


**GOLDFIELDS PLAZA**



WARRANDYTE

# DIARY

No. 282, November 1996

**WARRANDYTE HARDWARE**

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# Local kids run wild

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte police are set to crack down on local youth who have caused thousands of dollars damage in a continuing spate of vandalism at Warrandyte Community Centre.

"We've had enough of this bad behaviour and we're not going to take it any more," Sergeant Keith Walker of Warrandyte police told the *Diary*.

"There is a group of kids whose behaviour and conduct is totally unacceptable. They are damaging property and assaulting younger kids. It can't be tolerated," he said.

The police have so far been unable to act, however, for no-one has come forward and named the offenders.

"Unfortunately, no-one is prepared to stand up and lodge complaints for fear of reprisal. It only takes one person to take a stand and the others being affected by this loutish behaviour will follow.

"As police, our hands are tied until someone steps forward."

The crackdown was sparked by a string of acts in recent weeks at the community centre. Repairs are costing thousands of dollars.

They include railings at the centre being constantly kicked out (costing more than \$1000 to repair), one rail being totally removed and vandalised (\$300), cigarette burns in the rug in the foyer (\$800), extensive graffiti in the toilets, broken glass and urine in the children's playground sandpit, graffiti in the playground, damage to the playground fence and gate (\$200), broken bottles in the car park, break-ins at the Neighbourhood House and child care room (\$3000), items being thrown off the balcony onto the footpath below, cushions stolen from the foyer (\$400), door plate unscrewed and stolen from the front door of the centre, drinking in the grounds, abusing function centre patrons, rocks thrown through a window and reports of fighting.

The massive damage bill has put at

"...our hands are tied until someone steps forward."



SGT KEITH WALKER

risk the future of Warrandyte Youth Services, which is currently housed upstairs at the centre.

"We like the idea of the youth being involved at the centre," said centre manager Meredith Thornton, "but some of their recent behaviour is reflecting badly on the whole place. If a solution can't be found we might have no alternative but to ask them to leave."

She says the centre, whose income

stems from rent of tenants and hirers of the function rooms, can no longer continue to pay to repair the damage.

"It costs us every time something happens. It is a community facility and we want it to be enjoyed and utilised by many. But things are being ruined. There is also drinking in the gardens and because of that some families won't let their children come down here."

Cathy Adamson, co-ordinator of Warrandyte Youth Services, has written to all children who use the centre expressing her dismay at recent events.

"There has been a whole lot of incidents and it is just getting worse," she said. "If it continues we won't have a drop-in centre for them anymore."

The drop-in centre has been averaging 26 children on weekdays and 40 on weekends, when most of the trouble is occurring.

"The problems are mainly when we close, which is 10pm. There is meant to be no drinking around the centre but once we close we have no control over it," Cathy Adamson said. "There is no

one here so they hang around and do what they like. The kids want the centre to open longer but it's a big ask, expecting the volunteers to stay here until midnight."

She said the lack of adequate public transport in Warrandyte is contributing to the vandalism. "Transport is a huge problem. The kids feel they are stuck in Warrandyte. After certain hours there is no buses to take them anywhere or bring them home. It contributes to the boredom for them."

All people spoken to by the *Diary* agree that parents must take more interest in what their children do at the centre.

"There is only so much the police and youth workers can do," Sergeant Walker said. "It's obvious the parents must take a more active role. It's now time for their help."

He said if the children did not modify their behaviour they would soon be going before the courts. He added it was a small group tarnishing the reputation of the rest of them.

## Nillumbik sacks representatives

By FIA CLENDINNEN

Community spokespersons north of the Yarra have been angered by Nillumbik commissioners' disbanding of the Planning Special Committee on 23 October 1996.

"It's like everything else," Jenni Mitchell, president of Eltham Gateway Action Group told the *Diary*. "If you disagree with the commissioners, you're out."

There has been widespread speculation that the disbanding was a direct result of events at the council offices on October 9, when the three community representatives made it clear they would vote against Eltham Hub, the 24-hour petrol station, Hungry Jacks and video store to be built on the site of the former Eltham shire offices. (See full story Page 5.)

The development was later passed at a council meeting where the community representatives had no vote.

"It's an amazing coincidence that the commissioners have made this decision immediately following the fiasco at the council meeting on October 9," Robert Marshall told the *Diary*. "It's no coincidence at all, it's the only reason they can have done it."

However Don Cordell, chief commissioner at Nillumbik, said there was "no connection" between the two events.

The community representa-

tives—Jim Connor, Janet Mattiske and Bronwyn South were summoned to the council offices and informed of the commissioners' decision to wind-up the committee.

"I was shocked, I was not expecting it," Ms Mattiske said. "The commissioners felt it was no longer possible to work together. It wasn't the first time we'd disagreed. But they obviously thought this was a very important issue, a development of huge magnitude. They weren't prepared to have the community involved in that decision."

Mr Cordell said that one of the reasons for the disbanding of the Planning Special Committee was that when the commissioners "started here at Nillumbik we had little in the way of local knowledge. This is much less of a factor now."

"It's true that the commissioners know the shire better now, they've been all around the shire and had a look," Ms Mattiske said. "However that has to be balanced by the input from people who live in the community and know the values of the community."

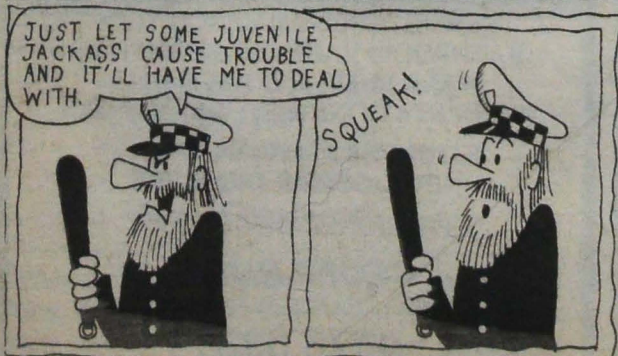
"That's why we were chosen to serve on the Planning Special Committee. There is now no formal way for the community to express its views. I mean people can write letters to the commissioners, but that's all."



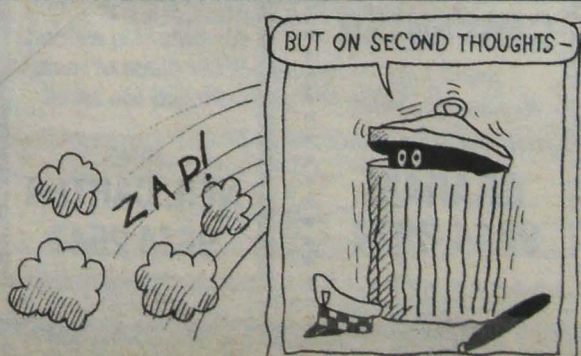
## CLOWNING AROUND!

Warrandyte Festival Committee has received a grant from Festivals Australia to run street theatre workshops. Professional artists (pictured above performing at Warrandyte High School) have been organised to teach such skills as stiltwalking, unicycling, juggling and mime. The project will be directed by Mandy Pickett who recently performed on stilts in Japan and at the Melbourne Festival. The team will be working hard ensuring our new young performers truly reflect the 1997 festival theme 'Clowning Around'. Phone 9844 1802 or 9844 1175 to book for the Street Theatre Workshop. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

## CYRIL



By PAUL WILLIAMS




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# DIARY

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# Don't bother counting —this is strictly legit!



Gee, this is embarrassing, so embarrassing that Cliff Green, our founding father, left town for a few days and passed the buck to your columnist. The problem is to set the record straight without admitting that a wedding picture in our October issue was quite a few months old. Seeing no way out, we admit it. We did say in the caption that the lovely Leanne Dean, property manager at Wilson McDougall, and Wayne Highmore were married "earlier this year", but a lot of people obviously read over that bit and are wondering why Leanne is now very pregnant and how come she got that way so fast. You know how people talk. Well, let us tell you that the wedding was on April 13 and the baby is due on February 24. And you don't have to be a mathematician to figure out that everything is strictly legit and by quite a way. So there.



A lesser person might have gone on her first bush walk with Friends of Warrandyte State Park and said thank you very much but I quit. But not Lolita Booth, of Templestowe. A new inductee into the Friends, Lolita's first outing was to the wildflower reserve at Professor's Hill, in North Warrandyte, where she was led by walk guide and Diary chief-of-staff Jan Tindale into an extremely close encounter with a brown snake roughly estimated to be the length of a cricket pitch. Belying its reputation as an aggressive species, the snake made no attempt to strike as it approached within centimetres of the boots of Jan and Lolita in the course of finding an escape route. Jan admits she was shaken by the experience, but Lolita's reaction—or lack of it—suggested that she is one very cool lady. And when husband John arrived home that night Lolita said she'd had a lovely day and the wildflowers were beautiful. Didn't mention meeting a brown snake roughly estimated to be the length of a football field.



Onionweed didn't exactly drive long-time Warrandytians John and Betty Hipwell out of this town and into the inner suburbs, but it's fair to say it was the bane of John's existence here. He spent inestimable hours pulling it from his property in Research Road—and now he's getting even. One of the things he took with him to his new apartment was some onionweed in a pot, and he's torturing it to death by exposing it 24 hours a day to the inner-suburban air pollution. That'll teach it!



John Hanson was on duty at the Warrandyte Historical Society Museum in the old post office the other Sunday when a three-year-old girl from Valley Way, who was looking over the place with her family, approached him. "I think your house is disgusting," she said. "Where's your bed?" John de-

## IN RED & WHITE



Picture by Jan Tindale



As a juggler, Alf Mamo is a very fine science and maths teacher at Warrandyte High School. Alf tried his hand at the juggling caper last month during a visit to the school by a couple of professional entertainers (see Page 1). He had a lot of fun but says he won't be giving up his day job.

decided to leave it to her parents to explain what a museum was.



Parents Tim Stanley and Aileen Armour managed to stuff 30 marshmallows into their mouths in a novelty event at Warrandyte Primary School's annual Trivia Night last month. Neither was at the winning trivia table, which suggests you need a bit of general knowledge as well as a big mouth.



Trivia Nights are traditionally fun affairs, and this was certainly no exception. Kevin O'Mara, musician and compere extraordinaire, rubbed his hands in expectation as he read out one category for a spot prize: "The first woman to stand on a chair and prove that she is wearing a teddy." Maree Burns won the jump, but Kevin's expectations took a battering when she pointed to the teddy bear ornament on her hat. Foiled again! And one father at the winning table was heard to ask what a teddy was. Obviously there are still among us products of a sheltered upbringing.



Andrew Wilson, our jolly, round real estate man, was again auctioneer at Trivia Night, his quiet, unassuming manner (ha!) whipping the crowd into a bidding frenzy. The mood changed dramatically, however, and even Andrew winced and crossed his legs, when he announced Lot 17—"One vasectomy". Grown men cuddled up to their wives as if seeking protection from some imaginary scalpel. How wimpish! We don't

know who bought the vase-tomy and we thought it imprudent and excessively nosy to pursue the matter.



It was almost spooky, as if some subterranean force had conspired with the Rain God above to make Warrandyte Cricket Club's life miserable. Having seen the first three Saturdays of their new season rained out, the local first eleven's first home game, on November 2, was just an hour old when the automatic sprinkler system took it upon itself to switch on. As the players evacuated the field, someone asked where the key to the darned thing was. It turned out to be a very good question to which no one knew the answer. Ten minutes later, the key was located, the system was switched off and play resumed. But the cricket club chaps have just two words at the moment for water, no matter how it arrives: "Go away!"



There are two Ryans—John and son Terry—on the new Warrandyte Football Club committee. Come March there will be three. On March 1, Terry will marry Lisa Andrews, who was also elected to the committee at the Bloods' annual general meeting on October 24.

**Smokey Joe**



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# Elected city council or a private developer?

## Final choice for housing village

By CLIFF GREEN

In its campaign for urgently needed housing for its older residents, Warrandyte has the choice of accepting a totally private development, or ensuring that when council democracy is restored next year, a community-run retirement village has high priority.

This is the opinion of Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte, responding to last month's detailed *Diary* survey of this long-standing issue.

"Unfortunately, the Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Project's submission has not gained the support of Manningham City Council senior officers or commissioners," Mr Honeywood said.

Before they were dismissed and replaced with commissioners by the state government, ratepayer-elected Doncaster councillors had approved an application for \$350,000 for the purchase of land for a community-based village. This decision was rescinded by the Manningham commissioners.

Mr Honeywood pointed out that Manningham council, whilst refusing the Warrandyte request had "taken on board the recommendations of its separate municipal nursing accommodation advisory committee, which has indicated a preference for directing resources to a large central hostel project".

Announcing council commitment to the building of a 51-bed hostel in Manningham Road, chairman Adam Kempton said

that council would be contributing \$2.9 million, including the land. The federal government is pledged to provide \$1.5 million.

The principal argument behind the need for aged accommodation in Warrandyte is the anguish and hardship experienced by many retired people, unable to look after larger-style houses and gardens on steep sites and forced, not only to leave their homes, but also their neighbours, friends, a supportive community and a place they have grown to love.

Commenting on last month's *Diary* report, Mr Kempton said: "The Warrandyte committee has identified the need for aged care accommodation in its community and is endeavouring to meet that need. The committee should be applauded for its initiative and hopefully it will be able to attract a developer or organisation so that the project can proceed."

Mr Kempton said a key plank of council's corporate plan is to "develop strategies to facilitate the ability of residents to stay within their community of interest as their circumstances change".

However, he pointed out, communities must demonstrate that the construction and operation of such facilities was "viable" and "that the project will be cost-neutral".

This is the "catch 22," Mr Syd Smale, chairman of the Warrandyte Retirement Project Committee told the *Diary*. "They would release the \$350,000 set



aside by the previous council, but only if and when we could find a group or developer who would also put up \$350,000.

"In spite of all our endeavours, that's what we have not been able to achieve. So there the matter stands."

In the absence of support from the Manningham commissioners for the local proposal, Mr

Honeywood believes only two options remain for Warrandyte.

Firstly, "to ensure in the forthcoming council elections (which will replace commissioners with elected councillors in March 1997) that clear undertakings are gained from candidates that they will support local residential options and facilities for Warrandyte and Park Orchards

senior citizens".

Secondly, the "facilitation of a totally privately owned development. For this to proceed, undertaking of a special zoning of appropriate land for a retirement village project will be required from the council and, if need be, from the state minister for planning".

Mr Honeywood says he "re-

mains optimistic that one of the above options will be implemented" and offers his services "wherever possible in meeting these fundamental goals for the local community".

Mr Syd Smale said that at the present time "we are stymied. Warrandyte has had enough of vague promises that come to nothing."

## Hitting the road with top drama

Warrandyte Theatre Company are taking *Cosi* to the country with performances planned for Mansfield, Wangaratta and Shepparton in December.

*Cosi*, played at the Mechanics Hall last year, was performed at the finals of the Waverley Festival. The cast and crew were honoured with no less than five nominations.

This followed lead-up performances at Queens College at Melbourne University and a sell-out night at the Grand Hotel, where local folk had their chance to see the production again.

When many of the company take *Cosi* on the road in December, those left in Warrandyte will be performing *Little Red Riding Hood* at the Mechanics Hall. That will be followed by the *Follies* next March—certainly a busy schedule.

## Local restaurant plans run into troubled water

By DAVID WYMAN

Three of Warrandyte's recent spate of restaurant proposals have been put on hold with Melbourne Water objecting to two of the permit applicants and Manningham council seeking more information from the third.

An application for a planning permit to convert the Gospel Chapel in Yarra Street into a restaurant was made to Manningham council last month but Melbourne Water has objected to the proposal. A council spokeswoman said: "As a result of this objection, council must refuse the applicant."

Melbourne Water has also lodged an objection to the proposal to use part of the Stonehouse extension in Warrandyte-Ringwood Road for a 40-seat cafe. Now nearing completion, the

original permit application, which was approved by council, sought permission to extend the Stonehouse for display and sale of craft and furniture.

It is understood there are concerns by Melbourne Water and others on the situation of the building which is very close to the original course of the Yarra River.

The owner of the Stonehouse has asked Manningham council to defer the application for a planning permit so he can have talks with Melbourne Water.

The Warrandyte Berry Farm, also seeking a planning permit for a restaurant fronting Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, has been asked for more detail to show that the land is capable of dealing with domestic waste.

## Wattles preferred to car park spaces

A new formal car park area opposite the community centre will go ahead after Manningham council received objections to the project from residents but plenty of pressure from local business interests.

The new car park will span the area from the Webb Street extension towards the Wilson McDougall building. It will be constructed on land owned by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

Originally, the car park was going to cater for 31 car spaces. This was reduced to 23 spaces after local concerns about destruction of trees were expressed to council. Now, with urging from some traders, 25 spaces will be provided.

Council has decreed that a group of wattle trees at the eastern end of the

land must be retained. Access to the river by emergency and service vehicles will also be retained.

Residents had 21 days from October 22 to lodge any objections to the car park with council.

Meanwhile, Manningham council has granted a planning permit to reconstruct the car park in Yarra Street opposite the hotel and shops. The layout and pavement will be improved.

As a result of this work, car parking on Yarra Street at the exit end (near the pharmacy) will be deleted to improve the visibility for motorists leaving the car park.

There will be additional landscaping and a footpath will be constructed along Yarra Street outside the car parking area.

DAVID WYMAN

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DEAR DIARY



Thanks, folks

I pen this letter in appreciation of the people of the Warrandyte village. Some weeks ago I suffered a massive heart attack and was in hospital for a period of 10 days.

Whilst there I received good wishes from friends I didn't know I had. Flowers came from Neighbourhood House and Information Warrandyte, cards from the railway boys, senior citizens, the stall holders at the market, Friends of the State Park and get well cards (50) from the residents of Warrandyte. I am writing to each of them to thank them for their kindness and caring.

I think those of us who live or are associated with this community are very fortunate. For the 36 years I have been in Warrandyte I have been associated with the best people in Melbourne.

Thanks Warrandyte for your caring attitude.

Colin Bentley

A model citizen they can't kill

Local identity Colin Bentley survived 15 heart attacks in the space of just 24 hours last month. "Warrandyte is a great village," he said, convalescing from a triple bypass operation.

All of Colin's mates from senior citizens, the model railway, community market, Information Warrandyte, Neighbourhood House and the Housing and Social Support Service are welcoming him back to the land of the living after the scare.

"It really gives you a lift," said Colin. It could have been curtains for him had his wife June not acted quickly to call an ambulance when Colin kept saying "She'll be right."

Colin Bentley, whom I came to know back in the early 1960s, told me of an incident when he was five years old in Surrey Hills where my

father was his family doctor.

With an abscess in his groin he remembers his father piggybacking him down to the surgery in Canterbury Road where Dr Edward Gault put a needle in his bottom.

Colin was determined not to cry and the good doctor told him, "You are a brave little boy". Fortunately the surgeon's aim was straight or there would be no little Bentleys now. Colin recovered quickly as he has once again.

On Tuesday, October 1 Colin had massive heart attacks at 4am. June phoned the MICA unit which rushed him to Maroondah Hospital. At 7.30am he had another attack. Colin later described it as like having a vice tightening around the muscle of the heart, then someone twisting it like a spring and then starting all over again. The longest of the 15 attacks lasted 12 minutes.

Colin is full of praise for the public hospital system which whisked him from Maroondah to Box Hill and then by helicopter to the Alfred. He remembers the personal efforts of nurse Louise, Dr Andrew Oster and Dr Andrew Rosengarten who followed him all the way, past people lying on trolleys.

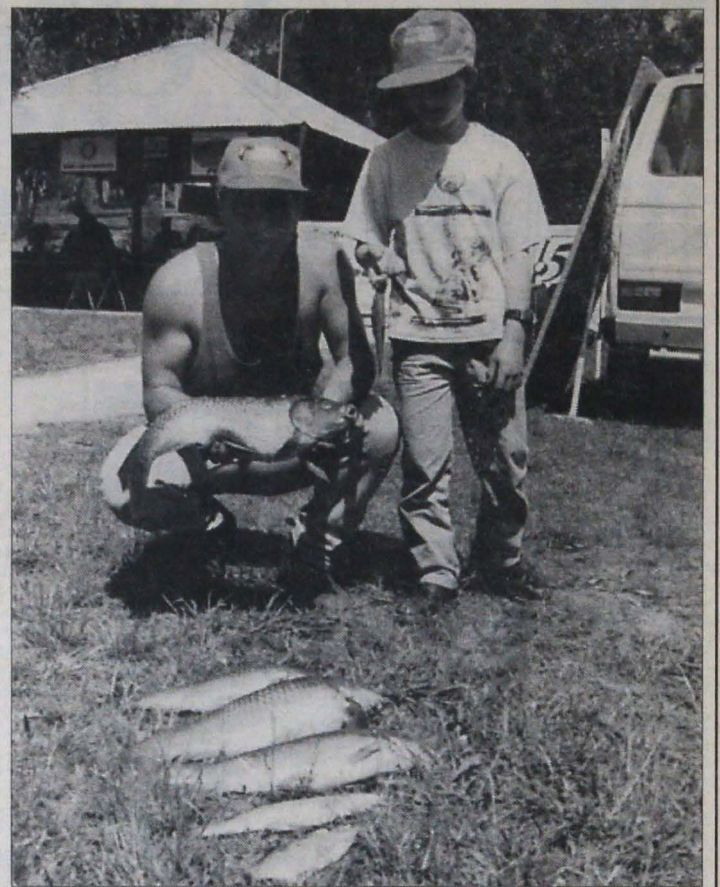
He says the only disappointment is not remembering the helicopter ride and the fact that his emergency surgery meant an elective patient was deferred.

The surgeon, Mr Smith, told June: "We cut it pretty fine".

So there we have it, 64 years on and Warrandyte still has the "brave little boy".

LOUISE JOY

Flashback: Colin Bentley and friend performing at a Warrandyte Senior Citizens concert.



Fishing for compliments

Warrandyte's army of fishing novices and experts will take up their rods locally this month for the annual Catch of the Day competition. The day, promoted by Warrandyte Rotary Club, starts at 5am on Sunday, November 17 and continues until 4pm.

Moving around the river banks will be fishing personality Flathead Fred and Australian fly fishing champion Michael Hall. There are great prizes on offer with Jarvis Walker donating \$7500 worth of fishing gear and K Mart providing Jackaroo camping gear. Secret weights will be nominated for dif-

ferent species with prizes for the nearest weight. More prizes will be on offer for the most carp caught and junior entrants.

Entry is only \$10 per person or \$20 for a family of two adults and unlimited children. The first 300 entrants on the day will net a showbag worth more than \$20. All proceeds from the day will be used towards The Charitable Foundation projects.

Registrations will be taken from 5am at Warrandyte Bridge on November 17. For further information contact Phillip Nutbean on 018 171 416.

How Ginger Garlic Found its Home in Eltham

WHEN all the elusive ingredients of a good restaurant come together, you're in for a memorable evening. Such a night is about service; about atmosphere; about comfort; about value rather than price and finally of course it is about food. Even in a city teeming with restaurants, all of the above do not always meet your mind.



Tucked away in Eltham is a small gem of a restaurant, the Ginger Garlic. The service has roots back to an apprenticeship with one of the world's renowned hotel chains; the atmosphere is shaped by a comfortable cosiness; prices are overwhelmed by value for money and the food, well, the food is near enough to unique.

Basically Indian but adjusted for the not-so-fiery Australian palate, Ashok Sikand and his wife Ritu, suggest a surprisingly extensive range of tasty, large and small dishes, to suit even the most benign tastes. But if it's fire you want, then the Sikands are only too pleased to "personalise" your dish. Nothing, it seems, is too much to ask and judged by the cheerful, friendly groups of regulars there the other night, Ginger Garlic is a home away from home for people looking for a change, something zesty, tangy, aromatic, piquant...it's a dining room which inspires descriptive tags for dishes with a difference.

The charming but not over-powering Ashok was trained for service with the right balance of touch and authority in Bombay with the Intercontinental Hotel group. As a part of this training, Ashok soon found himself in such places as Salzburg and Vienna and then it was off to Saudi Arabia. His next opportunity was Botswana where he took on two entirely new responsibilities, a wife and the management of an English pub. "A real pub it was," says

Ashok. "You know, pints, pork pies and all that." Ritu also had a hotel background so the pair decided to go to New Delhi to open an "industrial kitchen" — serving thousands of meals a day for big companies. "They were simple meals but we mixed it up a bit— Italian, Chinese, local, even burgers."

It was with this broad background, the Sikands found themselves four years ago in Eltham. An Indian restaurant in Eltham was a long way from home but culturally no bigger a leap than a British pub in Botswana. Ashok admits it was hard to get going. "Australians, no doubt through bad experiences, automatically used to think that Indian food equalled chillies and curries and Delhi belly.

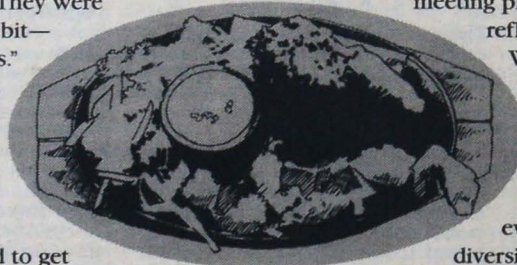
"I believed we had flavours good enough on which to build a business; if only I could get people to at least try them."

So he often walked the very large car park adjacent to Ginger Garlic promoting the experience. Most often than not he would talk himself into giving someone a free meal—just to get people talking.

"Word of mouth, literally," he smiles. "And we caught on. In here tonight we have two tables which have been filled

by the same people for more than two years."

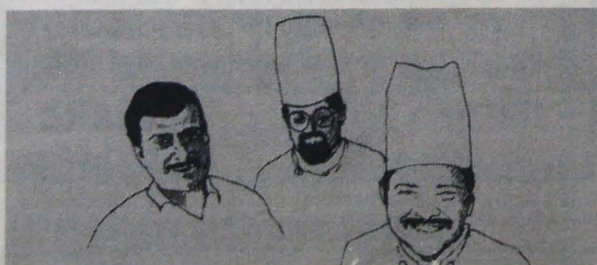
Ginger Garlic is a concept derived from Takshila, one of the oldest Indian cities and through time it became a meeting place of East and West. The dishes reflect this cultural mix. But every



Wednesday the Sikands offer Balti food and every Thursday, Dum Pukht dishes. Balti food was cooked by nomads on their journeys, using whatever ingredients were available at ever-shifting locations. Again, diversity is the appeal here. Dum Pukht

dishes are sealed (by pastry) in clay containers and cooked longingly and lovingly on hot coals. When the seal is broken, the aroma is mouth-watering.

Whatever your fancy might be—generous portions of fish, chicken, beef or lamb, finely spiced vegetables with yoghurt dips; seething hot rice dishes. The list is remarkable. In fact, Ashok's menu has 106 items. Oh, we recommend you make a booking or why not try the Ginger Garlic takeaway, "the second best way to eat in Eltham," says Ashok.



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# Germ warfare kills Roger Rabbit

The deadly rabbit calicivirus disease has reached Warrandyte State Park. Laboratory tests on a rabbit found at Pound Bend have returned positive for the disease.

However, Nillumbik council is disappointed that the shire won't, for the time being, be included in an official release by the Victorian government.

Tests on rabbits found at Wonga Park and Research also show that the disease has spread to those areas.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment's local catchment officer, Paul Hay, said the tests followed examination of three dead rabbits in the area.

"Local residents should immediately get all pet rabbits vaccinated at their local vet to protect them

from the virus, which is fatal to unvaccinated rabbits," he said.

"The community also needs to monitor the number of rabbits in their area to assess the local spread of the disease."

Mr Hay said rabbit action groups should be formed to establish integrated rabbit control programs for the total eradication of local rabbit populations.

"Calicivirus provides us with a window of opportunity to eradicate the state's rabbit problem which costs Victorian agriculture more than \$100 million each year.

"Fumigation and destruction of warrens, rabbit proof fencing, ferreting and poisons will be necessary additional procedures to compound the effectiveness of the calicivirus spread," Mr Hay said.

Diary nature writer Pat Coupar says calicivirus was first discovered in 1984.

"The virus causes a fatal disease of rabbits characterised by an enlarged spleen and bleeding from the mouth and anus. It was first noted in 1984 with outbreaks occurring in Asia, Europe and North America," she said.

"The disease, which is extremely contagious and fast acting, is spread by contact between infected rabbits and also by contact with infected dung. It is thought that insect vectors such as mosquitoes, bushflies and rabbit fleas also play a part in spreading the disease.

"Investigation as to which particular insect may be responsible are currently being carried out by the CSIRO."

Mr Hay said it is important for local

residents to confirm the presence of calicivirus through verified laboratory testing.

"People who find dying rabbits should contact a catchment management officer at their local Department of Natural Resources and Environment who can arrange appropriate laboratory testing."

Nillumbik council's environment officer, Tim Bloomfield, told the *Diary* that Nillumbik is an ideal area to release the biological control agent given its sizeable rabbit population and community support to control the pest.

"However," Mr Bloomfield said, "Nillumbik Shire was not included in Victoria's rabbit calicivirus disease strategy last month, during which the disease was released and its impact monitored."

**CLYDE & OCKER**



"Pity the poor bunnies out trappin' for a crust, Ock."



The new office at Andersons Creek Cemetery.

## Everything's looking rosy at Andersons Creek Cemetery

The new office at Andersons Creek Cemetery is now open. It is one of a number of additions to the cemetery in recent years and its construction was necessary to cope with the increased workload.

The office has been designed to blend in with the native garden that has been developed in the relatively new section of the cemetery. The walls are clad in rough sawn timber and the roof line and colours have been selected with the bush in mind.

Andersons Creek Cemetery Trust has also established a memorial rose garden in consideration of people who prefer more traditional surroundings.

"We were continually receiving requests for ashes to be placed next to roses along the main driveway and we simply ran out of space," said trust member Robert White.

"We have now set aside a large area where cemetery staff have laid out a new garden and have

planted a wide range of roses. It is already very popular."

Other areas that have now been fully developed include the rock waterfalls in the two far corners of the cemetery. Paths now also link all parts with special walks through bush areas.

Seats have been provided in areas that provide a clear view of the cemetery and the bush beyond.

"We are part of the Warrandyte community and we have done our best to develop the newer lawn section in a style that fits in with the local environment," Mr White said.

But he added the trust was still concerned about the future of the cemetery.

"We have had a surveyor draw plans and, at the current rate of burials, we may have no more than five years before the cemetery is full.

"What happens after that time is anyone's guess. There will be many people in Warrandyte who

may have thought that because they have lived their entire life in Warrandyte they would be buried in Warrandyte.

"But this cannot be guaranteed. We cannot refuse anyone the right to be buried in our cemetery and it may be that burials in the new century will have to take place at Kangaroo Ground, Lilydale or even further away."

Mr White said the newer three acre section at the rear of the cemetery had been in use for less than 10 years.

"It is amazing to think that it took more than 100 years to fill the front three acres yet the back three acres could be filled in less than 15 years."

Mr White said the trust was looking at ways and means of extending the cemetery's life and would be interested to hear ideas from the community.

Office staff are available at the cemetery every day to help fill out the necessary forms and answer questions.

## LOTS MORE TROUBLE, NORTH OF THE RIVER

# Fighting back at Nillumbik

By FIA CLENDINEN

Eltham residents are preparing to fight back against the decision by Nillumbik commissioners to allow a 24-hour petrol station, Hungry Jacks restaurant and a video store to be built on the site of the former shire offices.

Eltham Gateway Action Group (EGAG) are seeking to have the commissioner's decision overturned by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

"I believe EGAG's chances of winning at the AAT are quite good," Robert Marshall, a councillor with the old shire of Eltham for 19 years, told the *Diary*. "Some people think you never win at the AAT, but that's not the case. The car parking for the development is inadequate. This reason alone is enough to refuse the development."

"Also, the development is incompatible with Eltham, aesthetically and functionally. To place a commercial enterprise like that amongst parkland, the library and the Senior Citizens Club is completely inappropriate," he said.

"It's going to be a bit of a challenge, but the thing is there to be won at the AAT," said Russell Yeoman. Mr Yeoman worked for the Eltham council for 30 years, for the last eight years as manager of statutory planning. He addressed the Special Planning Committee of Nillumbik Council on behalf of both the EGAG and the Eltham Historical Society.

"From what I have observed in the community there is no support for this development," he said. "Even from young people who you might think would be interested in a Hungry Jacks, there is quite a strong level of objection."

The plans for the development were passed at a highly emotional council meeting on October 9. Thirty-two members of the public addressed the commissioners, speaking as individuals and as representatives of community groups, against the development.

"People were passionate but controlled," Jim Connor told the *Diary*. Mr Connor was also councillor with the former Eltham shire and was a community representative on the Nillumbik Planning Special Committee. "I felt proud to be part of that community."

Applications for planning approval in the Shire of Nillumbik formerly had to first go to the Planning Special Committee. Six people sat on the committee—the three commissioners and three community representatives. On the night of October 9 the three community representatives made it clear they would vote against the development.

Don Cordell, Chairman of Commissioners, had abstained from voting because of accusations of pecuniary interest. With the three community representatives voting against and the two remaining commissioners voting for, the development would have been rejected.

The commissioners used reserve powers to defer the vote to a council meeting. The council consists solely of the three commissioners. Within minutes the plans were passed.

"I was infuriated by council's decision," said Mr Marshall. "It was like being kicked in the guts. The people of Eltham have been cheated of a proper planning process."

Chief Commissioner Don

Cordell told the *Diary* he had "no comment" to make on what happened in the council chambers on October 9.

The developer paid a consulting firm, Contour Consultants Australia, to produce an illustrated brochure about the proposed development. Some 34,000 copies of the brochure, entitled 'Eltham Hub', have been circulated. However a spokesperson from the consulting firm admitted the seven metre signs are not shown in the artist's drawing.

"The brochure put out by the consultants on behalf of the developer has been widely criticised as not giving a very pictorial view of what it would look like in reality," Mr Yeoman said. "Lots more people would have objected if the development was correctly drawn. EGAG asked for correctly drawn plans but this request was not agreed to."

"The big question is why?" said Jenni Mitchell, president of EGAG. "Why are the commissioners so hell-bent on approving a development of this nature to a community that clearly doesn't want it? EGAG's spirits are pretty high."

"We wouldn't be going ahead (with the AAT challenge) and memberships are coming in every day. There's so much community support," she said.

"If this development goes ahead," Mr Connor told the *Diary*, "it will be a monument to how out of touch with our community the commissioners are."

EGAG will be "Holding Hands Around the Site" on Sunday, November 17 at midday. They are urging supporters to bring a rug and picnic lunch to the site of the former shire offices, Main Road, Eltham.

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# What group was that?



## YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS & SERVICES

REVISED NOVEMBER 1996

### BUSES

Hurstbridge Bus Lines: 9438 3666  
National Bus Co: 9481 8333  
The Met: 131 638



### CHILDCARE

North Warrandyte Infant Welfare Centre: 9844 1038  
Toy Library: 9844 2330  
Warrandyte After School Care Program: 9844 3537  
Warrandyte Community Church Playgroup: 9844 2528  
Warrandyte Child Care & Pre School Centre: 9844 1205  
Warrandyte Maternal & Child Health Centre: 9844 3297  
Warrandyte Occasional Childcare Service: 9844 1839  
Warrandyte Pre-School: 9844 3363  
Yarra Warra Pre-Schol: 9844 1038

### CHURCHES

Anglican: 9844 3473  
Catholic: 9876 1509  
Community: 9844 4148  
Uniting: 9844 3476



### COMMUNITY SERVICES

Andersons Creek Cemetery: 9844 3850  
Information Warrandyte: 9844 3082  
Sole Parent Support Group: 9844 2769  
Warrandyte Advisory Committee: 9844 3622  
Warrandyte Community Centre Management Group: 9844 4503

## EMERGENCY!

**AMBULANCE:** 000

### DOCTORS

Dr Brian Bayly: 9844 3766  
Dr John Dunning: 9844 2000  
Dr Roger Brenchley: 9844 2000 (AH) 9429 5677  
Dr Gail Dixon: 9844 1943  
Dr Margaret Prowse: 9844 2000

### DENTAL SURGEON

Dr Igor Lavrin: 9844 4020  
Emergencies: 016 378 643

**POISONS:** 13 1126

### POLICE

D24: 000  
Warrandyte Police Station: 9844 3231 (if no answer 9841 0222)

### FIRE CALLS ONLY

Kangaroo Ground: 9712 0343  
North Warrandyte: 9844 3683  
South Warrandyte: 9844 2174  
Warrandyte: 9844 3798  
Wonga Park: 9722 1288

Warrandyte Community Market: 9844 4495  
Warrandyte Diary Newspaper: 9844 4168  
Warrandyte & District Welfare Service Inc: 9844 3438  
Warrandyte Festival Committee: 9844 3120  
Warrandyte Food Bank: 9844 4495  
Warrandyte Housing and Support Service: 9844 1839  
Warrandyte Neighbourhood House: 9844 1839  
Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club: 9844 2437

### COUNCILS

City of Manningham: 9840 9333  
Shire of Nillumbik: 9433 3111

### ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Power failure: 131 799

### ENVIRONMENT

Currawong Bush Park: 9841 9810  
Friends of Warrandyte State Park: 9844 4285  
Warrandyte State Park: 9844 2659



### SCHOOLS

Andersons Creek Primary: 9844 2757  
Warrandyte Primary: 9844 3537  
Warrandyte High School: 9844 2749

### SERVICE CLUBS

Warrandyte Apex Club: 9844 3928  
Warrandyte Lions Club: 9844 4501  
Warrandyte Rotary Club: 9873 2889  
Warrandyte RSL Club: 9844 1178



### SPORTING

Martial Arts Sports (Karate): 9466 3472  
Tandivale Equestrian Centre: 9844 3882  
South Warrandyte Tennis Club: 9844 1396  
Warrandyte Basketball Club: 9844 2787  
Warrandyte Cricket Club: 9844 1213  
Warrandyte Cycling Club: 9844 4647  
Warrandyte Football Club: 9844 3565  
Warrandyte Netball Club: 9844 2088  
Warrandyte Tennis Club: 9844 2596  
Wyena Horse & Pony Club: 9844 2701

### YOUTH GROUPS

Warrandyte District Girl Guides Association: 9844 3276  
Warrandyte Scouts, Cubs & Venturers: 9844 3516  
Warrandyte Youth Group (Uniting Church): 9844 2038  
Warrandyte Youth Services: 9844 2985



### FIRE BRIGADE INFORMATION

Kangaroo Ground: 9712 0241  
North Warrandyte: 9844 8283  
South Warrandyte: 9844 3673  
Warrandyte: 9844 2049  
Wonga Park: 9722 1486  
Warrandyte Fire Social Club: 9844 3661

### INTEREST GROUPS

Warrandyte Book Exchange: 9844 1839  
Warrandyte Historical Society: 9844 3662  
Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association: 9844 1376  
Warrandyte Model Railway Club: 9876 3221

### POST OFFICE

Warrandyte: 9844 3291

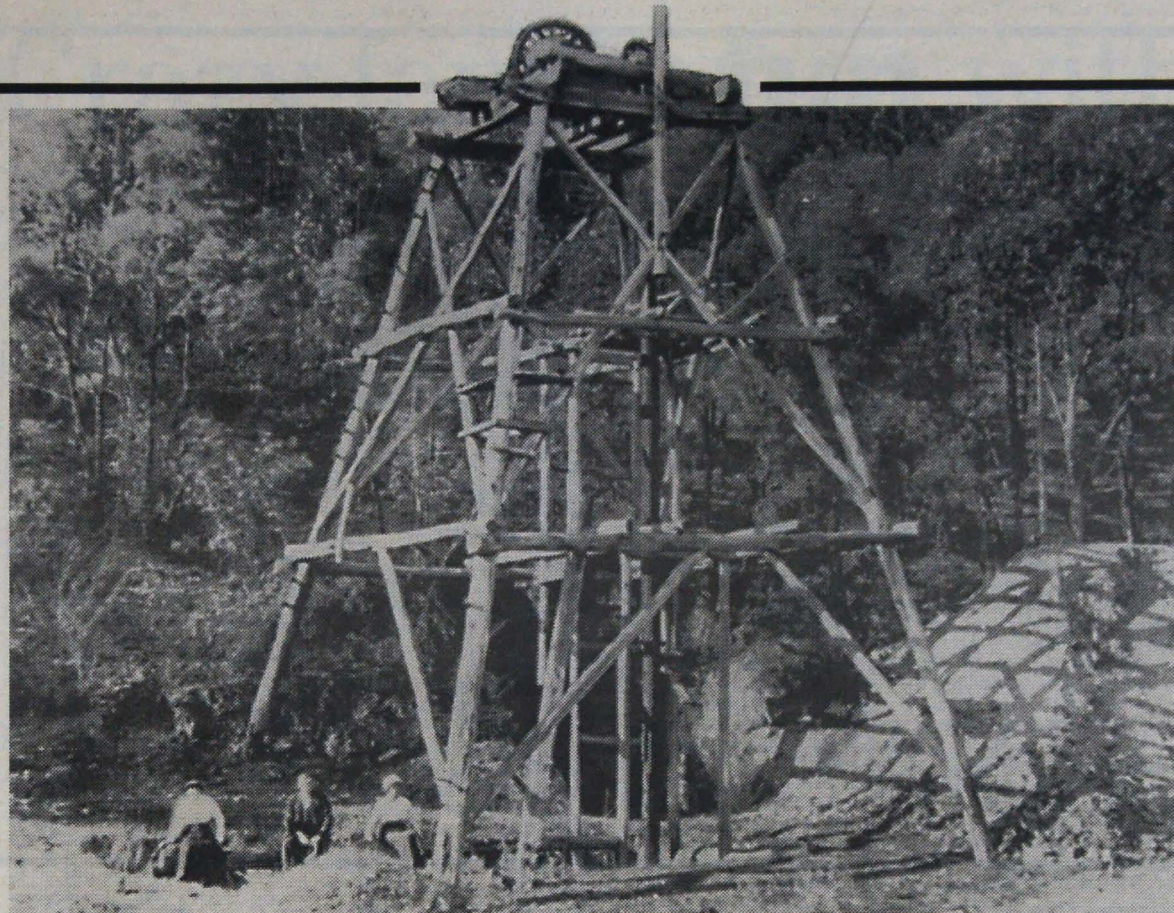
### PUBLIC HALLS

North Warrandyte Community Centre: 9844 1038  
Warrandyte Community Centre: 9844 4503  
Warrandyte Mechanics Institute: 9844 1376

Compiled by

**Information Warrandyte: 9844 3082**

with assistance from Warrandyte Cricket Club Directory: 9874 8503



The old poppet head on Victory Mine in Whipstick Gully: part of Warrandyte's heritage.

# Tourism plan for valley

**W**ARRANDYTE is being touted as the jewel in the crown of a new tourist group which is keen to attract visitors to Melbourne's east.

Melbourne's Valley of the Arts is the name of the new organisation, established after a meeting of 50 interested people at Potters Cottage in May this year. While the boundaries are undefined, interested operators are situated between Wonga Park and Whittlesea and Maroondah Highway and Kinglake.

Inaugural secretary Jenny Grinlington said it was imperative that a local group be formed.

"No local tourism group was active in the Warrandyte region, so in order to gain advertising rights in Tourism Victoria's jigsaw series of publications, membership of either the Yarra Valley Regional Tourism Association (YVRTA) or the vastly more expensive Melbourne Convention and Marketing Bureau was compulsory," she said.

"While membership of the YVRTA was beneficial for networking through the Yarra Valley it did not cover the needs of an area characterised by suburbs meeting bushland and rolling hills. A more appropriate local image was required."

She said a committee was formed and the group's name registered.

The group is one of very few tourism associations not to use a geographic location to label its region as part of its name.

"Two examples of other areas using evocative titles are Mystic Mountains in Marysville and the Shipwreck Coast, which is now highly recognisable as the region near the Twelve Apostles," Jenny Grinlington said.

"Melbourne was used deliberately in the name to indicate just how close the region is to the CBD."

Day tour guides will be published by the group. The Museum of Modern Art at Heide is described as the obvious starting point for a day tour of the Valley of the Arts. It will fol-

low the artists' trail through Eltham, including Montsalvat, Diamond Valley and finishing in Warrandyte with its concentration of galleries, craft shops and eating places.

Another tour will take in the parks, history and highlights north, through the Plenty Valley to Whittlesea and over rolling hills back to Melbourne via the Eltham route.

"Another key point about most of this area is its accessibility from the city by public transport," Jenny Grinlington said.

"This means people with a limited budget can do nature-based activities close to Melbourne, as well as visiting galleries, historic buildings, have coffee by the Yarra and much more all for the cost of a bus or train ticket."

The group's first aim is to create a map and locality guide to identify the region's "product".

This map will join the existing Yarra Valley maps and provide the west arm of the Yarra Valley Region's "family of maps" series.

It will be promoted through Tourism Victoria outlets, at displays and trade shows interstate and overseas, as well as many local outlets through Melbourne and country Victoria. It is expected to be completed early next year.

The group promises in one of its list of 11 objectives that it will "be aware of developments that could damage the environment". This is the greatest concern of local residents who fear that the new proliferation of tourism will lead to a dramatic influx of cars and people, particularly at weekends.

Jenny Grinlington says local businesses are fully supportive of the new venture, having felt "left out" of previous promotion chances.

"For too long the area has been labelled the 'black hole', with no definite focus or product that warranted any recognition by Tourism Victoria. In creating the map there will be tangible evidence of the strength of the region, especially in the arts, heritage and environment," she said.

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Council has allocated a further \$10,000 to the Heritage Restoration Fund in the 1996/97 financial year. The Heritage Restoration Fund recognises the value of assisting property owners to maintain buildings, places and sites of significance to the cultural heritage of the municipality.

Applications for funding close 13 November 1996. Works must be able to be undertaken and moneys claimed by 30 June 1997.

Generally, all owners of properties listed in the heritage provisions of the Doncaster and Templestowe Planning Scheme and identified as being of local significance or greater in the Wonga Park Heritage Study are eligible to apply for funds. Other heritage properties may also be eligible for assistance.

Policy and Guidelines and Application Forms for funding may be obtained by telephoning Pam Papigiotis on 9840 9362. Specific enquiries may be directed to Sonia Rappell, Strategic Planner on 9840 9434.

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## Our kids launch arts program

Warrandyte Primary School's prep and Grade 2 students sang and danced their way through the launch of the new Cross Arts education course for primary schools last month.

This continues the school's tradition of performing new arts material over the last 10 years. Local arts education publishers Bushfire Press have premiered all of their children's musicals at Warrandyte primary. Video and audio recordings of the performances have then been used to assist schools throughout Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Canada and Europe.

This year Bushfire Press put on hold their annual children's musical to write songs and music activities for a course

involving all arts areas. They enlisted the help of experts in dance, drama, media and the visual arts to produce Cool Cats Cross Arts Adventures.

In the month leading up to the production school music teacher Melissa Lewis and course writer Kevin O'Mara workshopped music, dance and drama activities while Denise Farran incorporated the visual arts activities into her program.

The students entertained family and friends with performance in the school's multi-purpose room, which was adorned with the children's art work.

There was further variety to regular routine for the school's Grade 1 and 2 students this term. They studied Aborigi-

nal culture and legends.

To complement the study they were visited by Murrindindi, a member of the Wurundjeri and a direct descendant of Be-Be-jern, Nurungaeta (King) of the Wurundjeri, who signed the 1835 treaty with John Batman.

The Wurundjeri was one of three tribes that lived in the Upper Yarra and Healesville area with tribal lands including Warrandyte.

Murrindindi's performance at the school included showing the children many artefacts and describing their uses. He told them the story of how Gwonowah the black swan gave birth to the platypus after escaping from Nargoon the water rat.

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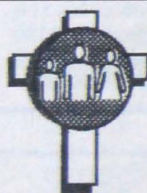
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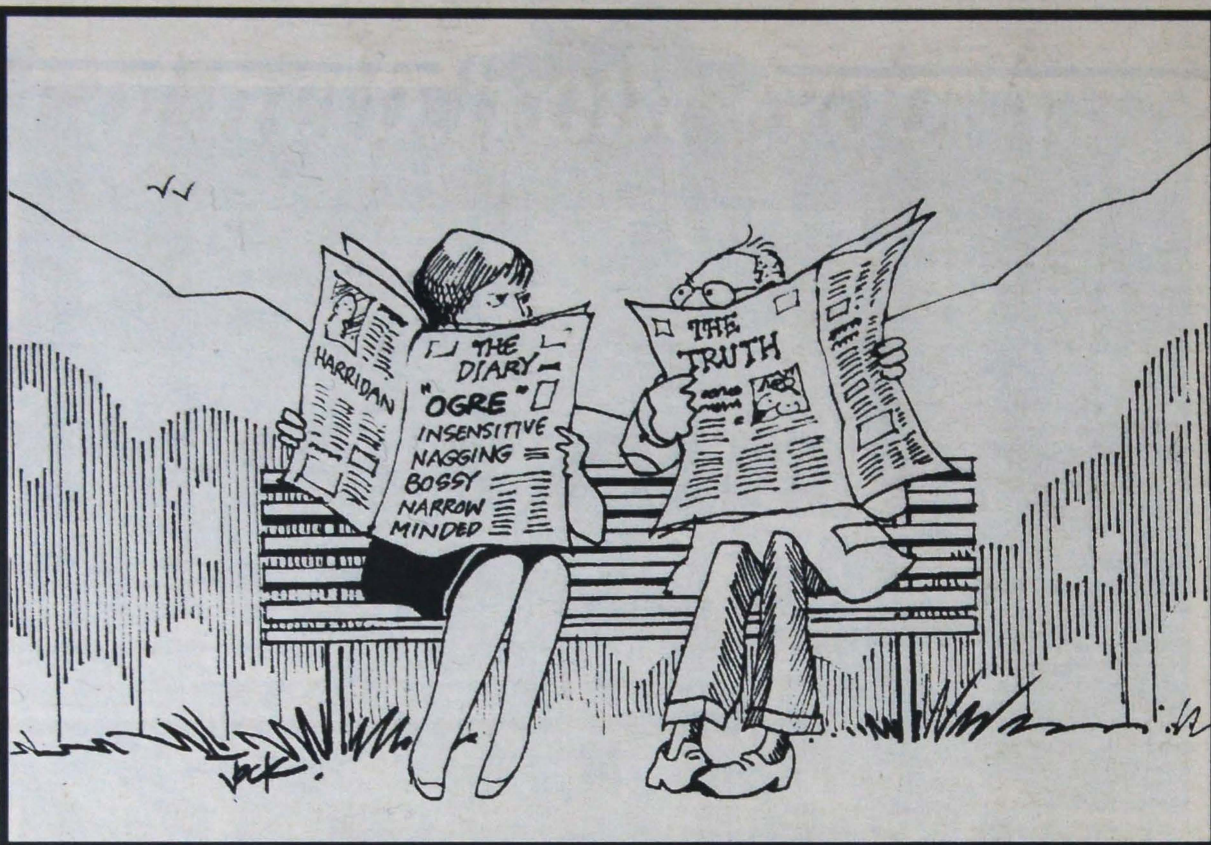
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# No place for truth in a columnist's life

**W**E pulled into the garage and, of course, the only available spot was situated so that the petrol tank opening was on the wrong side.

"You'll never be able to fill it!" I was reliably informed.

"Yes I will. They make them tall so you can reach over the car. It'll be all right."

"Always right aren't you? I don't suppose, for once, I could just be right."

We often have these MENSA meetings in the car, so without asking to have the discussion minuted, I got out and filled the tank.

Fortunately, the hose did reach but because of the awkward angle there was a slight case of petrol pump incontinence when I removed the hose and a trickle of petrol ran down the side of the car.

I collected the watering can from the stand and sloshed some water to flush away the few drops of petrol.

I walked inside to pay for the petrol and heard a lady, older even than me, complaining to the bewildered till operator that the bowser hoses were poorly marked.

"I didn't know which one to use."

"Really? All I know is that you bought \$25 worth of unleaded petrol. That's all the screen tells me."

The lady gave a sniff, then shot her a look that, years ago, my aunts used to perfect in city emporia when the 'serving gels' took longer than a nanosecond



**"I'm not really a nagging, insensitive, bossy, narrow-minded harridan."**

to rush up and serve them.

I paid my dues and returned to hear from Herself that the lady had passed our car and audibly complained about the dangerous mess I had created. No doubt she thought I had deliberately spilled petrol on the concourse and had not bothered to do anything about it. Thoughts of fireballs and mass incineration probably stampeded through her mind.

As we drove off, I couldn't help but imagine the scene when the aggrieved lady arrived home.

"I don't know what the world's coming to. The girl in the petrol station was rude and uncooperative and there was a man who deliberately leaked petrol all over the driveway. I just got out

before the whole place exploded."

Not necessarily did this conversation happen, but the seeds for a good rumour or false reporting were well and truly planted at the petrol station.

And it's all about perceptions isn't it—our own and others? We go about our lives not realising what other people think we mean or believe.

Such is the burden I have to bear by writing my monthly column. I temper reality with lots of imagination, hope and poetic licence. When all of these pass through the magic of the word processor and become the printed word they are transformed into tablets of stone, achieve a Moses-like truth. Hence Herself's angst.

"I met Understanding Female Friend today. She had just read your last piece and can't understand how I let you say all those things about me. I'm beginning to think they'll all start to believe the persona you've created for me. I'm not really a nagging, insensitive, bossy, narrow-minded harridan. You don't realise that people out there believe what you write."

"I only write the truth," I quipped.

Herself's look of hurt and disdain indicated my point about perceptions yet again. My light-hearted riposte had been believed. To tell the truth, it's yours truly who's the misunderstood party. Here I was engaged in witty banter and repartee and all I was met with was misunderstanding and anguish.

"I'm going to ring Cliff and or-

ganise for me to write the article one month, just to even up the ledger," Herself sobbed.

"What do you mean 'even up'?" Every month I'm the one who comes off as the idiot, the bunny, the fallible buffoon. You've taken it all too seriously."

"I suppose you'll write up this conversation in your next article. You'll make me out to be..." The punchline was lost in wailing and intermittent sobs.

"Nah! Nothing much in this that I can talk about. Anyway, apart from UFF, who else has comforted you about your bastard of a husband?" I asked, cleverly changing tack.

"It's not just what they say, it's the understanding looks I receive."

Instantly, I thought about my aunts in Myers and the lady in the petrol station.

"C'mon, darl, you know they'd all be bored senseless if I told them the truth; that you're intelligent, capable, loving, sensitive, even-tempered, mindful of what you say and how you say it, creative, passionate, articulate and far too good for me. I have to use a bit of artistic licence to make an interesting story."

"I know, but I want you to promise that from now on you won't make me out to be an ogre."

"I promise. But if I break it, promise me you won't take away my weekly allowance and make me eat boiled cauliflowers like you did last time!"

My aunts would have been proud of Herself's glare.

ROGER KIBELL

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# Crazy family fun with yabby-dabba-do

**W**HEN they were young the kids had a pet yabby called Robbie which they kept in a tank on a table in the family room. He was a strangely endearing creature with small black beady eyes and a dun coloured shell as smooth as porcelain china.

Robbie spent most of his time hiding amongst the rocks and sand at the bottom of the tank. Well, what else could he do? But he seemed content. He would even, with gentle precision, take pieces of raw meat from our fingers. As pets go he was little trouble.

We had Robbie for almost two years. When we moved house the decision was made to let him go. He was put in an ice cream container, taken to a nearby creek and ceremoniously released back into the wild.

At first Robbie seemed reluctant to explore his new surroundings, but as the smell of freedom touched his trembling antennae, triggering memories long forgotten, he scuttled away into the murky depths of the creek. It was a poignant moment—we had grown accustomed to him and, I think, him to us.

Some years later, on a family picnic at Kinglake, the kids, now in their late teens, spotted another big yabby in the clear water of Blackfish Creek. With scraps of meat gleaned from their sandwiches, they enticed the inquisitive creature into the shallows. Carefully avoiding the wildly flaying nippers which threatened to grab their fingers in a pliers-like grip, they lifted the yabby onto the bank.

Affectionate recollections of Robbie were revived. He had obviously touched their young lives in a big way. This one, however, was a female complete with a clutch of shiny round eggs attached to her underside just near the tail. After being in-



NATURE

By PAT COUPAR  
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

spected and admired she was then returned, with her unborn brood, back to her watery home.

The yabby, somewhat lower in profile than the koala or the kangaroo, is nevertheless an Australian icon. But it was only while researching the book Discover Warrandyte that I realised how little I really knew about our humble yabby.

The word 'yabby' is a derivation of 'yapee', an Aboriginal name for a small crayfish. Yabbies, along with crabs and lobsters, belong to a group of animals called Crustaceans. With their hard exoskeleton and paired feelers they are a kind of aquatic equivalent of insects.

There are actually three distinct types of yabby, all of which occur in Warrandyte.

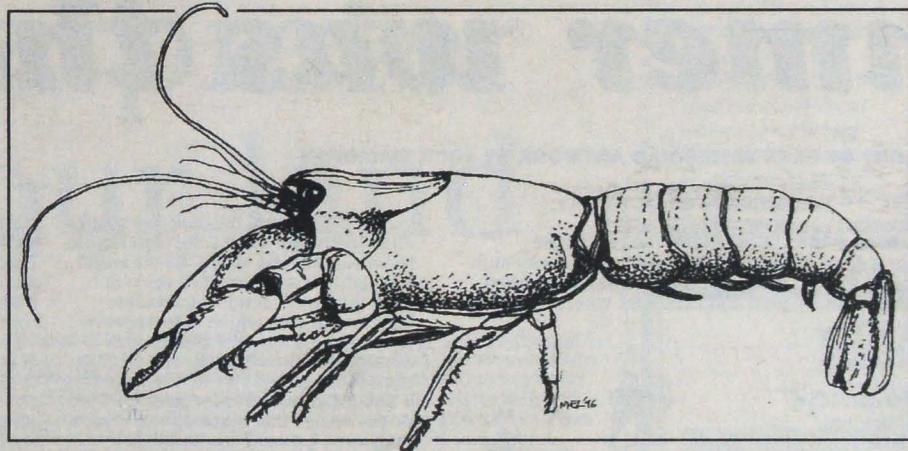
The most spectacular in colour and size are the aquatic crayfish which are only found in permanent flowing water such as the Yarra and its tributaries. The most common group of yabbies are the semi-aquatic crayfish which are particularly abundant in farm dams. Due to their tunnelling exploits, these species are often unpopular and have been blamed, probably quite correctly, for causing leaks in dam walls. They live in burrows connected to water by shafts and are able to survive periods of drought by sealing themselves into their burrows; which may be up to two metres deep.

Thirdly, there are the terrestrial yabbies which, with their bullet-shaped head and massive claws for digging, are adapted to a life on land, although they do need to be close to water. These

species have virtually no tail. The characteristic holes surrounded by mountains of excavated soil which appear in paddocks and other damp places—even lawns—are the work of these terrestrial yabbies.

The traditional meat and string method is one of the oldest and still one of the best ways to catch a yabby. Yabbing is fun, like collecting tadpoles. It can be enjoyed by all ages. Since the National Parks Wildlife Act of 1975 it is now illegal to collect tadpoles from the wild without first obtaining a permit. Children can no longer take home a jam jar full of tadpoles as we did and watch in wonderment the slow miraculous transformation into a frog.

At the present time, however, there are no restrictions on taking yabbies from the wild, except of course in national and state parks where all fauna and flora is protected. The days of pet yabbies are not yet over.



## Holidays on the home front

**S**CHOOL holidays. They would be too short as usual. We'd each accumulated a wish list, but of course when the holidays actually materialised, very little went according to anybody's plan.

Enthusiasm for the main item on my list, a clean-up of epic proportions, was negligible. The weather made up its mind to be contrary right from the start. The one item on everybody's agenda, an epic bike ride, turned into a character-building exercise in driving hail, rain and cutting winds, and we bailed out half-way, soggly defeated.

Rain and Murphy's Law alternated in handicapping our attempts at sawing our way through the jungle surrounding our house. On another day a glimmer of sunshine conjured up images of freshly dried washing blowing in the breeze, so we washed everything in sight and hung it out on the line. Big mistake. Hughie can be such a tease.

We weren't making much headway, but with time slipping through our fingers it seemed more vital than ever to maintain



By MARILYN MOORE

a daily attack on the "must-do" list. However by nightfall a spot of relaxation was in order, so I warmed up for the reading list with a favourite novel reread for the umpteenth time. However I could barely find my place in the book each night. The words on the page would mingle, blur, then fade quietly into the shadows of unconsciousness. By the end of week one, I'd read the same page five times.

One morning, daylight dawned in more ways than one, even though it was only a weak and wintry greyness which stealthily replaced the blackness of night. A niggler in the back proved to be last night's book, face down under the doona. An

even bigger niggler materialised into the knees of a 10 year-old spreadeagled across at least half the bed. Rain beat bleakly on the iron roof. There was definitely no sense getting up.

Manoeuvring the 10 year-old into a more space-efficient pose, I dismissed last night's book and reached for some serious holiday reading.

The clock lost all meaning as I slipped into the timeframe of the evolution of human socio-biology. And when my ear eventually detected the murmur of happy chatter from Legoland on the lounge room floor, I knew I was safe for hours. Conscious thought wandered off along the elusive byways of ancient man. It was bliss.

A soggy sunbeam urged me guiltily out of bed. The day was almost gone and nothing done. Not even breakfast. We decided to demolish a few bowls of cereal then return some books to the library before tea.

Coming home, heavily book-laden once more, we stopped for a coffee. The scalding black liquid steamed from toughened glass on its tiny saucer, and the

littlest bookworms pondered happily over ivory and vermilion giants on a vast marble chess board. Under the relaxing influence of the exotically-brewed drink and the morning's reading, our lack of progress with the list of holiday jobs rapidly shrank in importance. Creating order out of havoc was an admirable objective in its way, but it rated poorly beside the life-and-death challenges facing Homo sapiens on this planet.

Closer scrutiny of the alleged havoc itself also raised serious questions. In fact it revealed a pleasing disorder, an eclectic and chaotic collection of life's treasures and pleasures. To banish such relics would induce a state of unnatural barrenness, a bland and boring decor, not at all conducive to cerebral stimulation. Could it be that visual deprivation of all the minutiae and paraphernalia of everyday existence might actually be harmful to the intellectual development of our children?

There was no doubt about it. The rest of the holidays would be spent doing only really important things.

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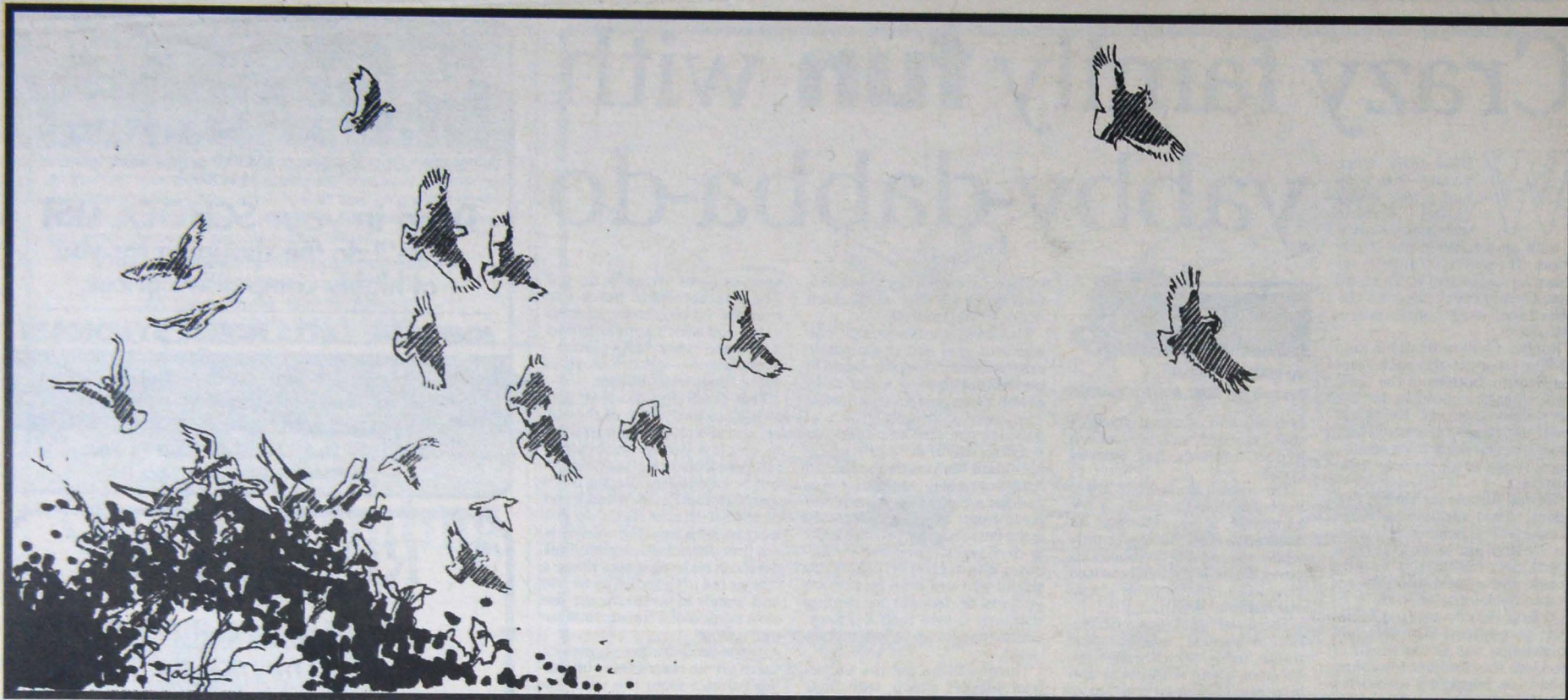
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# The summer was theirs

STORY BY GLEN JAMESON • ARTWORK BY JOCK MACNEISH

*If Dreaming places collect power through the stories that are generated by their spirit, then perhaps the Glynn's property comes close to being the White Cockatoo Special Place.*

**T**HEY sweep through the gorge valleys and across the river flats in ecstatic, shrieking clouds. An amorphous white mass moving like crazed mist above the muddied waters of Birrarrung, the Yarra Yarra. In numbers of over 100 they replace the small bird chatter and hypnotic chime of the bell miner with raucous song about the day's events. Piercing chants of cocky lore break the skies. Sometimes the sound they generate rises to such levels that it can challenge the noise coming from the cars along Warrandyte roads—quite a splendid effort.

It is reminiscent of the intense sound levels generated by magpie geese on wetlands at Kakadu. But they haven't always been in such a position of strength. In the early 1980s the sulphur-crested white cockatoo numbered perhaps a dozen or so birds in the forests around Warrandyte. Having gone through an

intensive recent history of persecution and casual slaughter it was the incorporation of the Glynn's property into the Yarra Valley Park around this time that gave them a safe refuge and the opportunity to still call Australia home.

Observing the changes that come to an area set aside as a sanctuary—as has happened to the Glynn's property—can illustrate how the flora and fauna can recover when given the opportunity.

Glynn's is at the upstream extent of the Yarra Valley Park. Meander downstream from Pound Bend and you see it across the river from the Pound Bend picnic reserve looking westward. The bends in the river that create the Pound Bend also create the biggest incised meander in the Australian river systems; the Glynn's meander contributes to this extraordinary geological wonder.

This story has the theme of three species of white birds (well, almost white): sulphur crested-cockatoo, sacred ibis and the white form of the grey goshawk. It is not the full story of all that has happened on the Glynn's property, but a selective vertical slice through observations from the past 10 years.

It is late afternoon, one warm and balmy day just on the 1993 summer solstice and the first few silent scouts of the white cockatoos glide over the Warrandyte tunnel, cross the river and fly into Glynn's. They follow the downstream flow of the river and move to strategic vantage points, commanding views up and down the

river valley.

A little later the first of the proclaimers leading the cocky mob follow the same path with exalted, loud and confident voices; calls that



It is breathtaking, larrikin, showoff bravado at its best.

carry for a surprising distance. The big white parrots call without fear and their resonance stamps the ground as cocky country.

Those birds, whose responsibility it is to keep watch from the ridge

country, part from the main mob and effortlessly slip across the high ridges to patrol the next valley. All the while the highly communicative voice of each individual sends information back to the mob which is tentatively roosting on a massive manna gum overlooking the wetlands and river in the south-west corner of the property.

The collective knowledge of the 100 or so cockies that make up the Glynn's mob must be immense. Individual birds have been known to live for 100 years. They are strong fliers who cover large areas to satisfy their insatiable curiosity, black eyes shining with wisdom and mischief, scanning the forests and streets for news and opportunities.

In a yellow box across the river from Glynn's, at the bottom of Longridge (also Yarra Valley Parklands), is a small group of yellow-tailed black cockatoos. The younger black cockies, as usual, are cawing to the parents, whose call is a gentle whistling when compared to the white birds.

An angry white cocky patrol discovers the black birds and immediately descends upon them in a fierce attack. The black cockies panic. Two bolt down the river and the other five haphazardly make their way to another large tree nearby where they remain, shattered and uncharacteristically quiet for the rest of the early evening.

Meanwhile, outraged patrols of white cockies speed up and down the river, screaming warnings and threats to any others who may be lurking on

their trees. Strangely, however, they leave the black cockies to themselves. The black cockies regroup and later slip away under cover of night, wishing to avoid further unpleasant confrontations.

The threat has gone, leaving yet another story to be re-enacted by the cocky mob on the manna gums. The river meander resounds to the screeching howls and hoots of territorial superiority. From the top of the high ridge at Longridge, members of the trick cockie troupe take advantage of the steep slope to dive and soar at terrific speed. Halfway down the slope they spin upside down, twisting and weaving in spectacular aerobatic displays. It is breathtaking, larrikin, showoff bravado at its best and the crowd on the manna gums perform their own version of the Mexican Wave in appreciation. The summer is theirs.

Early autumn and the white cockatoos, reminiscent of grazing sheep, wander in a huge flock across the elevated river terrace, digging and eating onion grass (*romulea rosea*) and sour sob (*oxalis pes-carpe*) corms. They must consume vast amounts of these weeds in search of the carbohydrate stored in the corms. Late afternoon is spent back on the big manna gums, a tribe in each tree, where continued and sporadic disturbance sends one group or another up into the air to slowly flutter, circle and eventually return to roost.

● TO BE CONTINUED

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An inspiring life: Georgie Saunders on Mt Kosciusko

# GEORGIE SAUNDERS Interpreter of our land

By MARILYN MOORE

**T**HE untimely death of Georgie Saunders (Waterman) in the early hours on October 1 has left an immense sadness and emptiness in the Warrandyte community. In both her public life, as an outstanding and inspiring communicator for the environment, and privately, she earned the everlasting admiration, love and respect of a great many people.

Georgina Waterman was born into a large and boisterously creative family. Their home was in Beaumaris and by the time Georgie finished school at Kilbreda she had already established a reputation for entrepreneurial schemes.

She undertook a Bachelor of Science degree at Melbourne University at a time when the science faculty discouraged students from taking single-study subjects. But Georgie used some initiative and blended her geology course with a range of subjects from zoology and botany. She graduated in 1974.

Georgie's professional career began with the Victorian National Parks Service in 1975. As an interpretations officer she was part of a newly-established team responsible for the design and development of statewide publications, interpretive planning and community liaison.

A major outcome of this work was the establishment of an infrastructure for designing and managing both interpretation programs and staff training. As well as being involved in the research and design of such well-loved visitor centres as those at Wilsons Promontory and Wyperfeld, Georgie was instrumental in developing summer programs and training staff in national parks throughout Victoria. In this role her skills and innovativeness as a communicator, her infectious enthusiasm, her supportiveness and encouragement to those around her and her unique ability to do things differently became legendary.

Georgie's work eventually inspired not only management

and staff in the VPNS but thousands of visitors to our parks. In the early 1980s she initiated a scheme whereby interpretation officers from Victoria swapped places for six months each year with others from interstate. The resultant dissemination of ideas led to an improved standard of interpretive programs nationwide. Her direct influence at Mt Eccles, Wyperfeld and Kosciusko National Parks, her work with the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority, for the National Herbarium and the National Trust at Gulf Station is of obvious significance; the wider and indirect influence of her work is beyond measure.

Georgie's achievements were not limited to national parks. Her work as a visitor services officer with Melbourne Water from 1985 to 1992 was truly visionary, helping establish a clear sense of identity and direction for the parklands. Georgie's gentle but very determined powers of persuasion achieved extensive and fundamental changes in staff attitude and training and community and media liaison. She led the way in urban conservation education in Victoria and many of her programs, materials and ideas have subsequently been adopted throughout Australia and overseas. The benchmark Yarra Book and the delightful Homeshow Trail at Westerfold Park are part of the legacy of this work.

Perhaps Georgie's most acclaimed achievement is the Bowali Visitor Centre at Kakadu National Park. This award-winning complex is internationally recognised for its unique vitality, the high quality of the interpretive display, its innovative architecture and the way in which it complements the nearby Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre. The Park is jointly managed by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency and the Aboriginal traditional owners. Effective consultation at every stage of the project was the key to its success. Georgie's sensitivity, love of the country and deep respect for the Aboriginal viewpoint

led not only to the successful completion of a very difficult project but also to her being granted the rare privilege of acceptance into a clan of the Bunitj people as a 'granddaughter' of tribal elder Bill Neidjie.

Georgie loved Warrandyte. One of her earliest projects with the VPNS was the signage and access for disabled visitors at Pound Bend. Over the years she involved herself in a number of local issues, researching and writing articles for the *Diary* about the elusive retirement village, subdivision of the Green Wedge and a number of other conservation issues. In 1993 she coordinated the interpretive program at Fourth Hill.

Her last project, undertaken in 1995 when her battle with cancer had already begun, was the rehabilitation of Whipstick Gully. Even in this tiny space Georgie managed to bring to life a wonderful juxtaposition of contrasts, so that echoes of ancient machinery can still clearly be heard rattling and clanking amidst the gentle twitter of wrens in the burgan.

Georgie's immense success as a communicator arose from her profound concern for the natural environment, her love of people (especially children) and her ability to create imaginative fun with limited resources. Bright conversation came naturally to her, often accompanied by wicked mimicry (she was a consummate actress) and she was always so generous in giving of her time and skills.

Georgie leaves behind a most beloved family, especially her husband Don and young son Edward, who was the light of her life. Tributes to her life and work have been many but perhaps the most apt came from the Victorian National Parks Service (The Age, October 3):

"We would like to express our great sorrow at Georgie's passing. Georgie's inspirational creative and visionary role in park interpretation and her outstanding contribution to National Parks both in Victoria and across the country will be a lasting legacy. Her generous, warm and outgoing nature will be greatly missed..."

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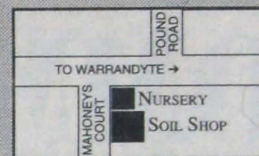
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### SATURDAY NIGHT

November 9, 6pm  
Family Bush Dance with the Free Selectors in Wonga Park Hall. Spit Roast organised by CFA, bar run by cricket club.

### SUNDAY MORNING

November 10  
10.30am: Vic Hit—junior cricket clinic—organised by the Wonga Park Cricket Club.  
11am: Official Opening; Wonga Park Primary School Choir (on stage); Pet Show for children (on oval)

### SUNDAY ALL DAY

November 10, from 11am  
Art and Craft Stalls.  
Bike Registrations by Police and Apex.  
Captain Koala and other characters.  
CFA Demonstrations—on the hour.  
John Wayne Harley Bikes.  
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On Old Yarra Road:  
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### SUNDAY AFTERNOON

November 10, 12noon-3pm  
On stage at the oval:  
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On the oval:  
Kids' Market, run by Wonga Park Primary School and others.

In Wonga Park Hall:  
Devonshire Teas organised by St Marks Anglican Church.

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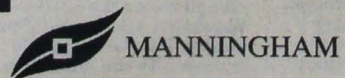
Saturday, November 9, 6pm.



# NOVEMBER 9 & 10, 1996

Wonga Park and District Residents' Association

All enquiries to Matthew Harrington.  
Phone 9722 1610, mobile:  
0418 311 584, fax: 9722 1662.



# Cards for Christmas

A set of five new greetings cards, suitable for Christmas, is being offered for sale by Warrandyte Historical Society. Each card depicts a Warrandyte landmark and has been designed by local artist and society member Bob Nichol. A set of five black and white cards costs only \$3, with hand-coloured versions available for \$4. The cards can be purchased at the society's museum in the Old Post Office, and will also be available at the WHS stall at the December Warrandyte market, along with a variety of historical publications and photographs as well as homemade goods and plants.



**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.

## Trash

Warrandwood Primary School, corner of Wonga Road and Wellington Park Drive, will be holding a Christmas crafts and trash and treasure sale at the school on Saturday, November 30 from 8.30am to 2pm. Attractions will include a cake stall, white elephant stall and barbecue. Anyone interested in running their own stall—at a cost of \$10—can ring the school on 9876 6066 or Kaylene Bowen on 9876 4459.

## Youth

Warrandyte Youth Services are holding their annual general meeting at 7.30pm on Monday, November 18 at their clubrooms in the Warrandyte Community Centre. All are welcome to attend and new people are needed to nominate for the committee. Further information from Cathy Adamson on 9844 2985.

## Winners

St Stephens church in Stiggant Street has asked us to thank all those who braved the big wet on October 19 to support their fete. The raffle was won by Olive Adams who chose the hamper. Sue Boyle took a balloon ride as second and third prize of a Grand Hotel dinner was won by Allison Wright.

## Readings

Poetry and short story readings are now being held every Wednesday morning from 10 to 11am at Food For All Seasons in Yarra Street. On the first Wednesday of each month, Margot Johnson of 3RPH shares a selection of stories and poetry from around the world. Bookings can be made on 9844 2780.

## Partners

Warrandyte Uniting Church has been paired with the Myrtleford Uniting Church in the Parishes of Partnership scheme, in which city and country churches can cooperate in various activities. Seven Warrandyte families travelled to Myrtleford over the Cup weekend to join in social activities and worship. They explored various possibilities for inter-parish cooperation in the future.

## Fishy

The next exhibition at Windows on Craft in Yarra Street will commence on Saturday, November 16. Entitled 'From Sea and Land' it will feature oil paintings—including many seascapes—by Neil Straub and 'fishy' ceramics by Sue James. Doors will be open from 10am to 5.30pm daily, except Mondays. Telephone 9844 1722 for further information.

## Gold

A two-hour tour of the Warrandyte goldfields will be conducted by John Hanson on Sunday, November 10. Part of the Nillumbik festival, the tour is free, although donations to the Warrandyte Historical Society will be appreciated. Meet at 104 Webb Street (Melway 35 G2) at 2pm. The tour will return to the beautiful Hanson garden at approximately 4pm. Good walking shoes and a torch will be needed.

## Friends

All members of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park are invited to attend their annual general meeting on Sunday, November 24 at 1pm at the Folly in Pound Bend Road. Anyone interested in joining the Friends can contact Judy Thomson on 9844 1590 or Marg Dimech on 9844 3812.

## Dance

The next South Warrandyte dance will be held at the hall in Hall Road on Saturday, November 9. Cost is \$5, BYO plate and drinks. Tea and coffee are provided. An excellent band will provide music for a great social night. The December dance will be on Saturday the 14th. For further information ring 9723 3892.

## Fundraisers

The Grand Hotel have announced their final two fundraising nights for the year. On Friday, November 15, Paradiddle will perform for the Warrandyte High School. Arrival time is 8.30pm. Tickets, at \$12 including supper, can be booked at the hotel on 9844 3202, or through the high school and should be picked up a week in advance. On Friday, November 22, Andrew Portelli will once again present A Tribute To Elvis as a fundraiser for local CFA brigades. Tickets from the Grand Hotel. The hotel plans to continue these fundraiser nights in 1997 and anyone wishing to participate should contact Jillian Swift on 9844 3202.

## Disabled

Volunteers are needed to help with a group of primary school-age riders with autism who meet at Warrandyte South on Friday mornings. Horse expertise—to prepare the horses and assist the coach—would be useful. Times are 9.45-11.45am during school terms. Anyone who can help, please contact Susan Lilley on 9739 5115 (AH) or 9720 7492.

## Tell Us

The *Diary* is your newspaper and we love to print news of your group's activities. Jot down all the details, including date, time, venue and contact number and drop it in the box in our door at the community centre or fax it to 9844 4168. Copy closes on the last Friday of each month.

**CLYDE & OCKER**



"A bit more hair and you'd be an Elvis lookalike, Ock!"



Rotary club president Ain Utt inducts Pam Holmes

## He's a top cop!

Warrandyte police sergeant Keith Walker was recognised for his efforts for the community at the October 15 meeting of Warrandyte Rotary Club.

Sergeant Walker was made a Paul Harris Fellow, a Rotary award presented by district governor Graeme Woolcott. Rotary spokesperson Peter Phillips said, "Keith has been a leading figure in many aspects of community life in Warrandyte and is greatly respected for his dedication."

Sergeant Walker accepted the award as an honour, saying

that Warrandyte is a great place to live, work and bring up children.

On the same evening the presentation of a cheque for \$2000 was made to Marjorie Lapworth on behalf of the Warrandyte Crisis Centre. The proceeds were the result of a sportsman's night held earlier this year.

Meanwhile, local travel agent Pam Holmes has been inducted as the first woman member of the Warrandyte Rotary Club. She was inducted at a club meeting on October 8.

## School honours students

Warrandyte High School's Year 12 students began the wind-up to their VCE on October 29 with the school's Valedictory Night. It was a night to congratulate the students on their achievements and thank staff for their efforts in what a school spokesperson said was "a very stressful year".

Clare Dorean won the prestigious Juliette Arnott endeavour award on the night. Juliette completed her VCE at the school in 1988 and was a highly regarded student. She developed leukaemia in 1989 and lost her battle with the disease in November of that year.

The all-rounder award was won by Daniela Spillotacopoulos. Lachlan Poustie received the citizenship award for his leadership, particularly in his role as SRC president.

Outstanding swimmer Gemma Coates was named the best sportsman. The artistic excellence award was shared by Daniela Spillotacopoulos, for her performance in the school



Guest speaker Scott Dawes

production, and Hayley Cooper, for her musical efforts with the concert band. The award for scholastic excellence was shared by Julian Keil and Lachlan Poustie.

Guest speaker for the evening was former student Scott Dawes, who completed his VCE in 1989. Dawes is now a baseballer with the Melbourne Reds and represented Australia at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

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- ★★★ Chateau Tahbilk—Marsanne 1996 ..... \$8.95 (\$105 per doz)
- ★★★★ Mount Avoca—Shiraz 1994 ..... \$16.00 (\$170 per doz)

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# Half a win, but Jones out 12 months

The two-year suspension of senior Warrandyte Football Club coach Ralph Jones has been halved and a \$2000 fine on the club reduced to \$500.

The revised penalties came after the Eastern Districts Football League had reopened the Jones case and referred it to an independent tribunal.

In a marathon closed hearing on October 8, the tribunal dismissed the first half of a misconduct charge against the coach but sustained the second.

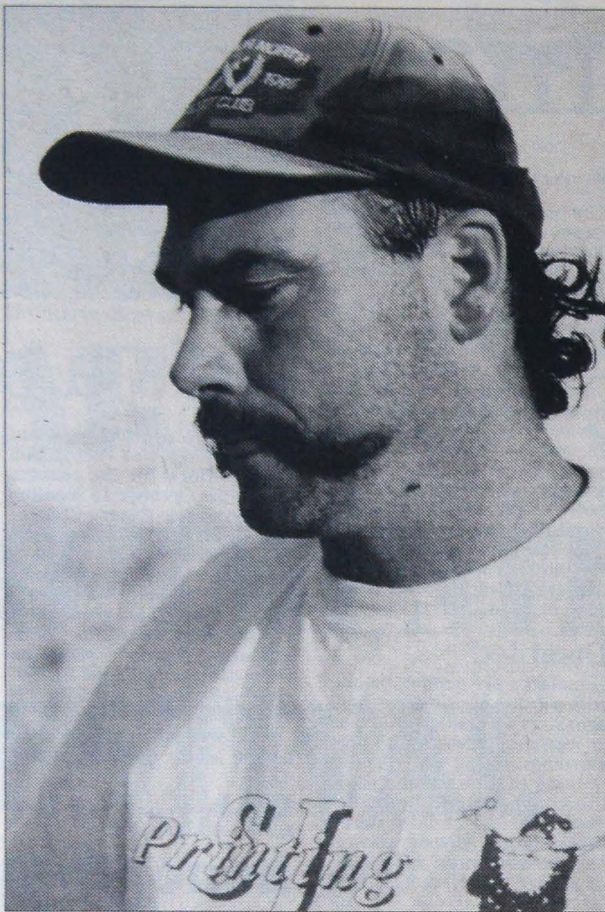
It cleared Jones of changing into Warrandyte's playing uniform before the home game against Blackburn on August 10 and "presenting himself to the umpires conducting the pre-match equipment check as a player without disclosing to the umpires that he did not intend to play and that he was not a registered player".

It sustained a charge that he had changed into the playing uniform and led the Warrandyte players through Blackburn's pre-match warm-up exercises and "made contact with a Blackburn player after which a melee ensued and he later changed into casual clothing and coached the first 18 Warrandyte Football Club for the ensuing match".

The suspension disqualifies Jones from holding any official position at an EDFL club for 12 months.

The tribunal hearing was the EDFL's longest of the year, running for more than three-and-a-half hours.

"Although we are not happy



Ralph Jones ... relegated to spectator for 1997.

with the fine as a club, we must accept the verdict and ensure that these indiscretions do not happen in the future," newly-elected WFC president Jeff Evans told the *Diary*.

Jones said he was seeking legal advice. "I believe the EDFL reopened the case because they realised I had been denied natural justice," he said.

And of the whole episode: "It seems to me that someone wanted a prize scalp."

"The Blackburn player involved in the incident said there was nothing in it, that he had walked into my path.

"They dropped the first charge and sustained the second—how do you distinguish what's what.

"If they say I shouldn't have been on the ground, then you

could say they should stop trainers, water boys, kids having a kick at half-time—even the local dog.

"To be unable to hold any position at all the club for 12 months is an absolute joke. I've been relegated to the role of a spectator so that's what I'll be doing at Warrandyte next season.

"We might as well be getting around with blouses on and doing away with contact in football completely. The Anzacs would be turning in their graves if they could see what has been done to football."

Jones thanked the Warrandyte club, its officials, players and supporters for their support throughout the 1996 season and at the tribunal.

# New season, new Bloods

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club will approach 1997 with a new executive, a new coach and a determination to put 1996—a best-forgotten season which produced just four wins and a draw from 18 matches—well behind them.

As this edition of the *Diary* went to press, the Bloods were interviewing applicants for playing coach. An appointment was expected to be announced "very shortly".

The club's fortunes off the field will be directed by new president Jeff Evans, who was elected unopposed at the annual general meeting on October 24, and a largely new committee.

Evans, vice-president last season, succeeds Lex Munro, who did not seek a third term.

He described the 1996 season as "a very tough one" but said it had produced some "big positives". "We are still in EDFL Second Division," he said, "on the financial side we finished the year in the black, and we have many quality younger players at the club."

Warrandyte traded at a loss of \$7715 in the year to September 30, but still finished with \$2784 in the bank.

Relaying the treasurer's report in the absence of outgoing treasurer Tom Kerkhof, who was absent for family reasons, Evans told the AGM that "everything was down on the previous year—sponsorship, social functions, raffles and the collection of players' insurance money".

An example was the home-game raffles, which had previously brought in an average \$300. Last season, because of "lack of manpower to sell tickets", they produced a total of just \$459.

The new president said the club had been "drastically undermanned off the field" and quoted Kerkhof as saying that 1996 was "a year, on and off the field, we'd all like to forget".

The key position of secretary was not filled at the meeting and anyone interested in the job is invited to contact Evans on 9722 1111. Neither did the AGM find a vice-president. Senior player Matt Grybas is the new treasurer.

Evans told the *Diary* the Bloods were looking for a coach whose leadership qualities on and off the field would bring out the best in the players and "give the younger guys every opportunity to their full potential".

"Dale McCartin will again take charge of the Reserves and with David Purcell adding that on-field leadership that he does so well, they, as

## Meet the coaches, burn a sausage

Warrandyte Football Club will hold a "meet the coaches" day at the home of John Waters at 18 Gibsons Road, Warranwood, on Sunday, November 24.

It's a family day, a BYO barbecue starting at 12.30 pm.

The club's One-Five-Hundred draw will be made during the afternoon.

All players, supporters, wives and girlfriends are strongly encouraged to attend.

well as the seniors, should dramatically improve their win/loss ratio" he said.

"Due to circumstances beyond our control, the 1996 season's senior coach was not appointed until the last week in January. Our anticipated early appointment this year will enable us to orchestrate a properly-managed recruiting program.

"With a lot more time up our sleeve we can now have a really good look at recruiting and by doing so I am confident that we will encourage the right type of player to the club."

Evans said that at this stage he was not aware of any current players retiring or seeking clearances.

"We have a great bunch of guys at the club and require every one of them for the 1997 season if we are to go on to bigger and better things.

"Second Division football has been very even for the last couple of seasons and if we can recruit reasonably well and convince our players and supporters that we are good enough for Second Division, then all goes well for the 1997 season."

The Bloods' new general committee is: Anne Drew, Glen McCartin, Terry Ryan, Andrew Rodgers, Roger Dalli, Alan Vitiritti, Robert Ireland, Lisa Andrews, Rod Valentine and John Ryan.

● Warrandyte Junior Football Club's registration day will be held at the clubrooms in February, on a date to be announced. The club fields teams from Under-10s through to Under-16s.

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**FRI NOV 22:** Tribute to Elvis—Our 8th and last for this year. Floor show and Rock n Roll dance. \$12 incl supper. Fundraiser for all our CFAs.

**FRI NOV 29:** Judy and guitarist—Jazz/Swing duo.



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# Bushrangers' shaky start!

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Cricket Club's Chandler Shield eleven have started the new season in shaky fashion, losing to the promoted North Ringwood in a thrilling season opener and being delicately placed against Mooroolbark after the first day of the second game.

Like last season, it is the team's frail batting line-up which is causing concern, after failing to bat out its full 40 overs in the one-day game against newcomers North Ringwood.

The newly-named Bushrangers struggled to 107 off 37 overs after winning the toss and batting. Having not batted out the full allotment of overs this gave North Ringwood 43 overs to chase the meagre score.

They started the 43rd over at 9/100 and stole the win off the third-last ball of the match.

Warrandyte coach Brian Chapman said it was obvious where the team lost the game.

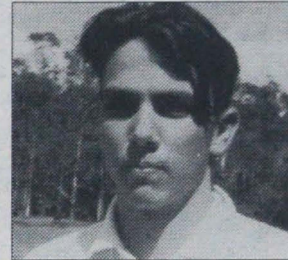
"We didn't bat the overs out, simple as that. If we had have done so we would have won the game. The rules are there so there's nothing we can do but play to them," he said.

The Bushrangers struggled from the start, losing new opener Chris Bambury for seven in the fourth over. Mick Canty with 22 was providing some stability but last season's guns Steve Bell (10) and Tony Sturesteps (seven) both went cheaply.

## New name, but the batting frailties haven't changed



Tony Sturesteps



Steve Bell

When Brett Kline threw to wicketkeeper Dave Mooney who affected a run-out three overs later North Ringwood were 9/91 needing 18 runs with just four overs to play.

But the two tail-enders whittled away at the target to eventually need eight runs to win off the last over, which was to be bowled by Snaidero.

Twos off the first two balls gave them a sniff while a three on the next ball tied the scores with three balls to play. Norths then scurried through for a single to steal the win and were all out off the final ball for 110. Snaidero was the pick of Warrandyte's bowlers with 6/59 off 22 overs.

While no-one was prepared to make an official comment, privately Warrandyte players and officials were fuming at what they believed were two clear run-out decisions not awarded in the final over, either of which would have given the match to the Bushrangers.

The team's hopes of doing more than just make up the numbers this season will be put to the test at home this Saturday (November 9) as they chase a tricky total of 230 in the second day of their game against Mooroolbark.

Fortunately they are 55 runs closer to the target for the loss of just two wickets after an aggressive Steve Bell punished the Barkers bowling with an unbeaten 43 in the closing 37 min-

utes of the day's play.

At one stage the score they are chasing looked like being a lot less when Mooroolbark staggered to 4/62, tied down by a fiery opening spell from Snaidero (3/64) and Gerald Walshe (4/40).

But Warrandyte's bowlers lost their line, not to mention their tempers, and Mooroolbark swung lustily to reach 230.

The Bushrangers had a testing 14 over spell at the crease to end the day, losing Kline for two and then Canty for five to be 2/35. Russell Dorning joined Bell to see out the day, however, with Bell rattling off some splendid strokes which suggest he could be on the way to a big score this week.

Team captain Sturesteps said he was happy with the way the side had gone about their first home game of the season.

"It was quite a good effort on what is one of the quickest outfields in the competition," he told the *Diary*. "What we need now is a few blokes to gain some confidence and turn their usual 15s or 20s into 30s and 40s."

"This is a very important game for us. A good win here will really help set us up for the season."

The season's opening two one-day matches, washed out by heavy rain, will now be played on March 8 and 9.

The semi-finals will be pushed back a week with the grand final to be played on March 22 and 23, which were to be reserve days.

Warrandyte adopted the Bushrangers' name and motif, similar to that of the Victorian state side, after a recent competition was held in the club newsletter.

The Chandler Shield side will play at Norwood on November 16 and 23 and then Ferntree Gully on November 30 and December 7 before returning home for the annual grudge match against Ainslie Park on December 14 and 21.



## Dare we say she's kicking right on?

Warrandyte had four representatives in Australia's team at this year's Atlanta Olympics—and don't be at all surprised if soccer star Jennie Skinner (above) is our next to wear the green and gold at the highest level.

Jennie, of Kangaroo Ground Road, is in the development squad for the Sydney Games in 2000.

Just 16 and a student at Donvale Christian College,

she has represented Victoria for three consecutive years in national under-16 championships.

Jennie is a very busy girl. She trains several nights a week, plays women's A-grade for the Doncaster Rovers Soccer Club and is the only female in the Blackburn senior men's team, as well as being the youngest player in that competition.

# Basketball clinic top shot

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Basketball's rising popularity has been given another boost with 35 youngsters taking part in Warrandyte Basketball Club's five to 10-year-old clinic series each Monday afternoon.

With most of the players too young to start competitively, the clinics have been an ideal way to get them involved in the sport.

Co-ordinator Karen Pearce said the clinics, held from 4pm at the twin courts at Donvale Sports Complex, were proving a great success.

"The kids are really enjoying themselves and learning the game very quickly," she said.

"All of the children have been given their own basketball to bring along and practise with and some of them have shown quite a rapid improvement."

"They are enjoying it immensely. One child goes to bed with his basketball while another counts how many sleeps to go before the next clinic."

The clinics, open to both boys and girls, cost \$3 per session and will last until the end of the club's current EDJBA junior season next April.

Pearce hopes many of the new players trying the sport for the first time will enjoy it enough to sign up with the Redbacks for the season proper when they are old enough.

"By starting at such a young age they are really getting the chance to grasp the fundamentals of how to bounce the ball and even shoot properly. When they start competitively they will really have an edge over the competition," she said.

Pearce can be contacted on 9844 1214 for more information on how to sign up for the clinics.

Meanwhile, the Redbacks' under-15 girls team have had an injury scare a little more than a month before they depart on their trip of a lifetime, to play in the South Pacific Junior Championships in Fiji in December.

Star centre Jazmine Borella went down with an ankle injury but after missing sev-

eral club games has been declared fit for the tour.

The girls are thrilled by another significant donation to their fundraising drive, with the Lions Club of Warrandyte donating \$1000 for their cause.

Team manager Con Arsenis said the fundraising would continue in the weeks leading up to the girls' departure.

"We will continue to have food drives each week at the stadium but the significant donations, like the one from the Lions Club and the \$1500 donation from the market committee, have really gone a long way."

"The girls are very excited and keen for the departure date to arrive," he said.

The girls will be the only Australian representative in the under-15 section, but may find the opposition a shade taller.

The way the rules are mean that the local teams will be able to play girls aged 15 and under whereas the Warrandyte side play under the Australian rules of ages 14 and under.

## SPORT

When Cam Day was caught for a third-ball duck Warrandyte were 4/43 in the 17th over. Dave Mooney (18 not out) and Jason Graf (15) provided a late-order revival of sorts but 107 looked like it was never going to be enough.

But Chris Snaidero opened the bowling in much the same fashion as he finished last season (10/56 in the last game) to have Norths 3/33 off 15 and on the back foot.

They steadied to 5/75 with 10 overs to go and were marginally in the driver's seat. But three overs later the Bushrangers struck quickly to have Norths reeling again at 8/81.

## CRICKET DETAILS

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 107 (Canty 22) lost to North Ringwood 110 (Snaidero 6/59). Warrandyte 2/55 (Bell 43 n.o.) vs Mooroolbark 230 (Walshe 4/40, Snaidero 3/64).

SECONDS: Warrandyte 7/153 (Gee 63, Valentine 22) lost to North Ringwood 4/188 (Davis 2/46). Warrandyte 198 (Baker 56, Valentine 35) vs Mooroolbark 0/36.

THIRDS: Warrandyte 9/90 (Brent 33,

Revell 27) lost to North Ringwood 6/138 (Pascoe 3/44). Warrandyte 8/217 (Brent 73, Revell 43) vs Mooroolbark.

FOURTHS: Warrandyte 85 (Davey 27, Gay 14) lost to North Ringwood 9/158 (Cioke 3/39, Goddard 2/37). Warrandyte 239 (Sutherland 77, Curiale 34, Cioke 28) vs Mooroolbark.

VETERANS: Warrandyte 56 lost to Parkwood 6/142.



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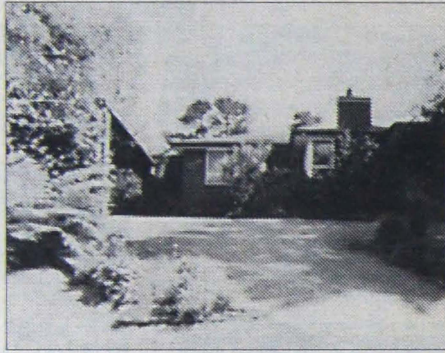


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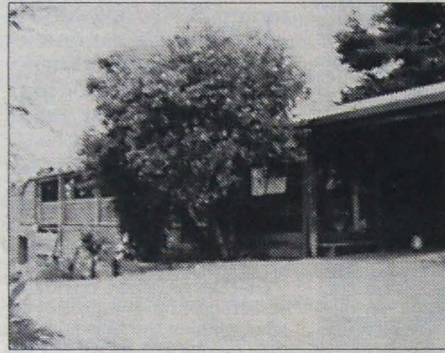
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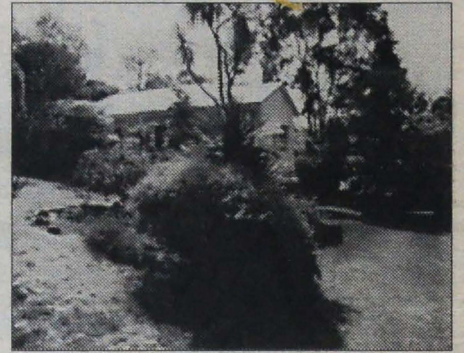
3 BRs, Rumpus room, 1/2 acre **\$149,000**



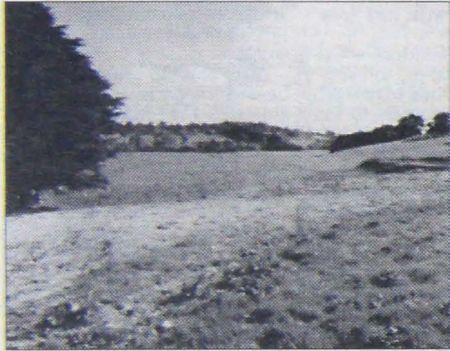
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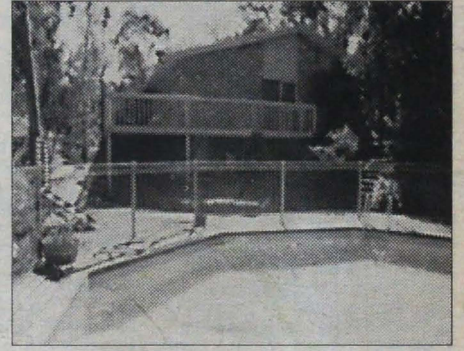
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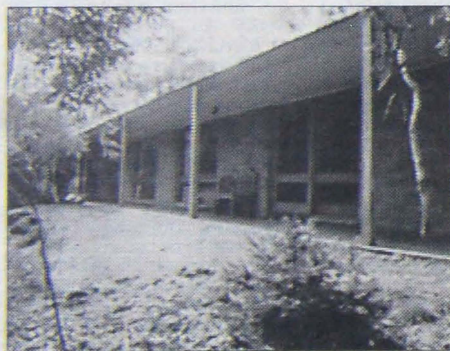
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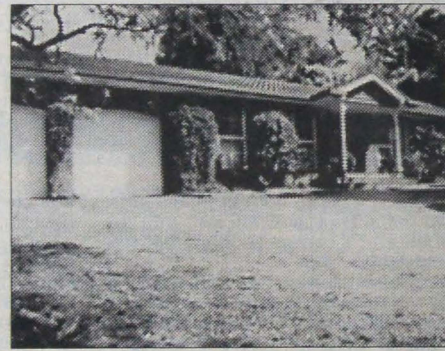
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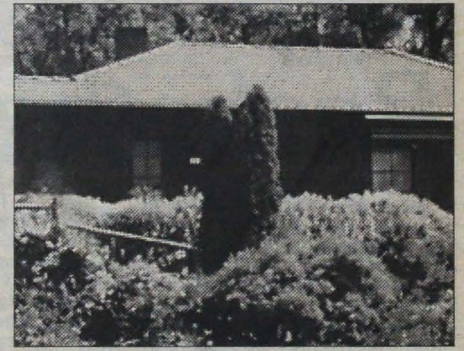
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**Peter McDougall**  
Sworn Valuer



**Leanne Dean**  
Property Manager



**Catherine Selby**  
Sales Representative



**Graham Porter**  
Sales Representative



**Russell McInnes**  
Sales Representative

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Together we'll make it happen