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# DIARY

**WARRANTYTE HARDWARE**

9844 2622

No. 280, September 1996

PRICELESS 26th year For the community, by the community Advertising: 9844 3819 Editorial: 9844 3719 Fax: 9844 4168

# Locals defend Hill

By CLIFF GREEN

Swift action by local residents when a builder allegedly gained illegal rear access, through Scotchmans Hill reserve, to a building site in Brackenbury Street, has resulted in the state government confirming its earlier promise of funds to protect the hill.

It is also anticipated that legislation, finally incorporating Scotchmans Hill into Warrandyte State Park, will be passed this month, during the spring session of parliament.

Scotchmans Hill, a small but valuable reserve of hilltop bushland at the far end of Maggie Lane, above Brackenbury Street and Mullens Road, overlooking the Yarra River and Warrandyte township, was put under direct threat of residential develop-

## Money for Scotchmans: Government's promise

ment in April 1995 when an estate agent approached the government, offering to buy the land for subdivision.

The Warrandyte community, led by the Friends of Scotchmans Hill, rallied to defend the reserve, gaining more than 300 signatures to a petition in one weekend. This resulted almost a year later in a government announcement that the reserve would be incorporated into Warrandyte State Park.

However, nothing has been done to protect the hill to date, and the *Diary* was alarmed to be informed by a resident late last month that a builder had appar-

ently taken heavy earthmoving equipment through the reserve onto a site in Brackenbury Street.

An inspection of the area revealed some damage by caterpillar tracks to native shrubs, mosses and groundcover plants. We contacted Theo Buskes of the Friends of Scotchmans Hill, who alerted State Park rangers, Manningham council and Mr Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte.

Work on the building site appears to have ceased, due, we understand, to other problems. Meanwhile, Phil Honeywood has confirmed that funds have been

made available "as promised, to commence work on the Scotchmans Hill project".

"In March this year, the then Minister for Conservation and Environment, the Hon Mark Birrell, announced that the state government would make an additional \$350,000 available for the Warrandyte State Park over the next three years," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*.

"Of this, \$73,000 would be allocated in the 1996/7 budget, with \$62,500 to be used for riverside trails, revegetation and work on Scotchmans Hill. I am delighted that the planning for these projects is already taking

place and works are expected to begin before Christmas."

Despite the government's promise that Scotchmans Hill would be incorporated into Warrandyte State Park, the degradation of the reserve by vehicles appears to have continued unchecked.

"The original single dirt track through to the centre of Scotchmans Hill has been upgraded to a well-formed gravel road, serving a maze of newly-formed tracks which have appeared in recent years," Theo Buskes said. (The recent invasion of the reserve by earthmoving machinery was via several of these tracks.)

"Unauthorised vehicular access to the hill has caused serious problems of erosion, weed infestation, damage to bushland and the removal of indigenous vegetation. Warrandyte State Park rangers have been alerted to the problem, but appear to have insufficient time and re-

**CLYDE & McOCKER**

"There'll be no more taking the high road over that wee hill, Ock!"

sources to manage and maintain Scotchmans Hill, presently designated unreserved crown land," Theo Buskes said.



**FOOTY SENSATION!**

## Warrandyte coach suspended

Warrandyte Football Club are seeking legal advice on a two-year suspension of coach Ralph Jones and a \$2000 fine on the club by the Eastern Districts Football League.

The penalties were imposed after Warrandyte's final home game of the season, against Blackburn on August 10.

Jones, a non-playing coach, ran on to the field with his team before the game and "bumped" a Blackburn player.

The suspension and fine stunned the club and angered Jones, ending a disappointing season on a particularly sour note for the Bloods.

• FULL STORY: Page 15

## Spring to it, you quackers!

These two young Warrandytians welcomed the first day of spring with a picnic beside the Yarra. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

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# DIARY

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# So long, Neil and Bub. We'll be seeing you



The bad news is that Neil and Bub Pearson are leaving Warrandyte. The good news is that they're not going far at all. The Pearsons are leaving KG Road and the home they have occupied for 44 years and moving to Ringwood, to what Neil describes as "a more manageable house and garden". KG Road was a dirt affair and the bridge wooden when Neil and Bub arrived in 1952. It was a couple of days after their wedding anniversary, which both had forgotten in the process of moving. "At least I had an excuse that time," says Neil. The Pearsons (Neil's 73 and Bub "younger") say they'll still be spending plenty of time in Warrandyte. Neil has served on the local RSL Sub-branch committee (as secretary, treasurer and president at various times) for 43 years and will continue to do so. He is also a past secretary of Warrandyte Football Club. One thing in his life that will change is the route he'll be taking to golf at Healesville on Saturday mornings. Bub was a long-time cub leader in this town and a Warrandyte Primary School committeeperson. We'll miss the Pearsons, but we'll be seeing them.



They don't go in for "change for the sake of change" at Andersons Creek Primary School. Helen Godden has been secretary there since the school opened in 1977, and Des McKenzie is the latest of only three principals. In the course of a recent chat, Helen mentioned that she and hubby Frank were going to Hawaii in the upcoming school holidays. "Gee, that's a coincidence," said Des, "so are Gabrielle and I." But the coincidences were only just starting. They just happened to have booked on the same flight. Wonder if they'll talk shop.



Two of the teachers at Warrandyte Primary are Debbie Showers and Debbie Rainbow, which we think is lovely but which has nothing to do with the story of what the kids came up with when asked for ideas on how proceeds from this year's Trivia Night could best be used to improve the school. High on the preps' list was fresh flowers every day for their teacher, Sue Reynolds, for whom they obviously have a great deal of affection. Other submissions were for a jumping castle, a waterslide and more leaves on the trees. But a new adventure playground won the day.



Just before they cart him off one day to the Outer Eastern Suburbs Home For The Intellectually Persecuted And Incorably Demented (OESHFTIPAIID), Smokey would like to hand over this column to Marilyn Moore. She has such a lovely way with words. Multi-talented Marilyn contributes Little Athletics news to our sports pages, but we think she deserves better exposure than that. Like Page 2. Her description last year of the VLAA State Cross Country

## IN RED & WHITE



Bub and Neil Pearson:  
going, but not going far.



Championships led this column and we are delighted to welcome her aboard again. Same event, same venue, one year on.



"Cross country running events are the sort of occasion where one can't help noticing the weather," writes Marilyn. "And, being winter in Melbourne, there is no shortage of it. With very little effort, Hughie can change any route in two minutes flat from a wet, grassy scramble into a slithering, squelching mudheap. Soggy socks and mud-spattered legs abound. Stray gales from the icy Southern Ocean have a knack of finding hitherto unknown little wind-tunnels in one's clothing. But Warrandytians are nothing if not prepared for the Great Outdoors. Especially after Smokey Joe got hold of a description of last year's VLAA State Cross Country Championships at Brimbank Park at Keilor. Well, nice try, SJ, but Hughie had the last laugh yet again. This year's championships were again held at Brimbank Park, in July. And certain spectators were seen struggling around in layer upon layer of thermals, bulky apres gear and gumboots, cursing mightily as the sun beat down from the bluest of skies. Oh, well. C'est la vie! At least the big tent came in handy for shade." There's more of Marilyn on Page 15.



When they say "Break a leg" in show business, you're not supposed to take it literally. What they mean, of course, is "Good luck" or "Knock 'em dead" or something similar. But halfway through the season of Warrandyte Primary School's production of "Roll And Rock", Molly Brown, one of the lead players, broke an ankle. The show had to go on, though, and, like a seasoned trouper, Molly continued to play her role of Aunt Lilly. The rest of the cast were considerate enough to slow down the dancing a bit for her.



We've long regarded local vet Derek Fairley as one of Warrandyte's unsung heroes and we heartily endorse the note we got



Vic Grybas has been given a rest from this column lately because he was getting so many mentions his head was starting to swell. But we can't ignore the extraordinary week he had last month. The astonishing chain of misfortune started when the wind-up handle of his motor mower kicked back and struck him a terrible blow on the hand (which blew up like a football and was diagnosed three weeks later as broken). Then his mate Laurie Warr arrived to help him paint his trailer and, in the process, knocked over Vic's antiquated outboard motor, damaging it beyond repair. Laurie hadn't quite finished with Vic, either, because he then knocked over a can of paint on the tennis court, which made a fearful mess. And to round off a week he'd dearly love to forget, Vic drove along a street over at Fairfield when it was closed during peak hour and copped a \$165 fine for his naughtiness. Never mind, mate, your luck can only improve, eh?



Sadly, the *Diary* has farewelled another very promising young writer. Lisa Santamaria, a girl with a big future, has left us to work full time for the Conservation Gazette. She is one of many young people to have entered the media ranks via the *Diary* and we wish her every success. We're always looking for fresh young talent (talent of any age, for that matter) so if you think you have something to contribute, don't be bashful.

Smokey  
Joe



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# Northern exposure

## Community asset demolished for commercial use

By FIA CLENDINEN

Moves by the Shire of Nillumbik commissioners to sell the former Eltham Shire offices has angered communities north of the river and has met with widespread local opposition.

The building has already been demolished by Nillumbik council. The developer, Dallas Price Homes Pty Ltd, plans to build a 24-hour petrol station, Hungry Jacks restaurant and video store on the site, which is adjacent to the new Eltham library, Shillinglaw Cottage and Alistair Knox Park. This sale, however, is conditional on a planning permit being granted by the shire. If the permit is not granted the sale will not go through.

Robert Marshall, a councillor with the old shire for 19 years, told the *Diary* he was incensed with the plan.

"There couldn't be a worse or more inappropriate use for that site than what the developer has planned," he said. "The demolition of the old council offices has happened far too quickly. There has been no forewarning, no discussion."

If the developer is successful in his application for a planning permit, Nillumbik Shire will receive \$1.1 million for the sale. However, the shire commissioned a valuation report which stated that the value of the property (with the building intact) was \$1.45 million, and that the bare land was worth \$550,000.

"The Nillumbik commissioners have included the sale of the property in this year's budget, which is financially irresponsible," Mr Marshall said. "I think

the proposed development is totally wrong; culturally, planning-wise, aesthetically and financially."

The Eltham Gateway Action Committee (EGAC), a community group concerned at the proposed development of the site, held a public meeting early last month. More than 400 people attended.

Chief Commissioner of the Shire of Nillumbik, Don Cordell, said the former shire offices had "asbestos problems", which "made it a difficult property for which to find an appropriate use".

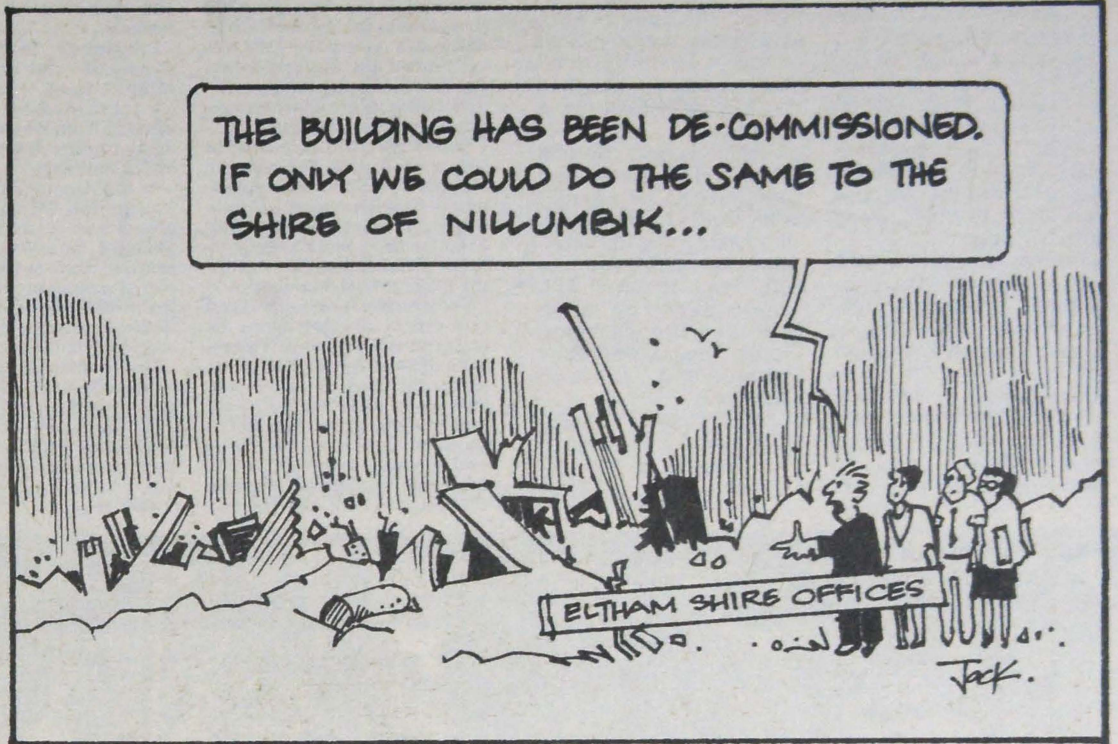
But a spokesperson from the Victorian Workcover Authority, Health and Safety Division, said that "asbestos is emotive to a lot of people. There is a lot of misinformation. If asbestos is in good condition it's not presenting any risk. Many buildings built before 1978 will contain asbestos."

A detailed survey carried out on behalf of the shire indicated there was little need for the building to be razed. "The condition of these asbestos-containing materials indicates a negligible/low exposure risk while they remain undisturbed. There is currently no reason to remove these materials," the survey said.

Police are currently investigating an assault charge by Jenni Mitchell, president of EGAC, against a security guard on duty outside the former Eltham Shire Offices. She says she was assaulted on July 23 this year.

She told the *Diary* a group of residents had just learned of the proposed development and called a meeting outside the building.

A sign had been erected stating that it was an asbestos-contaminated site



and that no one should enter without wearing breathing apparatus. Ms Mitchell was using a video camera to film the sign and the security guards on duty, who were not wearing breathing masks.

She alleges a security guard approached her and tried to wrest the camera from her. She alleges the security guard told her he intended to smash her camera on the road and verbally abused her.

"Obviously the council should not have sold the council offices at the time," Ms Mitchell said. "They should have sat on it and waited until they could have got the best price for the community. At the moment the developer has no permit to proceed with his plans."

"If the permit is granted the commu-

nity will take the council to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal." Ms Mitchell has lived in Eltham all her life and was a councillor with the old shire from 1989 to 1993.

Mr Marshall said the community was in danger of losing all the value of the building. "If there is enough community opposition and the developer doesn't get a permit, then we will be left with a bare site without the building and the community will have lost all the value of it. The value of the building, according to the official council valuation, is just under \$1 million."

Ms Mitchell says her group has no shortage of ideas for use of the site. "Whatever is built on the site of the former shire offices should be something that will benefit the whole community, particularly young people:

There's a shortage of places where young people can meet.

"When people think of Eltham they think of the environment and the arts. I would like to see some sort of cultural complex there that would complement the library and the open space and that could generate income. But EGAC is not pushing any particular line. We are encouraging people to take a positive line and think about what they personally would like to see on the site."

● **LATE NEWS:** As the *Diary* went to press, the developer applied for a planning permit. Plans are now available for public viewing at the Nillumbik Shire Offices, Greensborough. Eltham Gateway Action Committee is holding a public meeting at Monsalvat, Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham on Sunday, September 15 at 4pm.

## It's Mullum Mullum Ward, folks

Warrandyte's new council ward will be known as Mullum Mullum Ward, represented by only two councillors after elections are held in March 1997.

The decision on the name Mullum Mullum was made at the Manningham council meeting on August 27 after it had received submissions from various groups and residents. The Warrandyte Historical Society was fully supportive of the name.

Some residents, however, felt that Mullum Mullum was too specific to the eastern part of the large ward which includes Wonga Park. Two residents suggested to the *Diary* that names like "Green Ward" and "Yarra Ward" be considered.

Other ward names are Heide, Koonung and Ruffey.



Brett Thomas and James Powell try out a portable skateboard ramp at Warrandyte Police Station.

## Skateboarders look for place to have fun

Warrandyte Youth Services is looking for support for a proposed skateboarding facility in the town.

Youth committee members have met with local organisations to put their case and a request for support from Manningham council appears to have met with a positive reaction.

A preferred design is a simplified version of the large inground skating bowl near the municipal offices in Lilydale. Similar to a swimming pool in design and construction, the Lilydale facility is modelled on an original design by Fitzroy council.

A lower cost construction under consideration is a steel-framed portable unit which

could be relocatable, but could be initially installed in the community centre car park.

In the meantime, the Warrandyte Blue Light Disco committee has taken the initiative and borrowed a portable skateboard ramp from Diamond Creek Blue Light Disco.

The metal ramp, constructed in two halves, each designed as a trailer, was set up in the Warrandyte police station car park on a trial basis early last month.

Warrandyte disco president, Sergeant Keith Walker, believes the trial went well. "We had a lot of interest from young people and the ramp was in use most of the weekend by skateboarders and roller bladers," he said.

Co-ordinator of Warrandyte

Youth Services, Cathy Adamson, is enthusiastic about the proposal. "We seem to have a lot of support from groups within the community and from our council," she told the *Diary*.

"All we need is someone to take the initiative and co-ordinate the project."

"Issues such as location, insurance and security are recognised as important, but bowls and ramps are operating in other areas, so these matters must have been addressed by others, and I'm sure we can do likewise. There is a need for the facility and youth members have taken the initiative and have already commenced fundraising. We just need to get things moving," she said.

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## Rotary sports a night of stars

Warrandyte Rotary Club threw their support behind the Warrandyte Crisis Centre and other local charities recently with an auction and sportsman's night at the Grand Hotel.

The club raised \$3,500 from the night which attracted 110 people. Half of the money will go to the crisis centre with the other half forwarded to other needy local charities.

Darren James from 3AW was master of ceremonies and told an attentive audience a series of yarns, setting the atmosphere for the night.

Graham 'Smokey' Dawson, who had returned less than 36 hours before from the Atlanta Olympics, reflected on his early ex-

periences in radio, including his first experience as a cricket commentator beside the recently deceased Alan McGilvray. He also mused on how he coped with a bad case of hiccups that turned his first stint on radio into a nightmare.

Channel 9 personality and former Richmond and Collingwood strongman Brian Taylor was next to be introduced. He and Darren James conducted the auction, which featured AFL jumpers signed by James Hird, Jim Stynes, John Platten, Tony Lockett, Brett Ratten and Anthony Koutafidies.

The band Silent Running completed the night with a program for those who ventured onto the dance floor.

## Lions support young talent

Eltham College student Peter Williamson has won the \$500 first prize in the Warrandyte Lions Youth Award for 1996. He nominated the Sudden Infant Cot Death Syndrome Foundation (SIDS) as his charity to receive a similar amount.

Anna Gigliotti came second in the award and received a cheque for \$200. Her nominated charity was the Guide Dogs Association. Winning \$100 for third place was Elizabeth Wilmot, who nominated the Make a-Wish Foundation.

The winners were announced at a recent meeting of the Lions Club at Kellybrook Winery. Each of the three finalists, from an initial field of 10 contestants, gave a talk on their own topics to the gathering, which included Lions members, wives and guests, representatives from Eltham College, Warrandyte High School and Warrandyte Youth Services and parents and relatives of the contestants.

President Terry Oakley stressed the club's commitment to local youth. Entertainment was provided by a group of flautists from Warrandyte High School under the direction of Peter Maillardet.

At the request of the judges, a special encouragement award was made to Rebekha Skepper, nominated by Warrandyte Youth Services. Judges were former mayor Val Polley, Richard Forde of Warrandyte Rotary and John McLean from Warrandyte Lions.

Meanwhile, the long assessment process needed to find a winner of the 1996-97 Warrandyte Youth Arts Award is now beginning. This award is run by Warrandyte Lions and the *Diary*, with Lions providing the \$5000 prize.



Lions Youth Award judge Val Polley presents winner Peter Williamson with his cheque.



## High school swings

Warrandyte High School's senior concert band (pictured left) entered the Melbourne School Bands Festival last month. It was the second time the school had entered. Last year they won a bronze plaque in their first try.

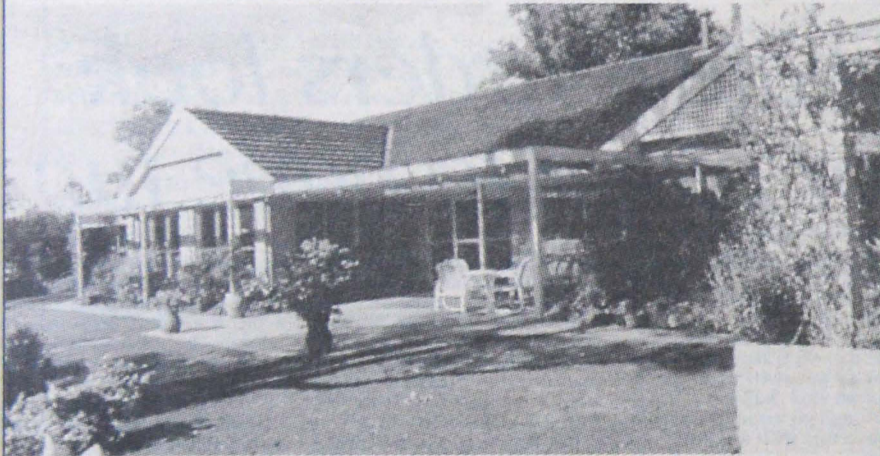
The band played two pieces under the guidance of conductor Andrew McAlister. The first was the Crystal Medallion Overture by E Huckleby and Down Paths of Darkness by Barry Kopetz. Kopetz was also an adjudicator for the festival, which was held in Robert Blackwood

Hall at Monash University. While the festival is a competition for bands, it is also a learning experience for music students. Each band performs and then receives a tutorial from the adjudicators to help them improve for the future.

A band spokesperson told the *Diary* the students enjoyed the festival. "They all thought it was a very valuable experience which enabled them to gain plenty of knowledge." The school also has a junior band and a training band.

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# Council softens car park plan

By CLIFF GREEN

Plans for a new parking area on land close to Yarra Street, between Wilson McDougall real estate agency and the Webb Street extension beside the pharmacy have been modified by Manningham council, in response to local concerns.

The original design showed a sealed 6.4 metre roadway running down beside the pharmacy, turning right and continuing through to the boundary of the next property, with 31 parking spaces going off either side. Some significant trees would have been removed, including an attractive clump of wattles at the far end.

The modified plan has been reduced to 23 spaces, and although the continuation of Webb Street still proceeds in a straight line, the side road serving the parking spaces is curved to avoid all significant trees. It does not proceed as far as the original plan and the wattles at the far end have been re-

tained.

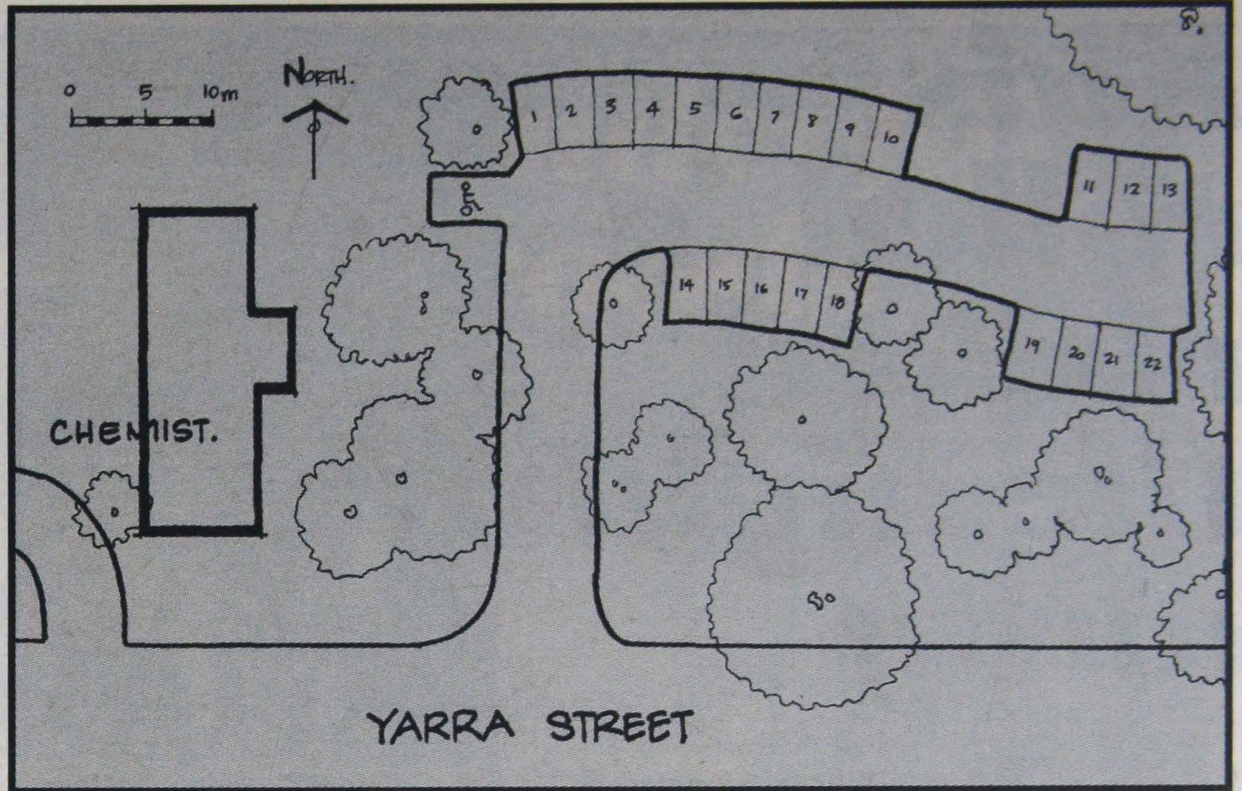
The design for the proposed upgrading of the parking area opposite the hotel and village shops has not been changed. The entire project has been costed at \$110,000.

(Our artist's impression of the modified plan for the area opposite the community centre is shown at right).

Although pressure for increased parking is on council from some commercial interests in the town, many locals would be reluctant to see this piece of bushland, which could so easily be developed as parkland, alienated for this purpose.

And do we really need it? Even on the busiest of weekends, the carpark behind the community centre opposite is seldom full.

Comments on this proposal should be addressed to: Adam Kempton, Chairman of Commissioners, Manningham City Council, P.O. Box 1, Doncaster 3108.



# Closed for business

By DAVID WYMAN

Nine shops were vacant in Warrandyte as the *Diary* went to press and local business people blame high shop rents, lack of local public support and a "drawn out recession".

The vacancies are located in most shopping clusters, but those in the group east of the bridge, those in Goldfields Plaza and in the relatively new cluster in Colin Avenue are fully tenanted.

Local real estate agent, Glenn Martin, told the *Diary* that rents, for the type of shops here, were too high. "That's a personal opinion," he said,

"but they are expensive to rent, based on square footage rates compared with other areas," he said.

Mr Martin described demand for shops as depressed. "That's why they're vacant, and I'm not the agent for them. I think the problem is finding a different business that will work here," Mr Martin said. "Art and craft has been done to death. Something needs to come that is new and attractive."

Writing in the current issue of Warrandyte Business Association's newsletter, WBA president Tony Summers asks: "Given the spread-out nature of Warrandyte, should we be looking for

a broad base of businesses in each distinct shopping centre?"

"Would the West End shops be able to take more advantage of weekend trade if there were more galleries and craft shops, maybe even a bookshop, as part of that centre?"

"Would the village around the hotel benefit from more galleries, or would it be better to encourage more upmarket eating places?"

Tony Summers told the *Diary* that business had been difficult for a lot of local people. A lot of businesses were still feeling the effects of a "drawn out recession".

"Part of the problem seems to be

attracting local business support," he said. "A lot of the shops that feel the pinch are those that rely on sale of day-to-day goods. They don't believe they are getting the amount of local business that they should."

One of the arguments for more sporting facilities in the town was they would help the shops, he said. "People take their children to a place where they can use sporting facilities and do their shopping there."

Meanwhile, the WBA will press ahead with its plans to promote Warrandyte as a place for outsiders to visit. Another radio advertising campaign will begin soon and a full col-

our brochure on Warrandyte will be available by the end of the month for distribution to tourist venues.

"We are very conscious of the fact that we need to preserve the place, keep it attractive, maintain and improve the environment, keep its character," Mr Summers said. "We want to build on that as a way to attract people here. We don't want to turn it into a tinsel town."

Meanwhile, the *Diary* understands that the vacant land on Yarra Street, adjacent to the Mechanics Institute Hall, may be developed into a cluster of six or seven shops over the next 18 months.

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# Kids rolled 'n rocked the night away

By NICHOLAS PARSONS

**W**ARRANDYTE Primary School put on another great performance for their annual school concert. The night was introduced by teacher Ian Caffin who warmed up the audience with his unique brand of dry humour and good timing.



The program kicked off with the Bush Band, which has definitely grown in numbers, under the guidance and popularity of Kevin O'Mara. Grade Two gave us all a lively rendition of Old Macdonald and Down on the Farm and a TV hit

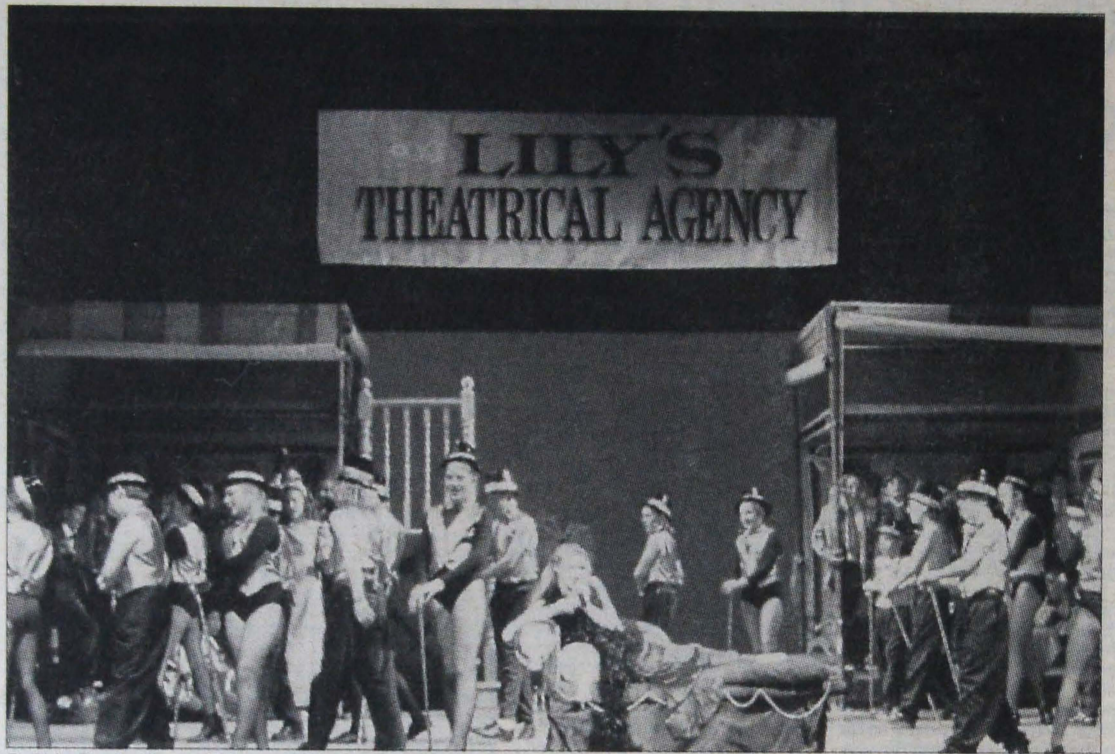
theme selection, complete with spoons, washboard, wobbleboard, bass, guitars, enthusiastic voices and appropriate actions. A great start by the youngsters!

The audience had their favourites, as parents and grandparents looked for their special star, most members of the cast sneaked a look to see where Mum and Dad were in the audience—the prize for the find was a beaming smile—in time with the music of course, as Kevin has them well trained.

They were ably supported by Elaine Henderson who choreographed the colourful dance. The singing was bouncy and the kids were having a great time.

A special number was performed by the library, dramatising Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak. Narrated by Emma Clark, the story was told through a large number of performers, wonderfully costumed by Ellie Fuller.

A highlight of the evening was a group of teachers, dressed in rocker grunge and technicolour wigs, backing group to the music Wild Thing. They certainly let their hair down, much to the delight of the audience.



Roll 'n Rock: Young Flip sought help from his Aunt Lily and her theatrical cronies.

Then the audience was treated to some beautiful singing by the Grade 2 choir. They chose Raindrops and Catch a Falling Star, a fitting contrast to the raucous previous act, dressed in their scarlet gowns and totally concentrating on conductor.

Unfortunately, the school cannot get all the acts together on the same program. On Tuesday night, the audience missed out on a number of performances by Grades 3 and 4 and Preps.

After intermission the school commenced their musical play, Roll 'n Rock, written by Cenarth Fox. Set



in 1947, its tells the story of young Flip, who has lost his father and is now 'man of the house'. Flip plays the organ in the local church and is in love with Marilyn, who aspires to study medicine.

Cajoled by his sisters, Flip tries to liven up the church music to raise the interest of the younger churchgoers, egged on by Aunt Lily who is besotted by show business. The local vicar, Pastor Mustard (Joshua Moneiro) and Mayor Loophole (Adrian Eyre) do their best to prevent the tide of change, but who, in any school play, could stop a young hero with a great rock and roll sound?

The scenes were impressively staged, the dancing was colourful and well-performed and generally the singing was of a high standard. Joel Macdonald played Flip and Mia Van Bergen was Marilyn.

Together they sang beautifully, particularly a lovely harmony piece, I've Got a Dream.

Molly Brown was an inspired Aunt Polly and her crew of would-be stars was led by Piers Brown and Kate

Williams who almost stole the show with their brilliant ensemble playing. The costumes were fabu-



lous, with a mix of Artful Dodger types and lacy ladies.

The story ends with the wedding of Marilyn and Flip—whose songs have started to sell across the land—and the whole cast sings and dances to such legendary numbers as Jailhouse Rock and Let's Twist Again.

A great evening's entertainment. Thanks for the effort, Warrandyte Primary School.

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# DANCE PARTY

# They were wonderful down in the woods



By CLIFF GREEN

WARRANDYTE High School continued its unbroken tradition of fine musical productions with the presentation last month of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*. Here we have the dramatic blending, by author James Lapine, of several fairy tales, originally from the Brothers Grimm, including *Cinderella*, *Jack And The Beanstalk*, *Rapunzel* and *The Baker And His Wife*. But the result is no traditional pantomime, with dames, corny jokes and peurile audience participation. Instead we are treated to a beautifully structured—almost surrealistic—modern play, touched with sophisticated humour, full of endearing characterisations, spiced with dashes of horror. Tales for our times.

Each year we await our high school's musical production with great anticipation, and we are never disappointed. But this year all our expectations were fulfilled; many times over. Directors Chris White and Lynette White combined yet again to bring a show of enchanting character and delightfully elegant style to their splendid little theatre.

Brilliantly staged, with superb choreography (by Lynette), our enchanting

young players strutted and strode, pouted and pirouetted, laughed, cried and sang their way through a stage design (by Chris), lifted straight off the pages of a children's traditional cut-out book of fairy tales; all greens and blues and smokey greys.

The costumes—designed by Nancy



Prizzi—were breathtakingly beautiful. No old gum boots or dad's cut-down trousers here; the mid-European folk theme was sustained throughout, with many changes. The challenging lighting design was well-handled, as was the sound.

Wisely, the directors resisted the

temptation to introduce choruses outside the script, so the cast was relatively small for a school production. However with extensive doubling, 27 students and a teacher experienced the magic of this marvellous theatrical experience.

Casting was appropriate and well-balanced, with performances at a uniformly high standard; high praise indeed for any production.

But a few players are worthy of special mention. Jack (he of the beanstalk), performed on the night by Richard England, gave a lovely puckish interpretation in this, his first solo role.

Jorja Williams' the Baker's Wife truly touched our hearts as she yearned for young motherhood. Searching for *Cinderella's* slipper, Jack's cow, *Rapunzel's* hair and *Red Riding Hood's* cape seemed almost as elusive a task as success on the IVF program.

And speaking of *Red Riding Hood*, Nadia Spiliotacopoulos delighted with her whimsical characterisation and the grace of her movements. Small wonder the Wolf, played, heaven forbid, by teacher Greg Stewart, did his dirtiest to have her away.

Hayley Davis as *Rapunzel* was suitably zany; Dee Arsenis, Jackie Brooks, Danielle Weston and Kara Williams as *Cinderella's* Stepmother and Stepsister

were appropriately awful; Drew Hanna as the Baker was convincingly confused and Georgina Smith's *Cinderella* broke all our hearts.

But it was Daniela Spiliotacopoulos who truly stole our hearts away—and metaphorically ate them. Her staggeringly cynical Witch was the juiciest part



in the piece and Daniela gave her everything, playing her with so much stomach-wrenching evil one would have thought she was the serial giant-killer of the show, not Jack. But Daniela was in full, full-on control right through, without a touch of melodrama.

Only once did we wander off the path through the tangled woods of a com-

plex narrative. Somewhere halfway through the second act we seemed to lose the plot a little. Perhaps because at that point the Giant ate the Narrator, culminating in a nice long burp of appreciation!

Stephen Sondheim's music is an acquired taste. Don't expect the stirring anthems of Rodgers and Hart, the lyrical jazz ballads of George Gershwin or the one single unforgettable number that still manages to grace each new work by the ubiquitous Andrew Lloyd Webber. Sondheim owes more to Berthold Brecht than to Arthur Sullivan. Intimate music, seemingly more at home in a smokey nightclub than on a theatre stage. Difficult music, especially for untrained young singers.

Which brings me to the one criticism I have of this presentation. As always, every aspect of production had been satisfactorily, even spectacularly well covered. Except for one. Kirk Skinner is credited with musical direction, and the clearly professional orchestra served the show admirably. But the evidence of skilled vocal production, with the young singers coached to reach their best potential—or even to protect their immature voices—was lacking. This was not helped by patchy amplification of some of the soloists, at least on the night we attended.



# Warrandyte Community Market

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# A cold-crazed critic sprung by Spring

IT'S no wonder writers such as Tolstoy, Chekhov and Dostoyevsky wrote such depressing, wrist-slashing works. They all lived in countries where the winter climate was only marginally colder than ours has been.

Their texts are full of people grappling with terminal angst and perennial navel-gazing. Individuals worry over cherry orchards, wild ducks and mad axe-murderers. All because they've been cooped up too long during the northern European months of interminable rain, sleet and plummeting morale.

Admittedly, they've known nothing else. Since birth, they've endured the annual winter confinement from life, a yearly opportunity to make mountains out of molehills and psychosis out of snow. And even though you'd imagine they would have developed a gene to cope with all that inclement weather, it's obvious that even the hardest of types get jack of too much winter wonderland. In fact, it's not too difficult to imagine how their texts came to be written.

You are a sensitive, artistic and highly-principled person, living in a little village on the outskirts of a large sophisticated city. You are living there because you find it congenial and the environment attractive. You love the cherry blossoms in spring, the walks along the river, stopping occasionally to feed the wild ducks that float serenely across the surface of the river. You marvel at their grace, their apparent ease, whilst all the time their little webbed feet are paddling like

**KIBBLED**

**"Their texts are full of people grappling with terminal angst and perennial navel-gazing. Individuals worry over cherry orchards, wild ducks and mad axe-murderers."**

buggery underwater. Inwardly you praise Nature for coming up with such a clever life-metaphor.

You smile at promenaders walking along your riverside pathway and you take delight in feeding the donkey outside the village bakery. The sun dapples your face and its warmth invigorates your soul and your bonhomie. Life couldn't be better and bitterness, back-biting and brooding are as far from your thoughts as Warrandyte is from its first casino.

You take to your pen, bringing hope and inspiration, not only to yourself but to all those in your immediate village. The smallest flower or the most distant birdcall evokes thoughts of domestic harmony and personal fulfilment.

Gradually, however, the sun's strength begins to weaken, the dapple becomes shade and the warmth becomes a cold, spine-tingling shiver. The birdcalls vanish, the flowers disappear and the blossom trees anticipate your growing malaise by replacing vigorous foliage with barely-disguised spines. A grudging defeat, or at best a truce, settles over the village.

Outward-looking is replaced by longer periods of introspection that fester into maudlin self-obsession. With winter, the body is trapped inside. Any escape from the house leads to sodden shoes and fleeting encounters with other mute, swaddled souls. The focus is inwards. The body's mode is self-preservation and the brain is geared to flight or fight, not for rutting rights but for a comfortable spot next to the fire or within an arm's length of the electric blanket switch.

The winter drags on, as does the novel or the play. Desperately, you try to recapture the vitality of summer, the languor of autumn. But instead, before your eyes, swarm the vicious bare spines of the cherry blossom and the frozen carcass of the wild duck. You try to write about love and compassion but your pen has a mind of its own and on the page in front of you are tales of hatred, obsession

and revenge. Eventually, the winter has been too long and the drizzle and cold fatigues both body and mind. Murder and dismembering become child's play and you find your pen writing words you never believed possible. Possessed by the Winter Warlock you start to write persuasively about the necessity of asphaltting the monthly market venue and of the need for every site to have electricity for neon advertising.

Buoyed by the warming glow of this revelation, you crave another fix. "Why stop at the market?" the Warlock seduces. "There's a whole village to be transformed!" And he transports you to all the sites that need "improving". "There's a run-down old hall that needs cladding. It'd make a great village-theme fast food outlet."

You pinch yourself for being stupid enough never to have seen it before. With all this time at your disposal your mind has free reign to scour the boundaries of possibility. The longer winter goes on, the more individually brilliant you become. Until Nature has had her fill and decides to sport with you no longer.

According to plan, the blossom tree barbs are camouflaged by the innocence of pale green leaves; the ducks begin their graceful metaphorizing and the sun beckons the fevered writer away from his scribbles. As the winter wanes, the village awakens and sun and sanity return.

**ROGER KIBELL**

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# Chuffed by choughs at dawn of day

**D**AWN breaks, flooding the sky with rich golden light. Washed by the tide of night, a new day lies ahead like a stretch of clean sand waiting for footprints.

It was a gift of a morning too beautiful to ignore. In a rush of shameless self-indulgence I put on hold for a few hours the routine of daily life and headed for the bush. One problem. I couldn't decide where to go. There was Fourth Hill, its well-wooded slopes would be on fire with thousands of golden-winged pea flowers; Professors Hill was tempting, the veritable smorgasbord of orchids on this steep hillside are second to nowhere around these parts. There was always the 100 Acres Reserve in Park Orchards, however, I would feel a little disloyal if I spent my precious morning out of Warrandyte.

I opted in the end for The Common, a relatively undeveloped slice of Warrandyte State Park which lies wedged between Johansons Road and Haslams Track, just off the Warrandyte to Ringwood main road. In the past this area has been used for timber harvesting and grazing. In fact grazing still continues, only now it is the ubiquitous opportunistic rabbit doing the damage. Families of Eastern Grey Kangaroos also visit The Common, but for rest and shelter, their grazing is mainly done in the adjoining paddocks.



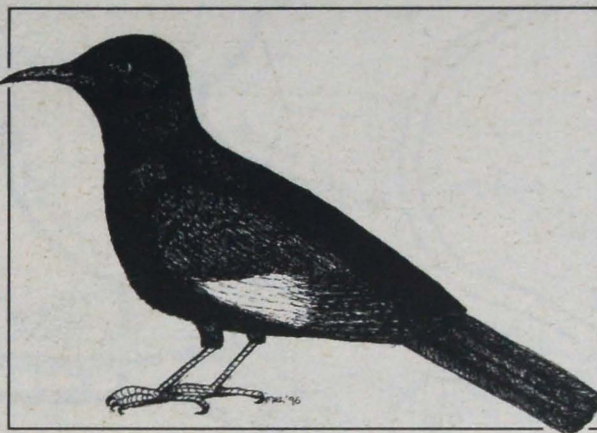
## NATURE

By **PAT COUPAR**  
 Drawn by **MELANIE COUPAR**

When I arrived at the reserve I was struck by the birds and not, as expected, by the flowers. Like pealing bells the rolling 'olly olly ole' of the Olive-backed Oriole greeted me from the tree tops, while in the distance I could just make out the insistent staccato piping of a Yellow Robin.

In a clearing beside the track a small party of White-winged Choughs cavorted on the ground. These red-eyed, black-plumaged birds spend much of their time foraging in the leaf litter, probing the soft soil for insects or succulent roots. Because of their taste for plump white tubers, large flocks of Choughs have, in some areas, wreaked havoc amongst orchid populations, decimating some species to the point of extinction. In Warrandyte, fortunately for the orchids, the numbers of birds are small and stable so little harm is done in that respect.

I turned my attention at last to the plants. Wildflowers borne on fresh green shoots pushing upwards towards the light, seeking pollination by wind or insect. They were all there, in a spectrum of colour—Yellow Stars, Blue Pincushions, Purple Coral-



peas, Creamy Candles and Greenhoods. The pleasure I get from being there among them every year never wanes. In our comfortable, convenience-riddled suburban confines, whether we realise it or not, we all need spiritual freedom. For me the natural environment offers this release, providing serenity and bonding. In a sense it is like coming home.

As the sun gained strength, the blue of the sky gained intensity. Such a morning was worth bottling or at least preserving in some way. I found a log and sat down, taking three long deep breaths of sweet-scented spring air. Looking around I concentrated on nothing else but the

details of the bush—colours, shapes, patterns of light. I closed my eyes and listened. The Oriole had stopped calling but the Robin was still piping merrily. Gradually other sounds reached my ears—the wind in the leaves, the creak of a branch, twitterings of unidentifiable little birds. Still with eyes closed, I reached out and touched the log on which I sat, feeling the rough texture of its flaky bark and the soft mounds of springy moss which clung with gentle tenacity to the rotting wood.

This technique of focusing on the senses one by one is simple—as a means of preserving the memory of special moments it works every time.

# Double bill thrills despite chills

**L**AST month the Warrandyte Theatre Company presented a great little play written by Eric Elice and Roger Rees, suitably named Double Double. With just two roles in the production it was decided to give two directors, Brian Laurence and Sam Marston, a chance to shape their own interpretations, using different actors.

The *Diary* went to both productions to obtain an appreciation of the different styles. Interestingly, there appeared to be only subtle differences.

In the middle of Warrandyte winter, with the Olympics gaining record television audiences, it should not surprise that there were less than 20 in each audience on the Thursday and Friday nights we attended. It was disappointing that the community did not support our theatre group, which turned on a very good effort with this well-written play. The story has many twists and turns. At interval, over coffee, most of the audience were trying to work out just how the play would end. It revolved around up-market Philippa James, a recent widow who needs to find her late husband's lookalike in order to claim an inheritance of a million pounds.

It appears her husband, Richard, died in a swimming accident just before his 45th birth-



## THEATRE

By **NICHOLAS PARSONS**

day. Had he lived till his 45th and proved to be married, then he could have claimed the money. Trouble for poor Philippa is that no husband, no money and without it she cannot maintain her West End London lifestyle.

Philippa is chauffeured around London to find a suitable stooge. She discovers down-and-out Duncan McPhee, a Scot living out of a cardboard box, and invites him back to her home. Enter classy Philippa and hobo Duncan, complete with broad Scots accent. She convinces Duncan to be schooled for over a week as Richard, wearing his clothes, changing his accent in order to fool their family solicitor.

But our Duncan is no fool and it is agreed that he will be part of the "sting" for half of the inheritance. He is bathed, fed and shaped into Duncan, complete with English accent. Along the way, the two become friends. It turns out Duncan is a professional poet and teacher who, after an awful relationship, had a breakdown and took to the streets.

Finally the couple become a couple, but what is their future? Will Duncan run off with the

money? Will Philippa? Will they stay together? Will it work? Is Richard really dead? Is Philippa really Philippa or a housekeeper while the real owners are away?

The script is absorbing, if a little slow at first. However, the ending was a shock for all of us and that is how it should be. Better than the reruns of the Olympics.

Yvonne Morey and Caroline Shaw played Philippa. Yvonne displayed a character of great strength, torn between deception and ambition. She has grown as an actor and produced a good performance, cleverly underplaying the part which kept the audience guessing. Caroline is a talented and animated actor, who was able to demonstrate a wide variety of feelings. Whichever is the preferred style, both lived up to expectations.

Trevor Hanna and Adrian Rice played the most interesting yet challenging role of Duncan, the rags-to-riches character. The role required a broad Scottish accent as well as cultured English tones, sometimes in the same sentence. Both handled this with aplomb, but it was interesting how one piece of furniture made such a difference. The sofa was positioned at an angle to the audience with Trevor, so he was not forced to turn to his side when speaking to Philippa in a broad accent, which made it easier for the au-



dience to understand him. Nevertheless, both actors were impressive and kept the tempo moving well.

Both directors paid attention to small details: the aftermath of a party with bottles and ashtrays strewn on the floor, the music of Ella Fitzgerald, lighting to underline a clue or a feeling. Jock Macneish designed a wonderful, multi-level set, dressed so that one could really believe Philippa lived there.

The play was a success. A good script and some fine performances. Pity more of Warrandyte did not enjoy it. However, next time, at least the drama group will not have to compete with the Olympics.

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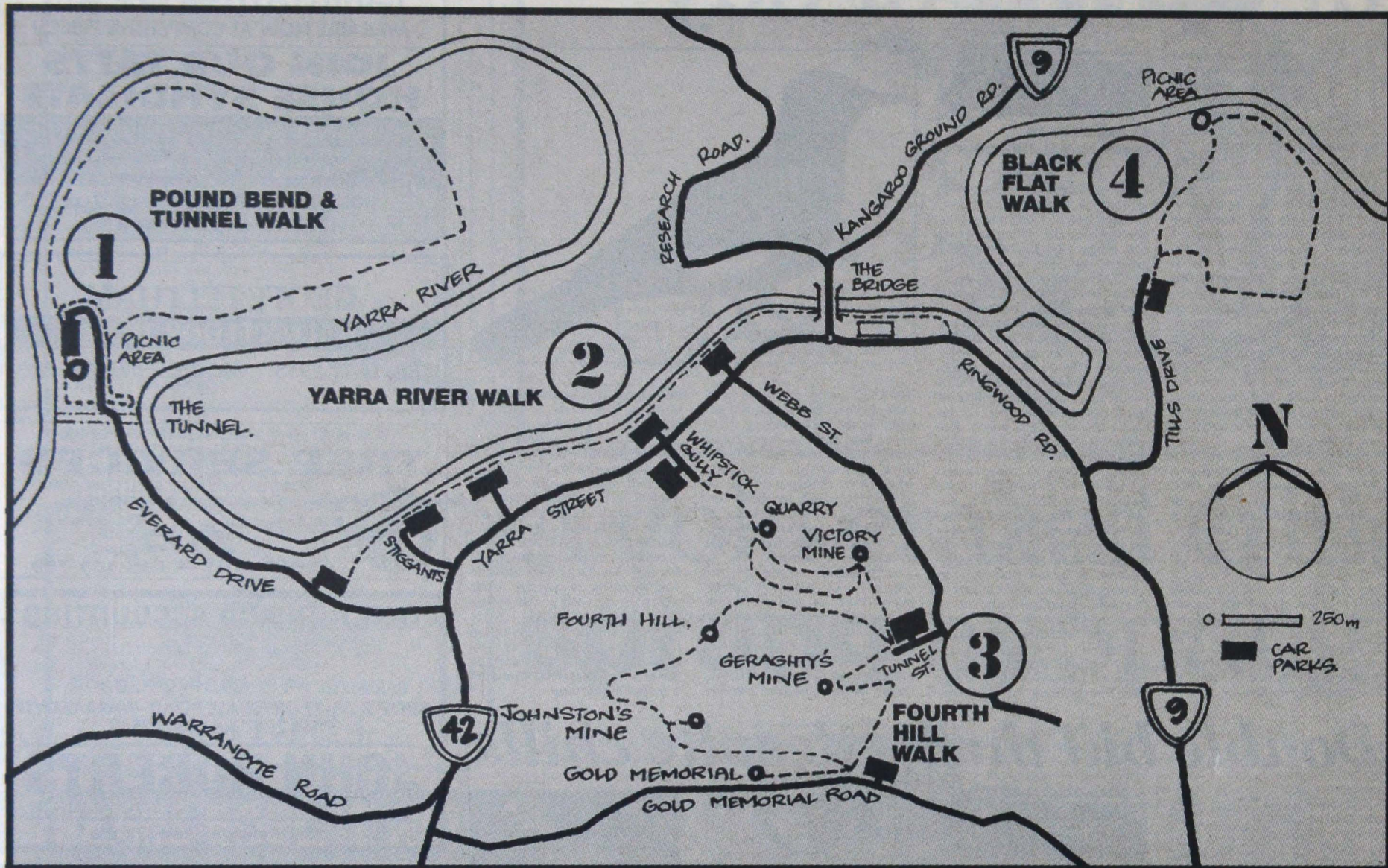
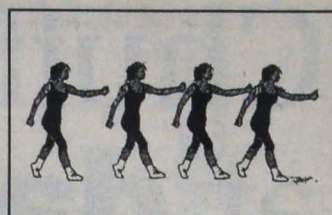
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 163 Yarra Street, Warrandyte 3113  
 Phone (03) 9844 4499

## 4

# Walks around Warrandyte



REVISED SEPTEMBER 1996

## 1 Pound Bend Walk

Drive to the end of Everard Drive to find Pound Bend, which is situated in a large, narrow-necked loop of the Yarra River. In the early years the land was used as a pound for cattle, hence its present name. With luck you may spot a koala high in one of the smooth-barked manna gums. The picnic area attracts many birds, including colorful parrots, honeyeaters, kookaburras and noisy miners.

A short walk from the picnic area will lead to the unique Pound Bend Tunnel. This amazing venture was carried out by David Mitchell, father of singer Dame Nellie Melba, in 1870. The tunnel, six metres wide and almost five metres high was dug through 145 metres of solid rock at the neck of the loop. A dam was built across the river and the water was diverted through the tunnel, leaving exposed a five kilometre stretch of river bed, which was dredged for gold. While no remains of the dam can be seen today, the tunnel, in which lives a colony of bats, looks as if it was carved through only yesterday.

A walking track along the Yarra River, to the north of Pound Reserve, crosses various gullies by wooden bridges and ends at a large open area. The track continues to the south-east past the plaque dedicated to the site of the first youth hostel in Victoria, then joins the entry road to the park office, and turning south continues to Pound Bend Road. For alternative walk along the ridge top, return to the tunnel site above the Pound Bend Reserve car park.

## 2 Yarra River Walk

Halfway along Everard Drive begins a wide track which follows the river and is shared by walkers, joggers, cyclists and horse riders. Dogs on leashes are welcome in this reserve. A wooden bridge crosses Andersons Creek just above where it joins the Yarra. (Andersons Creek was the original name for Warrandyte). At Stiggants Reserve, site of the monthly Warrandyte Community Market, there is a children's playground, a small amphitheatre, picnic tables, electric barbecues, public toilets and two picnic shelters. A small wetlands area has been created by Doncaster council and the Friends of Warrandyte State Park. Each autumn, the two-day Warrandyte Festival attracts thousands of visitors. Above the path, adjacent to Warrandyte village itself, are additional public toilets, the historic Gospel Chapel and the old Warrandyte post office, faithfully restored and home to the Warrandyte Historical Society's museum.

This walk terminates at the Warrandyte bridge. Immediately downstream is the site of the old wooden bridge, built in 1865 from yellow box timbers felled in the Stony Creek area.

The old bridge was the focal point in Warrandyte for New Year celebrations, when the locals would meet to sing Auld Lang Syne to the accompaniment of bagpipes and fireworks—and sometimes exploding gelignite!

The existing steel and concrete bridge was built in 1955. A smaller picnic area, with barbecues provided, is located at the public tennis courts, downstream from the bridge. A third set of public toilets has been provided adjacent to the bridge.

## 3 Fourth Hill Walk

Four kilometres long, this walk takes about one-and-a-half hours. It starts from the carpark near the gold memorial cairn at Andersons Creek on Gold Memorial Road. Ford the creek, turn to the left and walk up the steep track. On your left is a mine shaft surrounded by a wooden railing. This whole area is covered with mullock heaps and other relics of the gold mining days.

About 30 metres horizontally left across the hill, on a small track, is a corrugated iron hut of a type common around Warrandyte in years past. This hillside is covered in a sea of white heath in the late winter months. Continue past the hut, and another shaft, on the steep track that climbs uphill. At a T-junction, turn right for 20 metres to reach Johnston's Mine.

Backtrack to the T-junction and continue around the hill past some mossy boulders to a vehicle track, running from Betton Crescent to the top of Fourth Hill. Turn right and follow the track straight up onto the large, open area at the top of Fourth Hill. Nearby is a grate covering an air shaft down into the Fourth Hill Tunnel.

Walk straight ahead from point of entry to a walking track which leads downhill and to the right. Continue in the same direction, past the Y-intersection, towards the park gate. Turn left at the gate along the vehicle track, following the fenceline. This track undulates down into Whipstick Gully. The shorter Bruce Bence Walk commences just behind the Information Centre to the south-west, meanders through old diggings and mullock heaps. This narrow track is only 620 metres long but quite steep. It ends on a vehicle track overlooking the Victory Mine site, which had five levels going up inside the hill. This mine is safe to explore up to 20 metres in, where a steel gate prevents further access for safety reasons. A torch should be carried.

Backtrack to the Tunnel Street gate and continue on, veering to the right, and follow it downhill to the Fourth Hill Tunnel, which runs 100 metres into the hill.

This was the first large-scale mining operation in the area, started by Patrick Geraghty, Warrandyte's first innkeeper. Geraghty did not strike the reef he was seeking, but two other miners continuing his work in the 1880s were more successful. This mine is safe to explore with a torch. Emerging from the tunnel, turn right and follow the track downhill along Wild Cat Gully to Andersons Creek, where the walk commenced.

## 4 Black Flat Walk

The entrance to Black Flat Reserve, Warrandyte State Park, is situated partway along Tills Drive, which leaves the Ringwood Road close by the Stonehouse craft shop. There are carparks and a picnic area at the reserve.

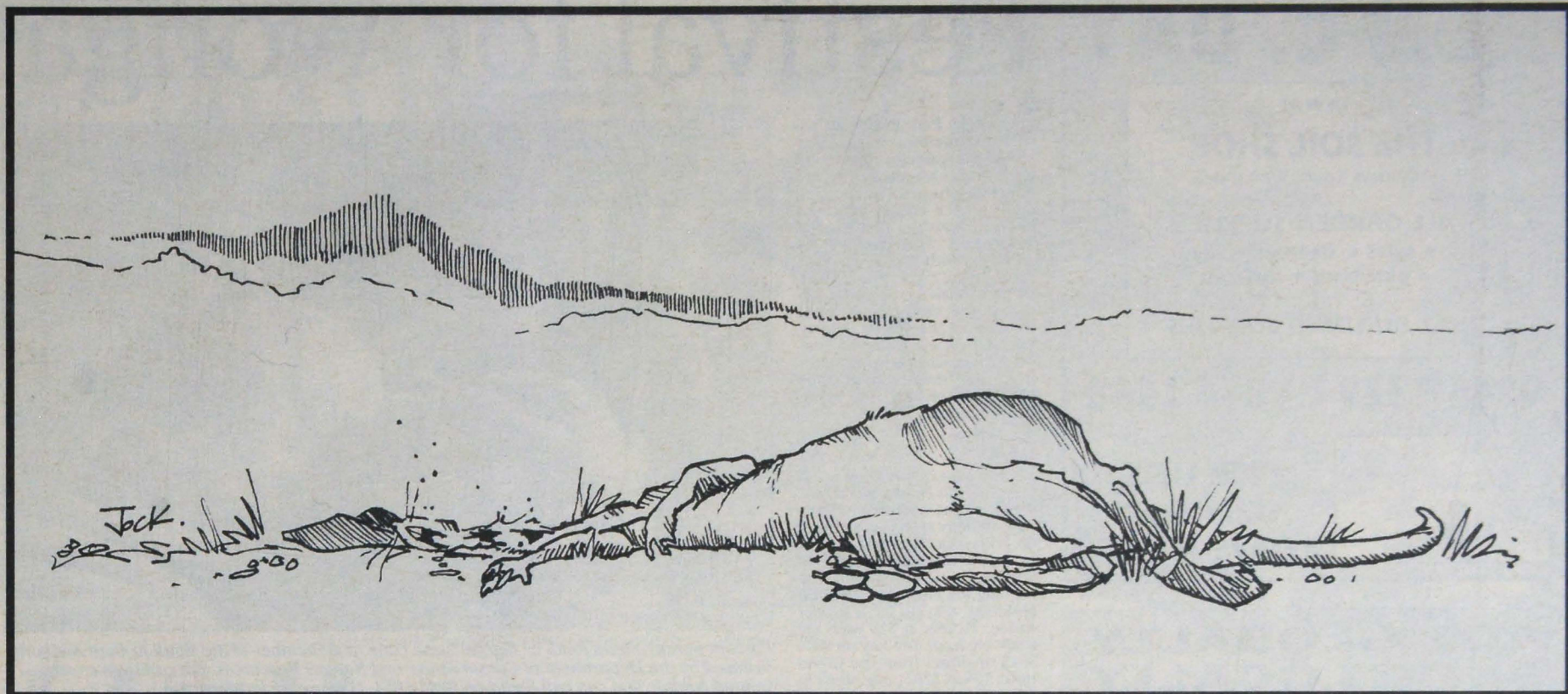
This is a fully-developed "nature walk", the route is marked by signs and arrows and will take about an hour to cover. Black Flat is covered by open forest, dominated by eucalypts—mostly red box—and is one of the most scenically attractive areas of Warrandyte. Each season brings its own special surprises.

One is constantly reminded of the part this area played during the goldmining era. In 1904, Warrandyte's largest mine—the Caledonian—commenced operations here. One of the boilers that provided steampower for these extensive workings can be seen on the left, not far from the entrance to the reserve.

Also to be seen is a circular depression in the ground, marking the remains of a puddling machine, powered by horses walking in a circle and used to crush quartz from which gold was extracted.

Reminders of the agricultural history of the area include a grand old red box tree used as a fence post by the Mullens family, who homesteaded the area from the 1870s to 1914. Evidence of some of the orchards planted by the Mullens can also be observed, as well as a breacher dam wall. Partway along the nature trail is a sign indicating the track to Jumping Creek Reserve, not shown on the above map. Spectacular views of the meandering river are a feature of this longer walk. Wombats have burrowed into the soft soil beside the narrow track, creating a maze of holes and tunnels.

A grassy area by the river, near the start of the track, marks the site of one of the old orchards. Close by is a pleasant swimming spot and a delightful picnic area under the shade of a huge manna gum.



# Death in the parklands

STORY BY GLEN JAMESON • ARTWORK BY JOCK MACNEISH

**F**OLLOWING the strange report of a kangaroo in the Petty's Orchards visitors' shelter, we discovered a large male Eastern Grey Kangaroo lying on the brick paving close to death. The massive animal was clearly exhausted; barely able to lift his head.

A local veterinarian euthanased him soon after and we used the opportunity to take a close look at his features. We marvelled at the size of the front paws with its huge sharp claws, the details of skin patterns on his palms and feet and inspected the grooming toe, a small claw high above the ankle used to scratch any itch.

The roo was a big creature, as large as ourselves and probably heavier. A long scar ran down his flank. It had healed on the outside but the roo had not healed on the inside. Probably, the wound had been inflicted during a fight with another roo. It might have been for the right to lead the mob. Often, once this battle has been lost, the loser finds himself out of the mob. Nowhere to go. No land, no mob, no job, no dreaming.

His mouth carried a painful infection. His last weeks were probably spent in poor health—unable to eat with starvation setting in until his death. The wasted nature of his once formidable legs were witness to the deterioration of his condition.

Around this time there were other discoveries of dead large males in Longridge Park and other places

within Yarra Valley parklands; episodes in a long story that had taken its toll on the local kangaroo mob.

In the months between February and September 1995, we had observed the massive movement of kangaroos forced out of the sanctuary at Glynn's by constant harassment from a particular pair of dogs. This had in turn caused conflicts in local home territories of the small kangaroo mobs distributed along the Middle Yarra region.

The Glynn's mob, prior to the disturbance, had been close to 50 individuals. By September it was down to between 10 and 15. The movement downstream of kangaroos would have brought on territorial disputes with other mobs, as the few areas of habitat available to kangaroos within the Yarra Valley Parklands were already occupied. If there was territory and habitat available, the females may have been accepted into other mobs, but there was no room for the big males.

In a mob of Eastern Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*), the species that lives in Warrandyte and is widespread across Victoria, most of the individuals are sedentary; that is, they live within a confined area.

They will occupy a relatively small home range of between 0.25 to four kilometres square, although some individuals will explore the territory beyond the home range and take journeys of up to 10 kilometres. The typical home range will be a mixture

of open grassy vegetation (freshly growing grass constitutes the bulk of the diet, generally consumed from late afternoon to early morning) and dense wooded cover necessary for



Females with young are especially vulnerable

the kangaroos to rest in during the day. The kangaroos at Glynn's occasionally mixed together, forming a mob of some 50 individuals, but generally stayed in smaller family

mobs of 10 to 15.

I have often observed co-operation between the big male roos and young bucks as they formed a defensive cordon to protect the retreat of the mob across the slopes and flats of the sanctuary at Glynn's.

When a threat appeared, all the females and young would make their way in a tight bunch towards agreed destinations. Behind them a defensive cordon was placed, with military precision, across a vantage point, ready to stage a strike if necessary.

Once the mob reached a certain area the defence cordon would move to the next defensive position. The 'boxing' exercise, carried out by the males as part of their development and growth, prepared them for such situations of threat.

Females with young are especially vulnerable. Carrying a joey when being hunted forces the mother to decide between herself and the young one, who may suddenly find itself out of the pouch during a pursuit.

Young kangaroos during their first year out on their own are extremely flighty and very vulnerable. At least 80 percent do not live beyond their first three years. They respond to threats with lightning speed on their new, suddenly powerful legs, but still have to learn the complex, scattering, evasive actions of the Eastern Greys, which subtly give the impression of a disorganised exit.

The two dogs responsible for constant harassment had been observed as far downstream as

Westerfolds Park at Templestowe. We had no doubt they also caused the deaths of several kangaroos that were forced out on to busy Fitzsimons Lane, to be killed by cars. There have been several surges of kangaroos onto the road, and each time reports confirmed that the attacks from dogs coincided with the roadkills. This is a problem for both the kangaroos and motorists.

Kangaroos suddenly became newsworthy refugees in the urban gardens of Templestowe and Eltham. A few residents of the Viewbank area, in the City of Banyule, reported sightings of Eastern Grey kangaroos in this area. Fortunately for some of the kangaroos, there were large areas of revegetated parkland to retreat to and recolonise. However, these places are not yet suitable as permanent habitat. There were also reports of macropod prints on the muddy fringes of billabongs on the Yarra Flats parklands.

Not only the kangaroos were suffering dog attacks. Several swamp wallabies had been killed. Being solitary animals they were especially vulnerable to predation by the organised hunters.

Many faunal species, including owls and eagles, also attempt to survive in this wild urban tangle. The disturbance to this one sanctuary sent shock waves throughout the wildlife community in Melbourne's major faunal corridor, the Yarra Valley.

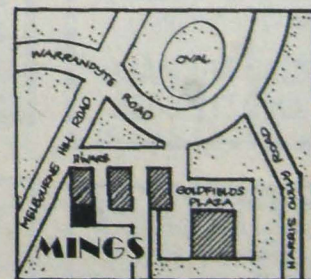
• To be continued

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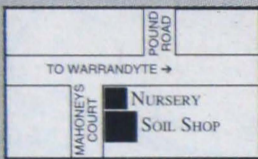
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November-December  
first & third Sunday  
of each month

### MECHANICS INSTITUTE HALL FOR HIRE

PHONE: 9844 1376

The Wonga Park Residents Association has formed a sub-committee to organise a community festival in November. Plans are underway to involve sporting and service clubs, arts and crafts, CFA and local shops and businesses. Activities will include a youth dance party on Friday night, November 8. There will be a bush dance on the Saturday and various activities throughout the day on Sunday. The festival will include a business expo. Further information from Matthew Harrington on 9722 1610 or Margaret Fankhauser on 9722 2333.

### Cosi

A special one-off performance of Cosi by Louis Nowra will be presented by the Warrandyte Theatre Company at the Grand Hotel on Friday, October 4 at 7.30pm as a fundraising night for St Stephens Anglican Church. The evening will end with 'Two Past Midnight' playing for a supper dance. Tickets at \$15 each are available from Ann Ley on 9844 3543 or direct from the Grand Hotel (9844 3202) one week in advance.

### Cosi again

The Warrandyte Theatre Group is also presenting Cosi by Louis Nowra as part of the Waverley Festival. The performance will take place at the Alexander Theatre, Monash University, on Tuesday, October 15. Enquiries to Rae on 9844 3819.

### History

At the recent annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Historical Society, Andy Bevan-Jones was re-elected president for 1996-97. Gina Bevan-Jones and Alan Alder were re-elected secretary and treasurer respectively. The society meets monthly, on either the third Sunday afternoon, when guest speakers or special activities are involved, or on the third Tuesday in the evening. Further information from Gina or Andy Bevan-Jones on 9844 3662. New members are most welcome.

### Panto

Warrandyte Theatre Company will be presenting Red Riding Hood, a Christmas pantomime in December, with both matinee and evening performances. Auditions are being held at 2pm on Sunday, October 6. Enquiries to Rae on 9844 3819.

### Books

The Warrandyte Book Exchange would welcome donations of books, especially on astrology, art, craft and hobbies. Autobiographies and biographies would be especially welcome. Books can be left at the community centre or will be collected if you ring 9844 3345. The book exchange is open Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, 2-4.30pm and Saturdays, 10.30am to 1pm.

### Services

Normal Sunday services at St Stephens Anglican Church, in

### Warrandyte Opportunity Shop at the Community Centre

10.30am-4.30pm  
(MON-FRI)  
11am-5pm (SAT & SUN)

A Lions Club of  
Warrandyte project



Possum parent: Stella Reid, of Pigeon Bank Lane, is a member of the Wildlife Care Network, licensed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. For assistance with injured wildlife you can call Stella on 9844 1854. (Picture by Jan Tindale)



### 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.

Taroona Avenue, take place at 8am and 9am, with a Wednesday service at 10am. The church has also introduced a healing service at 7.30pm on Thursdays and half-hour prayers at 9.30am on Fridays. There will be a youth service on Sunday, September 15 at 7pm. Youth groups resume activities after the school holidays. Further details from Father Garry Gason on 9844 3473 or Ann Ley on 9844 3543.

### Elvis

Andrew Portelli will feature in A Tribute To Elvis at the Grand Hotel on Friday, September 20 at 8.30pm. This will be a fundraising night for Wonga Park CFA. Cost is \$12 including supper and tickets can be booked by ringing 9844 3202.

### Exhibition

A major exhibition of paintings by Di and John Koenders commences at the Manningham Artspace on Thursday, September 12 and remains open until Sunday, September 29. The gallery is open from 10am until 5pm, daily except Mondays.

### Dummy

A mannequin or dressmaker's dummy is required by Warrandyte Historical Society for use in

their museum display. They also urgently need an office guillotine. Please call Gina Bevan-Jones on 9844 3662 if you can help.

### Awards

Kevin Andrews, local federal MP, is calling for nominations for the Menzies Community Australia Day Awards for 1997. The purpose of the awards is to recognise the valued contribution of so many people to our local community. For nomination forms phone 9848 9900.

### Neighbours

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House have elected new office-

bearers. They are: Maria McGhee (president), Val Spargo (vice-president), Hazel Boss (secretary) and Myrna Manton (treasurer). A new co-ordinator has been appointed. She is Nicole Collins and she has already commenced her duties at the Neighbourhood House.

### Biology

VCE biology students preparing for their CAT 3 exam will be interested in revision lectures to be held on Sunday, October 6 at the Box Hill Institute of TAFE, Building 4 Lower Floor Auditorium, 465 Elgar Road, Box Hill from 9.30am to 3.30pm. For application forms and further details call 9873 1984.

## New bus deal for our school kids

Warrandyte's school students will benefit from an expanded bus service which started on August 12. The service, provided by National Bus Company, is aimed to provide better service to schools in the eastern suburbs.

Warrandyte MP, Phil Honeywood, said the improvement was long overdue. "For some time parents in the Warrandyte area have found the bus service timetable for children travelling, in particular, to the Kew area very restrictive," he said.

"With the introduction of the new service the focus will be on children travelling to schools west of Warrandyte township. In the past these children had, at times, experienced many difficulties with connecting transport during their daily travel. The new integrated service should alleviate many of these problems."



Phil Honeywood

For many years Warrandyte residents have voiced their concerns at the lack of adequate public transport to and from the township.

Details of new routes and timetables can be obtained by phoning Mr Honeywood's electoral office on 9870 7396.

### DIARY MINI ADS

**SHARE ACCOMMODATION:** in Warrandyte. 1 or 2 bedrooms available to non-smoker and working person. Close to transport and shopping centre. \$55 or \$85 per week plus expenses and bond. 9844 4576

**MUSIC LESSONS:** Clarinet, Flute, Saxophone. All ages and levels catered for. Also theory and keyboard. Phone 9844 2019

**REIKI HEALING/TAROT READING:** Gift Vouchers are available. Enquiries: Sandra McCarthy 9712 0436. (Member of the Tarot Guild of Australia).

**TREE PROBLEMS?:** Experienced local tree surgeon and climber offering all types of responsible tree care and maintenance. FOR FREE QUOTE phone Peter on 9844 4965.

**LOST:** Dark brown Burmese cat (M) Lost 30th July. If seen please ring 9844 2154.

**FOR SALE:** Shade cloth—brand new. Color: Black, Size: 3.5m x 14m. \$120. 9844 2660.

**ARE YOUR** wildflowers being overwhelmed by weeds? Advice and assistance: Joan of Warrandyte Bushscapes. AH 9844 3213.

**HOUSE WANTED:** Teaching couple, no children, looking for a house or flat to rent in Warrandyte-Warranwood-Wonga Park area. Ring Di or John on 9844 3849 after 4pm. References available.

**EXPERIENCED TUTOR AVAILABLE** for English, History and Legal Studies (Year 7 to VCE). Phone Allison Rowe on 9712 0448.

**ARAB MARE:** Purebred, 14 hands, 7 years old. Broken in, needs educating, very affectionate. Phone 9817 1719. \$550 or nearest offer.

## DIARY ADVERTISING WORKS



Above: Mums, dads and their Auskickers at presentation day.  
Right: We don't know his name, but maybe he's a Bloods star of the future.



# Littlies are kicking on!

If what was seen at the little oval at the Warrandyte Recreation Reserve on August 30 was a fair indication, the long-term future of football in this town is in the very best of hands.

The occasion was presentation day for the Warrandyte chapter of Auskick, the AFL-sponsored program to develop football skills in the very young.

And the kids—droves of them—did themselves proud in four simultaneous exhibition matches played in the mud before the presentation ceremony and a sausage sizzle "brunch".

Warrandyte parents have often been criticised for their lack of interest in local junior football. But they were out in force here to watch their boys (and girls) go through their paces and are strongly supporting the Auskick concept.

Auskick, which is open to primary school children (ages five to 12) was formerly known as Vickick, but the AFL gave it a new identity this year to foster development of junior football nationally and particularly to the northern states.

The program came to Warrandyte several years ago but only in the past three years has it really blossomed—thanks to some very dedicated dads.

In 1994, the local committee had 42 children on its books. Last year it had 75. This year it has 143, including a dozen girls.

"Auskick is all about teaching young kids football skills," Warrandyte committee secretary Kevin O'Mara told the *Diary*.

"It's up to the dads in each area to organise

**Pictures: JAN TINDALE**  
**Words: LEE TINDALE**

their own chapter of the program.

"In Warrandyte we get the kids together every Saturday morning on this oval during the AFL season. We do skills work with them before putting them into groups for match practice."

Parents who discourage their children from playing football for fear of injury should have no quarrel with Auskick. Tackling is against the rules at this level.

The local chapter sees Auskick as the starting point for a natural progression to the Warrandyte Junior Football Club, which now fields teams for all ages from under-10s through to under-16s.

The junior club hopes to field a "Tackers" (under-9) team next season to enhance that progression.

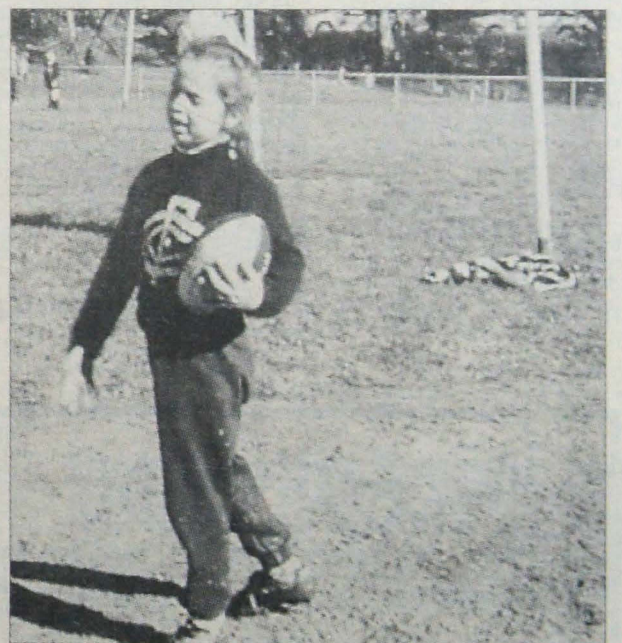
It was trophies all round—\$1100 worth of them—at Auskick presentation day. Each player received an identical trophy and an achievement certificate (good for a cheeseburger or a junior burger) from McDonald's, the AFL's sponsor of the program.

Local sponsors (led by the Grand Hotel) and the coaches were presented with plaques recognising their contributions.

And something very special awaited many of our young Auskickers. They played in front of a huge crowd at the MCG the next day at half-time in the AFL game between North Melbourne and Richmond.



Above: Stand aside—here come the Auskick kids! There's no tackling allowed at this level of football, but there's certainly no shortage of enthusiasm or dash.



Right: Her name's Melissa Simpson and she's one of about a dozen girls in the local Auskick program. And she can certainly match it with the boys.

Below: Melissa again. She was in everything, so busy she didn't even have time to tell us her age.

Left: Two of the Warrandyte's 143 Auskickers with their newest proudest possessions—their trophies.



# Council, club agree on new courts plan

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Tennis Club hope work will begin within eight to 10 weeks on the building of two new courts at their Tarroona Avenue headquarters.

The club have had positive discussions with Tennis Victoria and Manningham council engineers in recent weeks resulting in two options being considered for the additional courts.

Both plans recommend the courts be located next to the club's present five-court facility at Warrandyte Reserve.

The first and least-favoured plan involves moving courts one and five towards the main oval by half the length of a court. The new courts would be built one at each of the other ends, taking up half the present court and some car parking and open area. It would form an H shape around the clubhouse.

But according to club vice-president Mark Bence this is not a feasible option. "It would mean the courts would have to be re-lit because the lights would be at the wrong angles," he told the *Diary*. "And council said it would not work because they need a minimum of one car width around the outside of the

football ground.

"We would therefore not have the necessary room."

The plan which has now gathered both the club's and council's support is for two new courts to be built near court one, closest to Tarroona Avenue.

They would be built side by side, following the present pattern, with a fence surrounding them. The courts would not be directly connected with court one. The new enclosure would be pushed back towards the river with a walkway separating it from court one. This would force the club to build the

courts on land which is now used as part of the car park. New lights would be erected around the twin courts. The only drawback with the new plan is the loss of the car parking space.

"It's a viable option for us," Bence said. "The council says it is feasible and we expect it will come under the \$120,000 which has already been budgeted for. Very little earthworks are required.

"It would be the perfect solution if we could find the extra car parking.

"We will not be extending the car park towards the creek area. We want to fit

in with the environment.

"We realise we are on a unique site. It's a lovely spot and is very quiet. We don't want to destroy it."

The club are waiting for council to give the plan the final go-ahead so the project can go out to tender.

"The main problem for us at the moment is that we have more junior players than courts," Bence said. "We have to send them away.

"Some kids can play with the club for several seasons but never play at the club courts. We want them to feel part of the club."

# Tennis stars go for gold

By JUDY GREEN

Finals of the Warrandyte Tennis Club's Goldtown Open tournament will be played at their Tarroona Avenue courts this Sunday, September 15.

Top seeds for this year are 1993 winner Alan Belobradic and leading woman player Joanne Limmer.

Winner of the 1993 and 1994 tournaments was Annabel Elwood, who reached the second round of the US Open last month.

The club's junior championships were completed last month, with 1995 boys' winner Liam Mulcahy successfully defending his title. Liam won a hard-fought match against Hayden Waterman 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

In the girls' final, Lucinda Thomas regained the title she won in 1994 but lost last year. She defeated Esther Waterman in straight sets, 6-4, 6-1.

The 13-and-under championships were won by Chris Chapman and Katrina Sochaki, Chris sharing both boys' and mixed doubles as well.

The Oriander Family Trophy for the most improved junior was awarded to 11-year-old Joel Drew.

A number of Warrandyte teams have been playing in finals over recent months.

In the Tennis Victoria pennant competition, the men's Grade 7 team reached the fourth round in the series of five finals, where they were defeated by just one game. The men's Grade 5 and Grade 10 teams were knocked out in earlier finals matches.

The Racketeers were successful in the Lilydale and District Night Tennis Association's Tuesday competition, as were three teams in the mixed Wednesday



night competition—Brain Drain in Section 5, Intoxicated in Section 6 and Burran in Section 11.

Warrandyte's Mixed Section 11 team played in the finals of the Eastern Region tennis competition on Saturdays, but lost their semi-final.

In the Saturday morning junior matches, five teams finished in the top four. Two—Boys 8 and Boys 17—went on to contest their grand finals, but both were defeated.

Boys 17 had to play an extra deciding set after the match was drawn in both sets and games.

Midweek ladies also featured in the finals in the Eastern District Women's Tennis Association, with Section 5 completing the season as runners-up.

In the Tuesday midweek Eastern Metropolitan Ladies Tennis Association, A10 and C8 reached the finals, with C8 bringing home the winners' flag after a closely-fought, rain-delayed match.

### JUNIOR DETAILS

**18 AND UNDER:** Boys' Singles: Liam Mulcahy d Hayden Waterham 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Girls' Singles: Lucinda Thomas d Esther Waterham 6-4, 6-1. Boys' Doubles: Scott Clarey-Greg Hutchings d Liam Mulcahy-Luc Pelich 6-3, 7-6. Girls' Doubles: Rebecca Thomas-Lucinda Thomas d Lorena Valentine-Michelle Simpson 6-3, 6-3. Mixed Doubles: Scott Clarey-Rebecca Thomas d Luc Pelich-Lucinda Thomas 6-3, 6-3.

**13 AND UNDER:** Boys' Singles: Chris Chapman d Joel Drew 8-3. Girls' Singles: Katrina Sochaki d



Joel Drew, winner of the 'most improved' award at the Warrandyte Tennis Club's recent junior championships presentation. (Picture by Judy Green)

Tamara Valentino 8-3. Boys' Doubles: Chris Chapman-Iain Loughnan d Joel Drew-Layne Dellar 8-3. Girls' Doubles: Katrina Sochaki-Tamara Valentino d Linda Stanzel-Kirsty Moegerlein 8-3. Mixed Doubles: Chris Chapman-Tamar Valentino d Richard Moore-Katrina Sochaki 8-4.

# Redbacks set to take top spots

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Basketball Club are on the verge of their best finals series ever in the Friday night championship competition with five boys teams in line to snare top honours.

More than a dozen boys' and girls' teams will also see grand final action in another competition—the Saturday Eastern Districts Association finals.

Championship co-ordinator Con Arsenis says the club's five Friday night teams all have good chances to win the grand final, which will be played, surprisingly, on a Sunday—September 14.

"Three of the teams are coached by Gavin Whitmore and all held down top spot on the ladder throughout the season," he said. "The under 12B1 boys are favourites for the flag, being head and shoulders above the competition. They lost just three of their 22 games this season and we're hopeful they will win."

The boys beat Healesville by 15 points in the semi-final.

The 14B2 boys beat Manningham by seven points. "This team should have been in a higher grade," Arsenis said. "They also lost just three games for the year."

Whitmore's 16B1 boys slipped up in the semi-final, however, losing to Diamond Valley by five points. "They are always grudge matches when the two teams meet."

"Our boys lost just one and drew one of their 22 games and need to beat Gippsland in the preliminary final to play Diamond Valley in the final."

Also progressing to the preliminary final were Christian Arsenis' 14B4 boys and Peter Wynne's 16B2 boys.

"Having potentially five grand finalists is an excellent result for the club and augurs well for next season, when we can enter teams in higher grades for the first time," Arsenis said. The new season begins on Friday, October 4.

Domestic grand finals in the EDJBA will be played on Saturday, September 13, with plenty of Redback teams involved. The club had 36 of their 48 teams playing in the finals.

Ten new girls and 16 new boys have signed up for the summer season which starts in October.

The club's presentation day and awarding of trophies to all grand final players will be held on Sunday, October 13, from 12pm at the high school stadium. Several high profile guests from the sporting world will attend the family day.

The club will hold its annual general meeting at Warrandyte Community Centre from 8pm on Monday, October 7.

● Meanwhile, fund-raising is continuing for the under-15 girls team, who are trying to save money to fund their end-of-season tournament in Fiji. They will represent Victoria in the South Pacific Junior Championships in Suva.

A ladies fashion parade from Valato Designs will be held on Thursday, September 19, at 1 Rivulet Drive (corner Oakland Drive) Warrandyte from 8pm. Tickets are \$7.50 and available by phoning Raeleen Swain on 9844 1406 or Lorraine Borella on 9844 1041.

The girls will also benefit from a Tribute to Elvis fund-raising night at the Grand Hotel on Friday, October 11, from 8.30pm. Tickets, costing \$12, can be purchased through the Grand or Con Arsenis on 9846 7640.

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Fundraiser: Wonga Park CFA.

**SAT SEPT 28:** Wayne Horner—singer guitarist.

**FRI OCT 4:** Special encore of the comedy play "COSI" by Louis Nowra presented by the Warrandyte Theatre Company.  
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# Footy coach banned!

O'Brien  
our  
best  
again



John O'Brien

John O'Brien has made a habit and almost a hobby of collecting Warrandyte Football Club best and fairest awards.

Late last month he took his third senior award to go with the under-18s honour he won in his only season in that competition.

O'Brien, 30 and captain of the Bloods for the past two seasons, was an easy winner at the 1996 vote count at the Grand Hotel on July 24.

The inspirational follower polled 54 votes to score by 21 from midfielder Dale Vitritt.

Cam Day, Brad Valentine and Dale Comrie tied for third, on 24. It was a particularly good performance by Valentine, whose season was seriously interrupted by injury.

O'Brien won his first senior best and fairest in 1990 and tied last season with Darren Peters.

He came to Warrandyte from Ferntree Gully in 1981, played in an Under-16s premiership and spent a season in the Under-18s before earning permanent promotion to the seniors.

He was a member of Warrandyte's 1993 EDFL Third Division premiership team.

Despite a very disappointing 1996 Second Division season for the Bloods, O'Brien sees promising signs for next season.

"You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, as they say, but we blooded some very promising young players this year and I think it augers well for the future," he said.

The one thing certain is that O'Brien will be a part of Warrandyte's 1997 campaign.

Former seniors coach and premiership player David Purcell won the Reserves best and fairest. Purcell polled 13 votes to beat Terry Ryan by two, with Chris Sharp and Rod Valentine dead-heating for third on nine.

The Under-18s award was shared by Justin Edwards and Kucas Dyring (31 votes). Andrew Brown was third, just one vote behind, and Brett Yarwood fourth on 26.

It was quite a season for Brown, who won Beverley Hills' Under-17s best and fairest and was third in the competition voting.

Brown, Dyring and Daniel Bullen all played Under-17s for Beverley Hills on Sundays after playing Under-18s for Warrandyte on Saturdays.

WFC's presentation night is at Bird and Bottle Receptions, Maroonah Highway, Croydon, on September 25. Tickets are available from Jeff Evans (9722 1111).

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club coach Ralph Jones has been suspended for two years and the club fined \$2000 over an incident before the game against Blackburn on August 10.

The Eastern Districts Football League imposed the penalties after the non-playing coach took the field with his team for their preliminaries and "bumped" a Blackburn player.

Warrandyte are seeking legal advice on the matter.

The penalties shocked the club and infuriated Jones. "I have no regrets, no remorse," Jones told the *Diary*. "I was on the ground with the players because I wanted them to know I was in the trenches with them, that this was a game we had to win to avoid relegation and I was in there with them."

There is still uncertainty over the exact nature of the charge laid against Jones. EDFL general manager Craig Braddy declined to elaborate. "There was a breach of EDFL rules and it has

## Bloods seeking legal advice

SPORT



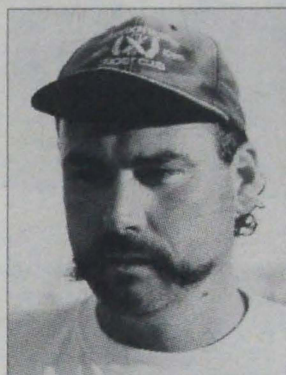
been dealt with appropriately," he said.

Said Jones: "When I went to the tribunal hearing on August 14 I didn't know I'd been charged with anything. I thought it was to be some sort of executive hearing about me being on the field."

"As far as I know, there has still been no ruling on what it (the suspension) was for."

Warrandyte beat Blackburn by 10 points (10.13 to 9.9) to move clear of the relegation zone with one match to go. They lost their final encounter, away to Kilsyth, by nine points (12.5 to 11.2) to finish just half a game clear of that club at the foot of the Second Division ladder.

"I went out on to the ground with the players to keep up the momentum of the pre-match



Ralph Jones: suspended.

address," Jones said. "I've heard I was wearing a Warrandyte footy jumper. I wasn't. I was wearing a tracksuit top and shorts."

"I did a lap with the players, talking to them, encouraging them. A Blackburn player who had been bending down stood

up and walked into my path.

"I have crook knees and hips and I find it difficult to run in anything but a straight line, particularly in the mud."

"I couldn't take evasive action and I bumped him. I bumped him on the side."

"I kept running and when I looked back after about 25 yards there was a bit of a melee going on. I called my players out of it. "There were no punches thrown at all. It was a push-and-shove affair that lasted no more than a minute."

Jones said he would be staying with the Bloods.

"This is my last port of call," he said. "I've put my hand up to be on the executive here and to help the club in any way it thinks I can be of use."

WFC president Lex Munro said the Bloods would be advertising for a playing coach for next season (in line with the trend among EDFL clubs).

He said that at this stage he had not decided whether to seek

a third term as president at the annual general meeting on October 24. The meeting will be held at the clubrooms at 7pm.

"Obviously, it was a very disappointing season for us," Munro said (the Bloods finished with just four wins and a draw from their 18 matches, compared with seven wins last year).

"In retrospect I suppose you could partly put it down to the late start to our pre-season."

"We lost our coach at the end of November and Ralph wasn't appointed until late in January. That meant a rushed preparation and we probably could have recruited with better results with more time."

"Still, we introduced some very talented local young players to senior football during the season and the club will benefit from that."

"What we really need are a couple more experienced on-field leaders to help the young blokes out."

"The Under-18s did very well and, after a slow start to the season, the Reserves got better and better under Dale McCartin's coaching."

# Chapman takes charge

By CLINTON GRZYBAS

Warrandyte Cricket Club have appointed former junior star Brian Chapman as their coach for the 1996-97 RDCA season.

But Chapman faces a difficult task in moulding the Chandler Shield side back into championship contention, according to club president Russell Dorning.

"We need to be realistic with our expectations," Dorning told the *Diary*. "We're not going to be contenders for the premiership. What we have to be is contenders for the final four."

Dorning said the club will embark on a youth policy for the new season, promoting young players into the thirds and seconds to try and develop future senior contributors.

This will include a split of last season's fourth eleven side, which won their third straight fourth's pennant with some players who will play two or even three grades higher this season.

Hindering the club's plans is the loss of talented young batting prospect Steve Bell (second in the batting averages last season). He will play with Ivanhoe at sub-district level this season.

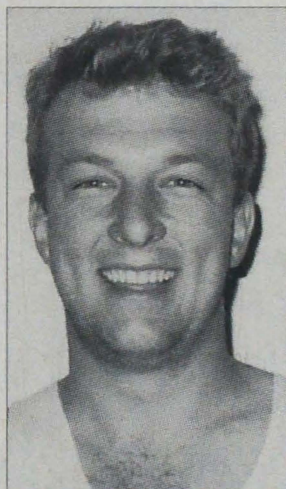
"I wish Warrandyte all the best for this season," Bell said on his departure.

"There are no hard feelings. I'm just leaving to try and play a higher grade of cricket. I'll be back playing at Warrandyte again in the future, returning as a better cricketer."

Bell was one such junior player who benefited from competing in the seniors while still a junior with the club.

For the second year in a row the club's plans to appoint a former District cricketer as coach fell through.

Chapman, who was officially the thirds, fourths and fifths coach last year but in reality a



Russell Dorning

lot more, said he was delighted to be asked to fill the breach.

"I'm very much looking forward to the new season. It's going to be a tough year but we have a lot to look forward to," he said.

"It's good the club is instilling their faith in the younger players. They will have a role to play this year."

The club was hoping to name a former Tasmanian cricketer, who played alongside Dirk Wellham in local competition in the Apple Isle, as their new captain. But it is now believed that he will just play in the ones, leaving the captaincy responsibility with last year's captain-coach Tony Sturesteps.

The club is expected to give up in their on-again off-again campaign to lure former coach Jon Sharman back to the fold.

The likelihood of the club pressing for finals claims this season clearly lies with the top order batting line-up. A dismal

failure last year, it was left with too few to do too much in the run-scoring department last season.

With Bell gone other players must step up, otherwise the team will spend long periods in the field this summer.

The bowling burden will once again fall on the shoulders of Chris Snaidero. He led the club with 32 wickets last season at an average of 16.75, despite spending the first few weeks in the seconds.

But Chapman, 34, will not shirk from the challenge ahead. He joined the club as a nine year-old in 1971 and within six years was in the senior team and, soon after, opening the bowling.

His playing career ended soon after when a doctor delivered news that a compressed disc in his back would ensure that he never played the sport again.

Instead of retiring away from the scene he took a new pursuit, coaching the club's womens team for 12 years.

That effort culminated in a premiership. He was awarded life membership of the club at their presentation night earlier this year.

He became the fifth Chapman to be awarded the club's highest honour—he joined father Alan, brother John, sister Jenny and wife Jenni (nee McLaws)—all recipients of the award.

The new season starts on Saturday, October 5.

● Players have been training indoors in preparation for the new season for the past month. Outdoor training has recently started, from 5pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Warrandyte Reserve. New players are most welcome. The club will hold a meet-the-coach night and family barbecue at the clubrooms on Thursday, September 26 to welcome in the new season.

## Big runs from little athletes

By MARILYN MOORE

Two local runners represented Ringwood Little Athletics Centre in this year's VLLA State Cross Country Championships at Keilor.

Brearna Dhaliwal (under-10), of South Warrandyte, and Richard Moore (under-11), of Warrandyte, both ran strongly in the July titles, finishing the cross country season on a very creditable note.

Later, at RLC's presentation day, Brearna was awarded a trophy for excellent participation and performance during what was her first season of cross country competition.

And Richard carried off a gold trophy for his outstanding contribution to this year's cross country team.

Other local athletes were also among the trophies at presentation day.

Benjamin Hirons (under-8), of South Warrandyte, recorded a string of successes in teams events during the season. He won a RLC trophy for excellence and the John Reid Clubman Award for participa-

tion, perseverance and sportsmanship.

Adam Dhaliwal, of South Warrandyte, took home a RLC gold medal for consistent effort and Richard Lawrie (under-7) and Johnathon Lawrie (under-11), of Park Orchards, both won RLC trophies for excellence.

Rosalyn Moore (under-10), of Warrandyte, was awarded a RLC gold trophy for outstanding effort throughout the season.

The new Little Athletics track and field season starts on Saturday, October 5, at 8.15am. Events include sprints, hurdles, middle-distance running, long jump, high jump, discus and shot put. Coaching is available.

Registrations can be made at Proclamation Park, Ringwood, on Saturday, September 14, from 9-10am, or on any Saturday morning during the season, which runs until late March.

Inquiries: Diana Lawrie (9876 4858) or Lee Thompson (9876 4318).

## Under-11s fail the ultimate test

The vagaries of football were starkly demonstrated—to Warrandyte's sorrow—in the grand final of the Doncaster and District Junior Football League's Under-11s competition.

Warrandyte, unbeaten as Under-10s last year, had dominated the home-and-away season, losing just one game (by three points) on their way to the finals.

They appeared to have a mortgage on the Division 1 premiership after beating Beverley Hills, who had inflicted that one home-and-away defeat, in the second semi-final.

But in a major reversal of form, they were beaten by 50 points, 11.5 (71) to 3.3 (21). It was their second defeat in two-and-a-half seasons.

"The two-week rest between the second semi and the grand final probably didn't help out boys," assistant coach Tony Mirabella told the *Diary*.

"They were complacent. They thought it was going to happen for them, but it didn't."

Warrandyte had beaten Beverley Hills at three of their four meetings before the grand final at Macleod.

Beverley Hills, however, had the advantage of having two teams from which to select their grand final side.

The club fields teams in both Division 1 and 2 of the Under-11s competition.

Warrandyte's Under-13s also made the finals but were eliminated in the first round.

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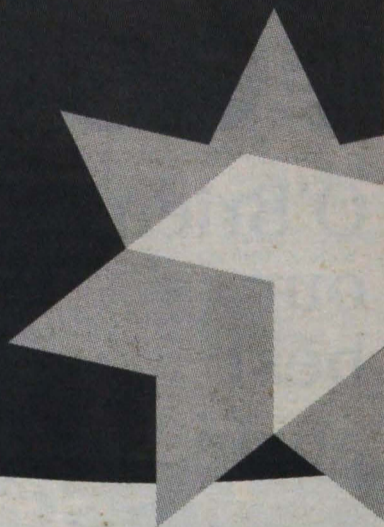
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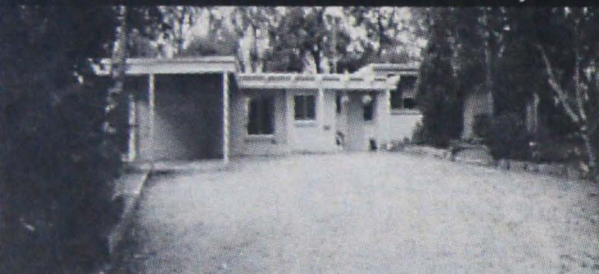


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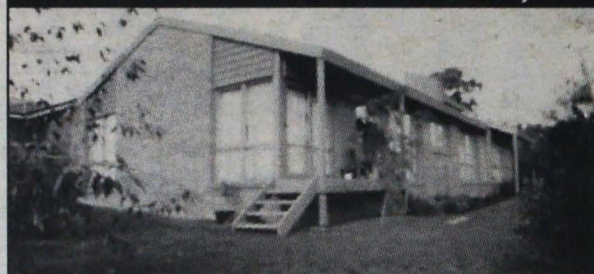
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