

The shape we're in

By DAVID WYMAN

Manningham City Council commissioners have formally adopted a four-ward electoral structure for the municipality, ready for democratic councillor elections in March 1997.

Only two councillors will represent each ward, making a total of eight for Manningham.

Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park are in a large eastern ward with slightly changed western boundaries from the original boundaries proposed in council's options paper produced in April.

The eastern ward, now known as Ward 4, is bounded in the west by Andersons Creek, Blackburn and Mitcham Roads. It appears to contain less of Donvale in the south-west and more of Doncaster East in the west.

The alteration to the western boundary followed a joint meeting of the commissioners and the Wonga Park advisory groups at which the feeling was expressed that using Mullum Mullum Creek as a substantial part of the boundary may not give the best result in terms of communities of interest.

Council will now recommend its adopted electoral structure (four wards, two councillors representing each ward) to the Minister for Local Government and Planning for approval.

Concerns have been expressed by Warrandyte residents that two councillors for Ward 4 will not be able to handle the diverse issues in such a large area.

Council's process of adopting an electoral structure has met with little, if any, local interest. A council-organised meeting to explain the electoral options to the Warrandyte public on April 29 was abandoned when only one resident turned up late.

The Doncaster and Templestowe Historical Society will be

CLYDE & OCKER

"Somebody must have pinched the *Diary's* picture files, Ock—Phil Honeywood's not on Page 1!"

asked to suggest names for the wards, and the community will be invited to express its views.

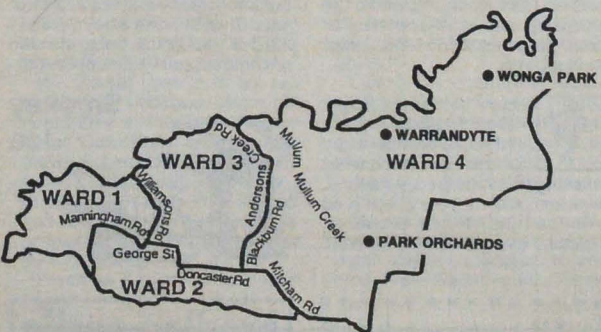
The commissioners of Manningham have decided that council elections will be held every three years and have stated that they prefer a full postal voting arrangement for the 1997 elections.

Meanwhile, Norma McCausland was sworn in as a commissioner at a special council meeting earlier this month. She has been appointed by the State Government after the resignation in June of Danny Kong.

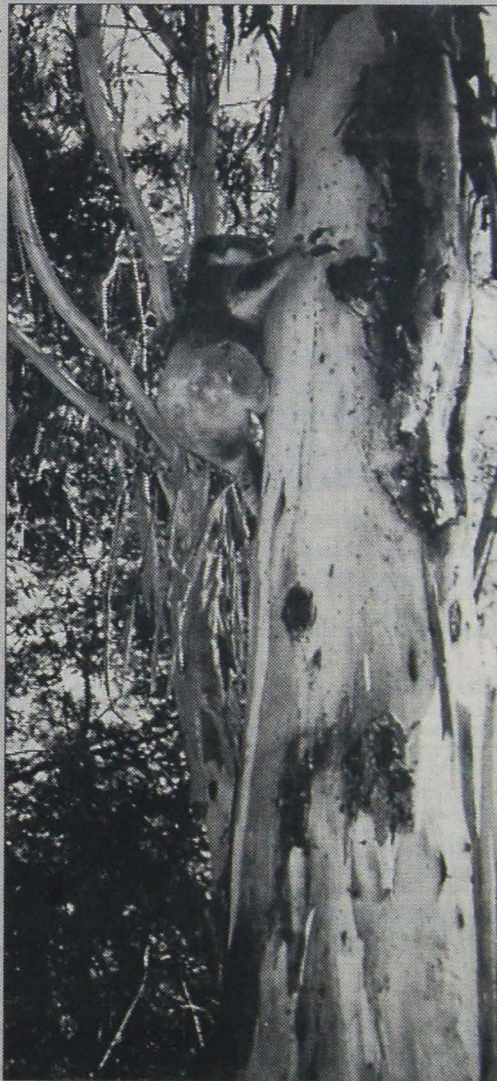
Chairman of Commissioners, Adam Kempton, said Mrs McCausland brings experience from local government and business.

"As a former councillor and mayor of the City of Berwick, Mrs McCausland can identify with the issues faced by local government and how a local council must respond to its community," he said.

"Her background in business will assist in our reform processes which are changing the culture of council which is business-orientated, customer-focused and more accountable to the community."



Above: Mother Koala, with joey attached, gives Pound Bend the once-over as she leaves the box after the trip from Healesville. Below: Up there, dears! Kevin Mason lends a helping hand, but mum was having none of this tree. Below right: Ah yes, that's her kind of swamp gum. Mission accomplished. (Pictures by Jan Tindale)



Mum and joey both very well and looking down on the world again

An unidentified samaritan gave a koala and her joey a second chance at life last month. And mum and baby now sit in a gum tree at Pound Bend undoubtedly still bemused by the events that put them there.

The pair were picked up from the roadside somewhere in Warrandyte after being hit by a car. They were taken to a 24-hour veterinary centre in Wantirna, which held them overnight and sent them to the Healesville Sanctuary.

Mother Marsupial was badly bruised in the hip area and could barely walk. Her joey, six to seven months old, was in much better shape. The sanctuary cared for their new guests for 10 days, until mum was deemed well enough to be returned to the wild—an operation not quite as simple as merely opening a box and standing back. Mum didn't care for the first swamp gum chosen by sanctuary worker Kevin Mason, who delivered her to Pound Bend on June 20, and slid back to the ground, joey clinging to her precariously. The second choice was much more to her liking and, with a little more friendly persuasion, up she went.

The exercise was closely observed by a spellbound English tourist couple who had gone to The Bend in the hope of seeing a koala—any koala high in a tree would have done—and went away marvelling at their good fortune.

The koalas' progress in their new environment is being monitored by State Park ranger Steve Anderson.

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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Innocent dog linked to ostrich outrage

There's nothing like a grisly ostrich head to set an already friendly relationship between near neighbours in concrete, is there? Don't ask us—ask Ziggy Link (who surely has one of the most interesting names in the whole of Warrandyte) and Andrew Wilson. Ziggy, a been-here-forever bobcat driver, runs a few head of sheep and a couple of ostriches on his plot at South Warrandyte. Andrew, the biggest man in real estate in this town in at least one respect, lives a few lots away. Ziggy phoned the other night and suggested that Andrew's dog might be in the habit of spooking, if not terrifying, his sheep, to which Andrew replied nonsense, his dog was as gentle as a lamb (which was probably an involuntary pun) and you are barking (oh dear) up the wrong tree here, pal. Ziggy was back on the eau de a couple of days later. Look, he said, one of my ostriches has just been brutally put to death by a wild beast (or words to that effect) and I'm blaming your bloody dog. Preposterous, said Andrew, I can guarantee that my dog has not left this property today and at this moment is sleeping very soundly out on the back porch. Hmmph! said Ziggy and hung up. A very indignant Andrew walked out on to the porch to wonder how anyone could accuse this dog of such a dastardly deed and there was the mutt, asleep all right — with the head of an ostrich beside his nose! Oh gawd. Andrew kicked the head (of the ostrich, not the dog) under the BMW (which could probably be interpreted as an attempt to conceal damning evidence) and spent some time calculating how much commission on the buying and selling of real estate would equal the replacement value of a working ostrich. Andrew Wilson was a very worried man. We don't know exactly when Ziggy let him off the hook by confessing that the head was that of an ostrich which had died of natural causes that day. Neither do we know how Ziggy managed to dump it under the nose of Andrew's dog without being sprung. But both blokes are telling the story around town and getting a helluva lot of laughs.

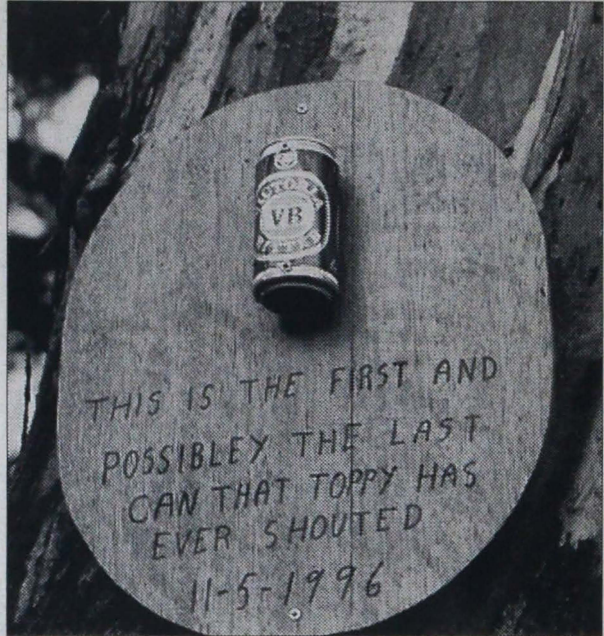
We have no idea what was going through the mind of the girl from the deli at Harry Heath's (oops, Jewel's) when she wandered across to the bread shop opposite, took a can of Coke from the glass-doored fridge, took it back to Harry's (oops, Jewel's) and tried to pay for it at the check-out there. Maybe she's in love. Yes, that would be nice.

The name Topshelf (should that be two words, we wonder?) is legendary in its own time at Warrandyte footy club. And it has been perpetuated for at least as long as the rough-hewn plaque dedicated to the recently (and prematurely) retired Reserves campaigner remains nailed to a tree over in Bay 13.

IN RED & WHITE



Pictured below is the memorial plaque above the sacred site over Bay 13.



The inscription is poignantly simple and if it doesn't bring at least the suggestion of a tear to your eye, then you are a callous, cold-blooded person indeed. It reads: "This is the first and possibly the last can Topy has ever shouted. 11-5-96." The event which prompted this emotion-charged mark of respect was Topshelf's purchase of a lone can (for a lady friend) at the game that day and his steadfast refusal to shout for the rest of the bay. Which was a pretty ordinary and frugal performance by a bloke who an hour earlier had won \$1200 on the Grand Hotel pokies. Topshelf's excuse to your columnist was that he had already shouted loud and long at the pub. He also pointed out that there is no "e" in "possibly".

first pointing the finger at cartoonist Jock, who illustrates the monthly work and was at that time playing golf in Scotland, then switching the attack to sub-editor Clinton (Socks) Grybas. With deadline bearing down apace, Roger sat down and whipped up a thoroughly entertaining substitute piece (Whose fault is it? Jock's or Socks'?) and the presses rolled. Rejoice, readers, for that which was lost is found. Roger dropped the errant column, which appears in this issue, into the *Diary* office in an envelope marked: "Shame. Embarrassment. Found wandering near the phone in my office. Jock obviously teleported it from Scotland!" Well, at least that lets Socks off the hook.

"You're looking very smart tonight," said Sandra Grybas when "Heavy" Harry Southall dropped in on Saturday, June 9, to see her hubby, Harry's mate Vic. "You must be going out." "Yes," said HH, "we're going to Jo Pearson's 40th birthday party. Weren't you invited?" "Well, yes," Sandra replied, "but we're going next Saturday night." HH made a quick phone call to wife Jenny to ask if the make-up she was applying at that very moment would last seven days.

Hark! Do you hear the sound of native drums? Is someone getting restless? Yes, and no. What you may have heard coming from the Mechanics Institute Hall on the odd Sunday evening is indeed the sound of African drums—but all in the interest of culture. The Warrandyte Arts Association has recruited an expert by the name of Chris Lesser to teach his art of African drumming. Classes are every second Sunday (counting back to June 9) and it's \$10 a lesson. Give Yvonne a call on 9844 2387 if you fancy being the life of the next party. Boom boom!

Diary columnist Roger Kibell's legion of fans will recall that his copy for the June issue went missing (disappeared, vanished, was lost, stolen, your guess is as good as ours). Roger, of course, blamed everyone but himself,

Smokey Joe



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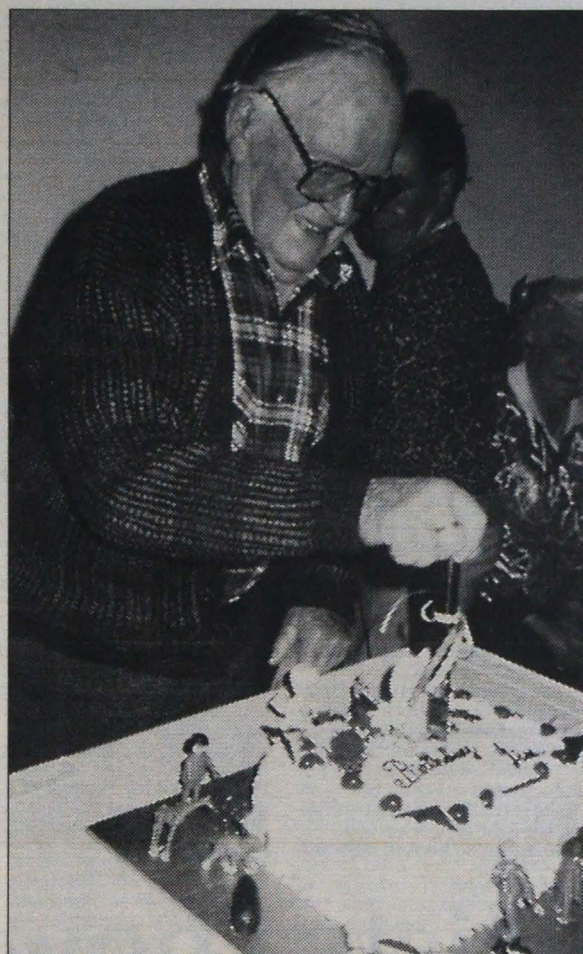
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A grand old time for a grand old man



Jim Horkings cuts the cake at his 90th birthday party.

ALL of Warrandyte knew it was Jim Horkings' 90th birthday on June 18. The banner on the community centre saw to that. But only a relative handful of people (and Jim wasn't among them) knew about the party that was in store for him.

The surprise party at the Webb Street home of his son Robin a few days later was just that—a surprise.

More than 50 of his family and closest friends, from as far afield as Queensland and New South Wales, had assembled to give a grand old man a grand old time.

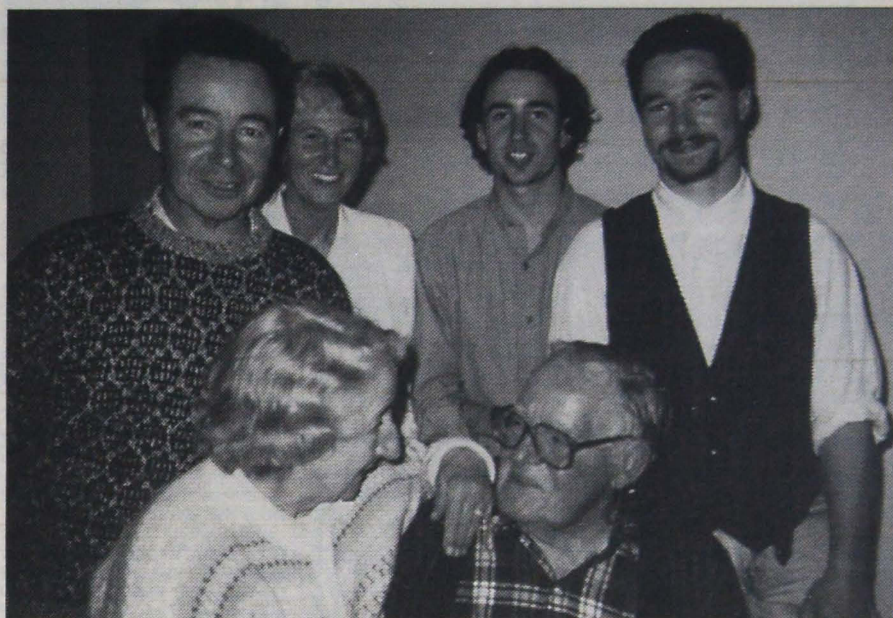
It didn't seem three-and-a-bit years since Jim and his beloved Marnie had celebrated their diamond wedding. It was, but neither looked a day older.

The Horkings are a much-loved couple in this village. They moved here with their two children in 1953, Jim having spent two-and-a-half years building at weekends their Mitchell Avenue home. Jim and Marnie still live there.

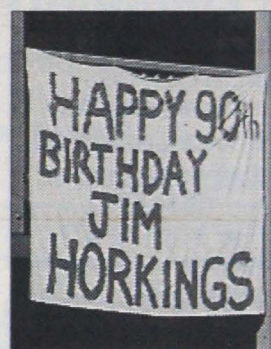
A returned serviceman, Jim is probably best known in Warrandyte as "that nice gentleman" who sells Anzac Day and Legacy badges and Remembrance Day poppies outside the Cellars in Yarra Street.

He was one of the "originals" who built the Warrandyte RSL clubrooms—and that fact wasn't forgotten on his birthday.

He was taken to the clubrooms and presented with an inscribed Australian Army



Above: Marnie and Jim with son Robin, daughter-in-law Lainey and grandsons Jeffrey and Bruce. Right: Warrandyte's worst-kept secret.



plaque. Jim Horkings joined the Warrandyte Fire Brigade while he was building his home and was awarded life membership for more than 40 years of service.

Marnie, who is a mere 85, delivered Meals on Wheels since it started in Warrandyte until poor health forced her to retire a few years ago. She was also secretary of the Warran-

dyte branch of the Women's Hospital Auxilliary.

Of all the birthday greetings he received, none delighted Jim more than a phone call at his party from South Africa. It was from his sister, Erin.

The party, incidentally, ran a little later than had been anticipated. The invitations had said 2-5pm but, quite understandably, it went until nine.

Housing plans in limbo

Lack of a suitable backer to the tune of \$350,000 is now threatening the very existence of the Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Project committee.

But for the time being it is continuing to seek a way forward for a project which has an acknowledged need in the Warrandyte community but is going nowhere.

"What is particularly frustrating for the committee is that we are only one positive expression of support away from moving the whole project forward but we just cannot find the right support," chairman Syd Smale, said.

"Someone must take the necessary step in faith or we simply shut down the committee."

Mr Smale pointed to the change in situation since the committee was formed. The previous Doncaster and Templestowe Council set the stage for a successful project with a budget allocation of \$350,000 and \$25,000 was set aside for the preparation of a business plan by a consultant.

Partly as a result of its report

Retirement committee looks for \$350,000

in July 1995, the new Manningham commissioners set down a policy for the establishment of special aged accommodation facilities within the municipality.

It said, in part, "If there is a demonstrated need for special aged accommodation in a geographical area, if it can be shown that the construction and operation of this special aged accommodation facility be viable and if it can be shown that the project can be cost-neutral, then in principle, the council would be prepared to facilitate and give general support for the project".

Clearly the committee has answered the first two points. However, the project can only be cost-neutral if some group, organisation or developer is prepared to put up the sum of \$350,000.

"Although sites for the project are in limited supply, we do have some viable properties to consider," Mr Smale said. "These

properties quite understandably are being valued by owners at prices which recognise their potential for development. However, these prices can only be justified if there is a guarantee that a permit will be granted and a viable, funded development will take place.

"Simply put, if we cannot get these issues sorted out, we are not in a position to move," said Mr Smale.

"A zoning change, of course, requires the project to be developed to a point where a proposal can be put forward for comment by local residents and other concerned parties. This not only involves nominating a site, but expenditure of funds—which the committee does not have—on a fully defined proposal.

"If we have land and/or agreement to a zoning change, then we can obviously place the project before interested groups, which can either be commercial, church or even

community-based, for further consideration.

"The committee accepts that occupiers will be expected to pay commercial rates and, as a result, we are seeking guarantees, not gifts," Mr Smale pointed out.

What is well known and is still motivating the committee is that there really is a need for the retirement houses, a view reinforced by committee members Louise Joy and Margory Lapworth. They both point to people who constantly ask them about progress on the project.

"Right from the original survey conducted throughout Warrandyte, the people have been very supportive and have expectations that it will happen," they said. "Warrandyte people need to stay in the town when they retire and we should help."

Mr Smale readily acknowledges the committee is at the crossroads.

"We really need some external help to move to the next step. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who feels they can assist," he said.

If you can help, contact the secretary, Margory Lapworth, on 9844 2023.

Objectors told to 'go armed' with barrister

By LISA SANTAMARIA

West Warrandyte residents opposing the construction of a four-storey house in Flannery Court have been advised to get legal representation for their appeals tribunal hearing on August 5.

The five objecting residents from neighbouring Glamis Street met their first setback in their bid to stop the development when their initial complaints to Manningham council were overruled and a planning permit granted for the 12-metre high dwelling to go ahead.

The complaints relate to the size of the proposed structure and the negative effects it could have on the local environment and the privacy of residents on adjacent properties.

Soon after lodging an appeal with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal at the end of June the residents were told the applicant would be represented by a barrister at the hearing, and that it would be in their best interests to do the same.

They must now raise the money for legal representation or put themselves at a disadvantage at the hearing without it.

Glamis Street resident Bea Wyckmans told the Diary she was frustrated with the hearing process.

"It's a typical case of little people fighting a big development. We can't compete without legal representation," she said.

Mrs Wyckmans has estimated the residents would need around \$2500 for adequate legal services.

On behalf of the residents opposing the development she is appealing for financial help from groups or individuals who may be able to assist their cause.

Anyone who believes they can offer assistance to the residents should contact Mrs Wyckmans on 9844 4714.

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Bum's the word!

Warrandyte Theatre Company has sent the two male stars of its new production into the gutters and back alleys of Melbourne.

No, they haven't been "sacked" before debuting in their new roles, rather experiencing life on the streets first hand. The company is insisting on total realism for its new performance *Double Double* and the actors were told to "hit the streets".

The production features a homeless tramp who is plucked from the streets by elegant socialite Phillipa James. The tramp is accosted to play a vital role in a devious scheme involving double dealings, murder, a little romance and lots of laughter—all the ingredients for a classic "whodunit" that will keep audiences guessing right to the end.

As the play has only two cast members the company is staging double productions of it—each with its own director and cast—on alternate nights, starting Thursday, July 25. It will continue each Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons for three weeks.



What are Adrian Rice (left) and Trevor Hanna—two pillars of Warrandyte society—doing on skid row? Merely absorbing a bit of realism in the name of theatre.

Rehearsals for the two productions have been in secret, not only from the public but from each other, so they will be entirely different in interpretations. Only the script and set will be shared.

One production is directed by Brian Laurence and stars Yvonne Morey and Trevor Hanna. The other is directed by

Sam Marston and stars Caroline Shaw and Adrian Rice.

The company is hoping many people will see both productions and are offering the chance to see two nights for the price of one-and-a-half. Tickets are \$12 for one night or \$18 for two. Seating is in traditional theatre style with a light supper served. Seats can be booked individu-

ally or in groups by phoning 9844 2204. The company urges early bookings to ensure people can see the show in their preferred timeslot.

● Warrandyte Theatre Company's production of *Così* is going to the Waverley Festival of Art and has two parts—Zac and Nick—available for auditioning. Phone 9846 1191.

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Celebrated artists show their wares

By JULIE MURRAY

Prominent potter Janifer O'Neill was one of the featured artists at Warrandyte High School's annual art and craft exhibition last month.

Janifer, a member of Eastern Studio Potters and Stonehouse, ran the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement pottery for five years before returning to Melbourne to set up a home studio. Her grand display was functional work inspired by the Mallee landscape of deep tan and blues.

Other featured artists included Ron Muller, Maxwell Wilks and Walter Magilton. Marjorie Beecham's traditional and "looked for" garden setting corner was in full bloom with an array of natural and earthy garden pots and wares.

Crafts included fused and slumped glassware by Kathy and Ray Seeber, homemade paper by Reba Dare, gold and sil-

ver jewellery, handmade books and distinctive hand-decorated picture frames by Elizabeth and Mark Wilinski. Local potter Elsa Ardern was also exhibiting.

The show was opened by the school's art teacher Chris White. He admitted to being a realist painter at this time in his career but was open to creative abstract in many forms.

"A painting is neither good nor bad," he said. "But a piece of art should be good enough to evoke an emotional response."

The show was co-ordinated by Jan Keppie and the Art Show Committee. Joshua Carrol won the main raffle prize of a painting donated by Ron Muller. Sally Venables won pottery by Jan O'Neill and the Fitzgerald family won a Seebers glass platter.

The sponsors prize was won by VIP Lawn Mower Services.



These two young art/craft enthusiasts seem quite oblivious to their underdressed "companion" at the Warrandyte High School exhibition and sale.

RON C. DAY

NEW AT

THE SOIL SHOP

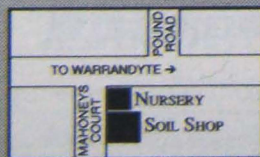
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Tennis club looks at courts 'squeeze'

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Warrandyte Tennis Club are investigating the possibility of squeezing two new courts around their clubhouse and carpark at Warrandyte Reserve in an effort to ease their court space shortage.

The club agreed with Warrandyte MP, Phil Honeywood, and Manningham council's Manager for Cultural and Leisure Services, Wendy Dunstan, at a recent meeting that to build the new courts at the former Whitehouse site would be unsuitable and too costly.

Instead they agreed to do a site inspection of their present set-up to see whether a reconfiguration of the current courts would help two new courts to be built there, keeping the club centrally located.

President Frank Waites told the meeting that some car parking would be eaten up by the development.

"But playing space is more important than car spaces. It is virtually flat land down there so the courts should fit comfortably," he said.

Wendy Dunstan said the \$120,000 originally budgeted for by council would be used to pay for the development.

"That would be enough to also cover lighting for the courts," Frank Waites said.

The site inspection will be done soon with a further meet-

...and basketball club told to be quick about it

ing planned for this month.

"We will get all the parties together on site," Wendy Dunstan said. "Then it will be advertised and go to tender. From that point you can expect between six to eight weeks before the turning over of dirt."

The news is not as immediately positive for Warrandyte Basketball Club, who were told at the same meeting to again put in a submission for funding through yet another council-commissioned report on the indoor sporting needs at this end of the municipality.

The club have not been helped by a high staff turnover in relation to the sporting facility needs position on council.

President Bruce Macdonald said that with each incoming staff member there was a loss of time and motion with the project.

Council's apparent reluctance towards the project stems from the lack of suitable council-owned land for a stadium in Warrandyte. The nearest available land is at Domeney and Stintons Reserves in Park Orchards.

Mr Honeywood told the club they should pursue the matter

quickly.

"The best chance the club might have of getting something in place is by getting things done sooner rather than later. Come March 1997 with the new council, Warrandyte will at best have two councillors supporting them versus the rest," he said.

Wendy Dunstan said the commissioners have identified that there is a need for a new stadium but more work is needed in obtaining a suitable location.

"The commissioners acknowledge the need but at the moment there is no money allocated for a stadium in the budget.

"A sport like basketball has the potential to pay for itself. Council wants to appoint a consultant to do further research to address the needs that are here," she said.

Andersons Creek Primary School have stepped in to provide a new option, however, offering land at their school for the stadium.

School council representative Jim Pasinis told the meeting the school would be interested in sharing a new stadium with the club.

"We are very keen. We have

land we can't use at the moment because of security reasons and we want to see better use for it. "Our school council is committed to using its resources fully, not for profit making."

The basketball club this year are paying more than \$22,000 to Warrandyte High School for the use of their one court and several thousand dollars for hire of four courts in Donvale and Park Orchards.

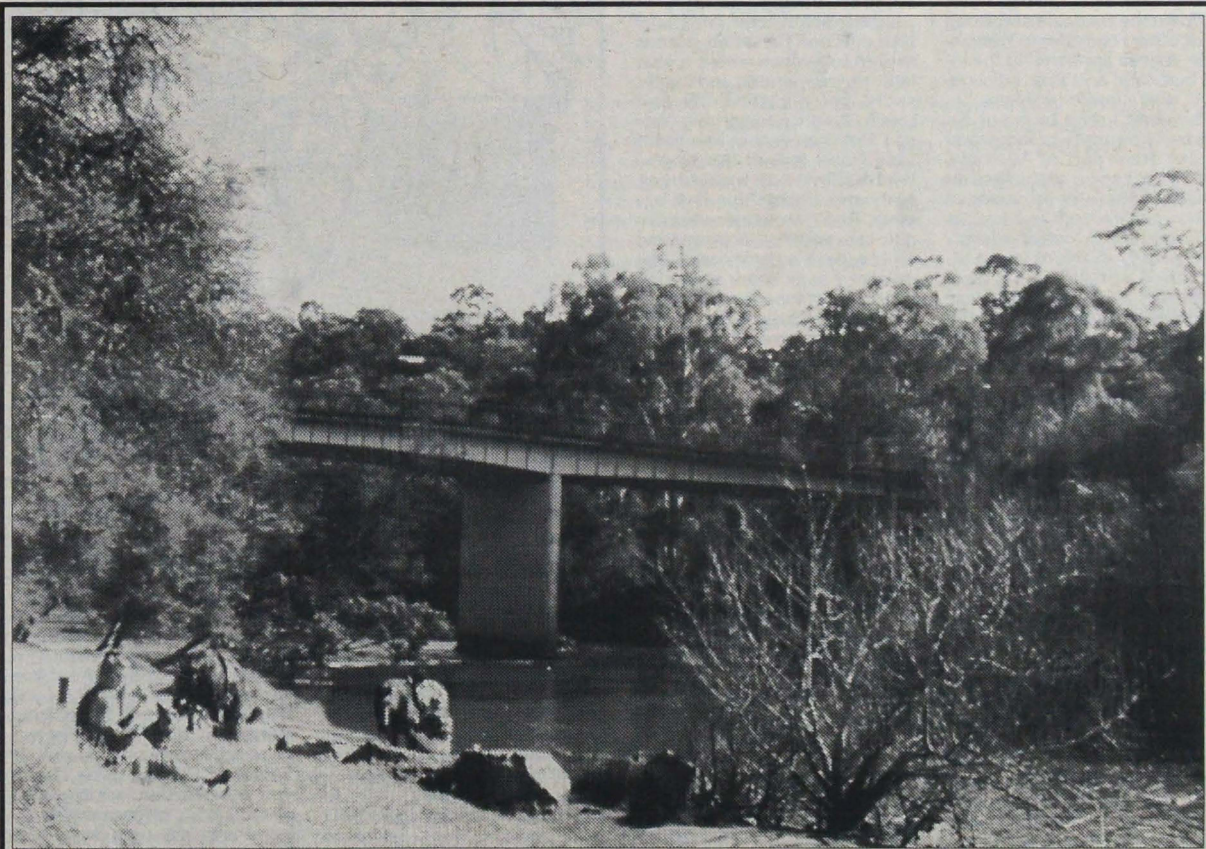
Mr Macdonald said the club would prefer to establish a home closer to the sporting precinct in town and have a venue they could have control over.

The club, investigating "a cocktail of funding" through various sources to pay for the project, are handing in an eight-page submission to council later this month.

Meanwhile, commissioner Adam Kempton has announced that Manningham council will foot the entire bill of \$550,000 for an upgrade of the athletics track at Rieschiecks Reserve in Doncaster.

The redevelopment will include resurfacing and line marking of the running track, improvements in drainage and minor landscaping works.

He said the redevelopment, starting in October and to be completed in January 1997, will assist local athletes vying for selection for the Sydney 2000 Olympics and also the Commonwealth Games.



Looking brand new...a paint job to take our bridge well into the next century. (Picture by Jan Tindale).

A brush-up for the bridge

By LISA SANTAMARIA

Warrandyte Bridge has received a rare new paint job designed to last it well into the next century. The works, funded by VicRoads for an undisclosed sum, were completed at the end of June.

When Nillumbik council requested the bridge have a new coat it was soon clear that it was not going to be a simple case of off with the old and on with the new.

Like most steel bridges of its generation (pre-1970s), the bridge was originally painted with primer and top coats containing high levels of lead, a substance now known to be poisonous to people and the environment.

Nillumbik's Infrastructure Development Manager, Geoff Glynn, said they were aware of the risks associated with the project.

"In the past abrasive blasting was required to remove all paint and rust back to bare metal. This is now prohibited due to the danger of releasing lead-based contaminants into the environment," he said.

In light of the risks and restrictions associated with the removal of lead-based paint, the contract was let to DPJ Coating Systems in Vermont, who used a new environmentally-sound alternative.

The new method involved the use of a unique water based, anti-corrosive, flexible membrane painting system imported from Belgium.

DPJ managing director Dennis Jones said a high pressure water spray was used to clean the bridge's exterior.

"With the Noxyde system we cleaned the surface to be coated with high-pressure water before applying two coats of Noxyde to encapsulate the surface with a non-toxic, durable and flexible membrane."

He said the coating works will protect the bridge well into the next century, ensuring the environmental dangers of the past don't effect the community in the future.

A Nillumbik spokesperson told the *Diary* the new paint job was paid for by VicRoads but would not disclose the cost of the project.

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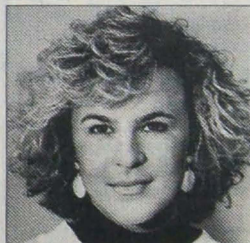
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Not 'cotton-easter' and not at all nice

SOON after coming to Australia from England, Mike and I struck up a friendship with another couple who had recently emigrated from Canada. Together we explored our new home with trips to the Dandenongs, Phillip Island and later to Wilsons Promontory and the Grampians.

To celebrate our first winter solstice in the Southern Hemisphere we cooked a turkey, decorations were put up around the house and gifts exchanged. The following year we both became parents for the first time and three years later we both had a second child. By then celebration of the winter solstice had become an established tradition—we called it 'Winter Christmas'.

One of the things I remember most about those occasions was driving up to the Dandenongs to search for holly in the hills. There was no shortage of the prickly-leaved English evergreen, but berries were hard to come by. Not that it really mattered because outside the kitchen window of our Ringwood weatherboard grew a tree which, during winter, was laden with bright red berries. These made a perfect substitute for the missing holly berries. I never knew the name of the tree but when we moved to Warrandyte there it was again in our new garden. It was also growing all down the roadside and along most other roadsides in Warrandyte, it even appeared in the local bushland and that, I discovered, was a major problem.

The plant I refer to is not native to Warrandyte or Ringwood or any other part of Australia, but is an exotic introduction called Cotoneaster pronounced 'cot-own-nee-aster' and not, as you might think, 'cotton-easter'. The plant, more of a multi-stemmed shrub than a tree, originates from China and was probably introduced as a garden ornamental. It belongs to the

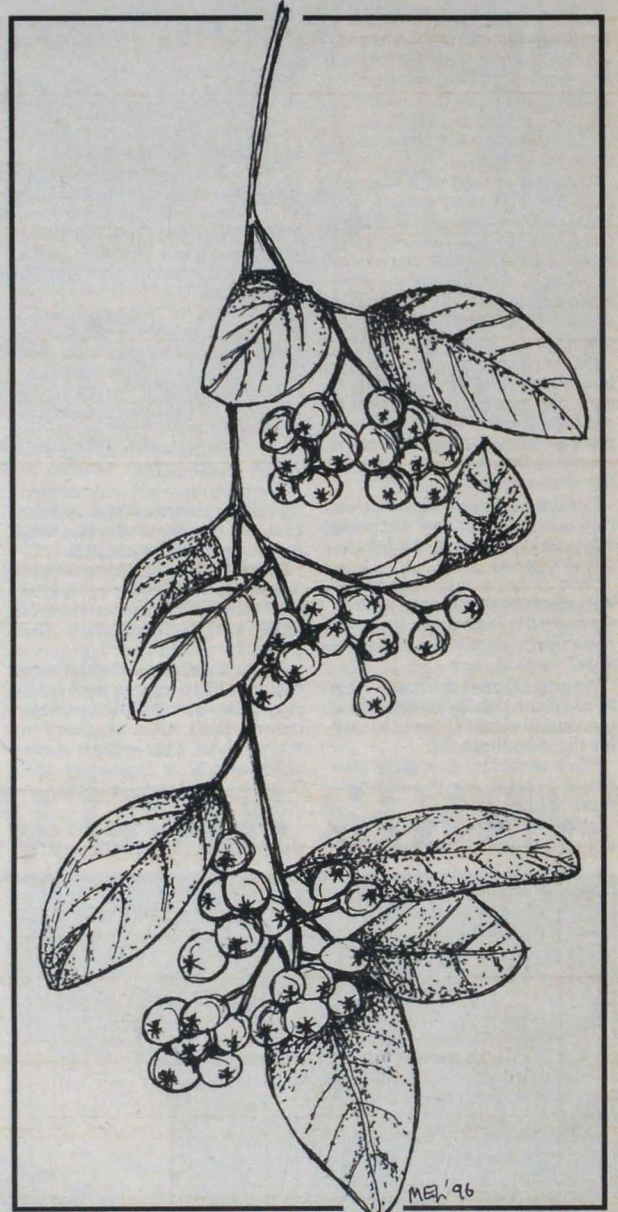
NATURE
 By PAT COUPAR
 Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

same family as roses—hence its rose hip-like scarlet berries.

Birds are particularly attracted to the red berries and, by eating the fleshy fruit and depositing undigested seed in their droppings, perform the most efficient seed dispersal service that any plant could wish for. One of the main seed couriers is the blackbird, itself an introduction from overseas. But native birds, like the crimson rosella, also relish the fruit which is abundant at a time when little else is available.

Cotoneaster is one of those plants that would be familiar to most people living in Warrandyte. But few would know its name or where it comes from or be aware of its highly invasive nature. Two rather similar species occur here. Both are extremely hardy and quick growing. For most of the year they appear innocuous, their oval dark green leaves blending harmoniously with the native vegetation. Only in autumn, when their small white flowers give way to bough-bending bunches of plump red berries, do they become a potential health hazard to the bush.

Shortly before their third baby was due our Canadian friends moved to Sydney, about a year later they separated and finally, sadly, got divorced. We lost touch. It was a long, long time ago. But each year at about this time I find myself thinking of Winter Christmas, roast turkey, holly and friendships that are gone. Red Cotoneaster berries now cause confusion in my mind as the past mingles with the present I must think about the future. A time when Warrandyte's precious bushland is free of this aggressive interloper.



No joy in funding cuts

By DAVID WYMAN
 Cuts in the Federal Government's funding of the SkillShare project have been severely criticised by local community workers.

The SkillShare project generates the JobSkills program which has been very successful in the Warrandyte Community Centre.

"JobSkills has been very important for all of our voluntary organisations and I am very disappointed that funding has been cut," said Margory Lapworth, co-ordinator of Neighbourhood House. "We've been able to have a permanent person on the telephone all day instead of relying on volunteers turning up."

"It gives a chance for people who are unemployed, no matter what age group, to get six months of work experience, and



Louise Joy

to regain self-esteem by getting back into the workforce.

"We have had six or seven people in JobSkills and all of them have gone out and found jobs."

In our own small way, we have helped these people get their self-esteem back using JobSkills.

"We have two younger ones here at the moment who are on the second half of their program and we will be attempting to find them jobs over the next three months."

The Minister for Employment, Senator Vanstone, announced a 20 percent cut in SkillShare funding on June 19 and pointed out that funding after September would depend on the Budget.

Louise Joy, a local welfare worker and former councillor, said that JobSkills had also worked well in the Community Centre office, Warrandyte Youth Services and Information Warrandyte. "It has been a success story and I am very disappointed to see it depreciating," she said.

LETTERS

Thanks

Jack Barr and family, Fiona, Robert, Jonathon and Lindsay and their spouses, together with Pat's sisters Edith and Betty, offer their heartfelt thanks to the many friends who supported Pat throughout her illness. Especially Dr Gail Dixon and her staff, Sister June Wilson of the Royal District Nursing Society and Maxine of Banksia Palliative Care. Thank you also to the hundreds of people who attended the funeral service, sent cards and floral tributes or phoned us with support. Thank you once again.

Jack and Fiona, Robert, Jonathon, Lindsay Barr and their spouses, and Edith and Betty

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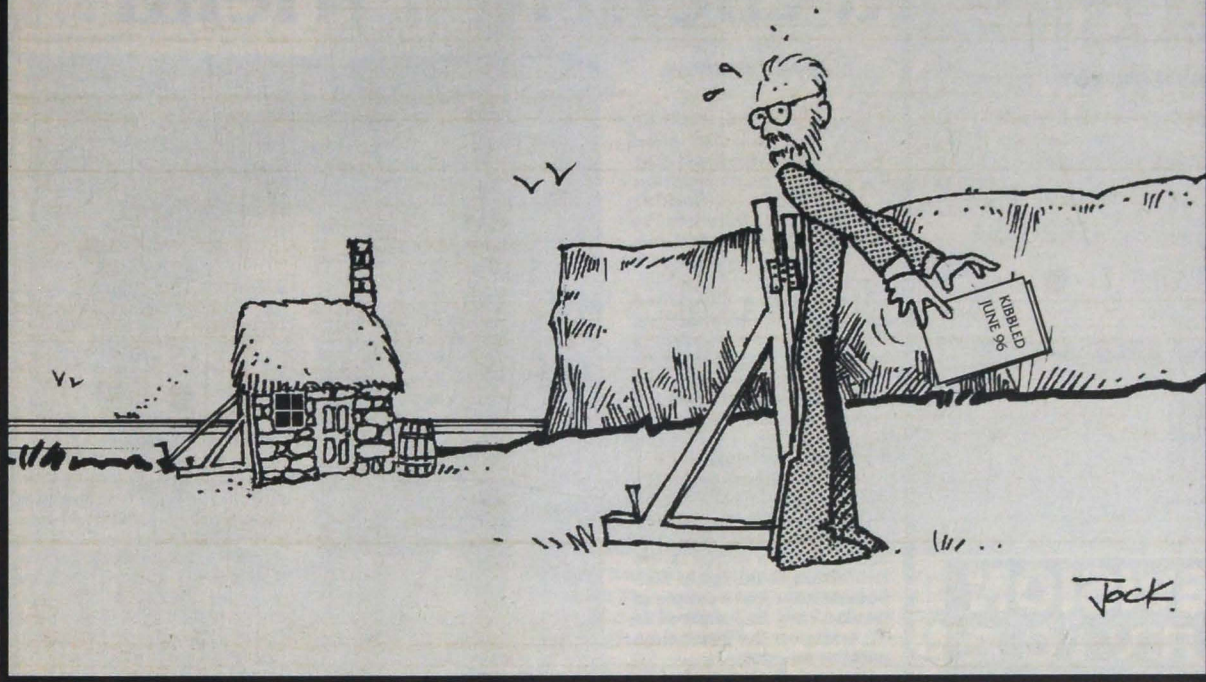
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The fibre-glass fabric of life

WHAT'S the difference between a museum full of stuff and the stuff under the house, in our top cupboard or in Dad's old army trunk that we use instead of an Ikea coffee table?

I wondered about this when I went for a walk across our relatives' farm the other day.

Now you're probably feeling a bit confused at this stage and you're probably wondering whether I've finally lost my marbles, but bear with me a little longer.

You see the rels have a farm that borders the sea (Bass Strait, actually) and they have several kilometres of rugged, picturesque coastline. So picturesque, in fact, that parts of it have been used by film directors for scenes of the Anzacs landing and for a quaint film set in an Irish fishing village. Why a Canadian director would want to come to Australia to film a story set in Ireland is beyond me, but let that pass.

I was wandering across the farm when I came across the remains of an Irish crofter's cottage. The film crew had used the local quarry stones and had constructed a convincing dwelling complete with kitchen, garden, thatched roof, chimney and a window that looked across the sweep of a bay to the ruins of a similarly authentic chapel on the top of the far cliff.

All was well until I circled the cottage and reality intruded. Behind the stone wall that faced

KIBBLER

"I knew it was not a pilgrimage Herself should make. But it made me wonder."

the sea, and obviously the camera, was the sort of thing I like to keep hidden from Herself.

Herself had a deprived childhood. While the rest of us went to the Saturday afternoon flicks to watch the type of D-grade serials they now hold film festivals for at the Valhalla, Herself was at home reading. She never saw the plane crash, only to be saved by some cutting room floor inserts the following week. She

never learnt that what you see is not necessarily what is real, that the shimmering sea behind the two lovers was nothing more than back projection, or that the authenticity of the film set in Rome was no more accurate than the wind-up Swiss watch on the wrist of the third Centurion from the left.

Herself was shattered to discover, late in life, that films are rarely made chronologically, that they make scenes with similar settings or characters at one time and then rearrange them into the desired order much later in the process.

So when I rounded the cottage and saw the chicken wire and fibre-glass that made up most of it, I knew it was not a pilgrimage Herself should make. But it did make me wonder.

I had just passed an Aboriginal campsite, a midden, on my walk along the beach. It had been covered over years ago but was exposed on the cliff face. Anthropologists from universities have formulated theories and lifestyles based on this and similar middens. What will they make in centuries to come of the Irish crofter's cottage made of rock, thatch and fibre-glass?

Perhaps it will fuel speculation about the earliest inhabitants of Australia: that we were Celts who drifted across to Oz on the Roaring Forties; or we were first colonised by aliens who camouflaged their advanced technology with rocks to protect us from panic.

Which, strangely enough, led me to wonder about the difference between "good stuff" and just "stuff".

So, the stuff in the Warrandyte Historical Society's old post office is good because it reflects a time and place—it captures a moment in time, it indicates a way of life we may not want to live but certainly find intriguing. So where does that leave the Lions' Op Shop or the sink full of dishes in Gorgeous Creature's flat?

Obviously there's a distinction somewhere, a distinction that eludes me. It's like graffiti: when is it vandalism, when is it art and when is it historically significant? If Churchill had carved his name in his school desk today he'd be sent to the student counsellor and his parents made to pay for the restoration of the desk. In England, devotees treat his delinquency like the Turin Shroud.

I suppose it's just perceptions—like when Boy Wonder was bewailing his poverty despite a tertiary education and a good salary.

"Perhaps you should try budgeting," we timidly suggested.

"It's got nothing to do with budgeting—it's just that I've got the monthly car payment that I didn't expect."

Films and life are a bit like that. We often have difficulty distinguishing the stone from the fibre-glass.

ROGER KIBELL

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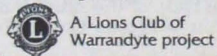
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PAT BARR

Warrandyte mourns a cherished friend

By JULIE MURRAY

WARRANDYTE lost a good friend and community worker on Sunday morning, June 16, when Pat Barr passed away, just one week after her daughter's wedding.

The wedding day, when daughter Fiona married Doug Gow, was special in many ways. It was Pat's 70th birthday, the wedding was in the garden Pat tended and loved and she was surrounded by her many friends and relations.

Patricia Eileen Barr was born on the Isle of Man in 1926. She came to Australia in August, 1955, and met Jack Barr at a dance in the Exhibition Buildings in Melbourne after just a couple of weeks. They had arrived in Australia on the same ship, without meeting.

Pat and Jack married in 1956. They came to Warrandyte in late 1961, finding a community they grew to love and contribute to. They survived the 1962 bushfires with only partial damage to their home. In Warrandyte they raised their four children—Fiona, 39, Robert, 38, John, 35, and Lindsay, 28.

Pat knew the value of, and cherished, her friendships. "The house was always full of people," Fiona said.

Social occasions in the early days meant travelling to Collingwood on a Saturday night to play cards with friends from Belfast. These nights invariably ended as a typical Irish party.

In later years Pat loved to play canasta with good friends Gwen and Tom Szabo. Laughs, brandy and good times were the order of the night, the winner being the one who cheated best.

A dressmaker by trade, Pat made bikinis for Ada of California and sewed constantly. She made the wedding and bridesmaids dresses for daughter-in-law Laura.

Her heavy involvement with the community began with recognition of the need for a kindergarten north of the river for hers and other local children. When council organised the land Pat became a driving force in raising funds through bottle collections to establish what is now the North Warrandyte Kindergarten.

Pat joined the Warrandyte Arts Association and made many costumes for the drama group. She also made



Pat Barr

the first curtains for the Mechanics Institute Hall and was instrumental in redesigning the Norwood High School uniform.

One of her big loves was cricket, particularly when young Lindsay played. Pat was official scorer for seven years, from the under-10s to the under-16s, and witnessed a few premierships along the way. She was also involved with the Warrandyte Youth Club at the Whitehouse and the netball and football clubs.

Her creative talents were many and varied, passing many of her crafts on to grand-daughter Jessica. Tall, slim and elegant, she shone as a dancing teacher at the Mickey Powell Dancing School.

Her love of pottery led her to teach at the Eltham Living and Learning Centre, focusing on teaching disabled children. One pupil who barely spoke would open up in Pat's company. It was typical of Pat Barr.

Fossicking for gems with good friend June Antinoff was another interest. Pat founded the Nunawading Lapidary Club that taught silver-smithing and gemstone cutting and won prizes for cutting, polishing and faceting. One of the stones she worked was a beautiful blue topaz, which won her the club prize and is now being worn by Fiona in her engagement ring.

The interest in gemstones took Pat, Jack, June and sometimes most of the family around Australia.

The family recalls that Pat's talents did not really extend to cooking. Sunday roasts were Jack's domain. The kids would pick the mint and fresh peas and shell them. They came from Pat's vegetable garden, of course.

After an operation in May 1994, a group of friends (Gwen Szabo, June Antinoff, Anne Drew, Barbara Sloan, Jan Stringer and Laura Barr) set up a roster to drive Pat to the Peter McCallum Clinic every day. This group became known as Jack's Angels.

After the treatment finished the group stayed together and formed the Teddy Bear Club, meeting regularly and creating bears from all types of materials. Fiona is donating some to the Warrandyte Creche so they stay in Warrandyte.

The last six months had been quality time for Pat, Jack and the family. Jack's two brothers, Nick and Wesley, came out from Ireland for a month's visit. Pat's two sisters, Betty and Edith, visited every day to help with the workload.

Pat knew time was precious. Although low in strength, she found the energy to make gem trees and hand crochet a patchwork rug for all her children and her grand-daughter, Jessica. A nurturing symbol of remembrance from a loving wife, mother and grand-mother.

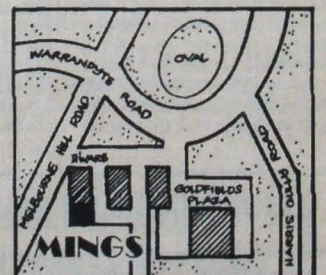


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Earth Encounters, through Manningham City Council, invites you to discover the sights, sounds and smells of the bush on a night-time discovery walk of Currawong Bush Park, in Reynolds Road, on August 2, starting at seven. This will be the second in a series of such walks, with others scheduled for September 6, October 4, November 1 and December 6. Each takes about two hours and the cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Inquiries: 9578 4444.

Sip

The Southcorp Group will hold a wine tasting on Friday night, July 26, in the staff room at Warrandyte High School. It starts at 7.30 and orders can be placed for the various wines. Inquiries: 9844 2749.

Camp

The 1st Warrandyte Scouts recently enjoyed an under-canvas camp at Clifford Park, Wonga Park. A full program of activities included early-morning hiking, camp conservation, bush survival skills, mapping and compass technique, first-aid in the bush and cooking a hiking lunch on a camp fire. The boys still found time to launch a barrage of bottle rockets they had made themselves.

Grand

The Warrandyte Arts Association and Information Warrandyte respectively will be the beneficiaries of two fundraising Friday nights at the Grand Hotel next month. On August 2, Mandy Stevens and Mark Leehy put on "Strange Wine", performing



It wasn't all hard work at Warrandyte High School's music camp at Healesville last month. There was time for a bit of fun too—as Richard England (left) and Robert Colvin demonstrate here as they 'jazz it up' a little with Kim Green, a regional music co-ordinator who attended the camp as a saxophone tutor. The camp ran from June 2-4, culminating on return to Warrandyte in a most successful concert in the school theatre at which the students performed the music they had been working on.

blues to ballads. And August 23 is Irish night with Riley's Boot—lots of dancing and fun, St Patrick's Day revisited. It starts at 8.30 and the \$12 ticket includes supper.

Support

The Sports Parents Support Group—a committee of parents,

teachers and students committed to developing, promoting and assisting the overall sporting program at Warrandyte High School—is seeking more input from the community. It is looking for anyone with coaching experience/ability or any other sports skills and volunteers to help out at sporting events in which the school is involved.

The group meets twice each school term. Inquiries: School principal Michael Blake, or Rob Graham (9844 3942).

Seniors

Warrandyte Senior Citizens Centre will hold its 34th Annual General Meeting there on Thursday, August 1, starting at 1pm. "There



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.

is always a warm welcome and lots of activities at the centre," a spokeswoman said. "If you are over 55 and need company, we need you."

Mission

The Catholic parish of St Gerard and St Anne, Warrandyte and Park Orchards, will conduct a new form of Parish Mission over eight weeks from the end of July. It will be held within the framework of normal Sunday worship but will lead participants to a greater experience of God's power working in their daily lives. Each Sunday from July 28 to September 15 there will be a guest speaker and small-group discussion. During the mission, at St Anne's Parish Centre, Knees Road, Park Orchards, there will also be special healing and communal reconciliation services. Inquiries: Father John Shallvey, 9876 1509.

Snow

Manningham Youth Services and Warrandyte Youth Services will

run a day trip to the snow on Thursday, July 11. It's from 9am to 6pm and (weather permitting) participants will go cross-country skiing. Inquiries: Lisa (9848 2977), Cathy (9844 2985).

Moved

Manningham City Council's Aged and Disabilities Service Unit has relocated to new offices at the Doncaster Arts Building, 8 Montgomery Street, East Doncaster.

Golden

It's almost a year off, but plans are already well under way for "The Gold Rush Is Coming", an historical re-enactment of Warrandyte's golden era of the 1850s. It will be held in Warrandyte State Park on Sunday, June 22, 1997 and promises to be a memorable occasion worth waiting for.

Nursing

The next informal coffee morning get-together for the Warrandyte Nursing Mothers Group will be held on Wednesday, July 24 from 10am at 127 Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte. Inquiries: Andrea (9844 1112) or Jenny (9844 4730).

Concert

A concert featuring everything from rock to poetry to classical violin to old-time singalong will be held in the Mechanics Institute Hall on Saturday, July 20. It's in aid of Information Warrandyte. It's cabaret style (make up a table), tickets are \$10 (\$5 concession) and it's BYO drinks and supper. Inquiries: 9844 3082, 9844 3600.

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Hitmen silence the Hooters

By CLINTON GRYPAS

The Warrandyte Hitmen cast aside the ghost of past finals jitters to put an end to North Ringwood Hooters' winning ways in the Greyburn Cup men's basketball final last month.

The Hitmen waltzed home in the closing minutes to win 62-48, denying the Hooters an historic third straight title.

The Hooters' hopes of a "threepeat" were crushed by five-time Cup most valuable player Chris McIntosh, who dropped in 17 first-half points on the way to a game-high 23 and MVP honours.

The Hooters started favourites despite missing two players who were overseas. And it was apparent early that they really would miss them, as the Hitmen's intense defence netted several steals.

Doug Harding (11 points, six steals) and David Simpson (nine points) both capitalised with strong moves to the basket.

The Hooters steadied, however, with David Grybas (12 and six assists) and Scott Snowball (nine) scoring on long-range shots to keep them within reach.

They eventually grabbed the lead when Andrew Brown (eight) scored with a three-point bomb.

Then it was the Hitmen's turn, with McIntosh and Ashley Grybas (12) launching success-

SPORT

ful shots to give them a 35-31 lead at half-time.

With the play fluctuating wildly, Brad Dean (13 and eight rebounds) tipped home a rebound to spark the Hooters, who quickly regained the lead, 42-38.

The big crowd was loving it. Hitmen captain Ron McLellan sensed the danger of the situation, calling for a time-out to get his side back on track in their ninth grand final appearance in 13 seasons (they had previously won three).

They never looked back, outscoring the Hooters 24-6 over the closing 14 minutes. The Hooters didn't let go of the Cup easily, scrapping at every loose ball and trailing by just three points with seven minutes to play.

But the Hitmen's desperation and accurate late foul shooting (13 of 19) sewed up the 14-point win, the biggest margin in a final since competition began in 1987.

In the over-30 section, Warrandyte won their second Cup in succession when they beat Andersons Creek 53-31 in the most lop-sided final in that com-

petition.

The Creek's cause was certainly not helped when leading scorer Stan Slabon left the court with an injured leg after just three minutes and did not return.

But they kept it close, drawing within two points in the shadows of half-time before Peter Jensen scored four late points to give Warrandyte a 22-16 lead at the interval.

They blew it out after the break, with Graham Pollock (16 points, 19 rebounds and seven assists) and Scott Morison (12) stitching up the win.

In the women's Grand Hotel Cup, the PP Champs won for the fourth time in five seasons when they beat defending premiers the Sneakers 34-26.

Amanda McLellan was the deciding influence with 11 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists.

After trailing by six points at half-time the Sneakers closed to within three at one stage, led by Mel Lawrence's nine points, but sister Christie responded with nine of her own for the Champs, who hung on.

● The new season of senior basketball will start on Wednesday, July 24. Team entries should be phoned through to Graeme Ballinger on 9844 2958 or Jo Morison 9434 1187 (men's) or Sue Cutler on 9722 1504 (women's).

Warrandyte Basketball Club's champion under-14A girls team will represent Victoria in a new tournament to be played in Fiji in December.

Coached by Gavin Whitmore, this team won their section of the 1995-96 Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association summer competition—the first Redbacks team to win the elite grade.

They will compete in the inaugural South Pacific Junior Basketball Championships against teams from other Australian states and New Zealand, Fiji and other South Pacific countries.

The girls—Dionetta Arsenis, Jazmine Borella, Jacquie Dick, Courtney Leigh, Alicia Ricato, Kim Swain and Lisa Troyahn—will play in the under-15 competition at the National Stadium in Suva.

Invitations to the tournament were restricted to top-graded premier boys and girls under-12 and 14 teams.

Whitmore will coach the team in Fiji. He will be accompanied by team manger Con Arsenis and two or three of the girls' parents.

Arsenis said the invitation to the tournament was a just reward for the girls' outstanding form over recent seasons.

Appointment in paradise

"They are very talented and have been playing together now for a number of seasons," he said. "They have achieved great success for the club and are really looking forward to representing Victoria with distinction at the championships."

"The Fijian Amateur Basketball Federation is partly sponsoring the team, but a fundraising drive is under way to raise the balance of expenses."

"Any local sponsorships or donations would be greatly appreciated."

Arsenis can be contacted on 9846 7640. The girls will spend one week (December 15 to 22) in Fiji.

● Meanwhile, Warrandyte Basketball Club is holding its registration day for the 1996-97 summer season on Saturday, July 27.

The summer season will

start in early October and finish in late March, pausing for the holiday period.

All boys and girls between the ages of seven and 18 are welcome, with no previous experience required.

Registrations will be taken between 10am and 7pm on the 27th at the Warrandyte High School gymnasium.

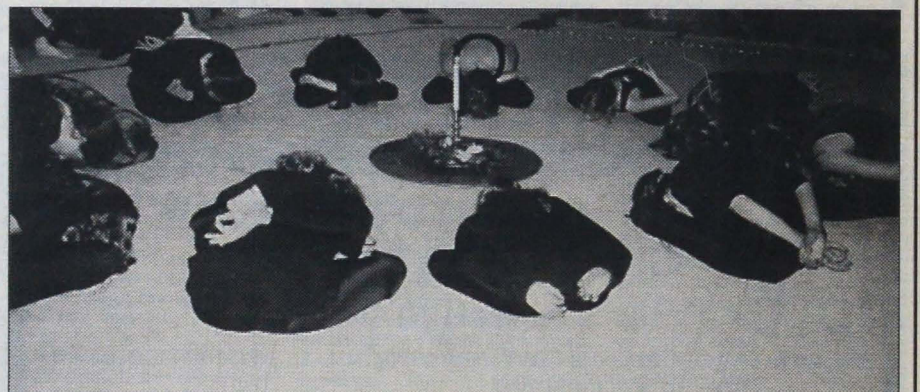
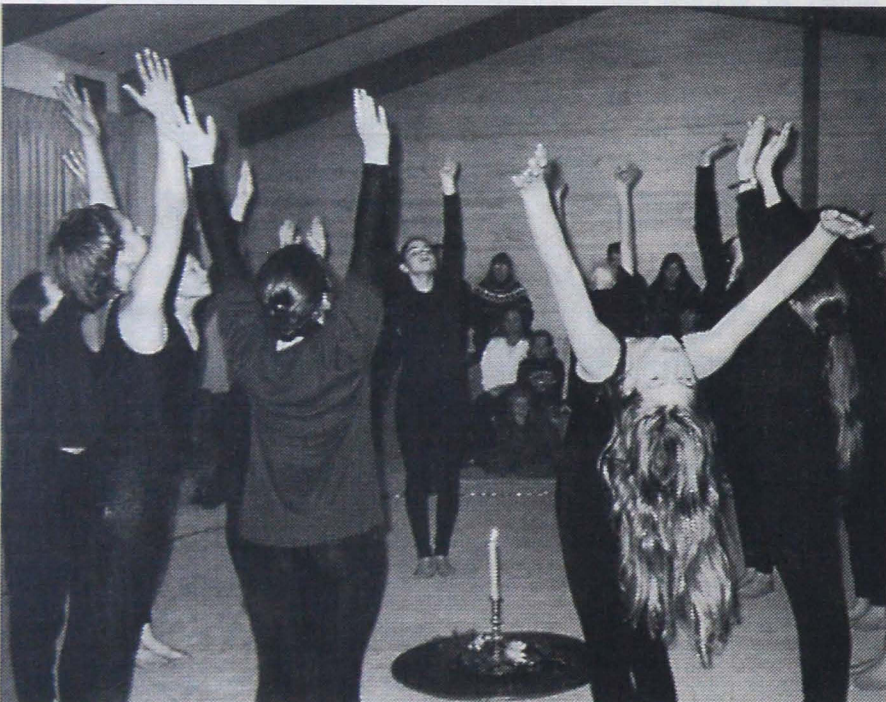
Registration is \$30 for the first child and \$25 for each subsequent child. Inquiries should be directed to Bruce Macdonald on 9844 3200.

The club has prime lower-level seats available for the big NBL clash on Saturday, August 10, between South East Melbourne Magic and the Perth Wildcats at the National Tennis Centre.

Tickets, at \$10, are available from Karen Pearce (9844 1214). Tip-off is at 8pm.

CLINTON GRYPAS

The spirit's wide awake (and 10 years old) at Lyn's school of yoga



Teenage students go through their creative dance paces at Bhava's birthday celebrations.

The pictures suggest that yoga has its ups and down—and so it does, in the course of its many movements. But not in terms of popularity—and certainly not in the case of Lyn Colenso's school for yoga, the Bhava Centre in West End Road.

Lyn first envisaged her own yoga school in 1970, when she began conducting small classes at home, gradually expanding them to North Warrandyte Community Centre and Andersons Creek Primary School.

Eventually, she opened the Bhava Centre, which last month celebrated its 10th anniversary.

For the occasion, Lyn's teenage students put on

a special creative dance performance at the centre on June 23, the adults taking part in a birthday night of dance and movement on June 28.

"Most people are drawn to yoga through some kind of problem," Lyn said.

She was drawn to it after suffering a chronic skin disorder.

"Yoga strengthens the nervous systems, transforms attitudes and awakens the spirit," she said.

The Bhava Centre takes part in the Warrandyte Festival parade every year and stages children's performances at the Eltham College performing arts centre.

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FRI AUG 23: Shamrock Night with band "Rileys Boot". \$12 incl supper. Bookings open. Fundraiser for Information Warrandyte.
SAT 27 AUG: Wayne Horner, solo singer/guitarist. Dinner in the bistro.
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God bless Vitters!

Without him we were nothing

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte's wretched 1996 football season bottomed (hopefully) at Mulgrave on July 6.

The Bloods were donkeylicked, kicking their first and only goal for the match 10 minutes into the last quarter.

Until Dale Vitiritti produced his clever little screw kick in near-darkness at inhospitable Mulgrave Reserve, the seniors had looked like going the way of the Reserves—without a goal. They finished with a lamentable 1.8 (14) to Mulgrave's 21.18 (144).

The Twos had managed just a solitary rush (and a rushed one at that) to the home side's 21.26 (152).

The Bloods' Under-18s had set the pattern for one of the club's blackest days when they were beaten 17.10 (112) to 2.4 (16).

In all, Warrandyte managed an aggregate 31 points in their three games. Mulgrave amassed 408.

It must be said that all three Warrandyte sides were undermanned. The Under-18s played four men short (a "legacy" of the school holidays) and four of them kept the boots on and fronted again in the Reserves, in turn sapped in numbers and strength by promotions to plug gaps in the senior

SPORT

side.

Senior coach Ralph Jones had just two words when the *Diary* asked him for comment after the game: "Absolutely woeful!"

Three quarters earlier he had told his players that the game so far was the worst he had seen in 15 years. At that stage Warrandyte trailed by a mere 19 points (3.4 to 0.3) and Jones could not have visualised how much worse it was going to get—for Warrandyte.

Meanwhile, at North Ringwood, cellar-dwellers Kilsyth were putting Warrandyte back in the relegation zone by setting up their first win of the season.

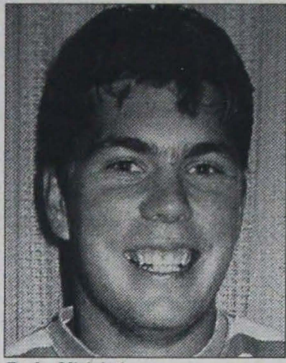
It put them two wins and percentage points behind the Bloods at the foot of the EDFL ladder with six rounds of home-and-away games to go.

"Kilsyth's win has put us behind the eight ball," Warrandyte Football Club president Lex Munro told the *Diary*.

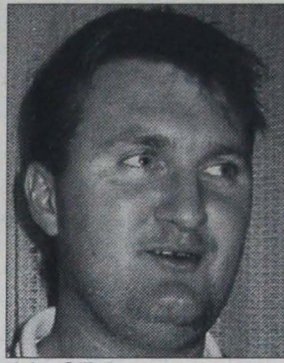
"It makes our game against North Ringwood next Saturday (July 13) just that much more important."

(Warrandyte play Kilsyth at Kilsyth in the last round.)

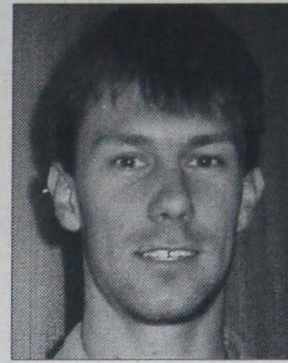
The president said the Bloods



Dale Vitiritti



John O'Brien



Matt Grybas

Like all good things, boys...

What is perhaps the longest winning sequence in local football history has come to end—by just three points.

That was the meagre margin by which Warrandyte Junior Football Club's amazing Under-11s went down to Beverley Hills on June 30.

It was the first defeat in 30 games (and almost three seasons) for the kids who had started their blitz of the EDFL competition as Under-10s.

Now in their first season in the Doncaster District Junior Football League as part of the WJFC's expansion program, the Under-11s are playing for premiership points for the first time.

As Under-10s there were no finals, under a junior league policy emphasising learning and enjoying football rather than winning at all costs.

The new incentive has obviously done our boys no harm at all. They are on top of the ladder and hot favourites for the flag. The Under-13s are also real premiership chances.

"Our Under-10s, 11s, 12s and 13s are all going very well, said WJFC president Malcolm Eyre. "The older boys, the Under-14s, 15s and 16s, are struggling a bit but are still competitive. "For example, the Under-16s went down by 5.4 to South Wantirna on July 7—but that winning margin was conceded in just one quarter, the second. "There was nothing in it for the rest of the game."

Warrandyte had two players—Daniel Rush and Ben Mason—in the Doncaster representative Under-11 team who played the Knox league on July 7. Ben captained Doncaster to a runaway win.

Three-time Essendon premiership coach Kevin Sheedy, whose son Sam plays with the Warrandyte Under-11s, will be the star attraction at a Meet the Coach night at Andersons Creek Primary School on Saturday, August 31.

Sheedy has donated his services to what the WJFC hopes will be a major fundraiser.

The night is open to anyone, finger food will be served and it's BYO drinks. Tickets are available from Malcolm Eyre (9719 7587).

The club will also hold a junior dinner dance at the South Warrandyte Hall on Saturday, July 27.

Deaths stun the club

Warrandyte Football Club was stunned and deeply saddened late last month by the deaths of two young people closely associated with it.

Liz Taylor, fiancée of club president Lex Munro, died after a lengthy illness. She was 34. Her illness had prevented her taking over the secretaryship of the club this year.

And two people have been charged over the death at Croydon of Derek Jones, 27, younger brother of senior coach Ralph Jones.

"Ralph and I would like to sincerely thank all the people at this club and in the commu-

nity in general for their kind expressions of sympathy," Mr Munro told the *Diary*.

"Everyone has been so very supportive and that support has helped us both to cope at this sad time."

The Warrandyte senior team responded to the double tragedy by finding something extra in the home game a few days later against ladder leaders and premiership favourites Croydon.

The Bloods went down by 15 points in the mud after leading narrowly at three-quarter time in one of their best performances of the season.

"We'll wait a couple of weeks and see how the Under-18 team go. If the finals are put out of their reach we will blood some of these young players immediately."

would be implementing a youth policy to see out this season and prepare for 1997 and beyond.

"There are a number of outstanding prospects in our Under-18s," he said.

We're there! Three of us go for Atlanta gold

By CLINTON GRYBAS

When the 430-strong Australian Olympic teams strides out before 83,000 people at the Olympic Stadium in Atlanta and a worldwide audience of billions for the opening ceremony of the Games on Friday, July 19, Warrandyte can take heart in knowing that three of "us" are out there gracing the world stage.

In one of this town's great sporting achievements we will be represented by three outstanding athletes in Atlanta. Canoeist Richard Macquire, shooter Annmaree Roberts and sprinter Stephen Brimacombe are all in Atlanta realising their dream.

It will be the first Games for the young trio, who are all hoping, or expecting, to be in Australia's team for the 2000 Games in Sydney.

● Richard Macquire, 24, is probably the most likely of the trio to press for medal contention. He is Australia's K1 Slalom Whitewater champion.

He is also one of the finest in the world in that class, and is hoping to confirm that with a top 10 finish in Atlanta.

His life has been dedicated to the sport since he took up canoeing as a 12-year-old on the picturesque stretch of the Yarra River behind the family home in Bradleys Lane.

He was an Australian junior champion and by his late teen years was competing in the United States, Austria, Yugoslavia, Switzerland and Germany among a host of other countries.

Every spare minute was spent devoting his life to the sport. A former Warrandyte Primary School student who became a local builder, he had to sacrifice much of his work to enable time off for training and overseas competition.

This bore considerable fruit at the world championships at Nottingham in England last September when he finished 11th. Macquire is looking for further



Steve Brimacombe

improvement on the waters in Atlanta. His build-up has been assisted by training on the Olympic course in April. While conditions were different from the heat-wave currently being experienced, the psychological advantage could be a decisive boost when the pressure is on.

Much of the competition is dependent on the conditions of the day. Macquire has been home for only fleeting visits in recent months, preferring to continue preparations overseas in the build-up to the Games.

Competition for the kayak will start on Sunday, July 27 and conclude on Sunday, August 4.

● Steve Brimacombe, 25, does not live in Warrandyte now, but still considers the town home after living here for more than 10 years.

The former Warrandyte High School student will represent Australia in the 200 metres in Atlanta, alongside Western Australia's Dean Capobianco. He will then team up with Capobianco in the 4 x 100 metres relay squad.

His development in athletics was late. He preferred basketball until the age of 17, before being convinced to follow father John to an athletics meeting where Brimacombe's outstanding speed caught the eye of several coaches.

He soon took up running and in a magic month in 1991, after beginning under coach Jim Bradley in 1990, he was second in the Maryborough Gift on January 1, winner of the Rye Gift on January 5, third in the Torquay Gift on January 12 and third in the Wangaratta Gift on January 26.

Come Easter he was primed for the country's and the world's richest footrace, the Stawell Easter Gift. He won convincingly and his career had taken off.

Since then he has returned to the Stawell final for a second placing, won the \$10,000 Keilor Gift and won the national 200 metre final among a string of other top performances.

He also made the 200 metre final at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada.

After a split with Bradley, Brimacombe moved north to the warmer climate of Brisbane at the start of 1995.

Like Macquire, he has been training overseas recently, and has competed in Atlanta to familiarise himself with the surroundings.

He is excited about his prospects of making the 200 metres final, despite facing daunting opposition. His coach says we are yet to see him reach his peak, expecting him to do so at Sydney 2000.

The 200 metre mens final will be run at 10am (AEST) on Thursday, August 1.

● Annmaree Roberts, 19, is

Warrandyte's, and one of Australia's, youngest representatives at Atlanta. She is a shooter, and will be one of two Australian women taking aim in the double trap competition.

Her rise to prominence has come suddenly, to say the least. The Brackenbury Street resident took up straight line shooting four years ago, graduating to the more difficult double trap competition two years later.

Her background stems from a pistol-related Sega computer game. She enjoyed the computer version so much that when a Melbourne Gun Club member friend offered her the chance to do it for real she jumped at it.

The rest, as they say, is history. While initially nervous to begin, the only girl among men, she soon developed the confidence to take part in competitions and stretch herself further to the moving double clay targets.

She trains three full days a week at the gun club.

One of the country's best shooters she is an experienced global traveller. Already this year she has been to Peru, Atlanta, Italy and Germany for World Cup competition, after having competed in Cyprus and New Zealand last year.

She is the first to admit that in a couple of the competitions she crumbled under pressure, her nerves failing, but the experience has steered herself for Atlanta.

While conditions were different earlier this year at the Games shooting venue, Wolf Creek, when she trained there, she believes the experience could net her a top 10 finish this month, not bad considering the competition attracts the world's top 40 for the event.

Roberts was equal first with one round to go at the World Cup event in Peru this year until she fell away to finish fourth.

Despite the relentless hours training and travelling to venues competition is over quickly. Each competitor shoots three rounds of 25 pair (50 targets). Each round takes 10 minutes.

Roberts was not expecting to be in Atlanta. She was under the impression she was being groomed for Sydney 2000 and thought as much, until an Australian Olympic Committee letter arrived in late June.

She will treat Atlanta as a bonus, taking in the atmosphere, the sights and sounds of what, for a 19-year-old, will be something to remember.

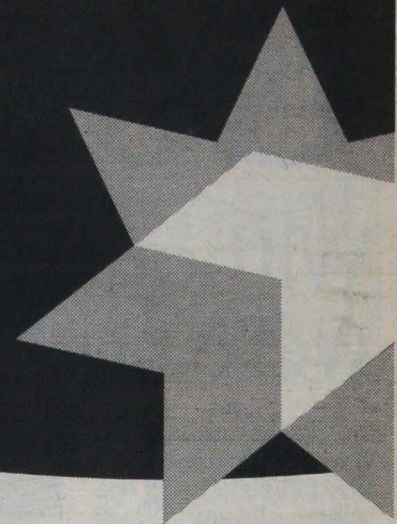
She flies to Atlanta on July 15 and will practise before competing on Tuesday, July 23. She returns on August 6.

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 103 Research/Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte North
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 65 Kangaroo Ground Road, Kangaroo Ground
 Lot 8 Bills Track, Kangaroo Ground
 2 Floods Road, Warrandyte
 3 Landau Drive, Warranwood
 15 Lynette Avenue, Warrandyte
 1256 Eltham/Yarra Glen Road, Hurstbridge
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