson.)

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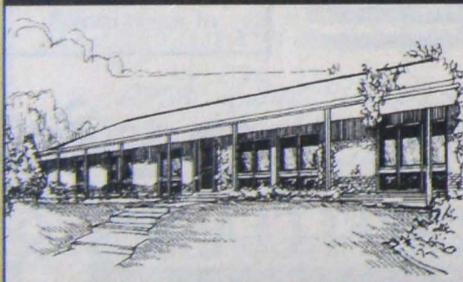
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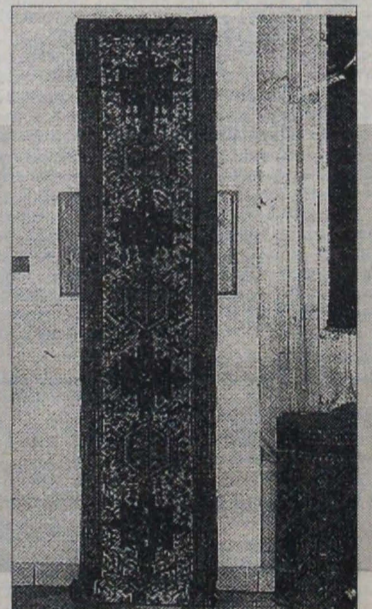
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# Warrandyte Wattle Day 1995



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# 'Pay day' for the baby Bloods

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Junior Football Club's 1995 awards were presented before a packed house at the recreation ground pavilion late last month.

And the loudest, longest applause was for the Under-10s—the "Rampaging Baby Bloods" who barnstormed the competition to go through the season undefeated.

First-year player Daniel Rush was judged best and fairest of a very, very good Under-10 lot, ahead of Tom Naughtin and Ben Finocchiaro. Rush was also leading goalkicker, with 34 for the season.

The name Finocchiaro also figured prominently in the Under-14 awards, Ben's older brother Matthew taking the best and fairest and goalkicking honours (32).

Andrew Brown won the Under-16s best and fairest from Daniel Bullen and Adam Burbidge, who tied for second. Justin Edwards was third and shared the goalkicking honours with Lucas Dyring, on 20.

The Gary "Madge" Allsop Award for best clubperson went to committeeman Phillip Meade.

Trophy winners:

Under-16: Best and fairest: Andrew Brown 1, Daniel Bullen, Adam Burbidge equal 2, Justin Edwards 3. Most improved: Peter Saaksjarvi. Most consistent: Lucas Dyring. Coach's award: Brian Morrison.



They look harmless enough, but don't let the angelic countenances fool you. These kids are killers—and every team they met in the Under-10 football competition this season will vouch for that. They're the Rampaging Baby Bloods, undefeated in their 17 games. There are some interesting nicknames among them. Daniel Rush is "The General", Tom Naughtin "Tommy Terrific", Ben Finocchiaro "Toughguy Finna" and Rick Bourke "Tricky Ricky" (what else?). Second from left in front is Ben Sheedy, son of Essendon coach Kevin.

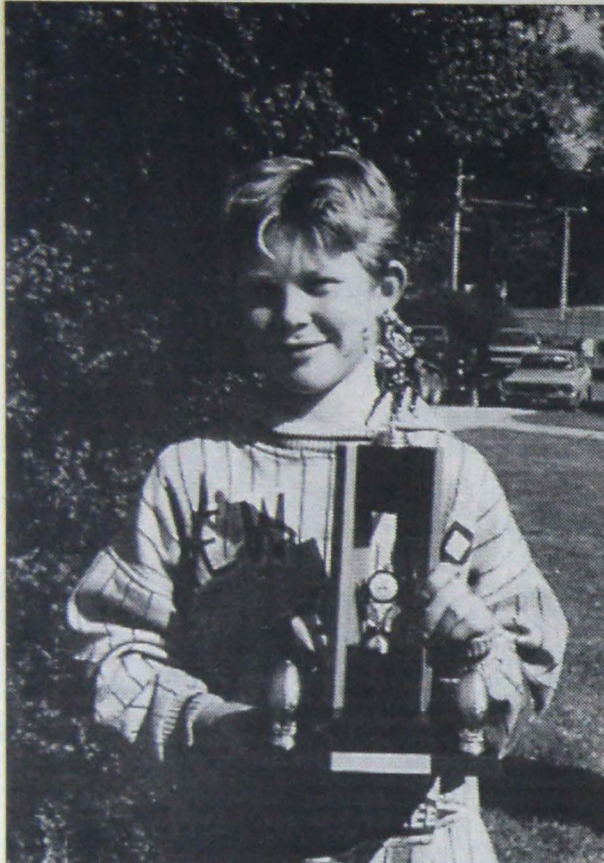
Under-14: Best and fairest: Matthew Finocchiaro 1, Aidan Davey 2, Luke Naughtin 3. Most improved: Ben Taylor. Most consistent: Rick Templeton. Coach's award: James Brougham.

Under-12: Best and fairest: Peter Dickson 1, Joel MacDonald, Lucas Barnes equal 2, Ben Weaven 3. Most

improved: David Johnson. Most consistent Steve Parke. Coach's award: Simon Guerin. Training award: Blake Tobin.

Under-10s: Daniel Rush 1, Tom Naughtin 2, Ben Finocchiaro 3. Most improved: Hayden Wall, Rick Bourke. Most consistent: Michael Morello. Coach's award: Rene Pidgeon. Training award: John Burgoyne.

Leading goalkickers: Under-16: Lucas Dyring, Justin Edwards 20, Andrew Brown, Scott Taylor 11. Under-14: Matthew Finocchiaro 32, Andrew Hollyoak 18, Rick Templeton 14. Under-12: Peter Dickson 27, Ryan Parry 18, Lucas Barnes 12. Under-10: Daniel Rush 34, Michael Morello 20, Hayden Wall 14, Daniel Mirabella 11.



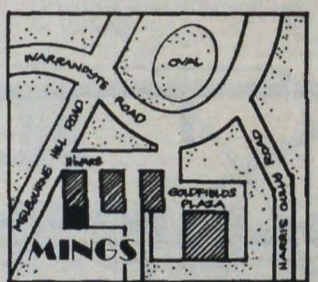
Under-10s best and fairest winner Daniel Rush.

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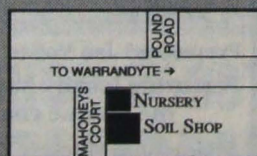
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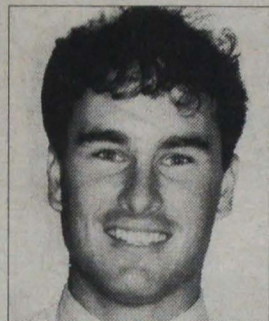
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# Another quinella, but this time a dead-heat



Darren Peters

By LEE TINDALE

There was more than a touch of de jévu about Warrandyte Football Club's 1995 vote count last month. The principal players had been there before. Twelve months ago to the very night. Darren Peters, 1993 premierships coach, and John O'Brien, 1995 captain, dead-heated for the best and fairest award. Last year, they also "ran the quinella", Peters first, O'Brien, the 1990

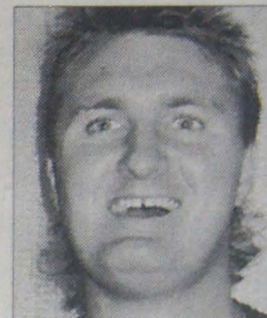
## SPORT



winner, second. In a change of format, votes were counted this time in random order, which heightened the excitement—and there was plenty of that. Followers Peters and O'Brien each polled 27 votes, with wingman Cam Day just one away in third place.

Glenn McCartin was fourth, with 23, Steve Carroll (another dual winner of the award) fifth on 20 and Matt Grybas sixth on 19. Best of the Bloods recruits were Mack Clarkson and Brendan Smith, with 15 and 14 votes respectively. The Reserves count was another cliff-hanger, Dale McCartin polling 14 votes to score by one from Terry Ryan. The unlucky player was Leigh Haboldt, who finished third on 12 after

missing the last six games of the season. Adam Murray was best of the Under-18s, polling 37 votes to score by 12 from Mark Luttick. Ray Bellinger, an outstanding prospect who played the last four games in the seniors, was third, on 21. The club's presentation night is at Weller's Restaurant, Kangaroo Ground, on Saturday, September 23. Tickets, at \$28, are available from Tom or Melissa Kerkhof (9844 3970).



John O'Brien

## Redback kids playing for finals glory

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Basketball Club juniors are in the grip of finals fever as their championship and domestic seasons come to a close.

In the Friday night championship competition, two boys' sides have progressed to the grand finals, after five teams had made their way into the semi-finals series on September 1 and 2.

Gavin Whitmore is coach of both the grand final teams, including the under 20B boys who beat Doncaster for the first time this season, 61-48, in the elimination final.

They jumped clear early to lead 29-12 at half-time, Adam Borwick topscoring with 14 points.

In the preliminary final the following night, Jamie Mackintosh blitzed with 19 as the boys ended premierships favourite Blackburn's season 47-34 in an exceptional game.

Whitmore's other finalists are the 12B boys, who beat Dandenong 50-34 in the first final. In the preliminary final they knocked over Bayside 43-35 in a tight one.

Joel Macdonald was the stand-out player with 18, while Blake Tobin shot 11.

Damian Arsenis coached the 16EQ team to a 41-32 win over Vermont in their elimination final.

Callum Anderson scorched the net for 19 but the team's success was short-lived as they lost the following night to Doncaster 40-46.

Warrandyte led until the last six minutes, riding on the back of Luke Ostrowski's 26 points.

Of the other finalists, Whitmore's 16B boys lost to Vermont 35-39, despite the good form of Ben Walsham and Luke Twomey.

While they trailed most of the night the boys had a late chance to send the game into overtime. It didn't come off and their season was over.

The 18B boys of Clinton Grybas lost to Boorondara 39-54. They led 19-12 just before half-time, but a 10-0 run bracketing the break set up Boorondara's win.

Bradley Giampietro led Warrandyte, who trailed by just three with four minutes left, with 11 points.

The championship girls finished their season last month with the 14B girls of Diane Godwin losing the grand final to Mill Park.

Kay Wotherspoon led the Redbacks with 14 and the Most Valuable Player award but the team went down in the closing minutes.

The Saturday EDJBA season also has its finals this month. The grand finals are on Saturday, September 16 and the club hopes to have many teams involved. Thirty-seven of the Redbacks' 51 teams made their way into the final four.

But there will be no rest for 12 teams even when their season is over. On the weekend of September 23-24 the club will make its annual trek north for the Albury tournament.

It is the 10th year that Warrandyte has been involved.

## Dytes shine by night

Three Warrandyte teams were successful in the finals of the Lilydale and District Night Tennis competition held last month. The Tuesday night men's Section 7 team—The Diggers—and the Wednesday night mixed teams—Section 1 (The Dytes)

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club will approach the 1996 season in good shape to improve dramatically on a disappointing 1995 in EDFL Second Division.

For the first time in several years, the Bloods have finished a season "in the black" financially and will target over summer the type of recruits needed to lift the club's on-field performances.

Recruiting emphasis will be on tall, key position players, an area in which Warrandyte struggled this year.

"We lacked tall key men," club president Lex Munro told the *Diary* after the Bloods had finished the season eighth of 10 with seven wins from their 18 games.

Warrandyte had lost by 64 points to Bayswater in their final match but were already well clear of the relegation zone.

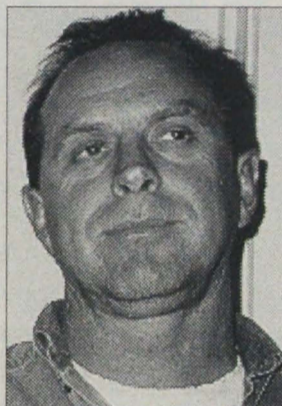
"You can get away with lack of height against the middle and lower-order clubs, but you're found wanting against the top clubs, the wealthier clubs who can afford to recruit hand-picked players.

"Off the field it was a very successful season and for the first time in quite a few years we are in the black. That might allow us to go out and chase the type of players we lacked this year."

Munro is keen to lead Warrandyte for at least another season. "I'll be standing for president

and Section 4 (Who) brought home flags.

The women's Grade 5 Pennant team, who finished on top of the ladder in their section, have won the first three matches in the grade finals series, taking them to the semi-finals.



Lex Munro

again at the annual general meeting and Tom Kerkhof is available again as treasurer," he said. "Secretary Rod Valentine will not be seeking another term, but we already have a candidate for that position."

Munro said senior coach David Dickson was "thinking over" his future. "We'd very much like to have David back," he said, "and he'll be making a decision in a



David Dickson

week or two. "Obviously, our on-field season was not as good as we had hoped for, but I was reasonably pleased with it.

"We had a few injuries early and the absence of key forwards Darren Murphy and Lachlan Mclean didn't help. But we managed to beat all but the top three sides.

"We have some very good jun-

iors coming through and I think we can improve a lot next season."

He warned, however, that the competition could be complicated next year by the possible entry of powerful southern league club Noble Park.

"They have won a string of premierships in that competition," he said, "and they may be playing in EDFL Second Division next season.

"They could be stronger than Donvale (who went through their first EDFL season undefeated in 1992 and beat Warrandyte in the Third Division grand final)."

Munro thanked all Warrandyte's sponsors—particularly the Grand Hotel, Wilson-McDougall, Easyprint, Eastland Suzuki, Australian Autotint and Peter McKenzie Caravans—and all volunteers who had contributed towards the running of the club in 1995.

The Bloods' annual general meeting will be at the clubrooms on Wednesday, October 4, and nominations are being sought for vacant positions on the committee.

## Now for the big league

Age has caught up with "veteran" Warrandyte runner Emma Tice. At 15, she has run her last race as a Little Athlete. Emma will be too old for this level of competition when the new season opens on October 7—but she bowed out in style at last month's VLAA State Cross-country Championships at Keilor.

One of three Warrandyte runners representing Ringwood Little Athletics Centre and the Eastern Metropolitan region, she finished a creditable 12th in a field of 30 in her under-15 3000-metre event and with two other RLAC competitors won the team's silver medal.

In their 1500-metre events, Warrandyte brother-sister Richard and Rosalyn Moore finished 20th (of 87) and 36th (of 71) respectively.

Maroondah Little Athletics Club will hold an information and registration morning outside the North Ringwood Tuckerbag supermarket on

Saturday, September 9, from nine to noon.

Prospective young athletes in the under-7 to under-15 age groups are invited to register for the new track and field season. Events include sprints, hurdles, middle-distance running, long jump, high jump, discus and shot put. Coaching is available.

Registrations can also be made at Proclamation Park, Ringwood, on Saturday, September 16, from 9-10am, on Saturday, September 23, from 9-11am, or on any Saturday morning during the season, which runs from October to March.

Everyone is welcome. Little Athletics rewards competitors for personal bests, catering for kids looking for fun and fitness as well as those seeking serious competition.

For further information: Diana Lawrie (9876 4858) or Marilyn Moore (9844 1072).

## A SPORTING CHANCE

By MAL BROWN



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