

# Battlezone for council

By DAVID WYMAN

Manningham council still has a massive task ahead if it is to maintain the ban on dual occupancy and preserve the Green Wedge as it creates new zones in the municipality.

It is known that council believes the state government's new planning scheme—the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP)—represents a significant threat to the Green Wedge if no appropriate replacement zones are established.

There is no zone in the new format VPP which is going to provide the same level of protection as exists in Warrandyte's current environmental residential zone, where dual occupancy is banned.

While local MP, Phil Honeywood, remains confident about securing the ban on dual occupancy, council has a massive amount of work ahead to give certainty to the continued prohibition of dual occupancy.

"Council staff, councillors and other groups are very worried about it," one council source said.

The community of Warrandyte worked hard to get controls in place to prohibit dual occupancy, but in replacing the current 2,871 zones throughout the state with new ones, the govern-

ment has effectively given the green light to dual occupancy in all residential areas.

While the possibility of major changes in the Green Wedge in the short term are remote, council feels that the government's VPP are nowhere near as good as the existing planning scheme.

Phil Honeywood remains optimistic about the security of the environmental residential zone and the Green Wedge, and he has devoted a lot of time in discussions with Minister for Planning, Rob Maclellan, planning department staff and council officers.

"I'm very confident that, by working in collaboration with Manningham council, there will be no change to current planning regulations covering the Green Wedge and dual occupancy banned areas," he told the *Diary*.

He had discussed the matter as recently as June 2 with the minister and also with the head of the Department of Planning.

"The head of the department will sit down soon with the senior planners at Manningham—Paul Molan and Roger Collins—to ensure that the current planning provisions are not changed—even if they (the provisions) have a different name," he said.

"We've worked very closely with the council officers to ensure the minister and his department understand that an overwhelming majority of the Warrandyte and Park Orchards communities value the hard-fought-for current planning decisions that are fairly unique in Victoria," Phil Honeywood said.

He said he was delighted by the unanimous decision by all Manningham councillors to support the current landscape interest and environmental living zones in the Green Wedge area.

"I am particularly delighted that, given the history of the former Doncaster-Templestowe council, where councillors based in urban areas often voted against the interests of Warrandyte and Park Orchards.

"The newly-elected council has made clear their support for the ban on dual occupancy and for retaining the current Green Wedge acreages. This is a great example of a new council, on behalf of its communities, showing its commitment to working cooperatively with the state government on these matters. We're off to a great start."

It is known that while all of the newly-elected councillors believe that the Green Wedge should be retained, some have different views on how it should be managed. During a recent series of workshops to discuss council's municipal strategic statement, residents gave a strong indication to council that they valued the quality of residential natural environment and want to see it retained.

## Sustainable support

By DAVID WYMAN

Planning provisions by Manningham council may in future be heavily based on sustainability—whether a project will have a nil impact on life-sustaining natural resources.

Council has been impressed with the public response to a series of workshops conducted last month to explain the state government's Victoria Planning Provisions and to explore various options for council's future planning policies.

In a briefing paper issued to those attending the workshops, council was critical of the government's new planning reforms, stating that there was lack of definition and long-term goals.

"The absence of long-term vision and strategy at the state level does not preclude council from addressing these matters," the briefing paper states. "There is an opportunity to tailor Manningham's planning scheme so that it better addresses local issues for the long term. For anything to last for the long-term, it must be sustainable."

It defines sustainability as "the ability to maintain a high quality of life for all people, both now and in the future, while ensuring the maintenance of the ecologi-

cal processes on which life depends and continued availability of the natural resources needed."

The briefing paper describes the many signs of environmental decline in the world. "If these trends continue, it is clear that we will ultimately undermine the very natural processes on which our survival depends ... while it is not possible for Manningham to solve the world's environmental problems, it is possible to 'think globally—act locally'."

The paper then outlines key local issues, problems and sustainable solutions in residential, commercial, non-urban and other "zones".

Manningham councillors are enthusiastic about the new sustainability approach, which is believed to be an Australian first.

"The public have seen the simplicity and convenience of our approach," a council source told the *Diary* after the well-attended Warrandyte workshop. "The community has said, 'that makes so much sense' and have been overwhelmingly supportive."

● FOUR STEPS TO THE FUTURE: Pages 6 & 7

## Mixed response to library call

By FIA CLENDINNEN

Local calls for a library in Warrandyte are meeting a mixed reception. Cr Patricia Young is supporting the campaign, but doubts if a branch library will be built.

"Warrandyte needs something," Cr Young told the *Diary*. "I'm looking into the possibility of getting back the mobile library."

Earlier this month, Cr Young presented to Manningham council Mrs Anthea Phillipou's petition calling for a library in Warrandyte.

But she ruled out the likelihood of the township having its own branch library.

"There is no possibility of a library shopfront in Warrandyte." She said even a mobile library could prove too expensive to be feasible. "The main problem is the cost, it could well be astronomical. We're hoping a mobile library could be a joint venture with Nillumbik. In the next month or so we should have some more information."

As reported in last month's *Diary*, Anthea Phillipou, proprietor of the Goldfields

Newsagency, claims many residents are dissatisfied with the library services currently offered. She has been circulating a petition testing public response for a library in Warrandyte.

"A lot of people have been glad I've brought up this issue," Mrs Phillipou told the *Diary*. "I've got about 700 signatures. There's a lot of support out there."

She said she was glad of Cr Young's backing and that the Lions Club had also offered their help. She said that the return of democratically elected councillors had encouraged her to lobby for a library for Warrandyte.

"I thought, we can take something into council now we have local councillors. Under the commissioners we couldn't do anything."

Anthea Phillipou said that although she would prefer to see Warrandyte having its own branch library, a mobile library would be a positive step. "Anything to make a start. The demand is there."

● LETTERS: Page 6



Fire dogs keep a sharp lookout: North Warrandyte CFA Captain Paul Buck and friend are firmly in the driving seat of the brigade's new truck. ● Stories and more Sandy Burgoyne pics on page 7.

## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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# They're a very funny lot at the new B&B!



If Ian, Frank, Theo and Merv give up their day jobs as carpenter, plasterer, labourer and painter respectively, we can see them making it big as a comedy team. The Grand Hotel brought them to town from Dandenong to turn the former home of Pat and the late Dave Robertson, on the corner of Yarra Street and Whipstick Gully, into a bed and breakfast establishment. The chaps—we have no idea of their surnames—are living on the premises while renovating them and it's fair to say they are not letting life pass them by. Not averse, any of them, to a beer, they threw a little impromptu party the other night and were woken in the small hours by the smoke detector alarm. A log had rolled out of the open fireplace and burnt Theo's work boots. Not to worry. The following night they cast a couple of rods into the Yarra and when Geoff Feltham, who'd befriended the Fun-loving Foursome, dropped in next morning he found a mess of live fish in the sink. He also found a duck—very much alive—in the kitchen. The boys had accidentally hooked the bird while fishing and had taken it home to look after it. Geoff thought he had seen it all until he called in the following morning and found what had suddenly become the Fearful Foursome trying to coax a bat—yes, again very much alive—out of the kitchen with a long pole before it did a Dracula and fanged 'em. Life with our Dandenong visitors might not always be a bed of roses, but we doubt it would ever be dull.



Fun-lovers or not, the boys have done a first-class job on the B & B, which opens on June 23. It has five bedrooms, all with en suites and one with a spa, a big lounge and a good old country "feel". We think it's so beautiful we're going to give the mother-in-law (and ourselves) a treat by phoning hostess Dianne (9844 0666) and booking the old girl in there next time she threatens to pay us a flying visit on her broomstick.



In preparation for their overseas trip, Denise Farran insisted that partner Gus McLaren have his teeth done, which involved an extraction or two. Complications set in at home that night in the form of gums which refused to stop bleeding, so Denise drove Gus to Maroondah Hospital, applying a very resourceful bit of first aid by having him bite all the way there on a couple of tampons. Sorry to do you in like this, Gus, but the WAA newsletter scooped us on this one and we just couldn't let them have it all to themselves.



Forget about onion-weed, blackberries, broom, boneseed, oxalis and the other nasties which threaten to take over Warrandyte's bushland and starting thinking about alligator weed. Local conservationists describe it as one of the world's

## IN RED & WHITE



Alligator weed ... makes an acre of onionweed look like a bed of roses.

worst weeds and are horrified to report an outbreak of it at Ruffey Creek in Doncaster. They say it looks very much like a thing called mukuna-wenna, a leafy green veggie popular in parts of Asia (particularly Sri Lanka) and that some members of our local Asian communities have apparently been mistakingly cultivating it in their backyards. That's a drawing of the little devil above. If you come across it, you're advised to leave it alone because it's so difficult to control it's a job for experts. What you do is call the Keith Turnbull Research Institute on (03) 9785 0111, report it and leave it to the experts.



Nicole Rowe certainly took her time about making grandparents of her mum and dad, Joyce and Peter Norman, of Wattleblossom Road. The first child of Nicole and hubby Martin was due on Mother's Day, which would have been lovely—but in laid-back fashion very reminiscent of granddad, the *Diary's* distribution manager, lobbed 13 days later, on May 23. A bouncing baby boy named Jesse and mother and baby both fit as fiddles. And what did Jesse weigh? we asked Peter. "Seven pound something." New grandfathers are notoriously inattentive to detail.



Did any of you park your car outside Harvey World Travel in Webb Street one day last month and come back to find bricks under your wheels? And did you wonder how the hell they got there? You did? Then let us tell you. Your car had suddenly become "unparked" and was rolling down the hill with what could have been disastrous results on the corner of Yarra Street. Fortunately, it rolled into the side of the truck of a young Webb Street landscaper who had pulled up outside Harvey World Travel to speak to his mum across the road. It was the landscaper and a few passers-by who pushed

your car back up the hill and chocked the wheels. You owe the bloke a considerable debt of gratitude but we can't help you there because he's so modest he doesn't want to be named.



It was quite late in the day when local truckdriver Robbie Knowles delivered a load of bricks to one of those Yarra Valley wineries, so late that they locked the gate and all went home while he was still unloading. We know a lot of blokes who would dearly love to be locked in a winery overnight, but Robbie says he much prefers a beer anyway and was hacksawing his way through the chain on the gate when the caretaker spotted him and let him out.



The good news is that Irish Les, the car salesman of Yarra Street, has at last finished that vat of extremely volatile pea soup he'd made himself. Boy, has that cleared the air!



Wheelybins are relatively new arrivals in North Warrandyte and we got a gruff letter from a bloke who reckons that in terrain like that they are about as useful as a hip pocket in a singlet. After bitching about how far he had to push the damn things uphill (and loaded) to a spot where the trash collectors would deign to actually empty them, he got on to things more aesthetic. "The Shire of Nillumbik gave each household two bins each—one for recyclable stuff, the other for your general household garbage. Right? Well, one of them's dark green with a yellow lid and the other's all pale green. Right? So which one's for the recyclable stuff? The all pale green one, which makes it so easy to remember which is which. You know, green being for greenies being for recycling. Right? Wrong. The recyclable stuff goes in the dark green one with the yellow lid and the general junk in the all pale green one! Why, for God's sake? Does the council really have a special department for pushing square pegs into round holes?" Beats us, mate, but we've heard that, in time, some people get to love their wheelybins more than their wives.

**Smokey Joe**



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# Retirees' housing plan



Syd Smale (right) shows the site for the proposed retired housing development to Rev Trevor Williams of Warrandyte Uniting Church. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

By CLIFF GREEN

A private proposal to build a retirement housing complex in Warrandyte could go some way towards solving the problem of elderly local folk distressed by the prospect of having to leave the community they love.

Syd Smale, chairman of the Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Project Committee, has greeted the proposal with enthusiasm.

"After more than four years of fruitless negotiation, a local person is prepared to invest and build a retirement complex in Warrandyte," he told the *Diary*. "The road has been long and full of pitfalls."

"When the Manningham commissioners reneged on the promise of the previous council to kickstart the project with a budget allocation of \$350,000 and stated 'only if it can be shown that the construction and operation of this special aged care facility be viable, and if it can be shown that the

project can be cost, neutral then the council would be prepared to give general support to the project', the proposal seemed doomed."

Syd Smale believes that the determination of the committee not to give in has finally been rewarded. "At last it will be possible for local people—retired or about to retire—to find suitable accommodation in Warrandyte," he said.

Approximately 0.3 hectares (three-quarters of an acre) of land has been purchased on the corner of Everard Drive and Yarra Street, backing onto the existing Stiggant Street elderlies' complex. It is proposed that two and three bedroom units will built.

The *Diary* believes that although nine or ten such units would fit onto this site, the developer plans seven or eight. The original community-driven project envisaged many more.

"The purchaser, who lives in Warrandyte, has stated that great care will be taken to ensure that the units will be environmentally friendly to the area, keeping in mind the special circumstances of Warrandyte, and

that he wants to involve the local community in the planning process," Syd Smale said.

"To that end he has asked the committee to continue to act in an advisory capacity. The committee has agreed, has already met with him on several occasions, and will continue to meet."

The land is zoned Environmental Residential and a retirement village is a permitted use. Such a development is controlled by the Retirement Villages Act of 1986, limiting occupants to retired persons as defined by the Act.

Syd Smale believes that "Streamside Environment Area controls over the land ensure that the development will be compatible with the Warrandyte environment".

"In its advisory capacity, the committee will strive on behalf of the community to preserve the unique character of Warrandyte, at the same time providing much needed retirement housing."

"The first request by a long term resident of Warrandyte to be placed on the list for a unit has already been lodged."

## Call for defence funds

By FIA CLENDINNEN

Eltham Gateway Action Group needs to raise a further \$3000 to cover legal expenses in their ongoing fight to halt the commercial development of the old Eltham Shire Offices site.

They will be holding an auction on Sunday, June 22 at 3pm in the long gallery at Montsalvat. A variety of goods will be for sale, including works of art, dinners at restaurants and such services as tutoring and window repairs.

The auction will be held on the same day as EGAG's annual general meeting. All financial members are invited to the AGM at 2.30pm when office bearers will be elected.

"We need to raise another \$3000 to pay our barrister," said Jenni Mitchell, EGAG president. The Minister for Planning, Rob McClellan, appointed an independent panel to look into the proposed 24 hour petrol station and Hungry Jack's and video store development and EGAG presented a detailed submission.

"We are still awaiting a decision from the Minister," Jenni Mitchell said. She told the *Diary* it had been a prolonged process and EGAG were anxiously waiting for news. "We hope that the minister will make a prompt decision," she said.

EGAG is still seeking quality goods or services to be auctioned. People wishing to make donations should contact Beryl Martin on 9431 2690 or Jenni Mitchell on 9439 3458.

## Mums ease cancer grief

Death from breast cancer of four young Warrandyte mothers has prompted two other mothers to organise an information evening later this month.

"We have initiated this project in response to the grief we have seen in the Warrandyte community following the premature deaths of these four young mothers," Phillipa Coull told the *Diary*. "Many adults and children from our community have been affected by each of these tragedies."

The informal information evening is being held at 8pm on Monday, June 23 in the multi-purpose room at Warrandyte Primary School, Forbes Street, Warrandyte.

Speakers will include Dr Gail Dixon, local general practitioner, who will speak about cancer and answer questions; Julie Cottier, a nurse and local mother currently working in

women's health, who will discuss early detection and breast self-examination; and David Treloar, grief educator and bereavement counsellor who will speak about supporting each other and our children so that we can talk about death and our fears about the health of people we love.

Advice will be available on services available through local community agencies.

"Plenty of time will be allowed for questions and answers," Phillipa Coull said, "and a supper break will provide an opportunity to chat with speakers and each other. Further sessions may be organised if the community expresses further needs on the night."

Further information and bookings can be obtained by contacting Phillipa Coull on 9844 2946 or Julie Cottier on 9844 4333.

## Top young artists

Sculptor Malcolm Laurence, winner of the 1996-7 Warrandyte Youth Arts Award, will be exhibiting at Warrandyte High School's annual art show. Malcolm, who works in metal, is best known for such large structural work as gates and balustrades. But he also produces candlesticks, mirror frames and other wrought iron work.

Georgina Colvin, another finalist in the youth arts award, will have work in the show. She is

currently in London, where she has been preparing for an exhibition of her printmaking in a Mayfair gallery. She will be exhibiting in Chicago later this year.

The art show will be opened at 8.30pm on Friday, June 20 and will run through the weekend until Sunday, June 22. Tickets for the opening night are \$10 each and can be obtained from Glen Martin (9844 1511) and Jan Keppie (9842 3505).



Some of my best friends are wombats: Yooralla Centre residents get to know Melbourne Zoo's wildlife, thanks to Warrandyte Lions Club.

## Yooralla kids meet real lions, thanks to Lions

One Saturday last month, a number of residents from the Yooralla Centre at Box Hill enjoyed an outing to Melbourne Zoo, organised by the Warrandyte Lions Club.

The club hired two especially equipped buses to take 14 wheelchairs and a number of other residents for a day out, which included a catered meal.

The Lions Club regularly treats Yooralla Centre residents to organised outings. The previous one, in November, was a trip to the Healesville Sanctuary. The zoo visit was well supported and enjoyed by club members, their partners and especially the residents.

Club president, Terry Oakley, told the *Diary* that similar func-

tions could be organised by the club for other groups.

"We are keen to hear ideas from individuals and groups in the Warrandyte community, perhaps with a view to joining the club in the organising of such a project," he said.

Interested parties should telephone Terry Oakley on 9844 4501.

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### DEAR DIARY



We don't need a library. You come to live in Warrandyte because it is unique and not a suburb. To live in Warrandyte means you must drive or be driven (unless you live in Yarra Street or just off. The bus is yours.)

The Manningham side of Warrandyte has three libraries within 10, 20 and 30 minutes' drive. You can also catch a bus to The Pines or Doncaster Shoppingtown. Warrandytians can also drive 15 minutes to Eltham or 15 minutes to Ringwood. This then gives us good access to libraries in three different councils.

All primary and secondary schools in the area have excellent libraries, and if they don't have the information they want then try technology, the Internet. The kids love it (so do big ones).

I have lived in Warrandyte for 23 years and I do not expect to have facilities just laid on. As a mother of four children I have taken mine and others to the library when needed.

In Warrandyte we have had many changes to Yarra Street,

### CLYDE & OCKER



"I got fined for keepin' a book, Ock. S.P., not lending!"

the bridge and West End areas. In 1882 we had a public library. In the 1970s we had a car dealership. But do we need them now?

Let's keep Warrandyte unique.

Debbie Hodgson  
Floods Road

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

Signed letters are preferred. If pen-names are used, actual names and addresses must be included, even if not to be published.

The call for a local library featured in the May edition of the *Diary* coincides with a new initiative of Warrandyte Primary School. We have been looking at how the school can further its contribution to the Warrandyte community and, in particular, help the transition of children from kindergarten to primary school.

The school has a well-equipped library with an enthusiastic and highly experienced librarian. Warrandyte Primary plans to make these resources available to the community early next term with the introduction of a reading hour for pre-schoolers in the area. The program on offer will include story telling, book readings and dramatised stories. Simple craft activities and musical activities will reinforce the stories children have heard.

This is an opportunity for the children to visit a library and develop confidence in coming to school.

I invite all parents of pre-schoolers in the Warrandyte area to take advantage of this service provided by their local school. Further information can be obtained by phoning the school on 9844 3537.

Ken Wing Jan  
Principal  
Warrandyte Primary School

# Thank You

The Warrandyte Lions Club, its manager Glenyse Riches and staff of the Opportunity Shop wish to express their sincere thanks to the thoughtful members of our community who have donated their unwanted goods to the Opportunity Shop this past year.

A central object of the Lions Club is "to assist financially, culturally, socially and morally the handicapped, disadvantaged and infirm of the community both directly and also indirectly".

The Opportunity Shop and the funds it generates allows us to achieve a fundamental tenet of good citizenship and it is only through the generosity of those we wish to thank that it is achieved.

Further thanks are extended to our many volunteer workers who each give up many hours every week sorting donated goods and serving our customers.



Warrandyte Lions Club Inc.  
Serving the Community

# Sports courts progress

By CLIFF GREEN

The long-running, epic campaign for improved basketball and tennis facilities in Warrandyte may—at last—be approaching some sort of resolution.

State MP Phil Honeywood, and recently-elected Manningham councillor Patricia Young, are co-chairing a working party to establish a second basketball stadium for the Warrandyte community. Also, Phil Honeywood is working to have removed several bureaucratic delays in the building of a new tennis court at Warrandyte Reserve.

The basketball stadium working party recently had its second meeting. "We are well on the way to resolving proposed location

## Tennis, highball facilities needed

and state and local government funding and planning issues," Phil Honeywood told the *Diary*. Key community groups represented on the working party include Andersons Creek Primary School, Warrandyte High School, Warrandyte Basketball Club and council officers.

"At this stage, several proposals for the new stadium are on the table," Phil Honeywood said. "One proposal that has gained strong support is for the construction of a single court stadium at the front of Andersons Creek school on Department of Education land. This would permit day use of the facility by the two primary schools. As it would be located adjacent to

Goldfields shopping centre it could also prove to be a boon for local traders during the weekend."

This proposal envisages junior basketball being played at Andersons Creek, with the senior competition continuing at Warrandyte High School. "This would address a concern by the high school that they not lose revenue from court hire, while maintaining community involvement with the basketball club," Phil Honeywood said.

Other proposals discussed include building a centrally situated basketball stadium on council-owned land elsewhere, or constructing a second enclosed court at the high school.

Meanwhile, Manningham council has announced that councillors will be considering a draft strategy on highball and basketball facilities during June.

"Basketball is one of the growth sports in our municipality," Manningham mayor, Cr Bob Beynon, said. "There has been pressure on council from local basketball clubs for additional facilities, particularly in the Warrandyte and Park Orchard areas."

"The draft strategy will assist us in addressing the issues for additional facilities and where they can be best located to maximise community use," he said.

According to Phil Honeywood, council has received a consult-

ant's report advocating one large municipality-wide basketball complex at Mullauna in Donvale.

"The Warrandyte community need to show that they are not attracted to travelling all the way to Donvale to drop off their children," Phil Honeywood said. "I will be lobbying hard for state government contributions to the local facility."

Warrandyte Tennis Club president, Mark Bence, said that the club's long-awaited sixth court has been granted approval by council, but "other government bodies and departments have managed to well and truly wrap it up in red tape".

"Melbourne Water raised an

objection regarding flood levels (the courts are situated close to Andersons Creek) and the Department of Natural Resources were concerned about a couple of trees coming out.

"Although the club hasn't received formal written confirmation of these, council believes Melbourne Water is withdrawing its objection. The trees being objected to were actually planted by the club and we are happy to replace them, elsewhere on the site, with mature trees," Mark Bence said.

Local MP Phil Honeywood has contacted the office of Marie Tehan, Minister for Natural Resources, asking why the department is objecting, given the club's reassurances.

"Phil Honeywood told me he couldn't believe the additional court hadn't been built by now," Mark Bence said.



# North brigade goes to blazes in comfort

Words and pictures by SANDY BURGOYNE

North Warrandyte CFA's entry in the festival parade over the past five years has told a story. First there was the appeal for money for a new tanker truck. The old blue Ford had reached the end of its useful life and needed to be replaced. Each year the money thermometer on the float gradually edged up until the newly purchased truck joined the parade two years ago.

The story didn't end there, because the Isuzu FSR500 had a crew cab and a chassis, but nothing in between. All the necessities of a modern fire vehicle still had to be fitted.

First the chassis had to be shortened by 200mm so the truck wouldn't poke out the back of the fire station. That technicality behind them, the brigade members started the hard work of fabricating the steelwork and fitting the lockers and equipment.

This tanker belongs to North Warrandyte, not the CFA, and it was a true community effort that put it on the road. The North Warrandyte Fireworkers raised the money for the truck's

purchase, with generous help from service groups such as the local Lions and Apex clubs and the Knights of the Southern Cross.

The brigade is especially grateful to David Brown of Brown Davis Automotive. The fitting out was done in his Bayswater workshop. Captain Paul Buck said, "Without his help we would have been still building the truck".

The story ended on May 4 when the North Warrandyte CFA held an Open Day to proudly present the completed tanker to the community. Captain Steven Black of the Briar Hill Salvation Army blessed the truck as part of the proceedings.

After the formalities, local residents were invited to inspect the new tanker. Then the brigade put on a display of how to extinguish common household fires.

The afternoon ended when the new tanker was called out on its first emergency, much to the annoyance of your photographer who was trying to get just one more shot!



## For red read blue

A fire truck can be any colour as long as it's red. Can you imagine a mauve or turquoise fire truck? Well, until last month, North Warrandyte had a blue one. But now Tanker Number 1, a dark blue Ford F Series commissioned in 1981, has gone to where all old fire trucks go.

Why was it blue? The truck had been sitting in a paddock outside the Ford works at Campbellfield for two years before it and a mate were purchased to be fire trucks. The other one went to Research. The North Warrandyte brigade members fitted out their Ford but found themselves short of cash. It was a case of paint the vehicle the same colour as any real fire truck or purchase essential gear. There was no contest as far as the firefighters were concerned, and Tanker Number 1 went out on its first calls without the benefit of red paint.

Over the years the firefighters always found something better to spend their money on. Although one member was adamant that one day they would paint it red. Tanker Number 1 became famous and, the story goes, an American fire truck enthusiast arrived in Warrandyte to photograph what he called "the only blue fire truck in the world".

Time, however, was leaving the blue tanker behind. The single cabin was too cramped to transport a crew in safety and its carrying capacity was too small. So North Warrandyte sold its unique blue tanker and replaced it with a fine truck that is up to modern requirements. And yes, it is red.

## FOUR STEPS TO THE FUTURE

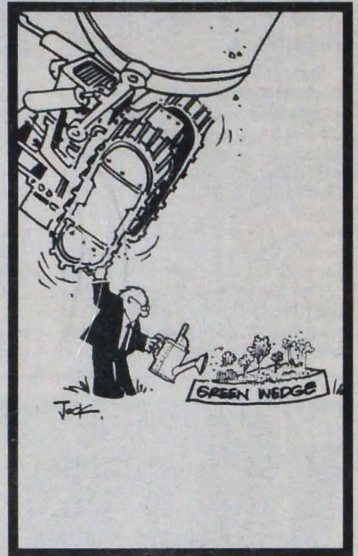
# Blueprint to a better

**M**ANNINGHAM City Council is the first local government body in Australia to use the Natural Step framework as a guide to creating its new municipal strategic statement and planning scheme review.

Manningham is responding to the Victoria Planning Provisions, under which state government has directed each council to prepare a municipal

strategic statement, defining land use and development directions for their municipality. The Natural Steps were developed in Sweden by an international group of scientists. It is based on solid scientific principles

which provide a mechanism for monitoring progress towards environmental sustainability. Simply stated, it is a set of basic environmental rules against which all aspects of the planning scheme can be tested.



The four Natural Step principles or system conditions that will ensure sustainable development are:

- 1** Substances from the earth's crust must not systematically increase in the ecosphere.
- 2** Substances produced by society must not systematically increase in the ecosphere.

- 3** The physical basis for the productivity and diversity of nature must not be systematically diminished.
- 4** The use of energy and other resources must be fair and efficient with respect to meeting human needs.

Council claims the Natural Step system conditions make distinguishing between appropriate (more sustainable) and inappropriate development quite straight forward. Appropriate developments will exhibit traits

which positively contribute towards adherence to the system conditions. In its briefing paper, Manningham—Steps to Sustainability, council has linked the Natural Steps to local planning issues.

The *Diary* here reprints a number of these issues, chosen because of their particular application to our area. Some editing has been necessary for space reasons. Readers who wish to study the complete

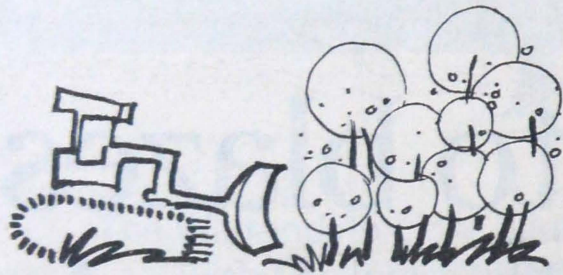
document can obtain a copy by calling council's Planning Reform Hotline—9840 9428.

- The first column of the table lists the key issues.
- The second column describes what it is about the issue that is unsustainable and how the Natural Step conditions have been used to test each issue.
- The third column suggests ways to address the issues in a more sustainable manner.

### NON-URBAN AREAS

#### Key issue

Pressure for subdivision on non-urban areas (i.e. Green Wedge) and enhanced expectation of further advancement of urban development.



#### How are the Natural Steps overlooked?

- The diversity and productivity of nature is diminished by an increase in land degradation and poor land management practices and by the loss of such environmental qualities as indigenous flora and fauna.
- A negative impact on visual amenity may be inequitable with respect to providing high quality natural assets for present and future generations.
- If the diversity of nature is diminished by the loss of rural residential character and important landscape qualities, this is inequitable for present and future generations.
- Increased consumption of petrol and substances in the ecosphere and substances removed from the earth's crust due to potential increase in travel and car usage.
- Inefficient use of established urban areas as it decreases the viability of redevelopment in these areas.

#### More sustainable responses

- Consistent decision making and strong political commitment to maintain and enhance non-urban areas.
- Incentives and educational assistance to encourage proper land management programs.
- Maintain and protect Green Wedge area with appropriate planning controls.
- Early identification of environmentally significant areas in planning new development.

### CONSERVATION

#### Key issue

Ensuring that Manningham's natural environmental qualities are not compromised.



#### How are the Natural Steps overlooked?

- The diversity of nature is diminished by inappropriate development of environmentally sensitive areas—loss of habitat, reduction in biodiversity, visual impact, extensive earthworks, etc.
- Inequitable by not responding positively to environmental and conservation objectives.

#### More sustainable responses

- Tailoring planning controls to ecologically sustainable development principles.
- Early identification of significant areas in planning new development.
- Implement relevant conservation and open space strategy recommendations.
- Developments that take into account the principles of the Site Design Guide for Residential Developments on Bushland Fringes.

### TOURISM

#### Key issue

Inappropriate tourism development.



#### How are the Natural Steps overlooked?

- A negative impact on visual amenity may be inequitable with respect to providing high quality natural assets for present and future generations.
- The diversity of nature is diminished as environmental values of an area decrease.

#### More sustainable responses

- Maintain 'livability' and environmental qualities of the region by meeting the needs and expectations of local communities through consultation and proper management of tourism developments.

#### Key issue

Limited recognition of the area's unique characteristics and such tourism opportunities as natural features and heritage.

#### How are the Natural Steps overlooked?

- Inefficient use of resources as innovative tourism opportunities may be lost to more distant locations.

#### More sustainable responses

- Implement appropriate recommendations in Tourism Plan for Melbourne Riverlands.

## FOUR STEPS TO THE FUTURE

## life in Manningham

## RESIDENTIAL

**Key issue**

New developments which impact on environmental values and are unsympathetic to the neighbourhood character.

**How are the Natural Steps overlooked?**

● The diversity and productivity of nature is diminished if new development does not take into account such existing site characteristics as vegetation, topography, soil type and visual quality.

● Inefficient use of land by not taking into account energy efficient considerations.

● Substances from the earth's crust used in new developments, such as metals, minerals, stone, cement, asphalt, etc.

**More sustainable responses**

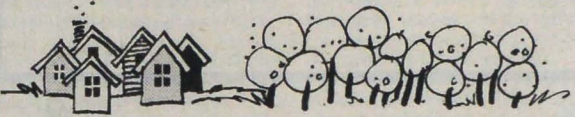
● Site responsive developments that take into account principles of the Good Design Guide for Medium Density Housing and the Site Design Guide for Residential Development on Bushland Fringes.

● Implement recommendations of the Streetscape and Neighbourhood Character Study.

● Develop an urban design strategy for the municipality.

**Key issue**

Allowing higher density residential development in environmentally significant areas.

**How are the Natural Steps overlooked?**

● The diversity of nature is diminished if higher density development has a negative impact on the natural qualities of the area.

● Inequitable use of land for future generations as higher density development is likely to have a negative impact on the natural qualities of the area.

**More sustainable responses**

● Highlight environmentally significant areas where higher density development is not appropriate and should be discouraged.

● Develop a system of assessment based on principles which ensure that biodiversity is not being lost.

## COMMERCIAL

**Key issue**

Potential negative impact on local shopping centres following the expansion of Doncaster Shoppingtown.

**How are the Natural Steps overlooked?**

● Possible inefficient use and under-utilisation of local and neighbourhood shopping precincts.

● Inequitable distribution of resources with respect to decreased employment at local and neighbourhood shopping centres.

● Increased consumption of petrol and substances from the earth's crust due to increased travel and car usage.

**More sustainable responses**

● Encourage 'urban village' principles which enable more people to live, work and shop within walking distances.

● Maintain and enhance local and neighbourhood shopping centres.

● Contain development within existing activity centres.

● Develop an urban design strategy for the municipality.

## TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC

**Key issue**

High car dependency.

**How are the Natural Steps overlooked?**

● Higher travel and car usage and increasing substances in the ecosphere and substances removed from the earth's crust.

● Inefficient use of non-renewable energy.

● Inefficient use of resources as people travel further for goods and services.

**More sustainable responses**

● Encourage public transport use and implement appropriate Public Transport Study recommendations.

● Encourage 'urban village' principles.

● Implement recommendations in Home-based Business Strategy.

● Implement appropriate recommendations of proposed bicycle strategy.

## SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

**Key issue**

Facilities and services that may not reflect community needs.

**How are the Natural Steps overlooked?**

● Inefficient use of resources due to mis-match between services and facilities and community needs.

● Inequitable use of services and facilities which are not accessible to youth, non-English speaking, elderly, disabled, etc.

● Higher travel and car usage and increasing substances in the ecosphere and substances removed from the earth's crust.

**More sustainable responses**

● Accessible, safe and equitable distribution of existing and future services and facilities.

● Development of integrated arts and cultural facility.

● Locate educational facilities close to homes of students and young families.

**Key issue**

Ensuring heritage values and assets can be retained for present and future generations.

**How are the Natural Steps overlooked?**

● Substances from the earth's crust and substances produced by society used for replacement buildings due to loss of heritage buildings.

● Not maintaining heritage sites may be inequitable because of impacts on environmental, social and cultural values of present and future generations.

**More sustainable responses**

● Implement recommendations from Wonga Park Heritage Study and Doncaster and Templestowe Heritage Study.

● Introduce appropriate planning controls to ensure that these values and assets can be retained for present and future generations.

For further information on the Municipal Strategic Statement and Planning Scheme Review phone Manningham City Council, 9840 9465

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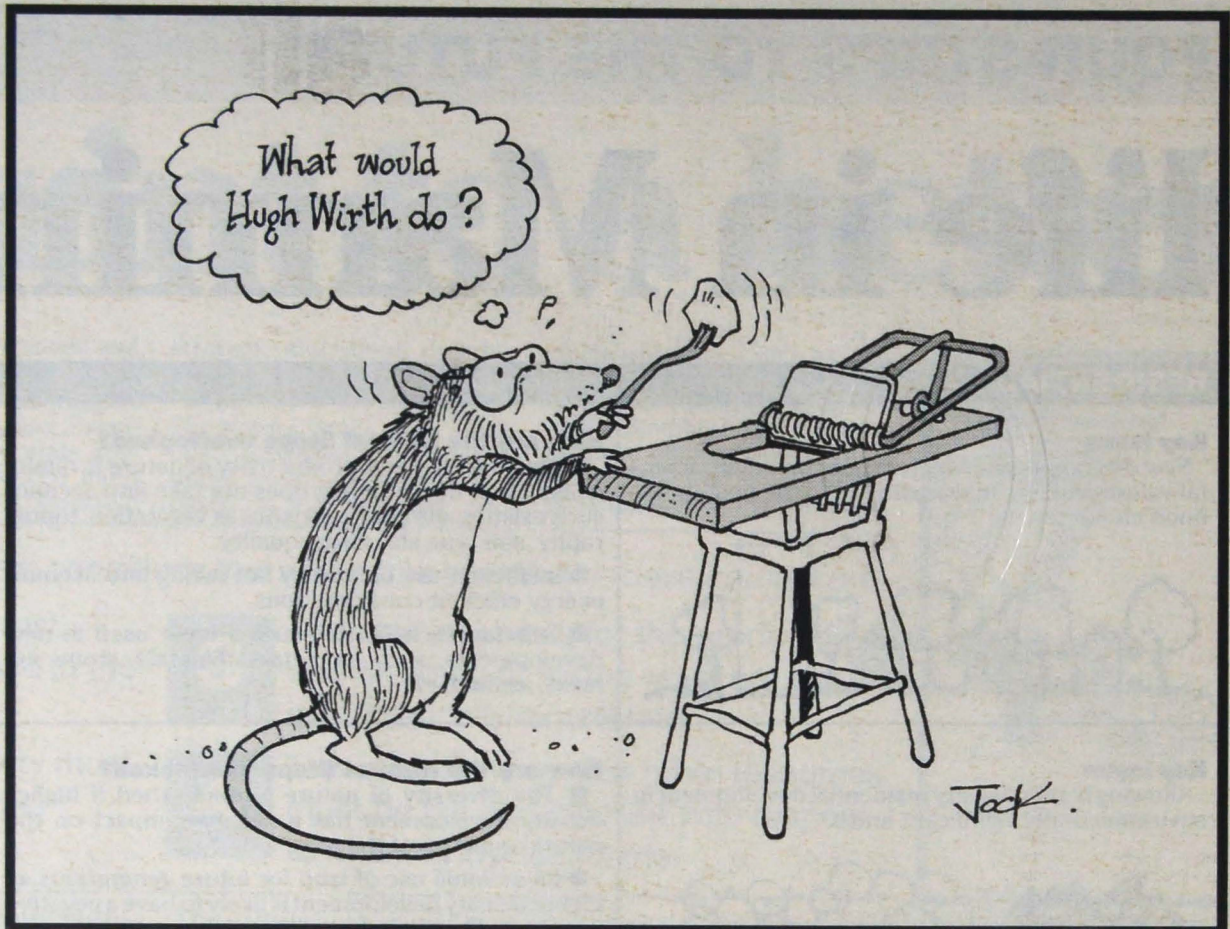
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# Force-feeding muck is a parental disaster

**B**REAKING bread', 'putting on the feedbag', 'wining and dining', 'enjoying convivial company', 'tucking in', 'getting stuck into' and 'nourishing the nosh'.

There are lots of positive euphemisms to cover what is otherwise a 'bloodbath', a 'three rounds with Joe Frazier', 'pointless battle' a 'last ditch stand against barbarism' and when-all-else-fails—dinner.


Why is it that what should be the most pleasant and enjoyable part of the day so often becomes hell on earth?

Like millions of others, I often look back on what seems to be decades of destroyed meals. And it's no use trying the old one that millions of children are starving and would give their right leg for that meal. Apart from asking you to name one, the point is lost. They're not interested in a rational discussion about the humanitarian needs of those in the developing nations. They may be able to write projects on the plight of the Ethiopians or North Koreans but school projects and real life aren't meant to mix.

No. What meal times are all about is power. And it begins at birth.

It's rare to find an adult who slumps at the table, especially someone else's, and complains "What's this spew?" No way! Years of training have taught adults that this isn't nice, even if it is true.

But the tinies and the super



**KIBBLED**

**"What meal times are all about is power. And it begins at birth..."**

people, the adolescents, aren't into considering the feelings and efforts of other people. As the sun and the rest of the universe revolve around them, it is only reasonable that they should reinforce their position of importance by putting us decidedly in our rightful place, as the makers of 'spew', 'muck', 'rubbish', 'this stuff again' and 'crap with too much fat and/or bones'.

So how do we travel from super critic to civilised? The transformation is remarkably uncomplicated but it is agonisingly long and tiresome.

"C'mon! Open up! Isn't this lovely. Mmm, see, it tastes nice.

Just open up and down it goes." Steely eyes and a clenched mouth.

"Now don't be silly. You'll really like it. Mummy's spent all day making this. You don't want her to be sad that you aren't eating it do you?"

Bingo! Before you know it, the penny's dropped. Although I can't walk, talk, solve quadratic equations or run up a decoupage waste paper basket, I can completely control two secondary educated adults running multi-national conglomerates, first by shutting my mouth. So I do.

I know when I'm hungry and I'm not about to knock back grub if I'm desperate, but for most of the time it's more productive to train parents, so that in the long run life will be easier and I'll be able to go to raves and borrow the car without having to be reasonable or logical.

Thus, the strategy is set. The war continues, in some cases for twenty years. Both WWI and WWII pale into insignificance in comparison.

And why do we fall for it? We need a good dose of Hugh Wirth.

When one of his victims rings 3LO to ask about why Snookies doesn't seem to be eating his meals, the recalcitrant owner gets a tongue lashing about putting the food out for twenty minutes, no longer, then taking it away eaten or uneaten.

"He'll soon learn!" Hugh pronounces.

We do it and, only after a few days, Snookies is there on the

dot with knife, fork and stop-watch. But with kids we wimp out.

What if they get sick? Is it a sign I'm a poor parent?

Nah. Just sucked in by the modern child-centred guilt trip. I remember Herself offering Boy Wonder, aged two or three, a choice of Vegemite, honey, jam (home-made I hasten to add) cheese or something else. He looked at her, opened his mouth and bawled.

Wise grandmother, sitting on the sidelines, looked aghast at Herself, nodded her head and sagely tried to convince the modern parent that choice is not something a three year-old needs. Nourishment, consistency and a measure of indifference are all that is needed.

We care too much and by mid-primary years we are dancing attendance, pandering to unreasonable requests and find that it's not just the food but the occasion that gets brought out when the smaller artillery isn't working.

TV watching, manners amnesia, parent goading, sibling baiting and x-rated dinner topics are brought into play. It takes a strong parent to regain the ground after the enemy has been successful for many past campaigns.

War-weary and battle-scarred we've come through. Meals are pleasant now, but if I had my time over again, I'd hire Mr Wirth as a nanny!

**ROGER KIBELL**

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# The dry leaves fall, the bush suffers and dies

**W**E sweltered through one of the hottest, driest summers on record. Relief was relative as April, too, had above average temperatures and little rain. Then, just when we thought the end was near, the first of May produced a day of total fire ban with bushfires blazing in several places around the state.

It was a stressful time for bushland and gardens alike, with most plants forced into survival mode existence. Many wilted. This is a common response to heat and drought which occurs when water evaporates from the leaves faster than it can be taken up by the roots, causing pressure in the leaf cells to decrease.

Some plants are better able to deal with water loss than others. In true Darwinian style, natural selection sorted out the weak from the strong, and as a result, the bush is like a battlefield littered with the casualties of summer. Fallen leaves, fallen branches, and here and there fallen trees—the botanical carnage creating enormous fuel loads for next summer's fire season. We may have escaped a major bushfire this time but our turn will surely come again.

Nowhere has been unaffected by the ravages of summer. In our own mostly native, mostly unwatered garden, several eucalypts, wattles and other shrubs—some planted eight to



## NATURE

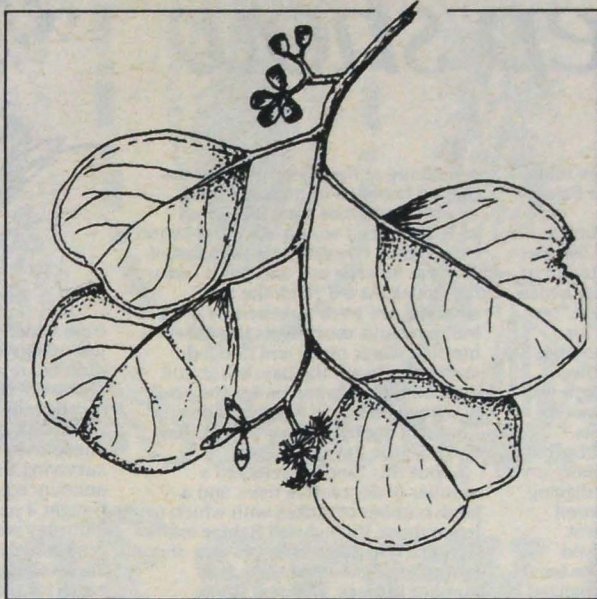
By **PAT COUPAR**  
Drawn by **MELANIE COUPAR**

ten years ago—have died.

Plants growing along the river were not immune either. On one rocky promontory, within a 25 metre radius, a whole range of species suffered, their leaves turning with the season from green to yellow to brown. A touch of English autumn in an Australian landscape, but when these leaves fall there will be no springtime replacements.

Even well-adapted eucalypts succumbed. The red box, Warrandyte's most dominant overstorey tree, fared best. In fact if Warrandyte were to have a floral emblem it should be the red box. For it is this tree, with its compact crown of pastel blue-grey leaves, which gives the steeply wooded hills around our town their special hue.

Red box occurs, often in pure stands, on Warrandyte's dry slopes and ridges, growing in incredibly nutrient-poor, stony soils where little else will grow. So what enables the red box to cope with such harsh conditions that others find intolerable? Like most eucalypts, it comes equipped with a basic survival kit consisting of tough bark, tough leaves and a specialised



root system. It's firmly-attached, finely-fissured, grey bark provides insulation to the delicate ring of growing tissue which lies beneath; its rounded leaves are thick and leathery to prevent water loss, added to which they hang vertically, minimizing exposure to the strong, drying rays of the sun. Finally the red box root system produces enzymes that combine with fungi in the soil to increase the tree's ability to extract phosphorus—one of

the most important nutrients—from the soil.

The rain came finally in early May, ending the driest seven month period on record for Melbourne, but much, much more will be required for the bush to make a full recovery. However, as Warrandyte settles into winter, the plants can begin to convalesce and to gather strength for their greatest growth spurt of the year when spring comes round again.

# Juvenile electronic grafitti artists conduct war of words

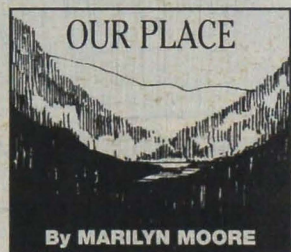
**H**E! He! He! Baby's a nong! ... Swine! Bash! I guess it's a sign of the times when messages like this appear on our screen saver.

(A word of explanation from computer-resistant readers: a screen saver is an energy saving image which replaces the view of your work on the monitor every time you don't touch the keyboard for a few minutes.)

The usual maddeningly scrolling scribble-shaped image continually intrudes into my most concentrated (and obviously too lengthy) efforts to think of the right word. And clearly I'm not the only one who's had enough of it.

Somebody in this house has worked out how to replace the proprietary screen savers with original text and, I'm sorry to say, has thereby opened up a whole new dimension in intrafamily communication.

The ongoing slanging match between Baby and Wabby, legendary partners in villainy and accomplished verbal adversaries, might do wonders for the creative writing powers and software manipulation skills of certain offspring, but it does next to nothing for anybody else.



## OUR PLACE

By **MARILYN MOORE**

You scrofulous old fleabag! Aarghh! Splat.

Did they think that all their usual interruptions to my few quiet moments on the computer weren't enough? This month I thought I might, for the benefit of *Diary* readers, concoct an article about the seasonal onslaught of mice.

Traces of our regular autumn invaders are making their appearance, so I guess it's time to get ruthless with the contents of the storeroom. It seems criminal to throw out so many potentially useful bits and pieces, but there you go. Mice are mice.

Or are they? A 3LO listener phoned in to speak to Alan Read from the Gould League a little while ago, because he'd discovered that ...

"Mum! Mum!" Rushing feet,

tripping over chairs and bounding up the stairs. "Mum!" sounds ominous. "I can see a baby budgie!" Cripes, I was imagining a broken arm at the very least. "He's looking out of the nest! He's got white feathers!"

More rushing feet. "Not white! Yellow!" "White!" "You didn't look properly, he's yellow!"

I'd better look for myself. Sure enough, two little heads pop in and out of the hole in the log half-buried on the floor of the aviary. One yellow, one white. There's been massive cheeping emanating from that log for several weeks and much speculation has been going on as to the exact quantity of cheeping, and its potential genealogy.

Within minutes, with the tally at five and identification already getting tricky, we rack our brains for names. For some obscure reason, the bold yellow baby reminds us of Brenda, the wonder-camel of Cairo Jim fame. Maintaining this Egyptian connection, the large white baby could only be Bone. A second albino is christened Amun-Ra. The cheery blue baby answers to Neptune, and the tiniest fluffball just has to be Flannelbottom.

Oh, why did we do it? The ma-

lignant Captain Neptune Flannelbottom Bone merits no such flattery. I hope a certain young member of the antiquities club can keep her mouth shut, because if Cairo Jim ever finds out she will undoubtedly be excommunicated.

At last, back to the computer. Mice. "Ha! Ha! Baby's going to the orthodontist!" Dddzzz! Aargh!

Oh, you naughty boy. I'll just erase that. Now, what was really interesting about this particular caller to 3LO was that his invasion of mice actually turned out to be a colony of fat-tailed dunnarts. What a facer! Any eradication program here would be totally ...

"Look!" shrieks Baby, flapping madly from amongst layers of bedclothes. "Look! 6.45pm. It's a paragraph!" What? "6.46 ... it's a paragraph". Don't you mean palindrome? "That's what I said ... it's a paragraph! What's for dinner?"

It's nearly midnight before a tell-tale greenish glow reminds me that I've left the computer on. And some little scoundrel's been at it again. "He! He! Anybody who reads this is a hairy baboon". It must be those damned mice.

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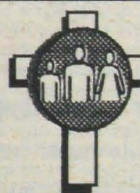
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# The black and white sheep show

Forty-four years ago, on June 8 1953, The Charlwood family moved into their partially-completed home in rural Templestowe.

**DON CHARLWOOD** wrote this piece a few years later.

**T**HE house was at length built. On our ninth wedding anniversary I carried my bride, two kids and the cat over our war service home's threshold and deposited them beside a stack of timber on the lounge floor.

As soon as the removalists had smashed the last of our furniture and gone away, I said to my family, "Now that we have a home in the country we must put our land to good use".

We possessed a patch of lemon orchard in an area soon to become known—for a few glorious weeks—as the Green Belt. At a conference in our unlined kitchen, I said pontifically, "Grass is overrunning the orchard. The first thing to do is to get some sheep. Lemons and wool should bring in a tidy income."

The children were immediately enthusiastic but my wife asked drily, "Where do you intend to build the woolshed?"

The children already knew of an animal named Bahlee, a black sheep with a particularly blank expression and a full mouth, as we say in grazing circles. Bahlee's owner gave him away with alacrity. A friend sold me another sheep called Bubbles, a two-tooth wether with a nervous disposition.

I loosed this pair in the orchard and told the family to watch the grass disappear. First to disappear was

Bubbles. I recovered him three miles away on the borders of North Balwyn. After paying for someone's liquidambar and bringing Bubbles home by car, I bought myself 500 feet of wire-netting and hired an Italian to help net the place. This Italian, a man whose only English words were "ten poun's" conveyed to me that for sheep the grass was much too high. For twelve pounds I had it mowed.

It was now autumn and growth was slow. Bahlee and Bubbles began to keep the orchard a show place. Friends from the disdained suburbs envied us our rural peace. I spent my few spare hours contentedly digging round the lemon trees. I manured them and sprayed them. I learnt about wet feet and collar rot and could almost converse with the local orchardists. All this time I visualized thousands of lemons at sixpence each.

One day early that first winter, I was doing some outside repairs when I saw Bubbles eating a lemon tree, his forefeet in the branches. I threw the hammer at him—the last I saw of it, incidentally, for several months—but undeterred he went to another tree and persuaded Bahlee to join him. Eating lemon trees now became their daily practice. Before long, all the bottom branches were bare and much of the young fruit was on the ground. A neighbour who had heard me

screaming at the sheep assured me that all I needed to do was to buy lucerne hay. Once they had eaten well, the sheep would leave the lemon trees alone. I bought several bales of 18 carat lucerne hay and put it under the house. At 6 o'clock the next morning, we were wakened by a bumping and snorting as the sheep hurdled water pipes and dodged stumps to reach the hay. It was still dark but I clambered under the house in my pyjamas and fought till dawn. That day I bought more wire netting to net in the hay.

About this time we selected a number of decorative trees and a large number of stakes with which to fence them. By nightfall Bahlee and Bubbles had demolished twelve of my fences and had eaten the same number of trees. The rest they finished for breakfast. With a good deal of restraint I announced that I was going to cut both their throats. There were wails from the children and a disappearance of the carving knife.

But by this time there was slight consolation. My wife had become a picker and a sorter of lemons. When I saw her first half-dozen cases I realised that, with due care, our land might yet yield an income. An orchardist took our neatly-packed lemons to Victoria Market. He returned with two pounds in cash



from which he made a substantial deduction for cartage. After that I didn't care any more whether the sheep ate the lemon trees or not. As for the hay, it was full of mice.

But spring brought fresh hope. The sheep's wool lengthened, the few surviving trees put out brave shoots. I announced one evening that I had bought a pair of shears and that next Saturday we would begin shearing. Fourteen children assembled on shearing day and gladly ran Bahlee to earth for me. I upturned him expertly. "Shearers start first on the belly," I explained.

"The sheep's eatin' yer shirt!" shouted a youngster.

I gave Bahlee an elbow jolt and kept cutting at his black belly. His wool was like a doormat, tangled, full of burrs and, I regret, verminous.

After an hour the children began to drift away. After two hours my wife called "Smoke-oh!" I stood up and Bahlee leapt away from me, trailing skirts of wool. The two remaining spectators retrieved him while I drank my tea. Then I was left alone.

During the next hour we wrestled in silence; sometimes I was on top, sometimes Bahlee.

At this juncture a neighbour called, an ardent supporter of the RSPCA. As soon as she saw blood she began referring obliquely to cruelty to animals. When next I gained position on top of Bahlee I remarked coldly that the blood was my own and that I was in a mood to cut throats. The lady disappeared out of our lives.

Bahlee's black wool was too matted to sell. At dusk I burnt it, then my wife hosed me down. Bahlee himself was so satanically handsome that Bubbles failed to recognise him, and the two spent several hours bleating at each other in inane efforts to re-establish friendly relations.

Next morning I shored Bubbles in three hours and twenty minutes. It was a distinct improvement, but before nightfall I had had enough. Despite the children's tears I sold the sheep for five shillings to another Collins Street farmer. My wool cheque reached me a week later. It was one pound and sixpence.

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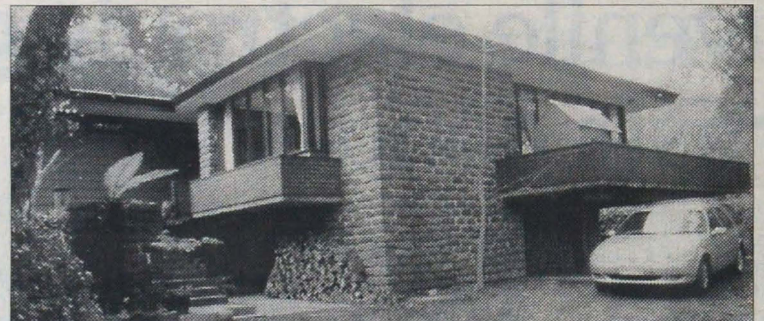
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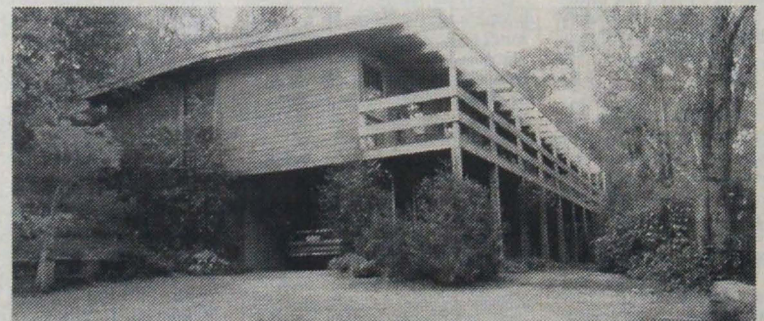
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# Season of grey and gold

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## 2 DEEP WINTER

*The coldest weather of the year after the solstice does not slow down the fauna, as most of the residents are involved in breeding activities to gain an advantage over the spring-summer migrants. The flora begins to awaken with flowering processes being prepared.*

**A**S EARLY dawn light separates shapes in the riparian forest, a female powerful owl sweeps low on the Yarra River to bathe in the icy cool waters. After a night on the nest—containing two eggs laid in the first week of June—it is a welcome relief from the tight confines of the nest hollow. The male powerful owl watches from a nearby roost tree within view of the nest tree, which is a huge river red overhanging the water.

A male brush-tailed phascogale, dazed and exhausted after the frenzy of the breeding period, is easy prey for the black kite, which picks him off for breakfast as the light of day defines the forest floor. Nearby is another breeding frenzy fatality: a dead male brown antechinus lies, not yet snapped up by the roving carnivores.

Along the river, river reed has dried out completely and thickly fringes the water's edge with a rich, pale, brown, dried sheath. Small-leaf clematis cascades from silver wattle acacia dealbata in a bow of white flowers. It is a quiet season for the aquatic invertebrate, their life cycles restricted by the cold and turbid waters. However the Yarra crayfish spawns on the muddy river bottom.

When heavy rain falls during the early morning, the rest of the day will remain enclosed in heavy grey clouds, some touching the forest tops in faint wisps. The ambience tends gloomy and introspective, the colours are dulled with a sombre stillness pervading the day.

Some deep winter days are consumed by Gonwanan mists, others are so bleakly freezing that they suggest other climates with their Arctic-generated winds, honed and sharpened by a kidney-chilling cold. Occasionally, for days on end, neither the moon, sun nor stars are visible. If the weather stabilises for a few days, frosts are followed by clear sunny days.

The reflected glow of silver wattle's golden flowers on the brown rising river water, is a seasonality event that has enchanted artists, naturalists and anyone else who cares to look. The prodigious

blooming marks the sun's return from the northern hemisphere.

The mournful trill of the fan-tailed cuckoo heralds the blooming of the wattles, as spoken of by Barak of the Wurundjeri when he told of the timing of his father's death and the timeline for his own passing. Silver wattles wreath the river in a yellow timelonian celebration of the passing of the elders. Changes in the human condition appear to correspond to the sun's return; a wrenching, twisting feeling of biomagnetic calibration.

The theme of this series of essays by **GLEN JAMESON** is the representation of a mythical day for each of these seasons, a day that incorporates important seasonal indicators and patterns characteristic of that season.

Downstream on the sodden riparian floodplains of the Yarra Flats, flocks of sacred ibis and Australian ibis probe the soft earth for food flushed to the surface by rising water table levels. Cattle egret mobs similarly work Birrarung Park where later they will roost for the night on the billabong island there or at Petty's Lake.

The usually solitary white-faced heron is now found in flocks, working together to find food sources in the wet pastures. A lone Pacific heron stalks the swale drain of Westerfolds. Yellow-faced spoonbill sweeps the edge of a wetland where nightly small choruses of southern brown tree frogs, common froglets and the whistling tree frog are heard on all but the coldest, frostiest nights.

Wetlands have slowed their productivity levels as many of the aquatic plants—river club rush, marsh club rush and especially the introduced bullrush leaves—die off after the cool winter weather stops growth. Pairs of wood ducks perch on entrances to breeding hollows, clucking away to each other about the coming brood.

In the corridor along Gold Memorial Gully, a flock of silvereyes disturbs the foraging of a pair of pink robins, migrants from Tasmania for the winter. Another uncommon, locally nomadic winter mi-

grant using the local bushland corridors is the olive honeyeater. In a colourful display, an eastern spinebill collects nectar from a pink flowered heath. Working his way up the Mullum Mullum Creek corridor, a male juvenile koala is road-killed on Warrandyte-Heidelberg Road as he discovers the fatal breaks in the faunal corridors.

A few days before the winter solstice, a female wedge-tail eagle sits in a huge candlebark in the river paddock of Longridge Park. A little raven attempts a few harassing sweeps and then is joined by several sulphur crested cockatoos who accelerate the aerial harassment. This all stops with the landing of a male wedge-tail eagle in the candlebark near the female. Gently, the big eagles move together to touch and then copulate, completing the ritual cycle of thousands of years.

European rabbits are in top breeding gear, providing plenty of food for the breeding wedge-tail eagles and barking owls. What will provide food if the rabbit extermination programs are successful?

Their pleasant wailing whistles are heard long before they are seen. When they finally sweep into view, the effect is breathtaking. A flock of forty or so yellow-tailed black cockatoos passes low overhead in slow flight, resembling a squadron of lumbering bombers. They head for a stand of silver wattles to search for cossid larvae that bore their way through the trunks and branches. Usually only five or six yellow-tail black cockatoos are all-year residents in the Yarra Valley parklands. This annual deep winter visitation by the mob may be part of a songline tour of their greater territory range, perhaps acquainting young birds with the terrain.

Their happy chorus is a thrilling challenge to

the cold weather; their presence in such numbers an eagerly awaited timelonian pleasure.

In the grassy woodlands in the valleys and slopes, magpies and Australian ravens are adding finishing touches to nests, as is a brown thornbill, whose construction is tucked amidst a stand of bracken. Flocks of red-rumped parrots and yellow-rumped thornbills and mixed flocks of red-browed firetails are still found together. Superb fairy-wrens—males in breeding plumage—flock with white-browed scrub wrens.

The pest plants cootamundra wattle and early black wattle are in brilliant golden bloom. Yellow box, an important component of many vegetation communities and supplier of winter nectar, is flowering prolifically. On the ground, cordyceps fungi parasitise insect larvae to complete their life cycle. Leaves of many orchids and herbaceous plants have sprouted and begin to grow vigorously.

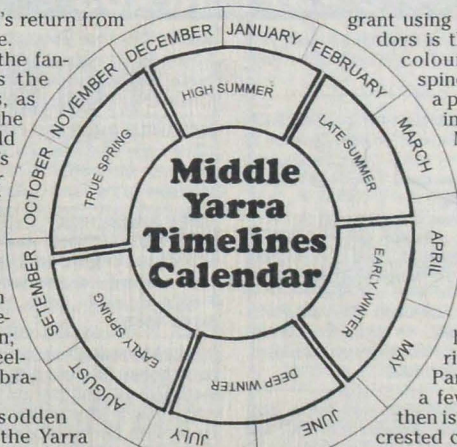
On a rocky escarpment, a small group of echidnas is in breeding mode. They have been digging up nests of meat ants to exploit the energy rich food source of virgin queens, whose nests are closer to the surface during this season. Once mating is completed, the female echidna will retire to her nursery burrow with an egg in her pouch. Occasionally two or more echidnas may share a shelter site; perhaps a hollowed tree trunk base.

On a fence is a scarlet robin, as welcome as winter sunshine. The first flowers of early nancy, common beard heath and spreading wattle are out and tiny greenhood, nodding greenhood and trim greenhoods flowers can be found. Fruit has formed on craneberry heath.

On a hilltop, flocks of varied sittellas and striated pardalotes glean insects from a red box, under which spreading wattle begins to flower. Gang gangs, although often found eating the ripe red berries of the introduced hawthorn, are now feeding on the seed of the long leaf box. The tiny greenhood is in flower, as is the trim greenhood, maroonhood and the nodding greenhood.

As darkness falls, into the gloaming night, a female powerful owl emerges from the nest hollow for a stretch and a feed from her partner. The male had gently hooted to the female to encourage her out, and, as both birds sit on a dead branch, he passes to her a headless ringtail possum. The female moves to a feeding roost to eat and preen, finally returning to the nest as the stars Achenar, Bootes, Spica, Antares and Regulus begin their domination of the deep winter night skies.

Above all, it is the return of the Aquila constellation (the eagle of the ancient Greeks), the bunjil of the Wurundjeri, that marks the return of the sun from the northern hemisphere; the return of our earth's creative life force.



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## Quest for young achievers

Nominations are now being accepted for the 1997 Warrandyte Lions Club Youth Awards. "This award is being made to a young person aged from 16 and up to 18 who has shown outstanding talent in one or more areas of personal endeavour including leadership, community interest and service, academic achievement and sporting achievement," awards convenor Graeme Doig told the *Diary*.

"The winner will receive \$500, with a further \$500 to the supporting organisation or nominating body. Second and third places are \$200 and \$100 to the placeholders with the same amounts to their nominating organisations."

Nominating organisations can be the Warrandyte High School, Warrandyte Youth Services or any other Warrandyte sporting, social or service club, excluding Lions. Furthermore, a friend, relative or employer may make a nomination. Contestants must live within 5 kilometres of Warrandyte Post Office or attend Warrandyte High School.

"Written applications—not exceeding 600 words—are sought and selected participants will be interviewed regarding their views of the future generation, the environment, the world at large, the role of youth in our society and their personal aspirations," Graeme Doig said.

Awards will be presented on Thursday, August 14 at a dinner meeting of the Warrandyte Lions Club at Kellybrook Winery Restaurant where the finalists will be asked to speak for five minutes on a subject of their choosing.

Applications close on Monday, June 30 and full details are available from Warrandyte Youth Services, Lions Club Opportunity Shop or by writing to the Lions Club, PO Box 18, Warrandyte, 3113. Telephone enquiries can be made to Graeme Doig on 9876 1304.

## High school kids run peer support scheme

Supporting Each Other is a motto Warrandyte High School students have taken to heart. In 1997, 180 senior and junior students are partnered in a peer support program aimed at helping Year 7 students in their first year of secondary school.

"Students work together in fun and skill development activities designed to promote self-esteem and coping skills, improve relationships and create a stronger sense of belonging," Greg Stewart, the school's student welfare co-ordinator told the *Diary*.

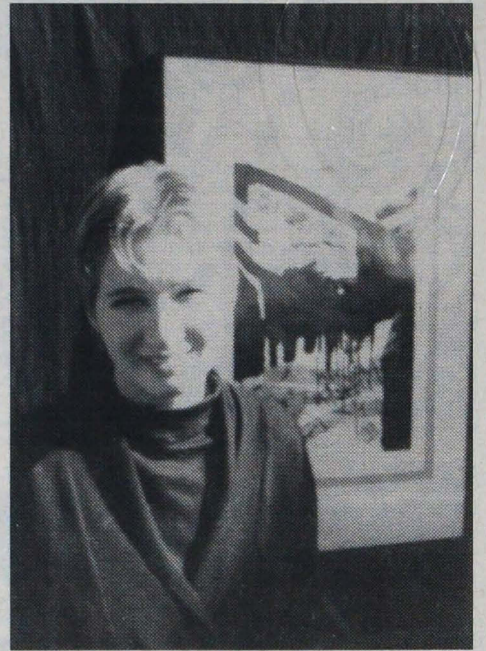
"The peer support program also features a cross-age tutoring class in which Year 10 students tutor Year 7 students in some of their mainstream classes and are trained to teach special units of work."

In 1995 the school was assessed by Vic Health's Options program as having "one of the lowest levels of bullying in Victorian schools".

"Our students are determined to keep this title and have strongly assisted in the development of an innovative anti-bullying program which senior students co-present to junior students in a series of workshops," Greg Stewart said.

The video which accompanies the program was developed, scripted and acted in by Warrandyte High School students and has been widely distributed throughout the state.

Another strong feature of this commitment at the school to the principle of supporting each other is the willingness of students to train to assist the student welfare co-ordinator, where appropriate, in helping other students tackle problems in areas such as low self-esteem,



Georgina Colvin, up-and-coming young artist, is a former student of Warrandyte High School. Her work is on sale at the school's art show this month.

relationships, homework and organisation and stress.

"Peer support is alive and well at Warrandyte High School and is a powerful way for young people to contribute strongly to their own well-being," Greg Stewart said.

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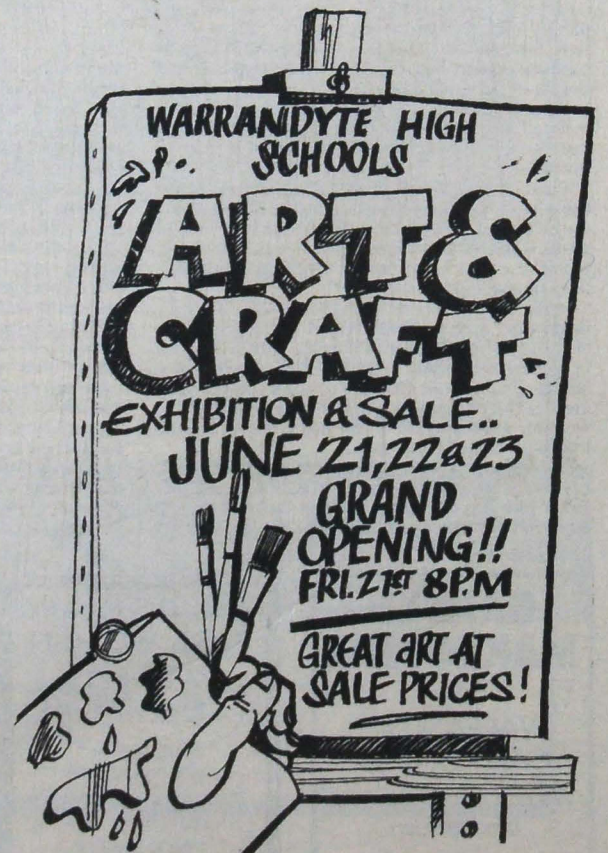
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# Pre-prep publicity

Warrandyte Primary School held a number of special activities to celebrate Education Week last month. Included in these was the launch of the school's latest newsletter, Pre-prep News, designed to keep parents of pre-schoolers up-to-date with what is happening in the prep area of the school, and to help the transition from pre-school to school. It will be available on a regular basis at local kindergartens and child care centres and from the school office. The school is holding a prep information night on Tuesday, June 17 at 7.30pm to specifically discuss the prep year. Further information from the school on 9844 3537.

## Drama

Warrandyte Theatre Company's season of Visiting Hour by Richard Harris continues on June 12, 13 and 14. Directed by Ken Virtue, the play is set in an English hospital. Bookings, if you hurry, can be made through Laurie Shaw on 9844 1376.

## Grand

The next fund-raiser at Warrandyte's Grand Hotel will be an Irish night with Riley's Boot on Friday, July 4. Tickets, at \$13, are on sale but need to be collected one week in advance. Supper is included in the price. The fund-raiser for this event is The Phantoms basketball team. Also at the Grand Hotel, on Friday, July 18, the Warrandyte Theatre

Company (and friends) are presenting the Midwinter Follies. Funds raised will go to the Mechanics Institute Hall. Booking at the hotel one week in advance—\$13 a ticket.

## Tappers

Warrandyte Arts Association tappers' group is back strutting its stuff each Wednesday. Newcomers will be made most welcome. Call Phil Swindley on 9844 2418 for details.

## Show

Sydd Tunn and Ona Henderson will open the annual Warrandyte High School art and craft show at 8pm on Friday, June 20. There will be musical entertainment and a champagne supper. The exhibition continues through the weekend.

## Trivia

The Anglican parish of Warrandyte and Park Orchards invites the community to join in the fun of a trivia night on Saturday, June 28 at Emmanuel Church, Hopetoun Road, Park Orchards, starting at 7.30pm.

## Mums

At 10am on Wednesday, June 18, the Warrandyte Nursing Mothers Group will be holding their monthly coffee morning. It will be at the Warrandyte Maternal and Child Health Centre in Tarooma Avenue. This is an in-



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formation morning for mums and kids of all pre-school ages. All mothers with an interest in breastfeeding, childcare and parenting are most welcome. Please phone Jenny (9844 4730) or Andrea (9844 1112) for further information.

## Arts

Members of the Warrandyte Arts Association are displaying paintings, pottery and crafts at the Eltham Library Gallery until June 16.

## Artspace

A major solo exhibition of large-scale oil paintings and gouaches by Chris Shelton is the featured show at Manningham Artspace, behind the Manningham Municipal Offices in Doncaster Road, during June. Further information on 9840 9367.

## Transport

The parishioners of St Stephens Church are arranging library transport for the elderly citizens in our community. Anyone interested in using this service is invited to phone vicar Garry Gason on 9844 3473, or Debbie on 9844 3651.

## Friends

Friends of Warrandyte State Park run a variety of activities each month, on both Thursdays and Sundays. Thursday, July 12 sees a planting morning at the Pound Bend Tunnel, and on July 19 there is a species enrichment survey, looking at rare and threatened plants that have been recently planted at both Jumping Creek Reserve and The Common. Friends' Sunday activities include a Fourth Hill Extravaganza on June 29, a Frog Day on July 27, Koornong riverwalk on August 31 and a wildflower walk through the Timber Reserve on September 21. The group welcomes new members. Further information from Julie Bishop on 9844 4661.

## News

A simple way to keep the community informed of your group's activities and coming events is by putting the *Diary* on your newsletter mailing list. We will then select appropriate items and publish them in this column.



Robbie Gedge wed Tu pham recently. They were married in the family home at Warrandyte and chose the Tunnel at Pound Bend as a setting for this photo.

Manningham

Community Health Service

## FEELING ISOLATED? FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO GET OUT?

MANNINGHAM Community Health Service runs a number of ADASS (Adult Day Activity Support Service) programs to help in these situations. These programs are directed at frail elderly, who find it difficult to get out of their own, or family's homes. This program provides participants with the opportunity to meet other people, whilst experiencing a wide range of enjoyable and stimulating activities and outings, and also provides respite for carers.

Manningham Community Health Service is currently running two ADASS programs for frail elderly people from English and non-English speaking backgrounds within the City of Manningham. These programs are currently being run on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at

Doncaster Senior Citizens Centre. Two further days will be run on Mondays, at Park Orchards Community House, and Fridays at Warrandyte Neighbourhood House from 10am to 2pm.

Further to this, a program is being developed on Wednesdays for younger people under the age of 55, who have experienced some form of disability, such as acquired brain injury. This program will provide access to a range of leisure pursuits for participants and respite for carers.

Carer Support groups which provide practical and moral support to carers, and information from a variety of guest speakers, are also held regularly.

For further information on the above programs, contact the Co-ordinator on phone 9848 2424.

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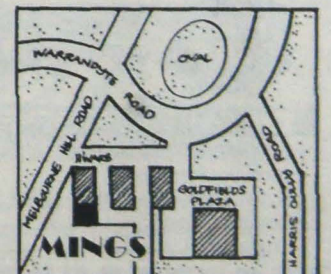
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# Phantoms on a capital mission

The Grand Hotel Phantoms women's basketball team will be represented for the first time this year at the interstate Masters Games in Canberra, from October 24 to November 1.

The Phantoms, who play twice a week in competitions based in Diamond Creek and Kilsyth, have several fundraisers in motion to finance the trip, starting with an Irish Night in the hotel function room on Friday, July 4.

It's \$13 a head, which includes supper, live music, Irish entertainment and an auction with a difference. Among the lots going under the hammer will be the Phantoms Spring Cleaning Team, who will move into your home and make it look as good as new if not better.

Tickets are available through the Grand Hotel or by phoning Alison Aldenhoven on 9844 1619.

"Basketball in this area is a big and fast-growing sport, particularly among the younger members of the community," Ms Aldenhoven told the *Diary*.

"Facilities in Warrandyte are totally inadequate for the present players, let alone the growing number of children and adults wanting to take part.

"We feel that sending a senior team to Canberra will not only be good for the sport in general but may also focus a little more attention on the popularity and presence of basketball in Warrandyte.

"We have received support from local business and we'd like to thank Mings Restaurant, Warrandyte Football Club, the Lions Club, Templestowe RSL, Warrandyte Cellars and Melbourne Apartments, all of whom contributed to our festival sausage sizzle.

"And, of course, thanks to the Grand Hotel for its continuing support."

*The Grand Hotel Phantoms.*  
Top (from left):  
Sally Jackson, Maree Mahoney, Anne Marie Reid, Alison Aldenhoven.

Front (from left):  
Sharon Benson, Lynette Howard (coach), Kim Mulcahy, Narelle Urli (assistant coach). They're off to Canberra to focus attention on basketball in Warrandyte.



## Young guns to shoot it out

The fifth annual Great Australian Shoot-out, the biggest junior basketball event in this country and the second-biggest of its kind in the world, starts on July 28.

Hosted by Nillumbik Shire Council, the shoot-out is expected to attract more than 12,000 people to the shire over its seven days.

Thirty teams (10 women's, 20 men's) from as far afield as the United States and South Africa will compete.

"The event is a recognised breeding ground for international-class basketballers," said organiser Brian Harvey.

"Australian under-22 captain and Olympic representative Sam McKinnon and fellow NBL player Chris Anstey have progressed through the Great Australian Shoot-out to bigger and better things.

"Five players, including Fred Hoyberg and Lauren Myer, have gone on to play NBA basketball."

Harvey said teams from Iowa, Wisconsin, Washington, Kansas and Colorado in the US were confirmed starters. Teams from Alice Springs, Darwin, Tasmania, NSW and Victoria would make up the field.

"Basketball Australia will recognise the highest-ranked Australian team as Australian club champion for 1997," Harvey said.

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# Now, survival mode!

## Staying up there is top priority for new-look Bloods

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club approach the halfway mark of the 1997 season with just one win on the board from eight games and survival in EDFL Second Division their top priority.

In a season which has seen the departure of new coach Greg Cole after just five games, the Bloods are sitting second-last on the ladder, ahead of Mulgrave, who have yet to win.

Cole, who had come to Warrandyte from the Yarra Valley Mountain District Football League as playing coach, resigned on May 16, on the eve of the round six game against Boronia.

He was replaced by reserves coach Dale McCartin, who was appointed for the rest of this season.

"The committee had decided that Greg was coaching too much on the ground, concentrating too much on that and consequently not manning up enough as a player," WFC president Jeff Evans told the *Diary*.

"It was decided that it was in his and the club's best interests that he stand down as a player for the Boronia game and coach from the boundary.

"Greg refused to do this and resigned."

Cole declined to comment on his resignation, apart from saying that he was "disappointed but wished the club well".

His brother Steve, assistant coach Andy Comello and Richard Kent, who came to Warrandyte with the new coach, have left with him. So has ruckman Scott Parnell, who works for Cole.

Greg Cole, Parnell and Kent have been cleared to Heath-



mont, in EDFL Third Division. Comello's application for a clearance to The Basin, in Division 2, has gone to appeal.

When this edition of the *Diary* went to press, Steve Cole had not sought a clearance. Former Warrandyte player Russell Treverton, who returned to the club this season from the YVMDFL, has stayed with the Bloods.

The player loss has been partly offset by the arrival of Aaron Woolley, a ruck-rover from Wonthaggi, and Shaun Dixon, a defender from Heidelberg.

"We are looking to pick up another couple of players," Evans said.

"We play Doncaster, Blackburn, North Ringwood and Boronia at home in coming matches and these are games we could conceivably win.

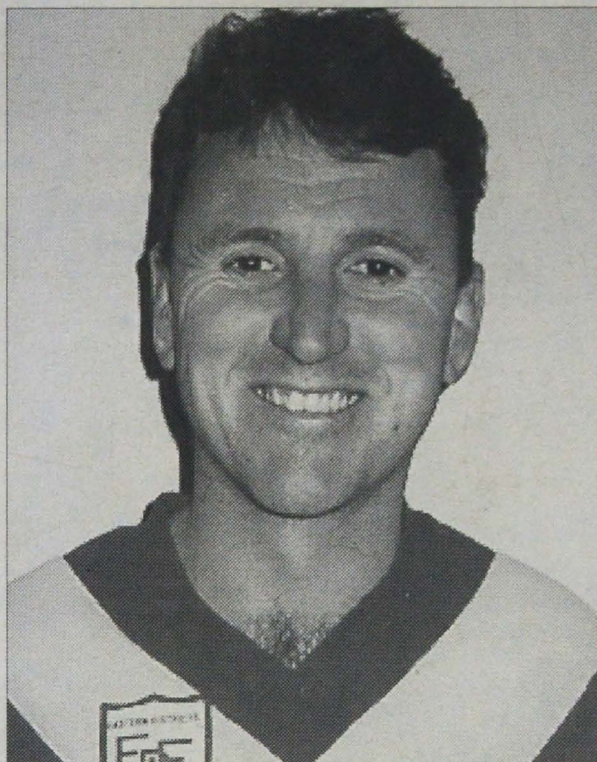
Evans conceded that the pre-season target of winning at least eight to 10 games this year, the first stage of a three-year-plan to win the premiership in 1999, was now out of reach.

He said: "We want to build this year for the future. Our main aim is to get enough wins to avoid relegation and team-build at the same time."

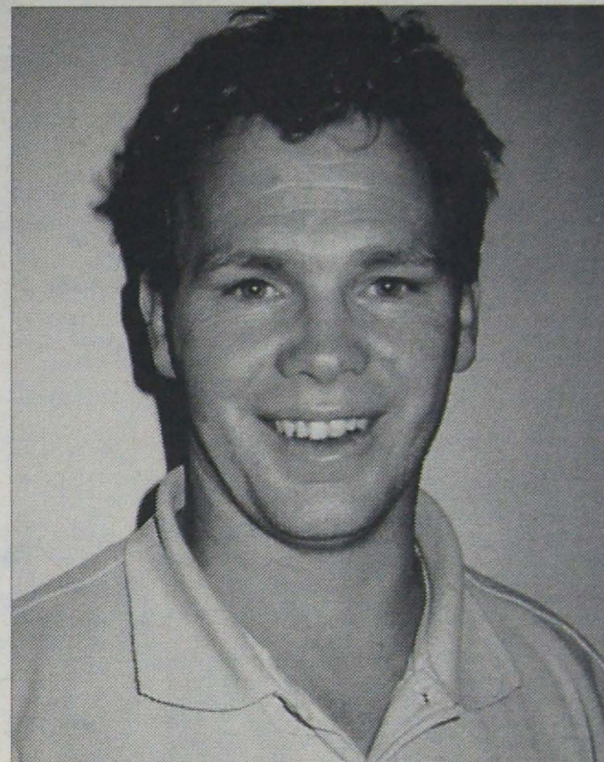
The president said the turning point for the club this season hopefully had come in the Boronia game, McCartin's first as senior coach.

"The players got right behind Dale and it was only in the last quarter that Boronia were able to break the shackles," he said.

Warrandyte broke the ice in the next match, on May 24, at home to Mulgrave, winning by



IN: Dale McCartin.



OUT: Greg Cole.

67 points. They were no match, however, for Croydon in their latest outing, on May 31, going down by a big margin.

There were no EDFL matches over the Queen's Birthday weekend.

Evans said that despite the lack of success on the field morale at the club was high and attendance at training and at social functions had been very good.

He also pointed to the depth of young talent at the club—the likes of Liam Riley, Andrew Brown, Justin Edwards, Chris Tomlinson, Ben Saaksjarvi and James Logan, some of whom are still eligible for the Under-18s.

"It reminds us of the late 1980s, when we had another outstanding crop of youngsters—Kimberley O'Connor, Darren Peters, Dale Vitiritti, Cam Day, Joey Hassall, Tony Sturesteps, Lachlan McLean—come through

from the junior ranks," Evans said.

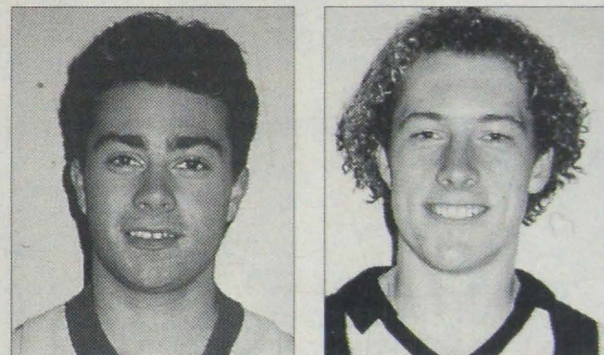
New coach McCartin agreed. "This is the best group of young players Warrandyte have had for many years," he said.

"Obviously, the club's immediate objective is to stay up (in Second Division). We have our next two games at home and hopefully we can win those and take the pressure off ourselves.

"We have improved. The older players—the Kimberley O'Connors, the John O'Briens, the Dale Vitiritti, the Glen McCartins—have lifted yet another notch and the young brigade—last year's Under-18s—have stepped up with them."

In the coaching reshuffle, Terry Ryan has been appointed caretaker coach of the reserves and club secretary Robert "Noddy" Ireland has again taken charge of the Under-18s.

## Tomorrow's heroes



Liam Riley (left) and Andrew Brown are just two of an outstanding crop of teenagers carrying the future hopes of Warrandyte Football Club. Under-18 players last year, they have made a huge impression in senior ranks this season.

## Juniors making mark in the 'bigger league'

Warrandyte Junior Football Club's expansion program has taken another major step with a successful entry into the new Yarra Junior Football League.

The young Bloods, who fielded just four teams (Under 10s, 12s, 14s and 16s) two years ago, now have nine, catering for every age from under-9 to under-16.

All but the Under-16s, who remained in the EDFL, now play in the Yarra league, formed by the merger of the Doncaster and Hawthorn junior competitions.

"It has been quite a step up, but we're very happy with progress, WJFC president Malcolm Eyre told the *Diary*.

"Our Under-13s are an example of the tougher competition in the new league, he said.

"As Under-12s they went through last season virtually undefeated but are finding it difficult to win this year," he said.

"Still, we think they have turned the corner now and expect them to finish the season strongly."

The club's two new teams this season, the Under-9 Tackers, have taken their entry into the competition in their stride, both winning three of their four games in a recent round-robin at Bulleen.

"The Under-10s and Under-11s are both doing reasonably well," Eyre said, "and the Under-12s

are in the top four, with just two losses so far.

"We are particularly pleased with the Under-14s. They lacked numbers early and were in danger of not having a team at all, but that's been turned around and they are playing very competitive football."

Eyre said the Under-15s were struggling, but had responded very well to new coach Andrew Brown, an Under-18s star last year and one of Warrandyte's best senior players this season.

"Andrew was good enough to put his hand up and is doing a great job for us," said Eyre.

"The Under-16s are really struggling. They are out of their class in the top division of the EDFL competition and have taken some bad beatings.

"To their great credit, though, they keep their heads up and never stop trying."

Junior training has been given a big lift by the floodlighting of the small oval at the recreation reserve.

"We'd been negotiating for lights for two years and Manningham council has paid for the entire project," Eyre said. "The club are very grateful."

Warrandyte now have the use of Stinton Reserve for training and Sunday games. About a third of the club's games are played there.

● Parents are asked to mark August 2 in their diaries as the tentative date for a dinner dance at the South Warrandyte Hall.

## Redbacks to follow up adventures in paradise

Warrandyte will send two teams to the second annual South Pacific Junior Basketball Tournament in Fiji later this year.

After a triumphant journey last December by Gavin Whitmore's Under-15 girls, Warrandyte Basketball Club will send an Under-13 boys team and an Under-15 girls team.

Damien Arsenis' Under-12A boys, grand finalists last season, will represent the Redbacks in the Under-13 division of the tournament and Lorraine Parfitt's Under-13 girls from the previous winter season will play in the Under-15 section.

Coach Arsenis expects the Under-13 boys—Adrian Eyre, Mathew Lynch, Adam McLaren, Travis Robinson, Blake Tobin and Hayden Wall—to gain invaluable experience on and off the court from the trip, helping them mature as players.

"After failing at the last hurdle in their grand final last season, they expect to go one better and win it all," Arsenis said.

Ms Parfitt's Under-15 girls include Philippa Bottomley, Danielle Feldman, Ellie Parfitt, Danica Pasinis, Jacqui Pasinis, Kelly Pollard and Dee Arsenis, who went to Fiji last year.

The girls are hoping to emulate that team's outstanding results.

Both touring teams will put in a lot of hard work to raise funds for the trip.

Regular barbecues will be held at the Goldfields Plaza and major fund-raising nights—including a trivia night in late July—are planned.

The Redbacks urge the Warrandyte community to support the local junior talent.

Meanwhile, the club's junior clinics for the 10-and-unders have been a huge success.

Held at the Donvale Sporting Complex (formerly Mullauna) in Springvale Road, the clinics run by Karen Pearce have often had up to 30 children participating.

Under the guidance of some young Redback coaches, the youngsters have been learning new skills and putting them into practice.

Ms Pearce believes the clinics are a great way of introducing children to basketball before they actually start playing. She pointed out that there was no pressure on them and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

There are still a few places left in the clinics, which will run from 4pm to 5pm each Monday until the end of the current winter season.

Bookings can be made with Ms Pearce on 9844 1214.



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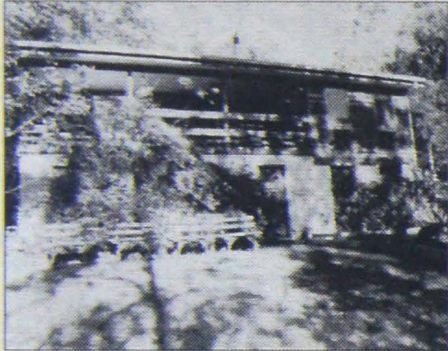
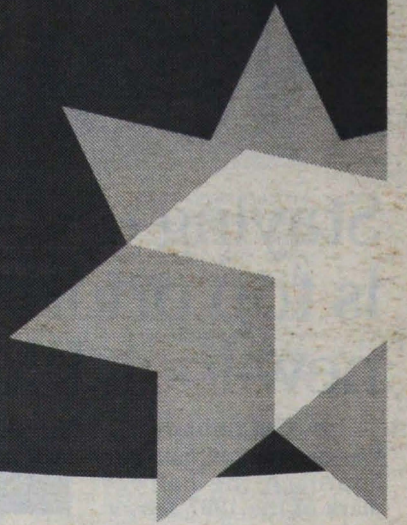
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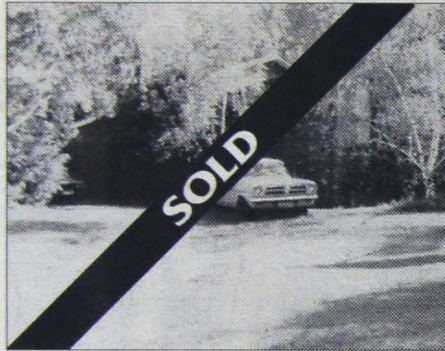
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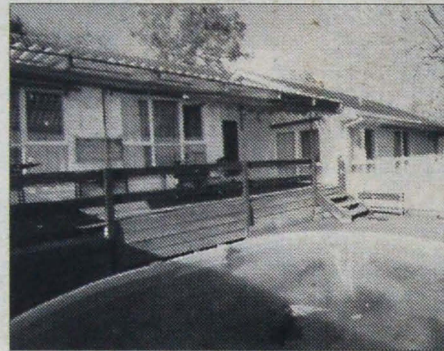
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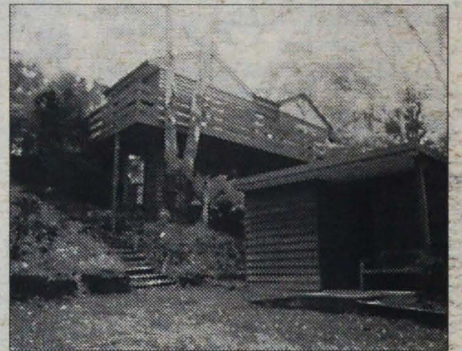
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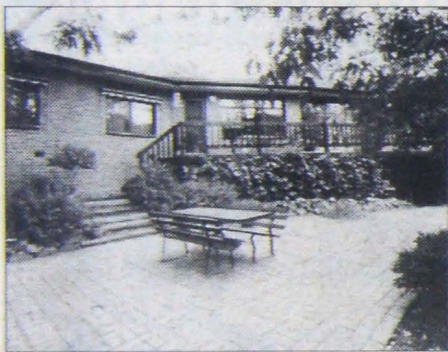
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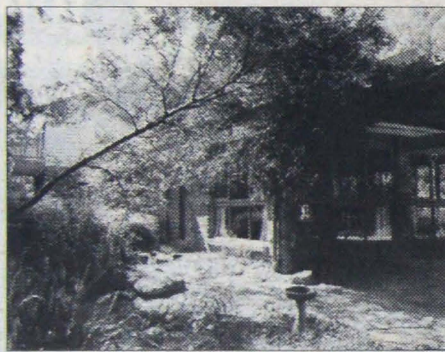
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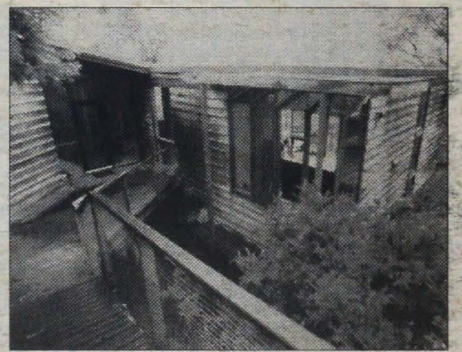


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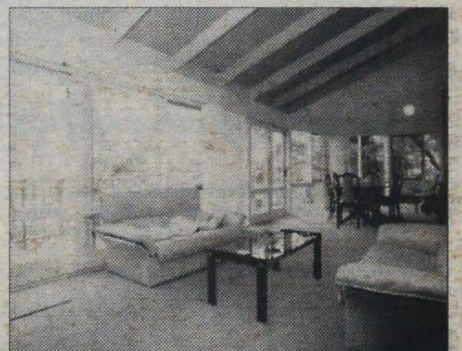
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