

Park depot to stay



Just clowning around: Members of the Warrandyte Street Theatre Group charmed festivalgoers throughout the weekend. More Sandy Burgoyne pix inside.

Friends group, Phil Honeywood avert closure

By FIA CLENDINEN and CLIFF GREEN

The future of the depot at Warrandyte State Park is now assured, following swift action by the Friends group and the intervention of local MP, Phil Honeywood.

Friends of Warrandyte State Park spokesperson Mike Coupar alerted the *Diary* late last month that he was fearful of the depot being closed. "We were definitely worried that the depot was in danger of closing," he said. "It was a big community worry."

These fears followed a report in the February *Diary* in which Stewart Ord, Parks Victoria acting regional manager, said: "Obviously there is going to be a look at rationalisation of depots and there is no answer for Warrandyte. It is reasonably old in comparison with some other assets within Parks Victoria. We will be looking at where it's best to base an operational crew."

However when local member for Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood, was informed of the situation he took immediate action. Just before going to press Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*, "I can confirm that there are absolutely no plans at all to close the Warrandyte depot, and I've had that from the highest level."

The *Diary* has received a statement from Parks Victoria confirming this: "Parks Victoria is committed to having a ranger in charge and a team of staff based in Warrandyte State Park to ensure the park and its visitors are well serviced."

Mike Coupar said he was relieved to hear that the depot was safe. "I'm very pleased with Phil Honeywood's reassurances. It's a victory for the community. It's been a big anxiety to the group that the focus of the group was threatened with closure," he said.

FOWSP had previously made several attempts, both by letter and phone, to meet with new Parks Victoria regional manager Neil McCarthy. They were finally

CLYDE & OCKER



"You've gotta sleep with one eye open around here, Ock!"

told that he would not be able to see them within the next two months. This further increased their anxiety.

Phil Honeywood, as well as confirming that the Warrandyte State Park depot is not under threat of closure, has also managed to speed up FOWSP's requested meeting. "The regional manager will be meeting with FOWSP sooner than the two months given, as a result of my raising it in the appropriate quarters," Phil Honeywood said.

The *Diary* has been informed that Annie Volkering, the new chief ranger at Westerfields Park, will meet with FOWSP "within a week".

According to the Parks Victoria statement, a review of the office and depot facilities at Warrandyte State Park will be undertaken over the new few months to "ascertain their adequacy and appropriateness" with "input from both the staff and key stakeholders, such as the Friends of Warrandyte State Park and the Country Fire Authority".

Phil Honeywood believes that the depot could be refurbished as a result of this review.

"It has been a good outcome," Mike Coupar said.

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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Thanks, Hugh, for not lighting that cigar



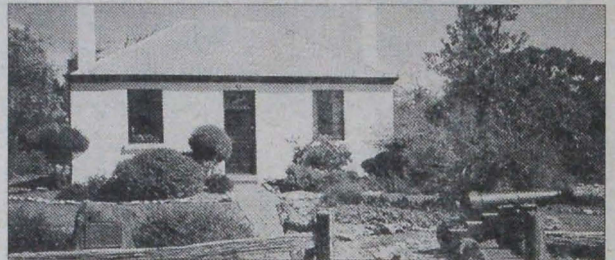
Hugh McSpedden, our local light show expert who has worked alongside such names as Pink Floyd, entered an enormous cigar in last month's Warrandyte Festival parade. Despite a few sniggerings from the crowd suggesting it might be something else, we knew it was a cigar because a banner on the truck carrying it, Hugh and his accomplices (who were dressed up as the Marx Brothers) invited us to "Have a cigar, Warrandyte". Anyhow, when the truck reached the bottom of Stiggant Street, it was obviously too big to squeeze through the gap into the bottom reserve without perhaps demolishing a few trees—so Hugh parked it and wandered off, leaving the rest of the parade banked up behind him into Yarra Street. Eventually persuaded to move on, Hugh nervously negotiated the truck into the riverbank reserve with minimal damage to the trees but more substantial crumpling of the cigar. Nervousness is not a known Hugh McSpedden trait, so we did a little sleuthing and learned that the cigar had been designed to explode at the end of the parade. It was armed with a Number 3 Maroon Flare—the sort of thing an ocean liner might fire as it was sinking—wired up to the cab of the truck. But at the last minute, memories of the Moomba parade two years ago came flooding back to Hugh and he chickened out. On that Moomba occasion, he let off a Number 2 Maroon (a much smaller affair) at the intersection of Collins and Swanston Streets. The explosion was such that police hit the ground and drew their guns and children burst into tears. Thank you, Hugh, for keeping your finger off the button this time. (See letter, Page 6.)



For the first time, the *Diary* had a float in the festival parade—and it was a tribute to the versatility of our circulation manager, Peter Norman. Pete engineered and built the float (at great expense in terms of manhours) and drove it in the parade. He'd like to thank Michael Smyth (of the Warrandyte Bike Shop), John Pearson (Presswell Panels), Neil Dusting (Triplex Engineering) and Robin Batty (Booleen Engineering) for the invaluable help they gave him.



One of these festivals, the Duck Race will go off without a hitch. Last year, the tarp containing the 1000 little plastic quackers refused to open and the SES's Justin Kibbell had to be winched out on a wire to release them into the Yarra. This time there were no canoes on hand to collect the contestants at the end of their voyage. Jewell Meredith, of Castle Road, was organiser of the race and, yes, she had certainly asked Adventure Canoeing to supply six canoes for the race finish. And, yes, Adventure Canoeing had certainly done that. Next year, Jewell will remember to order six canoes and six canoeists!



History was all around us and our heart beat apace. We had stumbled upon a hitherto-undiscovered link between immortal, tragic Australian poet Adam Lindsay Gordon and Warrandyte. We were standing in the grounds of Dingley Dell Cottage, on the outskirts of windswept, crayfish-rich Port MacDonnell, just over the SA border. A plaque in what is now a conservation park told us that Gordon had bought the cottage in March 1864 and lived there until 1867. Dingley Dell. Yes! There just had to be a strong, romantic link between the man, the cottage and our own Dingley Dell Road. Handled properly, we could make a fortune out of this. Imagine the tourism potential: "Come to glorious North Warrandyte and walk the track on which Adam Lindsay Gordon rode his first skateboard!" Stuff like that. We could hardly wait to get home and now we wish we hadn't because we find nothing whatever to suggest that ALG ever heard of Warrandyte, let alone set foot in it. Our Dingley Dell Road, we learn, was named after a farm established last century by one Joseph Ayton, a migrant who had enlisted to fight in the New Zealand wars. Not to worry. We publish the above picture of Dingley Dell Cottage anyway just to show you what a beaut place the bard lived in.



Festival Sunday wasn't a great day for Maureen Purser, from Potters Cottage School. It had been raining before Maureen arrived and the Dog Show and Pet Parade had been moved under the cover of the rotunda where she was to set up her pottery stall. So she stood there, her own pooch by her side, waiting for the Dog Show to finish. All of a sudden, people were tying ribbons around her dog's neck. It had been awarded the prize for the scruffiest! Then, in the afternoon, an errant ball at the Dunk the Teacher stand ricocheted into Maureen's display and broke one of her pots. Somehow, Maureen was still managing a smile at day's end. Just call it festival spirit.



The festival Tug o' War very nearly wasn't. Despite the festival committee mailing out invitations to every pub in Manningham and Nillumbik, only the stalwart Grand Hotel men's and women's teams, under the direction of John Skepper, turned up. But gee, we couldn't let them walk away without a contest. The fire brigades rustled up a team for the men's event—but were no match for the well-trained hotel musclemen—and a bunch of local girls got together as a community team to challenge for the women's trophy. Did amazingly well, too, actually pulling it off (so to speak). But their glory was short-lived. A protest was fired in (and upheld) alleging the community girls had received a little unfair and illegal help from their friends at the crucial moment. And we'd always thought tug o' war was a noble sport.



Phyl Swindley, of The Boulevard, arrived home from work to find a bunch of flowers at the front gate. Gosh, had she forgotten a special occasion? Anniversary? Worse still, had she forgotten and husband Jack remembered? No. An accompanying note said the flowers were for Rebecca from Janet and Steve as a thank-you for looking after Toby on the Sunday night of the festival. As Phyl had no idea who Rebecca is (or Janet or Steve or Toby, for that matter), the flowers could not be passed on. But she thanks Janet and Steve who thank Rebecca for caring for Toby and says the flowers were blooming terrific.



We'd never taken Dennis Clark for a quitter. He certainly wasn't when he played league football for Melbourne, nor when he coached Warrandyte. But, sad to say, he has just conceded defeat. And to a woman! We reported last time that Dennis had put himself on a hiding to nothing by agreeing to go to church with Cheryl Arsenis on three consecutive Sundays if he couldn't shed more weight than she over two months. The weigh-in was to be late last month—but the strain of it all had taken a terrible toll and Dennis skied the towel. Shame on him. And amen.

Smokey Joe



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EDITORS: Cliff Green and Lee Tindale
PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd, (A.C.N. 006 886 826) as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.
EDITORIAL: Chief of staff Jan Tindale, 9844 3719.
ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Rae Danks, 9844 3819.
FAX: Editorial and Advertising, 9844 4168.
DIARY OFFICE: 168-178 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 9844 4168
PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder, 9725 6699.
INTERNET EDITOR: Eric Sandblom, 9836 5140.
E-MAIL ADDRESS: diary@yours.com
WEB ADDRESS: http://www.jeack.com.au/~sand
IMAGESSETTING: Allardice Graphic Arts, 10 Apollo Court, Blackburn, 9878 3000.
PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, 9417 2766.
Published on the second Friday of each month (except January).
ADVERTISING RATES
\$4.10 a column centimetre (casual), \$3.85 (permanent), \$500 full page, \$280 half page, \$150 quarter page, \$50 front page "ears". Preferred positions: page one 100%, page two 30%, page three and back page 20%, other nominated pages 10%. Mini-ads: \$3 for four lines, then \$1 each additional line. Mini-ads pre-paid unless by prior arrangement.

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Wedge, township secure

Planning Act threat lifted

By CLIFF GREEN

The survival of the Green Wedge and the continuation of the "no-go" on dual occupancy in the Warrandyte and Park Orchards townships have been assured, despite threats from a new planning act.

Following a front-page story in last month's *Diary*, detailing potential dangers in the newly-proclaimed Victoria Planning Provisions, local MP Phil Honeywood raised both issues with Planning Minister Rob McLellan and has been reassured that the integrity of the Green Wedge and the ban on dual occupancy developments in Warrandyte and Park Orchards would continue.

"The minister's response has been to reassure the local community," Phil Honeywood told the *Diary*. While the object of the state-wide planning scheme reforms have been to give back

more planning authority to the recently elected councils, a number of special conditions would apply to Warrandyte.

"Manningham council must give strong credence to the authoritative recommendations handed down in 1995 by an independent panel which unanimously supported retention of the Green Wedge," Phil Honeywood said.

"If Manningham council were to decide to recommend alterations to existing planning policies on the Wedge or on dual occupancy, then these would be subject to an independent panel to pass on their views to the minister."

"Most importantly," Phil Honeywood said, "a planning issue of this magnitude would ultimately not be changed without the approval of the minister, who would take into account issues of regional and state-wide significance."

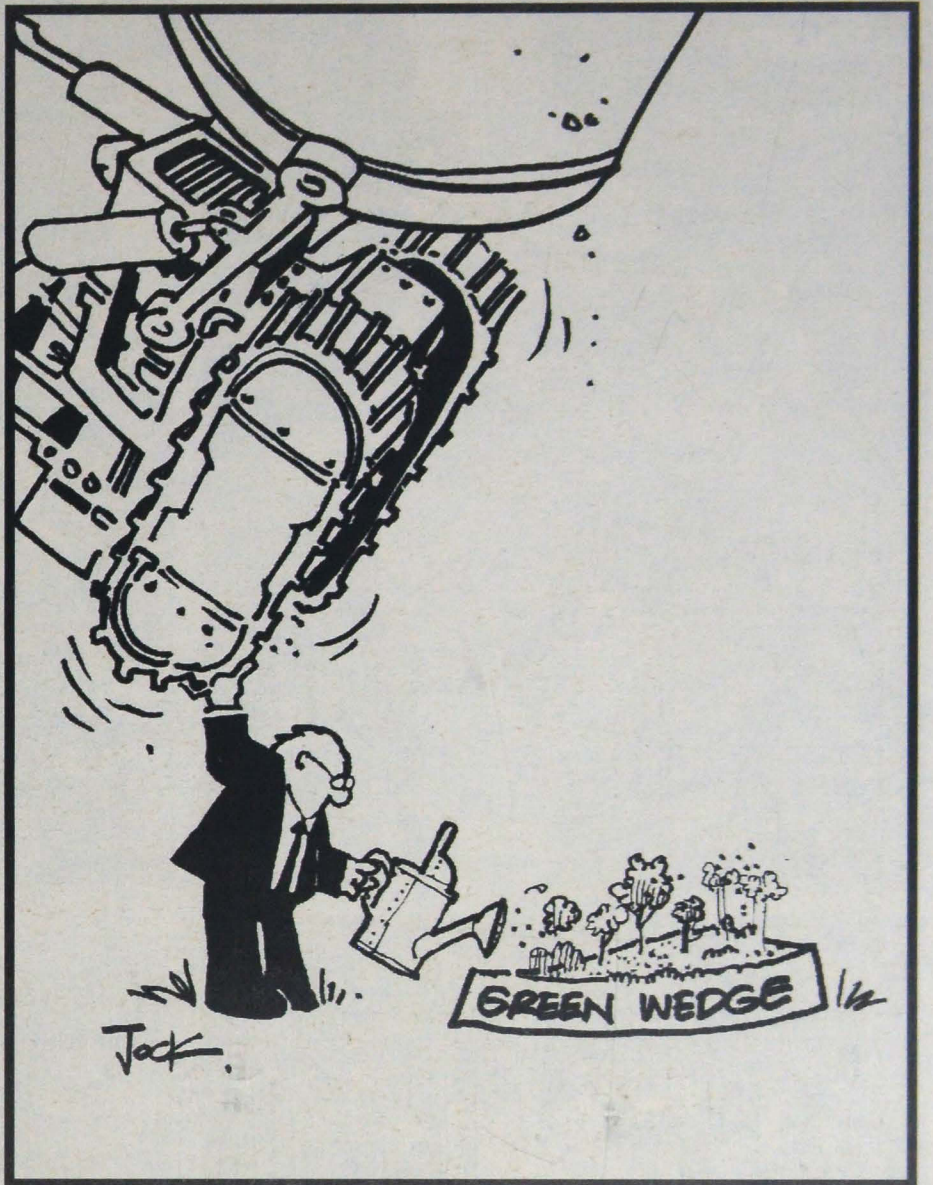
As reported last month, under

the new planning scheme, hundreds of zones and controls now in use throughout the state will be replaced with five new residential zones, three business zones and a number of rural, non-urban zones.

Local residents fought long and hard over a number of years to win guarantees from government that Warrandyte and Park Orchards—alone in Victoria—would not have their characters as mountain townships ruined by dual occupancy development and that the bushland and open country of the Green Wedge would not be subdivided.

Local MP Phil Honeywood played a major role in both these campaigns.

Mr Honeywood said he was "heartened by the minister's comments" and that he has already arranged to meet with newly-elected Manningham councillors Patricia Young and Lionel Allemand to elicit their support at council level.



Information on more than 50 organisations has been placed on a web site on the Internet by children in years 3 to 6 at Anderson's Creek Primary School as part of the International Cyberfair competition.

The aim of the Cyberfair is 'to share and unite'. More than 100 schools from around the world are taking part, including five from Australia. Anderson's Creek is the only government school in Victoria to enter.

"We have been studying local community groups as part of our integrated curriculum," Grade 4 teacher Elaine Robertson told the *Diary*. "The children broke up into groups and researched one community organisation. We visited lots of places like the community centre, the Mechanics Institute, churches and the sports oval to collect our information."

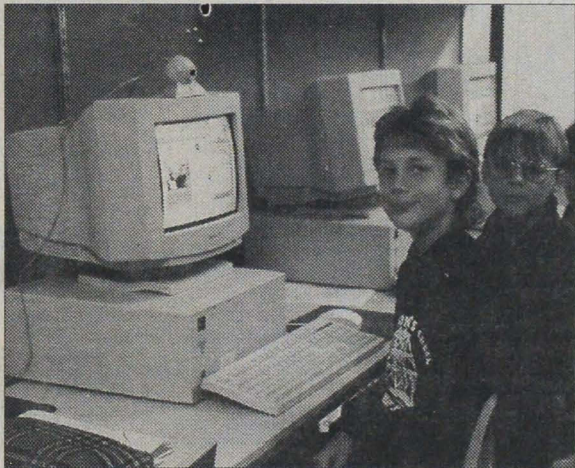
The children also conducted interviews, collected brochures, read books and even found information on the Internet. They typed it up on the computer, then transferred it to a web editing program called Hot Dog.

They added multi-media by videoing a visit by Peter Murphy from the Warrandyte CFA, turning some short video clips into digital files using VDO Live, and sampled some sounds which were also added to the page.

The school conducted a special function to launch the site and each group of children introduced their page. You can find the page at: http://mag.ic.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/AndersonsCreekPS_Cyberfair/ or <http://cyberfair.gsn.org/acreekps/index.htm>

"We have been on the internet for a year now," Rick Gordon said, "and have received world-wide email. People and schools in Canada, Alaska and the USA have found our Australian animal project."

Creek kids surf world-wide web



School children at Andersons Creek Primary School are exploring the internet.

Catch us on the net

Warrandyte Diary is now on the internet. Our URL address (Uniform Resource Locator) is <http://www.jeack.com.au/~sand>

Diary internet editor
Eric Sandblom



Roadworks: A threat to trees, wildlife corridor

By DAVID WYMAN

Plans by Manningham council to straighten Jumping Creek Road where it crosses the creek have been strongly opposed by local environmentalists.

The council's original proposal involved a new two-lane concrete bridge with horse track, the loss of over 100 mature native trees and considerable earthworks on both sides of the bridge.

Warrandyte State Park staff have expressed serious concerns about the road realignment and have asked Manningham council for alternative options.

The *Diary* sought an official response from council about the proposal and after attempting to speak to an engineer, Mr John Stamp, was directed to council's market-

ing unit which, at the time of going to press, failed to respond to our request.

The Wonga Park Environment Group have also expressed their concerns to council. The group's Flora Anderson told the *Diary* that she had been advised by letter from the chairman of commissioners, Adam Kempton, on March 11 that he had called for a report on the matter from Lyndon Webb, director of city development.

"We consider the present proposal as very inappropriate," she said. "Jumping Creek Road, especially where it passes through the creek area, still retains the pleasant attributes that a tree canopy gives to a country road."

"We are horrified to hear that over 100 mature trees plus the under-storey

vegetation would be lost in the present proposal by the City of Manningham. When the decision was made by council to reconstruct the old bridge, we were not aware that the straightening of the road was considered necessary in order to maintain the 80kmh speed limit.

"The road is very close to the state park and is a wildlife corridor. It is imperative that vehicle speeds be reduced rather than increase," she said.

"If council's proposal goes ahead we will see a country road converted to a speedway. We foresee incremental changes to the whole of the road."

It is understood that the environment groups will now direct their concerns to the elected councillors.

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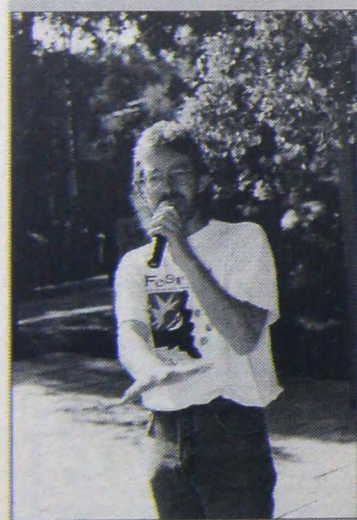
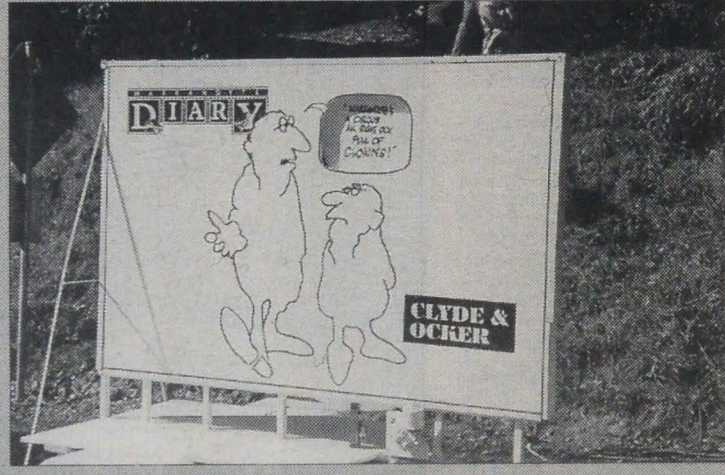
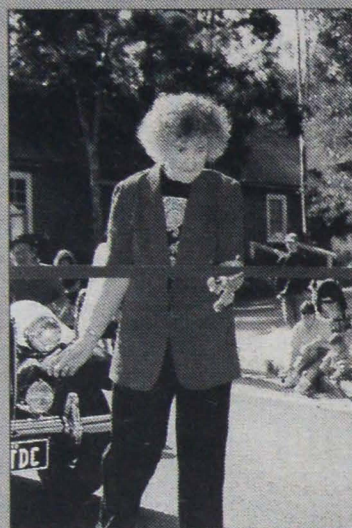
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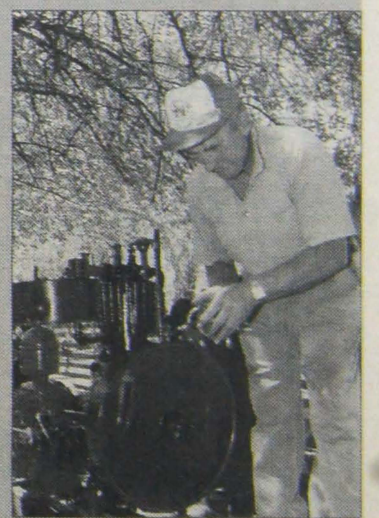
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Information bureau seeks House cash

Maintaining the independent heritage of community services in Warrandyte is threatened by a proposal being discussed by Manningham council for the transfer of \$6000 in funding from Warrandyte Neighbourhood House to Doncare for the administration of counselling services at Information Warrandyte.

This awkward administrative proposal results from a council recommendation aimed at streamlining the Neighbourhood House for discussed and groups with a transfer of \$6000, to strengthen information and counselling functions located at Information Warrandyte (formerly the Citizens Advice Bureau). The experience of trained



DEAR DIARY

community volunteers at the information bureau is that most people with personal problems do not choose their counselling to be in the busy information office in the main street of Warrandyte.

There is, however, an urgent need for further funding of information services at the Warrandyte bureau, which has been asked by council to assume additional tourist information activities, to be the location of the Infolinx computer, is the source

of school project material and is currently handling over 350 enquiries per month.

The best solution is to transfer the \$6000 (already taken from the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House grant) directly to Information Warrandyte for information and referral, not counselling services.

We look forward to our newly-elected councillors working to maintain the funding of services in the outer reaches of Warrandyte, Wonga Park and Park Orchards, rather than "centralising" our administration at the other end of Manningham.

Jenny Chapman
Coordinator
Information Warrandyte



Thanks for the cigar, Hugo

Glen Jameson, Hugo Davenport, Richard Provan and yours truly, collectively known as 'Groucho Humania' slaved away selflessly for hours preparing our big cigar for the big festival parade.

Being the dedicated crew we are, we obsessively glued and stitched every last microscopic piece of ash into place, arriving at the assembly area with seconds to spare, thereby forfeiting all our prizes,

and all for Warrandyte!

There are no prizes for trying, and we try harder!

We had planned to explode the big cigar at Stiggants, thereby leaving an indelible impression on yez all (ringing ears) but we couldn't bring ourselves to push the button!

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a sizeable reward for a priceless photo or two (of us) but if you can't offer quality we'll settle for quantity.

I've heard rumours that there was some debate regarding the nature of the object on my truck.

Apologies to those unsure, but I figured a big brown cigar-shaped object with smoke emanating from the blunt end and a big sign saying "Have a cigar Warrandyte" would provide some clues.

Hugo McSplendid
Everard Drive

They let the balloon go

On Saturday 7th February 1997 at a party after my Dad's wedding my sister, brother and I wrote our name and address and phone number on three envelopes and attached the envelopes to three balloons. We asked anyone who found them to contact us. We let the balloons go from the Elwood Primary School yard.

On Monday 3rd March 1997 I received a big envelope in the post and inside it there were nine letters from all the children in the school at French Island which is

where my envelope turned up. The children at French Island Primary School found it on 28th February.

My teacher at Warrandyte Primary School is Miss Dite and she has asked everyone in my grade to write back to the French Island children so now they will get a nice surprise just like I did when I received their letters.

I wonder what has happened to my sister and brother's balloons?

Shannon Manley (10)
Webb Street

Pick it up, folks

What's happening to Warrandyte? Are we all too busy living our own lives to notice the degeneration that is taking place around us? I am referring to the appalling level of litter which seems to be cast around our township.

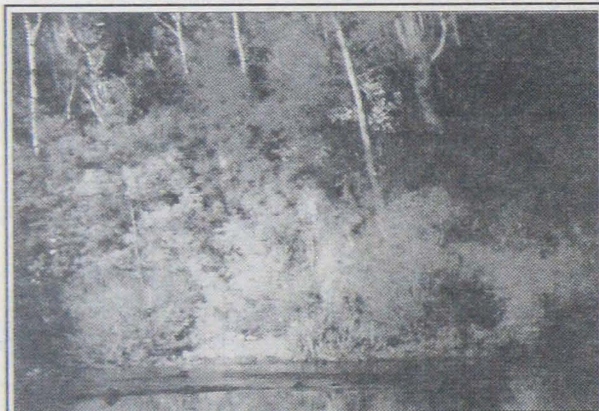
The recently held Clean Up Australia Day would appear to have had no impact on residents' own nature strips. After travelling Harris Gully Road and the Warrandyte-Ringwood Road nearly every day for the last eight years, I am so disappointed to see the increase in the level of litter—plastic bottles especially—carpet bits, food containers, etc., along the full length of my journey. It is a really depressing sight indeed, especially when, over the years, many of my overseas visitors have remarked how beautifully clean and litter-free our surroundings were.

It takes very little effort to pick up litter from our own nature strips. Many may say these are thrown from passing cars, but why should we? This is our front yard and if we all take that view then we would soon be living down to the lowest common denominator in all of society's issues.

Come on all you Warrandytians, let's preserve what we have. Do your bit, pick up those awful plastic bottles and recycle. After all, everyone's small effort will have a massive impact on our precious environment.

Gina Bevan-Jones
Dolleen Road

Responsibility for election comment in this issue is accepted by Cliff Green, 23 Webb Street, Warrandyte.



Thanks for the show

Once again, Warrandyte has proved what a special place it really is.

It was great to see a whole new generation of young adults down there on the riverbank, pitching in and helping alongside more 'seasoned veterans' to stage an event that would have been a challenge to any professional event company.

Albedo Accoustica not only provided two very spectacular nights of festival entertainment, but also became a mar-

vellous way of encouraging involvement by a wide cross-section of our community.

A big public thank you to all who were involved in any way, whether directly through hands-on lifting and carting equipment, through all the pre-planning organization, promotion and publicity, through all the crowd handling and security, and through the involvement of the CFA and the SES.

Brian Laurence
Kangaroo Ground Road

One for the road

The loaded questions posed in your March issue to candidates for local council elections are out of line with your usual high standard of journalism. Would it not have been better to ask, "What are your views on a ring road?" rather than "Will you oppose the ring road?"

When we came to North Warrandyte 15 years ago you could stand on the Research Road and hear the birds sing and enjoy the silence of the countryside.

Now Research Road is a major traffic thoroughfare carrying all the through traffic from Greensborough-Eltham to Ringwood-Croydon across the only Yarra bridge in that direct line and through part of the village of Warrandyte.

A ring road and another bridge across the Yarra are desperately needed to take the through traffic away from the village. Residents who are currently opposed to any ring road should see the inevitable futility of such a campaign.

They would be better supporting the principle of such a ring road and directing their energy and efforts to ensure that the route of such a ring road minimises disruption to the environ-

ment and the green belt; and that such a road will take all through traffic around, and not into or through our beautiful village.

David A. Hogg
Research Road

...and one against

If the ring road goes ahead the pressure to widen Yarra Street will be inevitable and unstoppable. The township of Warrandyte will cease to exist as a tourist destination. You can't shift large volumes of traffic through a tourist area and still have tourists. In other words, you can't have your cake and eat it, too.

The area could become another typical suburb like Doncaster or Templestowe where you drive through to get to somewhere else. It cannot remain as it is if the ring road goes ahead.

Ron Bence
Hawkes Road



I don't know what startles me more. The unasked for creative efforts of Warrandyte's Police Force in such a beneficial and generous task as their community garden, or the predictability with which your comic writer can surface with a cynical comment.

I appreciate that sometimes institutions such as police forces must be suspected of ulterior motives, and if they are found they should be brought to light, but the comics seem to be weighted toward the dark side to the point of being ridiculous. Front page exposure also gives them an editorial authority which makes a mockery of your leading stories.

I feel they disrupt the tone of an essentially "good news" newspaper without adding a balance that an opposing opinion often can.

Andrea Lang
Glynn's Road

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MEET OUR NEW COUNCILLORS

They'll safeguard the Green Wedge

By DAVID WYMAN

The two newly-elected councillors representing Warrandyte and surrounding areas on Manningham City Council have reaffirmed their support for retaining the Green Wedge and preserving the unique environment here.

Crs Patricia Young and Lionel Allemand, successful candidates for the Mullum Mullum Ward in the postal election last month, have already formally visited Warrandyte and Wonga Park to inspect recent development projects.

Cr Young, who lives in Warrandyte, described her election as "being on a fantastic learning curve". "Obviously, I've never had council experience, but I am learning a lot from Lionel Allemand who has been a councillor before," she said.

"I'm very much for retaining the Green Wedge and the unique character of the area. We don't want any more small blocks and we don't want dual occupancy—and it's going to stay that way for the foreseeable future," she said.

Cr Young said the government-appointed commissioners had left the incoming councillors a considerable backlog of work. "They appeared to not do a lot over the last few months of their term. We've got a lot of catching up to do and there are a lot of projects to be looked at."

She said that the commissioners had not given Warrandyte and surrounding areas a lot of attention. "That's mainly due to work associated with extending the Eastern Freeway," she said.

"I'm hoping that Lionel and I will be able to channel more council funding our way. That's



Cr Patricia Young



Cr Lionel Allemand

not just for Warrandyte, but for the whole of Mullum Mullum Ward," she said.

Cr Allemand said that on a recent trip to Warrandyte he was surprised to see "houses on top of one another" in Whipstick Gully Road. "That shocked me a bit because I have always liked Warrandyte's open spaces, greenery and the quietness," he said.

Cr Allemand said that while he supported Warrandyte's special environment he judged each case for development on its merits. "I'm not in favour of dual

occupancy, for example, because it would spoil the area forever," he said.

"The factors that I take into consideration when a development project comes up are the impact on the environment, the objections or support from the locals and whether the design of the project blends in with the scenic values of the area," Cr Allemand said.

"Since the election we have seen at least two developments approved by the commissioners where there has obviously been no consultation with the people.

I think that's rather sad. It has always been clear that the commissioners were development-driven."

Cr Allemand said he would like to meet the Warrandyte Advisory Committee because he knew there were "a few issues on the boil".

"One is the need for a basketball stadium and I would like to know just how many people in the area participate in that sport and of any proposed locations. We are looking to see what money is available from council."

He'll work against overdevelopment

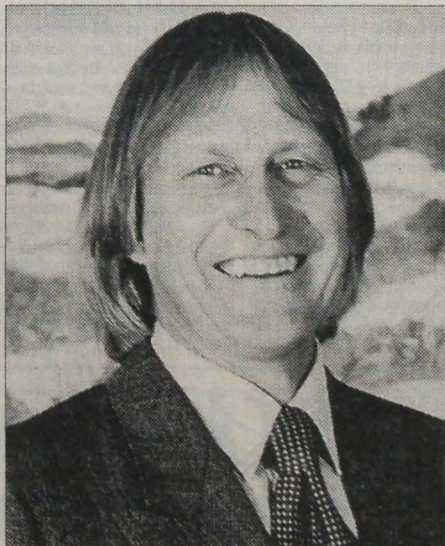
by FIA CLENDINNEN

Robert Marshall was elected by a substantial majority to the ward of Sugarloaf in the recent Nillumbik council elections. Mr Marshall received 49.7 percent of the primary vote, and was just 16 votes short of an absolute majority, the highest vote recorded by any of the 26 candidates standing for council across the five wards of Nillumbik.

Mr Marshall told the *Diary* he thought the election results indicated how important the Green Wedge is to local residents. "People strongly wish to see the Green Wedge survive", said Mr Marshall. "I think people also want protection of the environment. They don't want overdevelopment of this area." Mr Marshall said he was known to be an environmentalist, and described himself as a "practical greenie".

Mr Marshall believes his experience as a former councillor had been a factor. "People want a councillor with a proven track record," he said. Mr Marshall served for 19 years in the old Eltham shire, including two terms as shire president.

The other councillors elected are Lex de Man for Arthurs Creek Ward, Natalie Woodley for Diamond Ward, John Graves for Mt Pleasant Ward and Margaret Jennings for Wattle Ward. At the first meeting of the new council-



Cr Robert Marshall

lors, Mr Marshall was unanimously elected shire president. He will hold that office for one year. Councillors are elected for three years.

Mr Marshall said he was "extremely positive" about the relationship between

the new five councillors. "We are all here to ensure that Nillumbik works and that it works well. Everybody is working in harmony because they are all caring and considerate people. None have egos that will get in the way."

He said the major issue for the new council is to ascertain the current situation of the shire. "We're trying to find out what's going on," he said. He emphasized that the new councillors are "starting from scratch," and that the new municipality means a "total change of people and of system".

Since being elected just weeks ago, Mr Marshall said his phone had not stopped ringing. "I think people are feeling pent up from two years of having commissioners," he said. Nonetheless, Mr Marshall urged residents "to let us know what is happening. Where things aren't happening properly, we need to know."

When questioned about the controversial ring road, Mr Marshall said the council had not had time to discuss it yet. But he said he hoped, "in the near future to set up a committee of the council with the sole charter of looking at the ring road. I would hope that committee would comprise council staff, councillors and members of the public, people from the community who can give their expertise".

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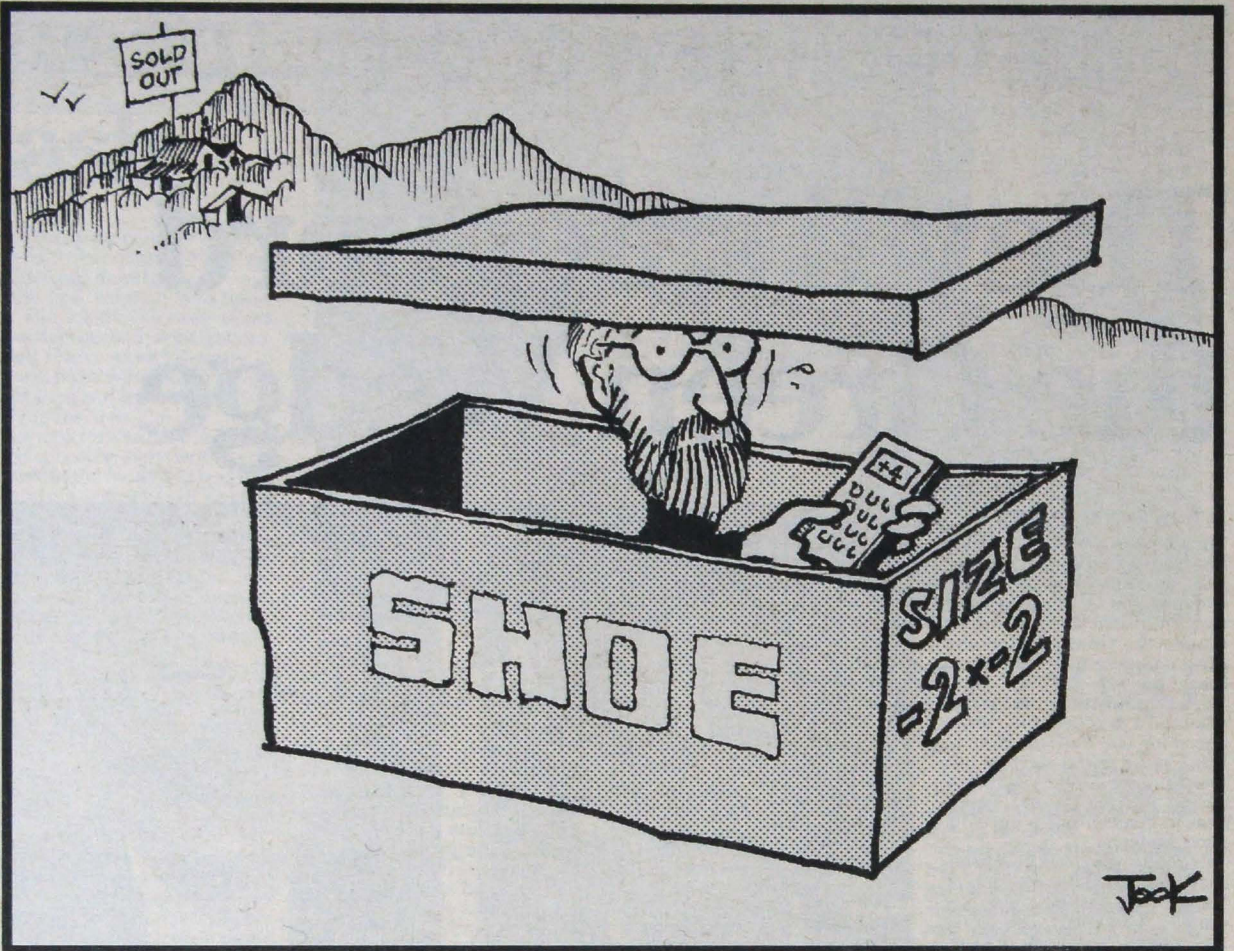
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Playing at the **real** estate number game


If they had bothered to tell me that mathematics is just a game I might have been able to succeed.

With all that "Let x equal whatever," if they'd just said "We're just going to play around with figures and 'what ifs'," I just might, and I emphasise 'might', have been able to understand why, when you multiply -2 by -2 you end up with plus 4, and also, when you multiply 2 by 2 you still end up with plus 4.

All of this is very confusing for a person like me who likes things to be concrete. I find it easier to understand if I can replace numbers with fruit or vegetables or bank loans. You see, to my feeble brain, if you have a debt of \$2000 and you multiply it by another \$2000 you should end up with a debt, or minus, of \$4000. But no, the laws of mathematics tells me that a -2 x -2 = +4.

Unfortunately, bank managers are not theoretical mathematicians because, despite all my suggestions and pleas, they prefer, nay insist, on working in fruit, vegetables and a strange thing called 'collateral'. The abstract and theoretical concept of a pure number or a flexible quantity is met with a stony-faced reversion to apples, bananas and mortgage deeds.

Any suggestion that we play around with x, the unknown, is similarly stonewalled. But then I have to admit that they're my kind of guys. At least you know where you stand. There's none



KIBBLED

"...normally the revelation that one is selling up and leaving is met with abject horror..."

of the mathematicians' capricious playing with reality, like: this time we'll let x equal 4 and next time, if we feel like it, it can equal 4 million.

Which leads me to the fact that we're selling our home and there is certainly nothing theoretical or capricious about that.

Herself and I were sitting in Mezzé talking with some old Warrandyte friends. We had covered jobs and children and had swapped tales of woe and wonder about the youngs when she let slip that we had that day pur-

chased a shoe box in another suburb and were selling our family home in Warrandyte.

Our friends accepted our reasons unreservedly, but normally the revelation that one is selling up and leaving is met with abject horror, and the vibes that one has 'sold out'—literally and metaphorically. There seems to be an underlying assumption that once in Warrandyte the only way you can leave is in a box or as the result of a family court property settlement. To some extent, this is both the saving grace and the despair of our township.

The saving grace is that residents develop a respect, love and attachment to the place. But the despair comes when you need to move closer to the city. Hence our recently acquired shoe box.

It's not that we have an Imelda Marcos fetish, it's more a case of one 30 square, river frontage, architect-designed, cedar house in Warrandyte seems to be equal to a 10 square renovator's delight in our chosen suburb.

Admittedly, the old real estate truism that there are only three important considerations when acquiring property—position, position and position—makes Warrandyte less attractive for the city commuters. However, the fact that the local estate agents are crying out for property to sell also reflects that there is a demand for Warrandyte property.

So, by my admittedly feeble

mathematics, if we let x equal demand and y equal available property we should come up with an answer that says something like: therefore demand is greater than supply, therefore property values should increase proportionally with the increases in property in the rest of Melbourne.

Our shoe box experience tends to suggest that mathematics doesn't seem to apply in our fair 'burb. And it's not that the properties are worse. At one stage we had actually paid a holding deposit on a new town house complete with back-up carparks for two cars. We thought we had hit the jackpot until Herself suggested we should get our car out of the traffic and into our non-parking spot.

After four or five attempts both forwards and backwards, I gave up. We had two very attractive car spaces but, because of the narrowness of the laneway and without a turntable or a motorised Safeway trolley, it was impossible to use them.

The salesperson assured us that "they" could do something about it, but by then we had hit terror mode and bade a hasty farewell. We both breathed a sigh of relief as we ripped up the deposit cheque.

I can only hope that minus two by minus one house will equal a plus for both us and Warrandyte.

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The lonely death of a seven-legged warrior

HE was one of a hundred or more huntsmen spiderlings to scramble from the papery white egg case. For a few days the miniature spiders stayed close to their mother in the dark recess beneath the bark.

Then early on a chilly, mist-swirling morning in autumn, the young huntsman left the safety of his maternal home. Accompanied by his many siblings, he made his way up the trunk of the tree to a high branch. Tilting his abdomen to the wind, he panned out a line of fine silk through his spinnerets, released his hold and was suddenly airborne. The tiny spider was carried on the wind above the trees and over the river, finally coming to rest as the gossamer thread caught on some dense vegetation.

That first and only flight was almost two years ago. Now old age was creeping up on the spider. For much of his life, the huntsman had lived a solitary existence. He had found his own niche deep in a crevice between some loose flaky bark and the smooth solid trunk of a large gum tree.

Over the years, as he grew, his body underwent a number of moults. The spider was at his most vulnerable when moulting, for once the old exoskeleton had been cast off it took time for the soft new skin to harden in the air and predators were never far away.



NATURE

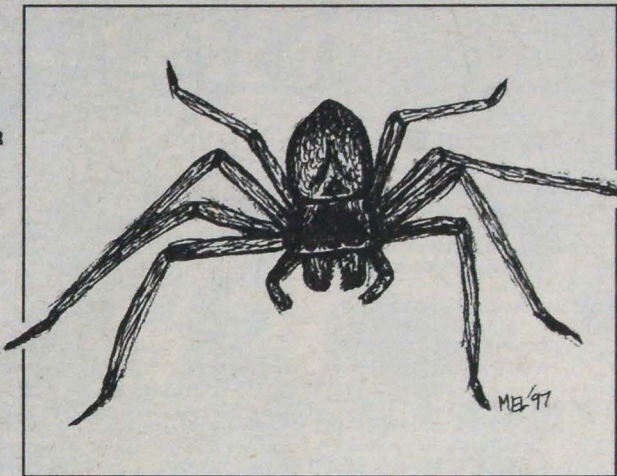
By **PAT COUPAR**
Drawn by **MELANIE COUPAR**

The huntsman, as his name so accurately implies, is a hunter not a collector, actively catching his prey rather than trapping it on a web. Most of his hunting takes place at night and rarely does he need to venture far from home.

Emerging from his daytime retreat he lies in wait, head down, on the tree trunk, his two-row, eight-eye combination giving him good nocturnal forward vision. Usually it isn't long before an unsuspecting beetle or other insect comes into view, wandering over the bark in search of its own meal.

The huntsman's reflexes are sharp, and in an instant, the insect is in his grasp and needle-sharp fangs are piercing the victim's tougher outer skin, injecting a fatal poison. Spiders have no real jaws and consequently cannot eat solid food. They overcome this deficiency, in dracula-like fashion, by squeezing and sucking the bodily juices from the insides of their prey.

When he was fully mature, the huntsman left his tree trunk for a while and became a vagabond. He was searching for a mate. Mating is a dicey business for spiders, as non-receptive fe-



males can turn on prospective suitors, sometimes making a meal of them.

But he had been fortunate. The female he had tentatively approached had been co-operative and he had escaped the nuptials unscathed.

He was not so lucky recently however, when an encounter with a nocturnal bird left him with half a leg missing. Old age had made him careless. There had been no bleeding and a membrane had formed over the stump, but if he had been younger the limb would probably have regrown, following a moult.

Just a few days ago, the eld-

erly, seven-and-a-half legged huntsman had discovered somewhere different to live. The building he had entered was full of dark corners in which to hide and there were insects too—mosquitoes and flies to feast on.

But there was one thing he hadn't counted on, no inborn instinct had taught him to avoid a man with a shiny, brightly-coloured spray can. He saw the fine misty particles disseminate in the air, he felt his lungs congest dreadfully, he struggled to breathe. He tried to run but his legs would not work and he fell. A crushing blow overwhelmed him. There was pain. Darkness. Then there was nothing.

Our village festival revives memories of another place

IT was one o'clock in the morning when I first saw Helsinki. Going back a few years now, but a profound impression remains: stone and timber buildings almost mediaeval in style, picturesque stands of ancient birches, piles of massive boulders dumped by receding ice more than eight thousand years ago, and every nook and cranny sprouting sheaves of uncut straw-grass dappled with wildflowers.

It could have passed for eight o'clock on a balmy mid-summer evening. Reflections of a golden pink sky glowed from granite-cobbled streets and milk-white birch bark. Pavements were bright with flower boxes. Casually-dressed people of all ages streamed to and from busy cafes and crowded pubs as if it were their lunch-hour. Glimpses of animated conversation, a chessboard, well-read newspapers and the odd bottle of golden arctic berry liqueur spoke a thousand words about a culture I'd imagined to be near extinction. It was almost as though television had never been invented.

Melbourne's trendy street-life is a far cry from its European origins. The pasta is better than



OUR PLACE

By **MARILYN MOORE**

ever, but Lygon and Chapel streets are crowded with funky young fashion clones sealing slick business deals on their mobile phones between sips of cafe latte. (Pity each poor soul who accepted the invitation to 'do lunch' with them, stranded midway between the bruchetta and a bowl of steaming penne arrabiata with only the dregs of a wineglass for company). Diversity, individuality, creativity and camaraderie born of lengthy argument are the heart and soul of a culture which apparently no longer seeks inspiration in the village square.

But who needs a village square? Warrandyte seems to be getting along pretty well without one. Just look at this year's festival. The old town's heart and soul is alive and kicking, despite

the odds against it. Against it because, with encroaching suburbia, more and more of our kids finishing primary school, the exodus away from Harry's in search of better-stocked shelves, and everybody in a state of perpetual motion driving everywhere at once, it often seems as though the focus of our lives might no longer be as close to home as we'd like.

So wasn't this year's festival just a super-sized dose of people-powered culture? With the gradual demise of the festival craft market, there may not have been much on offer for the casual tourist, but for we Warrandytians it was a marathon party. The parade, kids' market, novelty stalls, concert stage, fun and games, local displays and profusion of friends all kept families on the go all weekend. Sideshows, intentional and otherwise, kept onlookers amused during the breaks, and failing that, there was sure to be a dogfight somewhere.

It was a truly home-grown festival for kids of all ages. Everyone on stage—from the cute little orange-frilled tappers, to the amazing marimbas to the country's coolest bush band—revelled in the opportunity and

wowed their audience.

Around the traps, excited kids deserted their parents in droves. Last year's grade sixers hung about looking cool, checking out each other's newly-acquired haircuts and earrings. Face paint and coloured hairspray were obligatory for the under-10s. The most commonly overheard conversation had an anxious parent at one end and an eager 7-year-old (complete with backing group) at the other, negotiating an extension to the duration of their gallivanting. And parents needn't worry too much about the whereabouts of their offspring: kids on the cage for extra pocket money don't stray far.

Highlight of the weekend was undoubtedly the brilliant local work Albedo Acoustica. Congratulations to Barry McKimm, Brian Laurence, Rohan Thornton and the whole crew. It would have been magic even without the gentle balminess of the moonlit night, and the bakery doing a roaring trade in coffee and cakes.

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Rivershapes

by GLEN JAMESON

REMEMBER the shape of your river: the wild shearing river carving its way through Warrandyte Gorge. The rivershape will come to you from boney hilltops that carry precious cargoes of orchids and wild flowers amidst the ancient landscape.

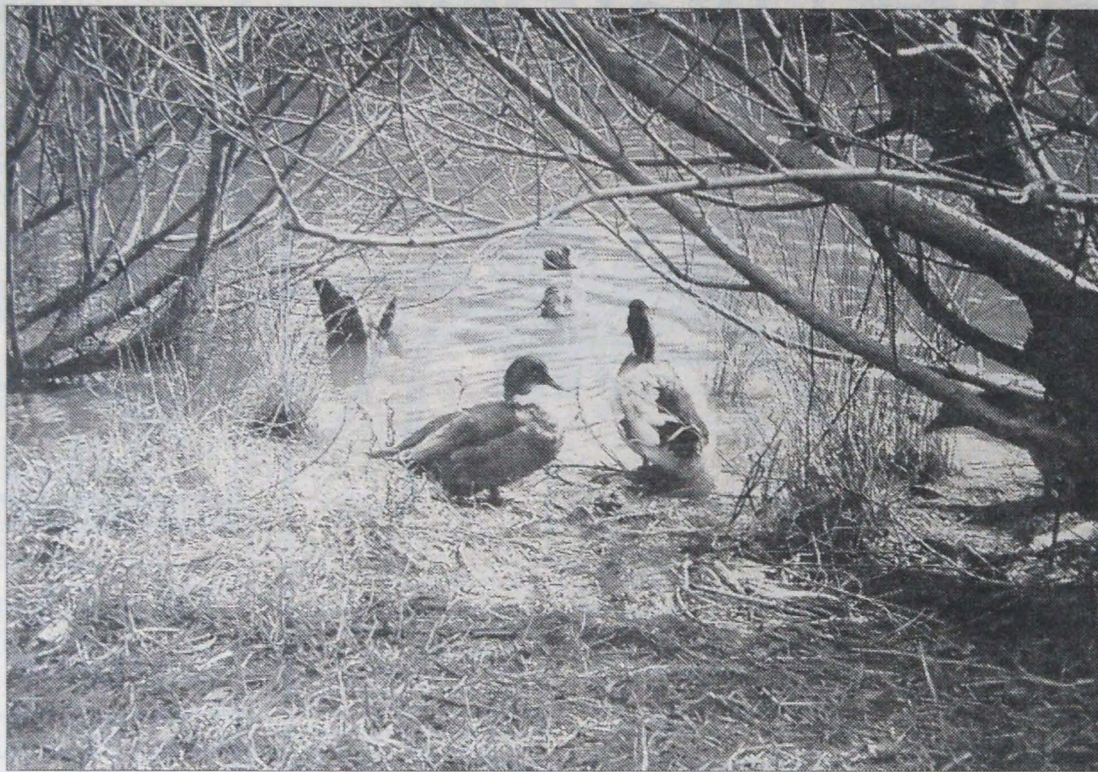
The rivershape will enter you on a summer swim as you sit on the water-smoothed rocks of the rapids, listening to the river's long dialogue with the hillsides.

It was silently present at the swimming hole, that pool of childhood memories swimming below the surface of your consciousness; swimming holes shimmering in the sun of timeless summers, beached with silky sands that softly caress the soles of bare feet. Tall Manna Gums guarded the riverbank, screening the outside world, leaving only the deep blue sky in a strip above the river. Reflections of the bushscape and sky mirrored on water that was clear enough to see pebbles on the river bottom.

Pools with massive shards of tree trunks suspended into the flow of the river, worn smooth from the wash and wear of feet climbing and leaping into the water. Hopping across the river rocks, exposed by low water flow of high summer with the smell of drying mud and algae as you explored the river rock crevices for lost treasures and rocks to skim across the river surface.

River rocks strung across the water, solid rockbars defying the water flow, creating rapids, generating rhythm with the current's conversational flow. Rushing water against your back and you are lost in the rapid's waves, massaging, pounding in the rhythm of the rivershape.

It is a geological fingerprint of elegant contour lines, rivershaped by the moving body of water across the landscape. The smallest fingers of rivulets, joining with others to feed water into the gullies which hand the water onto the arm of the river



which then flows to the body of the sea. Chiselling out the shortest route, moving each grain of soil ever so slowly, down to the river, sculpting the hillshapes and valleys in which you and I build our transitional dwellings.

Each unique fingerprint of the river valley, each turn and twist of the river creating its own peculiarity. Rivershaping, changing rock forms born under the hot silurian sun. Wearing down, grinding rocks into fragments that were forged 350 million years ago, laid down under an ancient sea and transformed over time to stone.

The river keeps an eternal appointment with a timeless clock by continuing the fluvial process—transportation of new rock sediments along the river's course to deposit them in Port

Phillip Bay. Thus to recycle sediments to stone, the geological process of destruction and creation.

Water. The oldest recycling processor in the business. As old as the world is new, as creative as it is destructive. Rivershaping anew the moulded sensuality of the rocks of the rapids. Eroding riverbanks to expose layers of river-smoothed pebbles marking the ancient bed of the river during a previous life.

It is a massive, restless changeling, giving birth to billabongs through the midwife of a thousand floods. Flooding waters replenishing wetlands with enriched, life-giving waters. Fertility flowing from this fluvial female form of the Mother Earth sliding silently within the valley walls. Effortlessly transporting

river debris and tree trunks, strewing them carelessly downstream.

To move through the steep gullies and valley of the rivershape is to travel the scales of the ancient creature; to swim along primordial backbones.

It is to be immersed in the personal pleasures of the local swimming hole and simultaneously experience the power of processes that stretch in time beyond antiquity.

It is to look out across the profile of Pound Bend Reserve from Research Road and see the big rich flats of the Pound, cut in during a slowing period of uprise in the Nillumbik country. It is the view from Longridge across the profile of the Glynn's, part of Laughing Waters Park, to the flat high shoulder of land where the

old Glynn's homestead is built, marking the bottom of a river terrace; the level of the banks of the river as it was thousands of years ago. The big Kangaroo Flats where the old milk sheds stand; a huge river terrace marking another river level.

Some mornings the mist is so thick that it leaves only the tops of the 32 hills of Warrandyte showing and you imagine that perhaps mists mark the ancient levels of water flow. Images of water-filled Gonwanan valleys hang in the dawn stillness. The rivershape has taken such a time to be formed and reformed.

The Pound and Glynn's are incised meanders which means that they had to cut into the land they flowed over to remain on their original meandering course during a period of uplift of a large chunk of land, the Nillumbik plateau.

Some rivers are deflected, such as the Murray River at Taillem Bend. The Yarra Yarra downstream of Westerfolds still seeks a new course through the soft alluvial soils of the floodplain which cannot resist the cutting power of floodwaters. But the Yarra Yarra through Warrandyte remained true to its original course as the land of Nillumbik slowly, slowly rose. An ancient sinuous stretch of water, etching its rocky rivershape across Nillumbik. A river course that elsewhere has been changed by volcanic laval flows and rises in sea levels.

Once houses and roads sprawl over land, rivershape is hard to find: the land's essential contours hidden under the apparel of civilisation. Hidden, not lost, for the dreams from the city's houses flow towards the rivershape. Nothing diverts the immense forces that shape land. Nothing hides the original face, the impossibly steep rocky outcrop features, the silurian mudstone faces and bodies of the old rock that form a geological poem of rocky rhyme and watery meter that is rivershape.

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Young sculptor takes out our major arts award

By RACHEL BAKER and CLIFF GREEN

THE success Malcolm Laurence enjoyed at the 1996-97 Warrandyte Youth Arts Award was the beginning of an exciting and very busy festival weekend for one of our best known artistic and community-active families. Having seen son Malcom presented with the award at a dinner on the Thursday evening, father Brian Laurence hurried across from the community centre to the riverbank, to supervise final preparations for the outstanding Albedo Acoustica sound and light show, of which he was director.

The award was presented by Lorraine Elliott, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier as Minister for the Arts and MP for the neighbouring Mooroolbark electorate.

Metal sculptor Malcom produces uniquely-designed security gates, fire screens, candelabras and other artworks, which, he says, are "just really different".

Raised in Warrandyte, Malcom attended both Warrandyte primary and high schools before specialising in metal art. He told the *Diary* that he began his career in

art production by "starting an informal apprenticeship with a metal sculptor, where I found that I was good at the work and really liked it".

Three years later he commenced a welding course at Swinburne College where he was able to refine his skills and develop his creativity.

"Most of my work is in private residences but some of it is in business premises." Bulleen nursery staged an Easter exhibition which included some of Malcom's work. "This is the first group exhibition my work has appeared in," he said.

"I was very surprised when I found out I'd won the award. I'm really happy about it." He says the \$5000 award will allow him to "move into a bigger, better studio. The one I have now, at my parents' home, is very small and cramped. I also plan to buy



some more tools and equipment."

Now aged 22, Malcom's main goal is to become better known in his field. "I hope to take part in more exhibitions so I can build my reputation and let more people see my work."

Three internationally-known sculptors assessed Malcom for the award.

Among their reports were the following comments:

"I find him to be an excellent craftsman with a real feel for his materials. I find his work inventive, innovative and expressing a quiet energy."

"If the award is made on the basis of encouraging potential...then I couldn't imagine a more suitable candidate."

"I have no doubt whatever that Malcom will go on to experience outstanding achievement in metal sculpture, and I wish him every success."

The Warrandyte Youth Arts Award is held every two years. Sponsored jointly by the Lions Club of Warrandyte and the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust, publishers of the *Diary*, the \$5000 cash prize is donated by Lions. The award aims to honour



Lorraine Elliott presents Malcolm Laurence with his award. (Pictures by Sandy Burgoyne)



Warrandyte's special role in the history of Australian art, and to provide local young people who are pursuing a career in the arts with a high degree of encouragement, support and community recognition.

Nomination details for the 1997-98 award will be published in the *Diary* early next year.

Lions president Terry Oakley addresses the awards night dinner.

THEATRE

Follies bring fun and frolics



ANOTHER fun night at the Follies was presented by Warrandyte Theatre Company during our festive season. Phyl Swindley and Sue Dyring produced *The Perils of Pauline*, with scripts by Jock Macneish, Roger Kibell and Alan Cornell.

Opening number was *Rhythm of Life*, a sort of Motown sound. With all the energy and enthusiasm expressed, it was still apparent how tricky are the acoustics in our beloved village hall.

Spaced through the show were interviews with political identities: John Howard, Bob Woods, Jeff Kennett, Bill Clinton. Mark Maddocks was the interviewer and Adrian Rice did impersonations well. Some of these were very funny and the audience was quick to take political sides, especially when our Premier (or is it Emperor?) was on.

The first of the perilous Pauline sketches had a senator of some repute located in a fish and chip shop, were she asked would-be Aussie citizens to undertake a word association test in order to pass through the gates to the promised land of Oz. Carol Taylor played Pauline to the obvious amusement of the audience.

Next was a most delightful barbers' shop quartet led by David Buck, who has a great voice to add to his tapping feet. The audience loved this little group and surely they were one of the highlights of the evening.

The sketch *Wedding Arrangements* looked at modern values, with David

Howell as a priest who took a traditional view, and Keith Cook and newcomer Katie Throssell as soon-to-be married yuppies looking to squeeze the ceremony into their busy lives.

Alison Leutchford has performed on stage a number of times, but Warrandyte was able to catch up with her for the first time in the Follies as she sang *You Made Me Love You*, whilst sitting on a sofa, heavily pregnant. Alison has a good strong voice and we hope to see more of her.

Another good performer was Christie Lawrence as she sang *Cabaret*, surely one of the hardest songs to deliver. Christie did well with a strong rendition. She later gave us a wonderful parody on *Don't Cry for Me Argentina*, showcasing both her great voice and her comic talents.

Then came another sketch at the expense of Pauline, sited at the 18th hole of a golf event with Pauline about to tee off, if only the gallery and a commentator would give her a go.

A good script, with Jo Hill and David Buck excelling.

Before interval Ken Virtue delivered a parliamentary speech in keeping with the night's theme. Ken's timing was excellent as he kept a straight face whilst all around were cracking up.

After the break, the quartet returned. Ken Green, Don Rice, David Buck and Jack Gardner warmed us up again so effectively that a number of encores were demanded.

Then followed a funny sketch set in

an old people's home awaiting a visit from a parliamentarian. Whilst the visit was important to the politician, as it was covered by the media, those living at the home were far more concerned with their TV, their medical needs and their hobbies.

Katie Throssell joined Alison Leutchford and Christie Lawrence in a lively number, *Don't Get Married Girls*. Katie, 15, is another new talent we were pleased to welcome.

David Howell, as president of a shooting club, evangelised on the benefits (or otherwise) of owning a gun. Good script.

Another highlight was the rites of passage, performed by Hillary Walker and Chris Cornell, stepping into the shoes of Libby and Alan as a popular duo of song. They selected a Carole King number, *It's Too Late*. The sound and diction were excellent and it was pleasing to see the tradition continue.

A writer's nightmare was enacted with a story of an author whose work was to be turned inside out to suit egotistical players. A clever sketch, with help from Adrian Rice and Mark Maddocks as the writer and director with opposing agendas.

Time for the tappers! One of the most popular acts in our town. They may not be Riverdance but they certainly enjoyed it—and so did the audience.

The show ended with *I Still Call Australia Home*, and then we all went home.

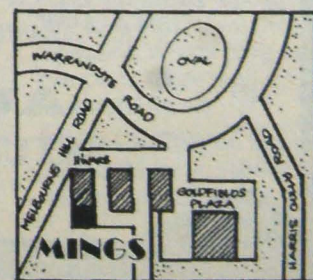
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Ring road still a threat

by FIA CLENDINNEN

Fears that the state government is continuing to push for the ring road through Warrandyte were confirmed last month with the release of the North Eastern Metropolitan Regional Roads Strategy.

This document, initiated by the councils of Banyule, Manningham, Maroondah, Nillumbik, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges, together with VicRoads, nominates as a "potential road project" the North-East Access (Outer), a "high-capacity link between Eltham North and Ringwood, via Warrandyte".

The strategy was launched in early March by Roads Minister Geoff Craig. Mr Craig congratulated local government representatives and VicRoads managers for their co-operation, and urged that successful candidates in the council elections maintain the effort.

"What we don't need in this state is for councillors to look back. We need people...who will carry on the tide of development," Mr Craig said.

The adoption of the strategy by government appointed com-

missioners days before council elections has created concern. In late February an ARRO (Anti-Ring Road Organization) spokesperson contacted Don Cordell, Chief Commissioner at Nillumbik, to urge him to delay adoption of the important strategy, in order to allow democratically elected councillors to have input. However Mr Cordell denied that the strategy was controversial. He also claimed that the strategy had no bearing upon the ring road.

The strategy also recommends that an Environmental Effects Statement be undertaken as soon as possible, preferably within two years, to evaluate the need for improved transport links between Greensborough and Ringwood.

Peter Kinrade, spokesperson for the Australian Conservation Foundation, said there was some confusion amongst the public about the function of an EES. "People should be aware that in effect, an EES is usually a rubber stamp. The EES is commissioned by the project proponent. I don't know of any development in Australia in the last

20 years, where the EES or the EIS (an Environmental Impact Statement, the same process under Commonwealth legislation, and in some other states) has recommended the project not go ahead. The proponents will always make sure they hire consultants who say it should go ahead," Mr Kinrade said.

ARRO member Helene Paizes told the *Diary*, "A lot of people are still worried only if the ring road goes near them, without realizing the potential for the total change of Nillumbik from a Green Wedge, environmental shire to a densely populated and heavily developed growth corridor of Melbourne."

Many locals have reported difficulty in obtaining information from VicRoads about the proposed ring road through Warrandyte and have not been reassured by Mr Craig's statement that, "the state government does not have blueprints and plans or secret documents hidden away in some secret drawer".

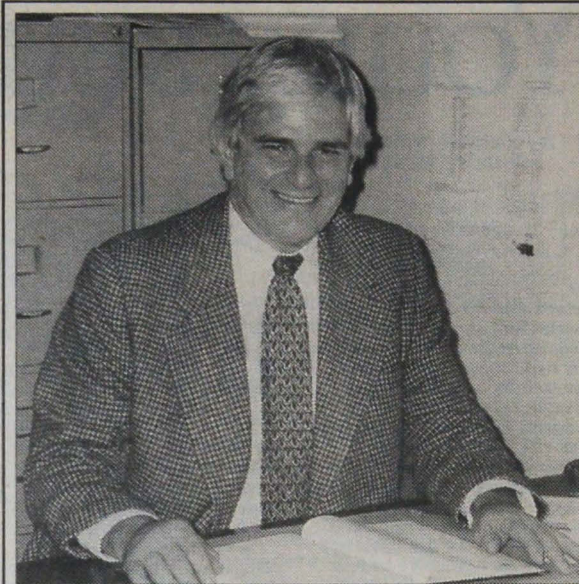
In a letter addressed to ARRO, Bill Baxter, at that time Minister for Roads, wrote, "concerning

the possible construction of a section of the Outer Ring Road between Greensborough and Ringwood...there are no investigations being carried out or contemplated at this time". This letter was dated October 1995.

The Economic and Urban Impact of a Metropolitan Ring Road, a VicRoads commissioned report was published in September 1995, one month before the minister's letter, but not released until January this year.

As previously reported in the *Diary*, local MPs Phil Honeywood and Kevin Andrews, have refused to sign a petition circulating among state and federal politicians, calling on the federal government to fund the Eastern Ring Road. Newly-elected councillors on both sides of the river—Rob Marshall and Patricia Young—pledged their opposition to the road being built through Warrandyte and/or surrounding areas.

● ARRO is holding a public meeting, No Ring Road Through The Green Wedge, on Wednesday, April 30, in the Great Hall at Monsalvat. Further information from Mark Gardner, 9844 3799.



Graeme Doig

Farewell to deputy

Graeme Doig, deputy principal at Warrandyte High School, has decided to retire at the end of the school term. Appointed to the position in 1983, and acting principal between 1988 and 1990, Graeme is described by a school spokesperson as "an endearing character. He has been popular with all members of the school community and the great success of the school's programs is, in many ways, due to his vision and hard-working approach."

"Graeme has been a strength in the financial management of the school, is facilitator of buildings and grounds maintenance. He is famous for his working bees, which are now

well attended by both parents and students. His talent for meticulous planning has been of great benefit to our school community."

Most Warrandyte residents will remember Graeme for his sterling work as chief judge at the Warrandyte festival pet parade.

"Graeme is known by all people connected with the school as a man with a great but soft heart, a fine ability to listen to, and care for, other people. Unfortunately, though, cream bun sales at the canteen will drop alarmingly with Graeme's departure!"

"We wish him all the best for a long and enjoyable retirement."

Olympic champ goes back to school

For the last three years, Warrandyte Primary School Association and parents have worked hard to raise money for a number of new facilities. As a result the school now boasts a new pergola outside their library, and a large gazebo, both providing protection from the sun. In addition there is a new adventure playground, designed in consultation with the teachers and grades 5 and 6 children, for use by the older students. These facilities were officially declared

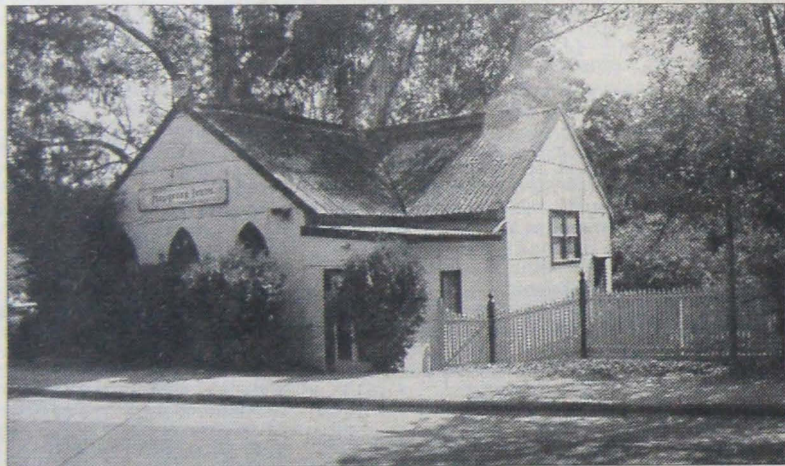
open in March at the family bush dance by Ann Maree Roberts, a former student at the school. Ann Maree is a trap shooter who competed in the Atlanta Olympic Games. She commented that she could recall her teachers telling her to "concentrate Ann Maree", and that this was an essential ingredient in success in her sport.

Bronwyn Camm, the school association president, thanked all those people who had supported the fundraising efforts over the

past three years. These include many school families and Warrandyte businesses. In particular, she thanked the Lions Club of Warrandyte and the Warrandyte Community Market, both of whom made generous donations toward the playground equipment.

The school was recently presented with a Blues Award for the Outstanding Primary School Sport in 1996 by the Minister of Education, Mr Phil Gude, in recognition of the school's sports program.

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Another great festival

By DAVID HOGG

Thousands of people from far and near attended the 1997 Warrandyte Festival over the weekend of March 22 and 23. Excellent weather on the Saturday produced large crowds. Rain on the Sunday morning caused some early re-scheduling, but a bright day followed and thousands enjoyed the afternoon and evening activities. The Saturday night youth concert attracted a large and well-behaved crowd, and on the Sunday evening over 2000 enjoyed the finale concert and spectacular fireworks display.

Thousands of spectators lined the banks of the River Yarra in Warrandyte on the Friday and Saturday evenings after dark to enjoy the spectacular Albedo Acoustica

'Impressions of a River'. The different moods of the river were portrayed through music, sound and light.

The festival parade on Saturday morning showed off many months of effort by local school and community groups in preparing floats and costumes embracing the theme of 'Clowning Around', the most memorable entries being Andersons Creek Primary School's giant four metre high clown, and Warrandyte Primary School's many miniature Charlie Chaplins.

The crowd then enjoyed an action-packed afternoon of community acts on the top stage, and circus-style acrobatic and clowning entertainment on the riverbank stage, whilst partaking of food from the

foodstalls, enjoying the various buskers and entertainers and strolling through the festival market stalls and displays.

The inaugural Warrandyte Waiters' Race was hotly contested and the crowd enjoyed a lively and witty commentary by local estate agent Andrew Wilson.

A notable feature of this year's festival was the roving entertainment of stiltwalkers, mime artists, clowns and diablo acts provided by the Warrandyte Street Theatre Group, talented local youngsters who had been training since late last year.

Sunday was competition day. Wet weather caused cancellation of the usual fire brigades competition, and other early morning events were relocated under cover.

However, by mid-morning the sun was out and the crowd enjoyed further clowning acts, the usual tug o' war, and the ever-popular duck race with hundreds of decorated plastic ducks being launched into the river.

The local SES, fire brigades and ambulance services demonstrated their skills in a mock car crash rescue. The afternoon and evening concerts were well attended with well-known group Zydeco Jump taking the final slot. The festival finished with the traditional spectacular fireworks display.

Warrandyte Festival Committee would like to particularly thank the local CFA brigades and the SES for the huge amount of work they put in to help make this year's festival another success.



'97 Festival Photo Album

by SANDY BURGoyNE

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FRI 25 APR: ANZAC DAY—Lunch and Dinner. Enjoy the beautiful songs of Stephanie on piano.

SAT 26 APR: Wayne Horner—versatile solo singer/guitarist.

FRI 2 MAY: BLUES BROTHERS NIGHT—Upstairs. Live band. Dress up. \$13 ticket incl supper. Book early. Please pick up ticket 1 week in advance. Fundraiser: Warrandyte Festival Committee.

SAT 3 MAY: Two Past Midnight—Duo, cabaret, dancing. 1st Sat ea month.

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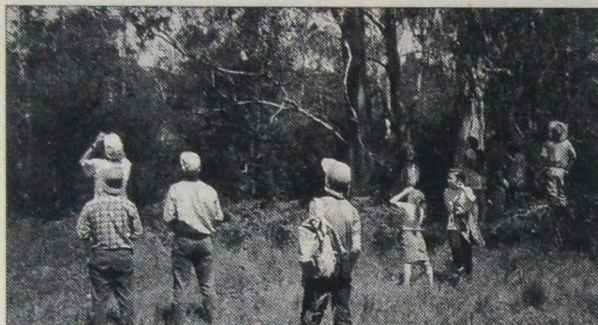
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Where neighbours become friends

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is conducting a wide variety of classes in second term. Topics include china painting, folk art, sewing for beginners, cartooning, yoga, flowers essences and many more. Classes are held at the Warrandyte Community Centre. Enquiries can be made on 9844 1839 or by calling in at the Neighbourhood House on the upper level of the community centre between 9am and 3pm, Monday to Friday. The house also operates an occasional child care centre which is open 9am to 12noon, Monday to Friday and 1pm to 4pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Cost is \$3 an hour (\$2.50 for class participants). Bookings are essential. For bookings and further information ring 9844 1839.



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.



Koala counting is a feature of State Park holiday program.

Holiday

A special program will be operating at Warrandyte State Park during the April school holidays. On Sunday, April 20, between 6.30 and 9.30am, Mark Gottsch of the Gould League will lead a Breakfast With The Birds walk through Pound Bend Reserve. Cost is \$5 (adults) and \$3 (children and concession), including a breakfast of pancakes and billy tea. On Wednesday, April 16, between 7 and 9pm, following a meal of damper and billy tea, the rangers will lead a tour of Pound Bend Reserve to see wildlife at night. Adults \$3, children \$1. A koala count will be held on Wednesday, April 23, between 10am and noon. This activity is free. Bookings are essential: call 9844 2659.

Neighbours

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is managed by a volunteer committee. Their aim is to provide opportunities for the community to learn skills, have fun and participate in social interaction. If you would like to be involved on the committee, please ring 9844 1839.

Dance

The South Warrandyte Social Dance Committee, after excellent patronage in 1996, were pleased to donate \$500 to the Warrandyte Fire Brigade recently. Several members of the brigade attended the dance to receive the cheque. Dances are held monthly in the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road. Programs feature old time with some new vogue and modern dancing. Cost is \$5, BYO drinks and supper. Tea and coffee are provided. The superb band

plays from 8pm to midnight. The next dance will be on Saturday, April 12, followed by dances on May 10 and June 14. For further information call 9723 3892.

Youth

Warrandyte and Manningham Youth Services are combining to offer an exciting program for young people aged from 12 to 25 years. On Tuesday, April 15 there is horse riding at Uncle Nev's, 9am to 4pm. Cost is \$25 (concession \$20). Thursday, April 17 features Zone 3 laser games, billiards and movies, from 9.30am to 5pm. Costs \$15 (\$12). On Tuesday, April 22, there will be ice skating and bowling, between 9.30am and 3.30pm. \$15 (\$12). Thursday, April 24, between 9am and 5.30pm there will be abseiling and indoor rock climbing. \$20 (\$16). Call Cathy Adamson on 9844 2985 or Lisa Foley on 9844 2977 for further information.

Sales

Warrandyte Community Church is conducting car boot sales, in conjunction with the Warrandyte Market, on the first Saturday of each month. Sites cost \$10 and can be booked on 9844 2242, after hours.

Advocacy

Citizen Advocacy-Inner East is looking for a young woman in the Doncaster area who could become an advocate and friend to a young woman with intellectual disability. Please contact Dot or Sharyn on 9859 9421.

Clean up

The Warrandyte community participated in Clean Up Australia Day on March 2. The area covered was between the river and Yarra Street, from Stonehouse to Stiggants. Thirty bags of recyclables and 30 bags of general rubbish were collected. The

organisers would like to thank all those involved.

Fundraisers

The Grand Hotel fundraiser for April will be a matinee on Sunday, April 20. It will be a Tribute To Elvis, sponsored by Radio Magic 693. Cost is \$16, including afternoon tea. Elvis impersonator Andrew Portelli will be attended by top Elvis fan, Ward Everard. Bookings are essential. Please collect tickets from the hotel, one week in advance. Proceeds to our CFA brigades. On Friday, May 2, there will be a Blues Brothers Night in the Patrick Garaghty Room, commencing 8.30pm. Fundraiser is the Warrandyte Festival Committee. Cost is \$13, including supper.

Business

John James of Potters Cottage has been elected president of the Warrandyte Business Association for the coming year. Noel Taplin (Grand Hotel) is vice president, Paul Rush (owner, West End) is treasurer and Amanda King of Simply Wool is secretary. The committee expects to receive funds shortly, enabling them to implement the various segments of the local enhancement scheme.

Books

Warrandyte Book Exchange would like to remind readers that they operate from the community centre in Yarra Street on Wednesdays and Fridays be-

tween 2 and 4.30pm, Saturdays between 10.30am and 1pm and Sundays from 2pm to 4.30pm. You can buy books at absolute bargain basement prices, or exchange a book for a book and no payment is required.

Artspace

Through to Saturday, May 3, Manningham Artspace is holding an exhibition entitled Pathways. It includes paintings, sculpture, drawings, lithographs and assemblages from a number of artists, including Geoffrey Dance, Deborah Halpern, Graham and Inge King and David Moore. Artspace is situated at the rear of the Manningham city offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster. The gallery is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm and Saturday and Sunday, 2 to 5pm.

Found

Items lost and found over the festival weekend can be claimed by phoning Mal Parsons on 9844 1175. Also, please call this number if you are holding any items that were found.

Breastscreen

Free breast x-rays are available to women over 50 at the Breastscreen Centre in Whitehorse Plaza, Box Hill. X-rays are recommended every two years and appointments can be made on 13 2050. The service is available during the day, Monday to Friday, and also on Friday evenings.

COLMAN PARK RESERVE

Colman Road, South Warrandyte

Colman Park Committee of Management advises, after over 30 years honorary service to the local community, on 31 March 1997 it will terminate its Deed of Delegation from Manningham City Council. All future enquiries, bookings, etc to be directed to Manningham City Council.

Committee of Management

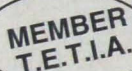
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- ★★★ Barossa Valley Estate-Shiraz Cabernet 1995 \$8.00 (\$86 per doz)
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\$14 concession,
\$13 groups of 20+

BOOKINGS
Christine
9729 7712
(evenings;
credit bookings
available)

Warrandyte High School Theatre
Alexander Road, Warrandyte (Map 34:H2)

**April 11, 18, 19, 25, 26 at 7.30pm
and April 13 at 5pm (BYO picnic)**

SUPPORT LOCAL TRADERS

Now, the real thing

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club will come off a practice-match hiding to meet Montrose away in their EDFL season opener on Saturday (April 12).

The Bloods were no match for Second Division rivals Mooroolbark in their final pre-season hit-out at home on April 5—but that certainly does not faze new coach Greg Cole.

"I place no significance whatsoever on practice-match results," Cole told the *Diary* after the Bloods had gone down 21.13 (139) to 9.6 (60) to Mooroolbark, doing their best work in the last quarter after failing to score at all in the third.

"Practice matches can be very poor indicators—and I think Warrandyte showed that last year when they beat Mooroolbark very easily in a pre-season game but lost both their 'real' matches against them by eight or nine goals.

"The Montrose game will set the level we are at."

Cole said he had been disappointed with the endeavour—or lack of—shown against Mooroolbark.

"You can be outmanned, outgunned, but you must never lose that endeavour," he said.

"Today the things we had been working so hard on at training just went out the window."

Certainly, it will be a different and stronger side which takes on Montrose.

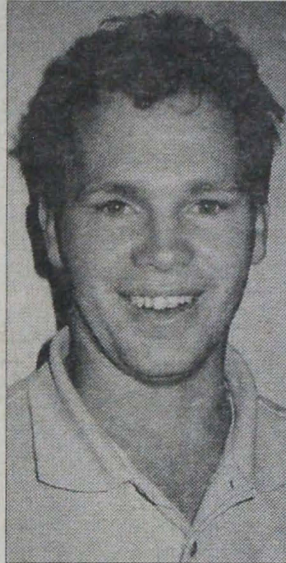
Missing from the line-up against Mooroolbark were such valuable contributors as Kimberly O'Connor, Brad Valentine, Cam Day and Dale Comrie. Comrie's playing future is in doubt after a shoulder injury suffered in an intraclub game on March 2, but O'Connor, Valentine and Day should all be available to meet Montrose.

There are also likely to be several new faces, among them big ruckman Scott Parnell, who came to the Bloods from Bairnsdale and will offset the loss if Comrie decides not to play this season.

Numerically at least, Warrandyte have fared well in the off-season comings and goings of players.

On the debit side, the Bloods have lost Ben Brisbane, Mack Clarkson, Adam Murray, Greg Pearce and Darren Murphy (re-

Coach unfazed by warm-up hiding



Greg Cole

tired). On the credit side they have acquired playing coach Cole and his brother Steve, assistant playing coach Andy Comello, Parnell, full-forward Richard Kent and former Warrandyte wingman Russell Treverton (who have followed Cole down from the Yarra Valley Mountain District Football League), David Jones (who missed the second half of last season after joining from Bayswater) and Jones' younger brother Brad, a very promising prospect.

Home-grown former under-18 stars Liam Riley, Andrew Brown and Justin Edwards are also pushing hard for regular senior selection. Brown and Edwards are still eligible for the under-18s but are itching to play senior football.

"The vibes around the club are very good and we now have much more player participation in the running of the club," said WFC president Jeff Evans.

"This is the first year of a three-year plan for us aimed at winning the Second Division premiership in 1999.

SPORT

"We aim, as a club, to be more professional than we have been and to persevere on the field with a local youth policy.

"If senior players don't turn up at training they know they'll be in the Twos on Saturday. We've got to get that professional policy across."

As part of that policy, the Bloods have produced a Players Handbook, spelling out, among other things, the club's aims, a code of conduct, team rules and what is expected of the players.

The handbook also details a busy social calendar for the new season.

"Morale is very good," Evans said, "and if we can finish this season at 9-9 (wins and losses) we'll be happy."

The club are still seeking under-18 players and anyone interested in trying out is invited to train at the recreation reserve on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

A cocktail night will be held at the clubrooms after the Montrose game. And committee person Anne Drew reminds supporters and the Warrandyte public in general that an excellent meal is available there each Thursday training night.



Junior tennis winners (from left): Nick Barrett, Kylie Bevan, Kim Swain and Aidan Davey. (Picture by Jenny Grinlington)

Tennis juniors bring home the titles

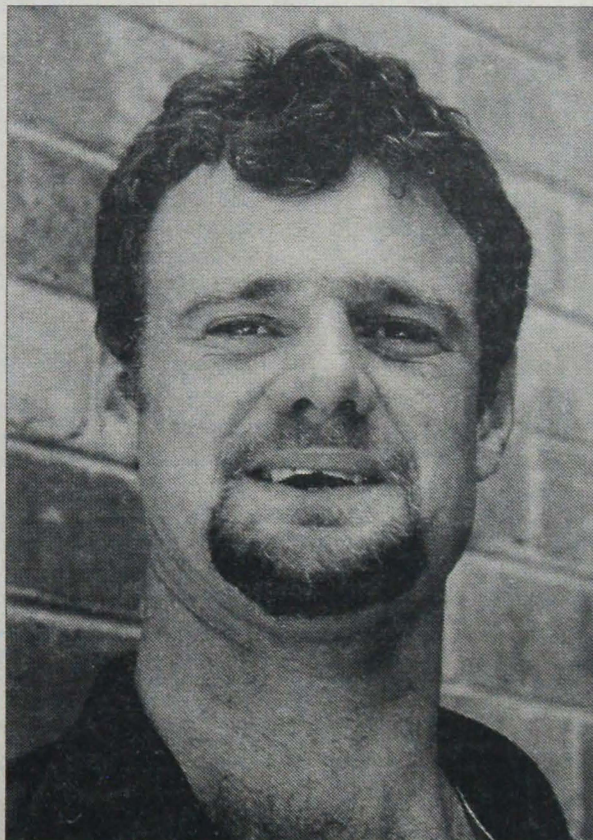
Two Warrandyte Tennis Club junior teams won their grand finals in Eastern Region Tennis' summer competition last month.

They were the Saturday Mixed 28 team of Steven Parke, Adam Atkins, Brenton Rogers, Katie Barrett, Kate Casey and Kate Simpson, and

the Sunday Mixed 4 team—Aiden Davey, Nick Gee, Nick Barrett, Kym Swain and Kylie Bevan.

Two senior teams were runners-up: the Section 4 in ENT's Sunday competition and midweek Section 4 team in the Eastern District Women's Tennis Association competition.

Howzat for a champ?



Chris Snaidero: two outstanding seasons with the ball after promotion to the first eleven.

Pace bowler Chris Snaidero reaped the personal reward for a great 1996-97 season by collecting the Jack McAuley Shield for club champion at Warrandyte Cricket Club's presentation night last month.

Snaidero, a second eleven player just two seasons earlier, has emerged from the relatively obscurity of that grade to become one of the most feared bowlers in the RDFC Chandler Shield competition.

His pairing with fellow-paceman Gerald Walshe has given Warrandyte one of the Chandler Shield's most potent opening attacks—an asset too seldom capitalised upon last season by the Bushrangers' batsmen.

Snaidero took Warrandyte's first eleven bowling award in 1995-96, saving the club from relegation with a remarkable 10/56 against Norwood in the last round.

He finished that season with 32 wickets at an average of 16.75

and merely carried on his outstanding work in 1996-97.

Wicketkeeper David Mooney put his top-order teammates to shame by taking the batting trophy. His season's deeds included a club first-eleven record score of 184 not out against Croydon North.

The fielding award went to Jason Graf and the captain's trophy to Gerald Walshe.

David Gee and Peter Sharpe took the second eleven batting and bowling honours respectively.

Justin Edwards was judged best in the field and Peter Raby was awarded the captain's trophy.

The Daryl Valentine Memorial Shield for best performer outside the first eleven went to veteran player/administrator Steve Pascoe and the Duck Club Award to the Gay family—Ian, Andy and Warren.

Full details of senior and junior presentations will be in next month's *Diary*.

Littlies tack on

Warrandyte Junior Football Club are in for a big season—hopefully in more ways than one.

The club will field nine teams, up from seven last season with the addition of two Tackers (under-9) sides

All but the under-16s, who remain in the EDFL, will play in the new Yarra Junior Football League formed by the merger of the Doncaster and Hawthorn junior competitions.

The introduction of the two Tackers teams means that Warrandyte now cater for every age from under-9 through to under-16.

Vacancies exist for players at every level, particularly the under-14s, who are now coached by former Carlton premiership player and Warrandyte senior coach David Dickson.

"This is an exciting opportunity for kids to develop their football under the man who is also coaching the Victorian Metropolitan Teal Cup (under-18) team this season," WJFC president Malcolm Eyre told the *Diary*.

"A coach is still needed for our under-15s and I'd like to hear (on 9719 7587 AH) from anyone who is interested."

The club now have the use of Stinton Reserve as a second ground for training and Sunday games.

Training is from 4.30 to 6pm on Wednesdays for all teams except the under-13s, who train on Tuesdays.

The junior season started on April 6 and Eyre said enthusiasm and hopes were high.

"We're looking forward to a good year—at least one premiership," he said.

Young Redbacks on a finals rampage

By DAMIAN ARSENIS

Ever-expanding Warrandyte Basketball Club are enjoying one of their most successful seasons, with a remarkable 19 teams—13 boys, six girls—making the grand finals of the EDJBA competition.

Director of coaching Gavin Whitmore has led by example, his Under-10AR boys and Under-14A1 girls both reaching the grand finals.

Whitmore's Under-14 girls made short work of Eltham's strongest side in their

best-of-three grand final series, wrapping it up in just two games.

One of the Redbacks' biggest success stories, these are largely the girls who represented Warrandyte so triumphantly in Fiji in December, dominating the South Pacific Junior Basketball Championship.

More Redbacks success was guaranteed in the grand finals, highly-graded hopefuls including Damian Arsenis' Under-12A2 and Under-14AR boys, Paul Hoskings' Under-16A2 girls and Gerry Pearce's Under-

20A2 boys.

The club's Presentation Day will be at Warrandyte High School on May 4. Proceedings will start at 10.30am with the resurrection of the Redbacks Fun Run (open to all).

Other highlights will be a shootout and the annual boys versus girls "grudge match", this year between Whitmore's Under-12 girls and Arsenis' Under-12 boys. Further information: Con Arsenis (9846 7640).

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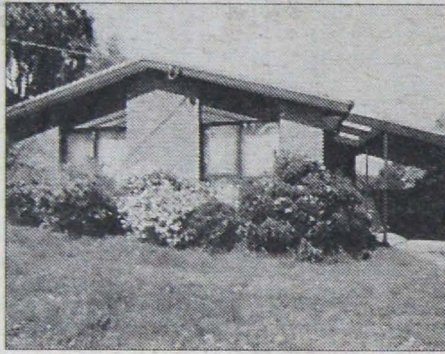


The Professionals

Wilson McDougall



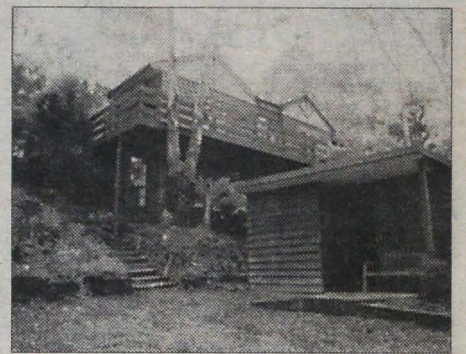
\$109,000
3 bedrooms on acre



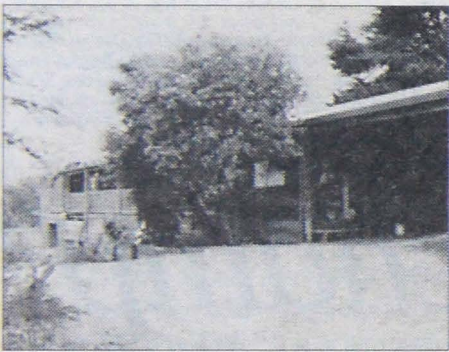
\$129,000
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\$149,000
Open plan, half acre



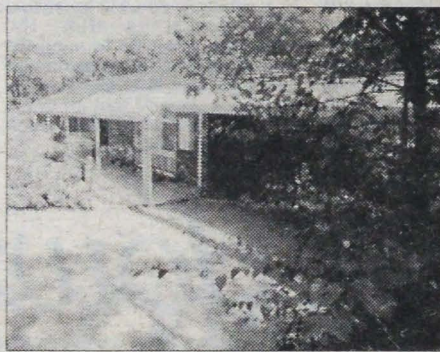
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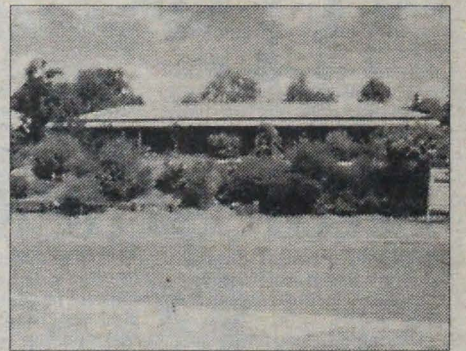


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