

We're the biggest book

buyers

So where's our public library?

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte boasts the greatest number of potential bookbuyers per capita in Australia, according to a national survey of consumer trends—but there's no public library and not a single bookshop in the town!

The survey, conducted by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research and reported in *The Weekend Australian* late last month, found that Warrandyte spent an estimated \$5.65 each week on books, the largest in Australia. Our neighbours in Eltham came in second, spending \$5.45 per week, with the Sydney suburb of St Ives in third place, spending \$5.35.

The NIEIR's Spendinfo service also found that Warrandyte is the country's third largest spender, per capita, on women's clothing after Templestowe (first) and Toorak (second).

Designed to help companies assess their marketing strategies and target unmapped markets, the report claims that Spendinfo, combining data from the population census and the Australian Bureau of Statistics household expenditure surveys, can analyse more than 400 goods and services and can narrow potential spenders down to 32,000 street blocks across the country.

Despite our continuing attraction to people choosing to open gift shops and antique dealerships—many of which fail with monotonous regularity—no-one has seen fit to risk their arm in a bookshop.

Dymocks Books managing director Keith Perkin told *The Australian* newspaper he was astonished at the finding.

"I'm flabbergasted," Mr Perkin said. The closest Dymocks bookshop is "about 20 minutes away".

Dr Otto Hellwig of the NIEIR explained that Warrandyte has relatively large households with children and, most importantly, was well-represented by educational professionals.

"That sector of the community tends to read a lot more than others," said Mr Perkin of Dymocks.

Dymocks would "tweak" its marketing strategy in light of these results, he said.

Many Warrandyte residents hope that those at Manningham council responsible for the allocation of library resources will also be "flabbergasted" and will be ready to similarly "tweak" their strategy.

Two months ago, the *Diary* featured a call for a public library in Warrandyte by Anthea Philippou, local mother and newsagent and former librarian. Anthea has since collected more than 700 signatures to a petition calling for a library.

This petition was tabled at the Manningham council meeting held on June 24.

Chief executive Bob Seiffert has written to Anthea Phillipou stating that council has included in its draft budget for 1997-98 an allowance to undertake a review of future directions for libraries in the city and "also to undertake to develop a strategic plan to enhance library facilities throughout the municipality, including the east of the city".

"The development of the strategic plan will address the issue of library services in the Warrandyte area," Bob Seiffert wrote.

Council will complete its review of library services by June, 1998, "by which time council will be in a position to consider future options".



"This puppy loves us and we love him!" Children at Warrandyte Pre-school learn about living with dogs. Full story and another Jan Tindale pic on page 5

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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WARRANDYTE DIARY

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We should ask you to stop us if you've heard this one (or a variation of it), but we've no way of knowing, so here we go: Chuffed with his decision to ignore the greens and develop Wilsons Promontory anyway, Jeff Kennett drove to Warrandyte to check out first-hand the impact of another of his government's environmental whizzbangery—the staff cuts at the state park. His day was ruined somewhat when he ran off the road and into the river. Three kids fishing on the banks of the Yarra jumped in and dragged him out. "You've just saved your Premier's life and guaranteed the future prosperity of the state of Victoria!" a very modest and grateful Kennett told his saviours, "and I'm young to reward you by giving you anything you wish." The first kid said he'd like one of those new-model skateboards with the fat wheels, the second the very latest in mountain bikes with 19 gears. "And what about you, son," Kennett asked the third. "I'd like a state funeral," he replied. "A state funeral? Why on earth would one so young be thinking of funerals?" asked our beloved leader. "Because I'm going to need one when my old man finds out what I've just done!" said the kid.



Terry Sloan is a long-time avid follower and astute judge of local footy and while others choose to overlook the faults and foibles of the Bloods and blame the umpires or the weather or whatever for our defeats, Terry does not. He calls it as he sees it and if that means telling our blokes a few home truths from the terraces, then so be it. A letter, on Warrandyte Football Club letterhead, arrived at Terry's place just before the start of the season informing him that he'd been appointed football manager and would be expected at every training session to onpass to the players his boundless knowledge of the game. The letter rather caustically pointed out that, since he consistently bagged his own players, Terry obviously knew all there was to know and that knowledge should be put to use. Assuming the letter had been written by WFC president Jeff Evans—who just happens to be his brother-in-law—Terry was very cross and decided he'd been staying away from the footy this season. But if he'd taken a closer look, he'd have found it was signed by the "senior vice-president", a post which does not exist. No, the letter had come from Terry's fun-loving brother Lawrie, Bloods president for umpteen years and league executive member for almost as long. So Terry Sloan will be back on the terraces at Tarroona Avenue—as soon as he and wife Barbara return from an overseas holiday.



We owe Sharon Bensch, of Brackenbury Street, an apology (or our sporting editor does). On Page 14 last month we reported a fundraising campaign by the Grand Hotel Phan-

IN RED & WHITE



Sharon Bensch (no relation to Benson).

toms women's basketball team for their trip to the Masters Games in Canberra in October and in the caption to the team picture managed to call her Sharon Benson. To right the wrong, we publish here a single-out photo of Sharon who, as you'll agree, is a very fine-looking lady. No wonder hubby Mark goes straight home from work. The Phantoms, incidentally, thank all those who made their Irish Night fundraiser at the Grand on July 4 such a ripper.



We've told you before about John "Tiger" Laing, the Richmond fanatic of Fossickers Way for whom life is rarely dull, and he bobs up again here as the victim of a fitness campaign that went horribly wrong. Tiger took a long, hard look at himself in the mirror and decided the "summer muscle" he'd developed over the season of plenty would have to go. So he joined a gym and was doing all right—until he slipped on the soap in the shower after a workout and did both knees. A cartilage in one, cruciate in the other. And he thought his footy team were in the wars! Tiger is not the only West Ender on crutches at the moment either. Jamie Booth, of Drysdale Street, managed to run into a door and break three toes. Don't ask us how.



Former *Diary* staffer Clinton Grybas, who is making a national name for himself sportscasting for the ABC in Perth, will be back home on holiday in October, coinciding with the National Basketball League finals. Basketball is the first of Clinton's many sporting loves (he was vice-president of the local club and editor of its magazine before going west) and he phoned South-East Melbourne Magic, for whom he'd worked in public relations, to arrange finals tickets. "Sorry," said his Magic mate,



briefly shattering Clinton's faith in human nature, "can't get you a ticket—but we'll have a microphone for you." Clinton will be doing guest commentaries. And he'll certainly have a ticket.



Our Bus Stop Spy (who likes to be called The Easyrider these days since the National took over the eastern suburbs from the Met) checked in the other day with some sensational revelations. "Did you know," he said, "that on Tuesday," June 24, the front door of the 8.56am long bus out of Warrandyte wouldn't open and the next day it wouldn't close? It wasn't so bad on the Tuesday because the driver was letting passengers on through the rear door, but on the Wednesday we all had to wait for the next bus because if the front door don't close the bus don't go. Locks the brakes, see. And do you realise that a lot of people believe that if they get on through the rear door they don't have to pay a fare?" No, we didn't. And thank you, Easyrider. There was going to be something extra in your pay this time for so enlightening us, but we've decided to fine you that amount for poor grammar. "If the door don't close the bus don't go" indeed!



We met an Eltham bloke named Martin O'Brien who told us his son Aron had been sent home from Eltham College for shaving his head as a bit of a lark. We remember when schools were sending young fellows home for growing their hair long. Is there no pleasing our educators?



It just had to be an omen. As Warrandyte kicked their fourth goal in the first quarter to run to a 12-point lead over North Ringwood on July 5, a lone pink and grey bird of the parrot kind (*cacatua roseicapilla*) flew over the pavilion. Did this mean we were going to make galahs of the highly-rated visitors? When you get to Page 15 you'll learn that omens can be terribly deceptive. Never mind, the day wasn't a total loss. The ladies' chicken and champagne luncheon was a huge success—so much so that the club almost had to call in bouncers that night to persuade the guests to go home. The girls have now demanded a luncheon at every home game. That's not on, but there will be more of them.



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Nature's war zone!

Heritage country club straddles precious riverlands

The Heritage Golf and Country Club, an ambitious luxury resort on the Yarra River, bordering Wonga Park and extending across the river into Kangaroo Ground, is proceeding apace.

The original plan, to be built on environmentally sensitive Green Wedge country, envisaged two 18-hole golf courses, 185 condominiums and 120 villa houses.

"The view from the top of Mt Lofty is undergoing an enormous change as the first stage of the resort hurtles towards completion," Flora Anderson of the Friends of Mt Lofty told the *Diary*.

"For weeks now, earthmoving equipment has been taking advantage of the dry weather to form the 18 holes of the St John Golf Course."

The *Diary* first reported plans to build the resort in November 1994. The Melbourne Weekly newspaper stated recently that international designer Jack Nicklaus "assists Nature with the use of lakes, moving water, high technology draining systems and generous sand capping, which, of course, is costing millions of dollars". Club memberships are available from \$22,000.

The planning amendment which has allowed this development on the Yarra River floodplain stipulates that a major proportion of the clubhouse must be completed prior to the construction of the condominiums and cluster housing. Purchasers of this accommodation must be members of the club, but it may be leased back to the club for use by visitors.

According to Flora Anderson, "We are witnessing not only the loss of regionally significant aquatic vegetation, but the tranquility of a natural flood plain. Nobody disputes the fact

that years of uncontrolled cattle grazing have degraded billabongs and oxbows, but to many of us a man-made environment was not the answer.

"We can only hope that agreements reached within the development plan will be honoured," she said. But already there is an element of distrust building up in the local community due to illegal clearing of vegetation. This has been reported to the Environment Monitoring Committee.

Meanwhile, the management plan for the Henley Golf Course on the north side of the river has been presented to Nillumbik council.

"The problem is that this plan was seen by council to differ significantly from the original site concept plan and a planning permit was required," Flora Anderson said. "Heritage took its appeal against this decision to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and a preliminary hearing on March 19 ruled that the case would be heard, but would address one issue only, compliance or otherwise with the concept plan. Third party rights were at stake here."

Parallel to their appeal against Nillumbik, Heritage asked the Minister for Planning to use his discretionary powers to amend the planning scheme to allow the extension of the Henley Course, outside the area originally shown.

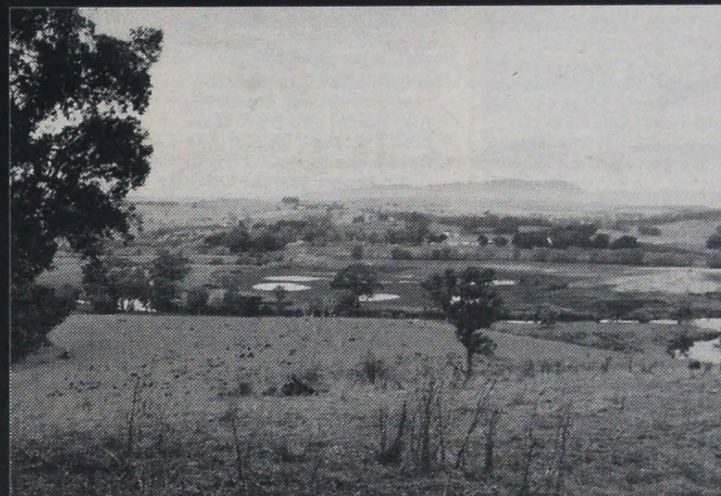
The hearing was called for June 20 and representatives from the Bend of Isles Conservation Association, Friends of Mt Lofty and Friends of Warrandyte State Park put their case that the management plan is indeed a significant deviation from the approved concept in the following areas:

- Inclusion of a 14 hectare lake.
- Three fairways to be redirected to slopes adjacent to the Environment Living Zone, an area which was to have been revegetated with native trees to link dry sclerophyll forest to the flood plain.
- Altered impact on adjoining properties.
- Issues of future subdivision.
- Non-acceptance of flood regime, a reversal of attitudes stated at the independent panel hearing in February 1995.

According to Flora Anderson, the inclusion of the 14 hectare lake is a result of "extensive consultation between Melbourne Water, the developer and their consultants. Melbourne Water has appraised these 're-arrangments' and believes they are a better result from all viewpoints".

As the *Diary* went to press, we learned that the hearing has been adjourned for two or three months to allow Heritage to set up further consultation with all concerned parties. The Minister for Planning still has Amendment L4 under consideration.

Jack Nicklaus 'assists nature': the view from Mt Lofty



Pictures by Jan Tindale



BRIEFS

Nillumbik council has completed landscaping work at the old Maroondah Aqueduct reserve in Research. Measures have also been taken to protect against erosion of the embankment leading down to the industrial estate. Plants for the estate include 27 tall trees, 70 tall, 95 medium and 50 low shrubs and more than 800 indigenous grasses.

Submissions on Manningham council's new planning controls close on Friday, July 18. They should be sent to Roger Collins, Manager Economic and Environmental Planning, PO Box 1, Doncaster 3018 or call the Planning Reform Hotline on 9840 9428.

Nillumbik council has completed work on a new playground at Rodda Reserve, at the corner of Reynolds Road and Griffin Court in Research. Equipment installed includes a double swing set, two spring rockers and a climbing frame slide component, at an overall cost of \$10,000.

Andersons Creek Primary School received a Leading Practice Classroom grant of \$10,000 to enable it to develop strategies to improve student education using modern learning technologies.

Nillumbik council's information pack on new planning provisions and draft corporate plan has been posted to all residents. An information day for Sugarloaf ward residents will be held at the North Warrandyte Community Centre on Tuesday, July 29, from 2 to 9pm.

Manningham council is exploring the idea of offering rewards for information on offenders in its crackdown on graffiti on council signs and property.

Nillumbik council has delivered a warning to residents who illegally remove vegetation from public land that they face hefty fines. Permits must be obtained before firewood can be legally collected from public land.

Manningham council started work late last month on a new toilet block in Warrandyte Reserve to replace the existing facility that was closed for safety reasons. Council has allocated \$120,000 for the project, which should be completed by early November.

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Mission 'possible'

"What did you do last Saturday night?" For 150 folks who live in and around Warrandyte, the answer was "Went to church!"

A capacity crowd filled our Community Church in Yarra Street for its Mission Impossible International Dinner. The event was part of a special program to focus attention on today's Christian missionaries.

As well as tucking-in to a truck-load of locally-cooked nosh made to over-there recipes, the packed-in crowd watched movies which compared parts of the world that have the Christian church with those that don't. Then they listened to a man with a special story.

The man was Dr James Butare from war-torn Rwanda.

James now works at the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) in Kangaroo Ground where he teaches students how to make sense of unwritten languages. SIL graduates show people in developing countries how to read and write.

When they can read, they can understand the Bibles that SIL members translate into their language.

James is sure that widespread Bible knowledge will free his country from the tragic cycle of revolution and revenge massacres.

Said church Pastor Keep, "We consider ourselves very fortunate to have a number of full-time missionaries associated with our congregation. All of them have their own interesting stories to tell. "Being a Rwandan national, James Butare's story is more dramatic than most. We're very pleased to provide a platform for stories like this to be told in an atmosphere of fun and supportive fellowship."

Doug Mealy
Pound Road

Ring Road freeway revives old fears

DEAR DIARY

Once again the Warrandyte district has to face the prospect of a freeway being built within our neighbourhood. Twenty years on, the challenge to our lifestyle values remains, with residents again needing to decide whether, on balance, easier access to Dandenong and Thomastown is more important than bushland, clean air and relative peace and quiet.

When first mooted in 1977, engineers and transport interests argued that these two objectives could live peacefully together. Noise could be ameliorated, natural bushland areas could always be replanted (it was only scrubby regrowth after all!), and the planning scheme would ensure controls on urban growth beyond the Ring Road reservation.

None of this rang true then, and fails to impress now.

Nor does the proposition that this facility will take pressure off the internal road system. Indeed, the ring road will attract vehicles to it; they will necessarily use local

main roads and residential streets for access. These are vehicles which would normally never need to utilise the local road system.

Throughout the 20 years of debate about the Ring Road in particular and freeways generally, the issue of accessibility has been a common thread. Reducing travel time and frustration posed by peak-hour traffic have been the concerns of those supporting the freeway. Maintaining a minimal level of accessibility has underpinned the other side of the debate. Whether it is better to take ten minutes longer to come home to a district renowned for its uniqueness and natural environment, or preferable to come home more quickly to a busier, more populated neighbourhood, is the conundrum facing this community.

Personally, 20 years on, I still prefer to come home to this place of peace and quiet, with its pockets of unspoilt bushland and rolling landscapes, knowing that my willingness to travel an extra five minutes contributes to the conservation of this unique district.

Alan Baker
Panton Hill

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.



Cathy Lynch, Lauren Clark and Belinda Dawson made a pretty threesome at Warrandyte High School's recent formal night. (Picture by Happy Medium)

Formal fun at high school

By Rachel Baker

VCE students at Warrandyte High School forgot about study, deadlines and CATs on Friday evening last month, and focussed on "having fun" at their Year 12 Formal.

Music, dining and dancing were enjoyed by the students, whose comments on the night included, "I love it!", "It's great", and "It's just so good to get together with everyone."

"We don't get much chance in Year 12 to get together as a group and not to be talking about homework! The Formal is great because everyone's there and we can forget about

CATs and work requirements, and just enjoy ourselves," one student said.

The Formal was held at the Beau Monde Hotel in Doncaster and was organised by a group of students, headed by Belinda Dawson. Preparations began in March, and Belinda worked until the day of the Formal to ensure the night was a success. "There was a lot of work involved but everything paid off and the night went well," said Belinda.

"I had to organise the venue, the music and the attendance as well as other details like the decorations. It took up a lot of time but I'm really glad I made the effort.

Everything went smoothly and we all had a good time."

The night gave students a chance to take a break from their routines and experience some unusual luxuries. "It's so much fun getting all dressed up and being driven there in a limousine. It's so different to anything we would normally do," a student told the Diary.

Now the night is over students will be focussing on school again. "We've got a pretty solid six months ahead of us, so now we'll have to get our minds back on Year 12. It's just great we were all able to get together and kick up our heels."

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Commencing 14th July

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Commencing 19th July

Water Colour

BEGINNERS & ADVANCED FOR ADULTS

Tutor: Reg Cox

Cost: \$200 for 8 weeks

Tuesday, 7-9pm

Commencing 15th July

Oil & Acrylic

BEGINNERS & ADVANCED FOR ADULTS

Tutor: Lynne Holden

Cost: \$99 for 8 weeks

Wednesday, 7-10pm

Commencing 16th July

Oil Painting

BEGINNERS FOR ADULTS

Tutor: Ray MacMinn

Cost: \$130 for 8 weeks

Wed, 10.30-1pm

Commencing: **NEW!**

16th July

Water Colour

BEGINNERS & ADVANCED FOR ADULTS

Tutor: Lynne Holden

Cost: \$99 for 8 weeks

Thursday, 12.30-3.30pm

Commencing 17th July

Life Drawing

ADVANCED FOR ADULTS

Tutor: Lynne Holden

Cost: \$130 for 8 weeks

Thursday, 7-9pm

Commencing 17th July

Children's Drama

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Cost: \$80 for 8 weeks

Monday, 4.30-6pm

Commencing

14th July **NEW!**

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FOR CHILDREN

Tutor: Lynne Holden

Cost: \$55 for 8 weeks

Thursday, 4-5.30pm

Commencing 17th July

Drawing & Painting

FOR CHILDREN

Tutor: Lynne Holden

Cost: \$60 for 8 weeks

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or Saturday, 1-3pm

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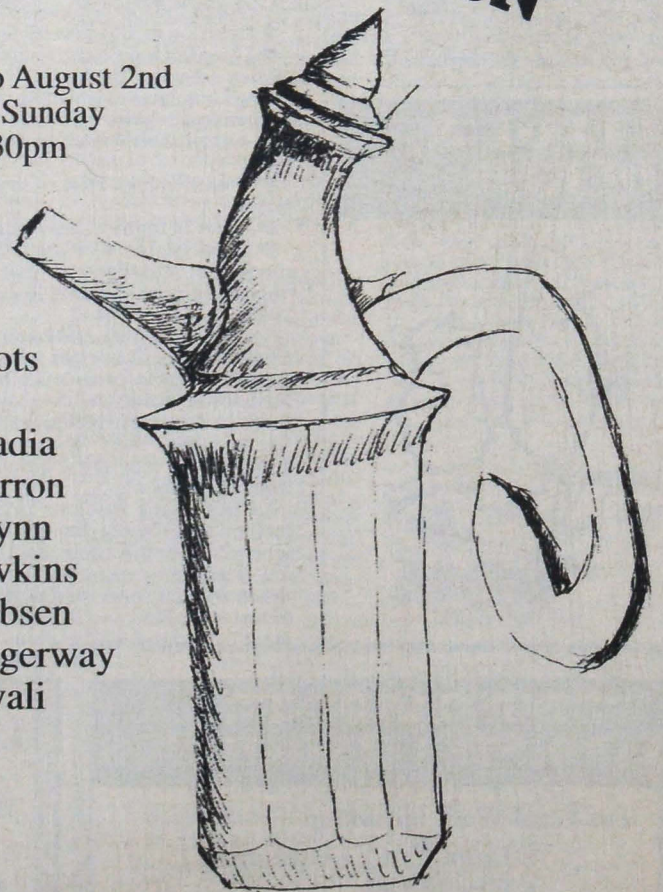
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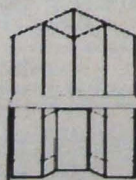


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Our kinder kids make friends

Children at Warrandyte Preschool now know a little more about dogs, thanks to Bella and Abbey, who visited with their owner, former kindergarten teacher Doreen Burge, a community representative on Manningham council's domestic animals steering committee.

Doreen and council ranger Malcolm Scheele talked with the children prior to the dogs being introduced. Responsible pet ownership and how best to approach dogs and behave around them were among the issues discussed. Then Bella, aged 6 and Abbey, 3 were brought in to meet the children amid great excitement.

"I think it is essential that young children are educated about responsible and sensible behaviour around all animals", said Doreen. "This is equally important for children who do not have their own pets as it is for children with family pets."

From 1977, when she began teaching at a kindergarten in Greensborough, Doreen regu-

larly took her labradors to visit the children she taught.

This very successful program ran for the 17 years Doreen taught at the kindergarten, and received excellent support from parents and committees. Many fearful children learned to trust and care for the dogs and overcame their fear with at least one trusted animal.

"The aim of the committee," Malcolm Scheele explained, "is to guide the preparation of the draft domestic animals strategy, co-ordinate community consultation on this draft, and assist in finalising the strategy."

The committee has prepared papers which have recently been released for community input.

Written submissions are welcome, and a series of ten workshops will be held in August to gain further community involvement.

"Some of the important issues raised include dogs in parks, dog faeces disposal, the impact of cats and dogs on wildlife, responsible pet ownership, and off-lead exercise areas," Doreen said. Any queries can be directed to Bill Mallinson on 9840 9333 or Doreen Burge on 9844 2512.

Doreen Burge helps Warrandyte kinder kids learn about dogs. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Lions club charities begin at home

Where the money went

Warrandyte Lions raised more than \$65,000 during the past year. The following were among those who benefited:

Olympians Kylie Wood and Ann Marie Roberts; Vizard House; bridge tennis courts; Licola Village; Wonga Park 'Where Am I?' board; Presbyterian and Scots Church work with needy children; Canteen-teens with cancer; Warrandyte child to Germany for treatment of cerebral palsy; two young students to Pan Pacific Games in Perth; two young nurses from Papua New Guinea training at Monash Medical Centre; 25 disadvantaged children to Melbourne Magic Festival; Warrandyte basketball team to Fiji.

Partnership with Warrandyte Primary School and Warrandyte Market for new playground equipment; isolated students education program; support for two bereaving Warrandyte families; with Warrandyte Childcare Co-op and Rotary for new playground equipment; Warrandyte Youth Arts Award with Warrandyte Diary; community garden project with police and market; basketball hoop at community centre; Warrandyte High School; Warrandyte Historical Society; handicapped water skier to world championships; Mon-kami; involvement in Warrandyte Festival.

Debutantes ball; North Warrandyte CFA truck; Yooralla residents to zoo and Healesville Sanctuary; support for scholarship-winning young dancer; Open House Rehabilitation Centre; St John of God services; drug awareness foundation; Peter McCallum Institute, Warrandyte Youth Services, Doncare, Save the Children Fund, Warrandyte Ladies Basketball, World Vision Australia, Eltham Community Health Centre, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Haemophilia Foundation and many other worthy causes.

Over the past year, Warrandyte Lions have concentrated on serving their local community. "As Lions we are neither less nor greater than our community," outgoing president Terry Oakley told members and guests at the club's handover dinner late last month.

"We survive as Lions because we enjoy the privilege to serve, and I believe we are privileged to be able to serve Warrandyte. By acting locally we can effect far-reaching global results. Warrandyte Lions has always built bridges and enjoyed excellent partnerships with—and in—Warrandyte."

This year, Warrandyte Lions have raised in excess of \$65,000. Much of this has been spent in Warrandyte. Most of it was raised in Warrandyte, through the Opportunity Shop in Yarra Street.

"Warrandyte Lions is not simply a charities' charity," Terry Oakley said. He prefers the term 'partnerships' to 'donations'. "However, we do enjoy partnerships with common goals. By working together, we benefit together."

"The demand for financial support is greater. Every week Lions receive up to 50 requests for financial assistance. Many groups, on receiving assistance, send another request and another. It goes on. We live in a society that, in general, cares less than at any time in our living memory."

"Lions supports many groups. Look at the list. If it wasn't for the Opp Shop, many community groups, many individuals, many needy people would, in many cases, have no hope. There is no need for anyone or any group to feel left out. Come and join us."

"Give Lions and their families the opportunity of feeling needed. Offer us a partnership with your community activity cause. Bear in mind, though, that Lions everywhere steer clear of politics, sectarian religion—sect anything. We avoid political groups, political innuendo and politics disguised as ham."

"When, as Lions, a request is received for partnership—for help, support and assistance—it is always debated with the view to support and participate



Outgoing Lions President Terry Oakley. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

in some way."

Two examples of Lions' local partnership involvements were given:

"On Zone Community Health Day, April 5," Terry Oakley said, "six Lions clubs, the City of Manningham, eight orthoptists, 12 optometrists, two medical practitioners, 12 volunteer organisations and Aumann's Orchards partnered to provide valuable medical and vision tests for 450 children, their parents and—in some cases—their grandparents."

"In partnership with Warrandyte Rotary, the City of Manningham, Warrandyte Festival and Warrandyte Community Market, improvements were made to the electricity power supply at Stiggants Reserve. This was installed by a Warrandyte tradesperson and is an example of a partnership benefiting the whole community."

Warrandyte Lions also set about moving "much closer to fellow community service groups" during the past year, "especially Warrandyte Rotary, under the capable stewardship of Ain Utt and family". For example, rotarian Richard Ford was a

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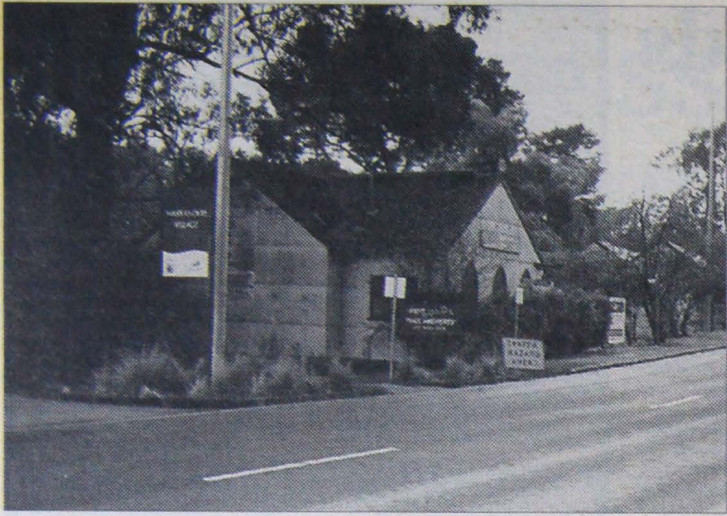
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Old chapel headed for antique future

By RACHEL BAKER

The Warrandyte Gospel Chapel has been purchased by a local family and will be leased as an antiques outlet over coming years, before being used for other purposes, new owner Devan Jackson told the *Diary*.

The Jackson family bought the chapel about a month ago, and son Devan "will probably take over later on." The family has been approached by a dealer who wants to use the church to sell antiques.

"We'll lease the building out for the next couple of years, and we've got a few ideas after that," Devan Jackson said.

"We're considering using it as a wedding venue because it's near the river and it's a pretty place. We've also thought about using it as a restaurant."

The chapel was built in 1948 "as a church for the people of Warrandyte," former owner David Dawson said. It was named the Warrandyte Gospel Chapel. In the late 1980s the group changed its name to Warrandyte Community Church, "then the church moved out of the old building and pur-

chased the squash court building at 57 Yarra Street," David Dawson said.

The chapel was purchased in 1989 by David Dawson and "retained by the church, and renamed Warrandyte Playgroup Centre. It was decided by the church about 18 months ago to take the playgroup out of the old building and move it into the squash court building."

Mr Dawson began negotiations with authorities last year to gain permission to use the building as something other than a church. "There can be difficulties in getting permits for properties on the river because of flood-levels, zoning and long-term Melbourne Water plans.

"But a permit was obtained from Melbourne Water and Manningham council to use the chapel as an art and craft outlet," he said.

Devan Jackson has assured the community that the 50-year old building will be preserved in its present state. "We're not going to make any structural changes to the church, we don't want to change it. We're happy with it the way it is," he said.

Fond farewells from local school

Farewells were the order of the day at Warrandyte Primary School at end of term.

An especially sad and nostalgic occasion was the retirement, after some 40 years of service to education, of beloved teacher Ian Caffin. The last 21 years of this career have been spent at Warrandyte, as both classroom teacher and teacher-librarian.

"Ian has always been a teacher who put the children first," principal Ken Wing Jan told the *Diary*. "He always made sure that he had time to listen to their concerns and worries.

"Ian will be remembered not only as an excellent teacher but as a great communicator. His efforts as compere at the annual school concert were characterised by his humour and off-the-cuff remarks, helping tie the program together.

"We trust that Ian has a long and enjoyable retirement with his family, particularly with his wife, Pattie. Ian will always be welcome at Warrandyte Primary School and we hope that he finds time to visit us."

During Term 2, Warrandyte primary has had a Japanese language assistant, Nami Uemura, from Tokyo, helping with their Japanese language and cultural program. Nami, who graduated from Waseda University in March with a major in sport, has had a wonderful time in Warrandyte.

Hosted by two local families, she has been able to enjoy many activities in the community.

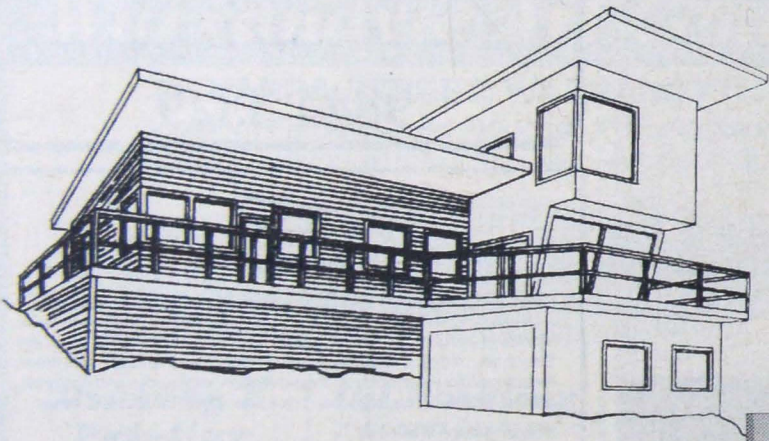
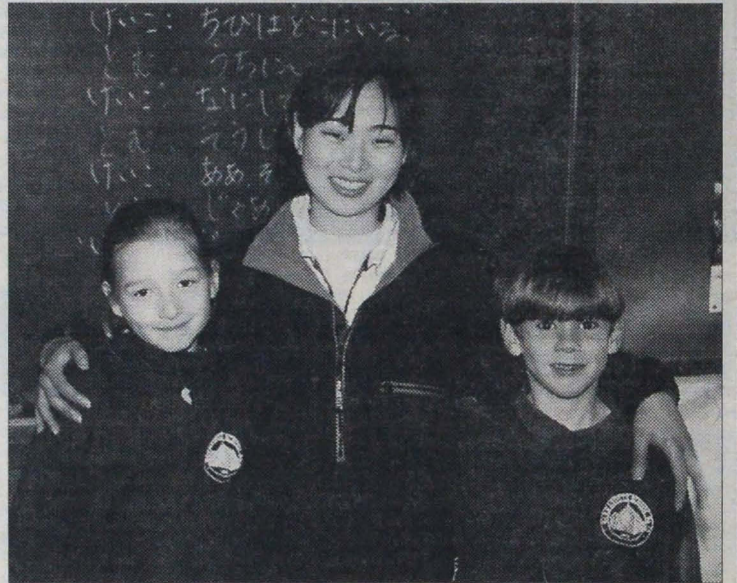
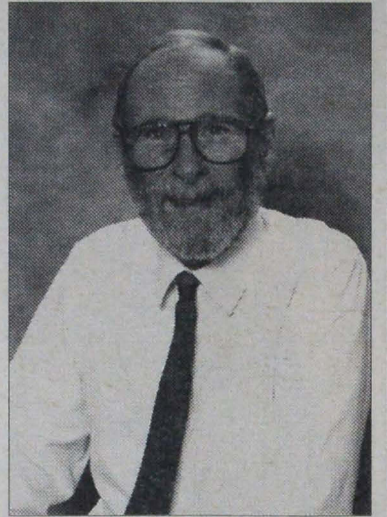
"Nami's contributions to the school's program have included teaching Japanese calligraphy to both students and parents, teaching Japanese songs and games, demonstrating the

traditional tea ceremony and providing an authentic model of the Japanese language," Japanese co-ordinator Meryl Tether told the *Diary*.

"Nami moves on to Christmas Hills and Yarra Glen primary schools after the holidays and she will be greatly missed by everyone at Warrandyte.

Beloved teacher Ian Caffin left Warrandyte after 21 happy years.

Claire Bence and Mitchell Ventura shared their homes with Japanese teacher Nami Uemura.



Lovely old Warrandyte house finds a new life

IN the past, Warrandyte was a holiday haven for city dwellers. Now this is possible again with the opening of the Warrandyte Goldfields Bed and Breakfast, situated on the corner of Yarra Street, at 1 Whipstick Gully Road.

This beautiful house was built in the 1950s by David and Pat Robertson. The first stage cost 1,250 pounds and all the couple's spare time for a year. Water was pumped from the river and this was shared with three other households. How times have changed.

The Robertson's house has a new life now. It is tastefully restored, retaining its heritage with the past while adding a welcoming country cottage feel.

It has become a 5-bedroomed—all with ensembles—Bed and Breakfast

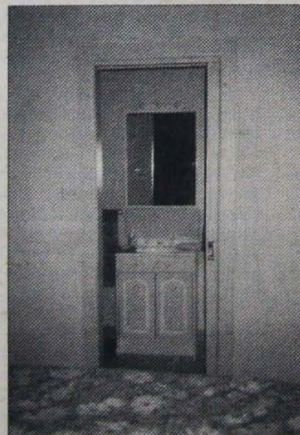
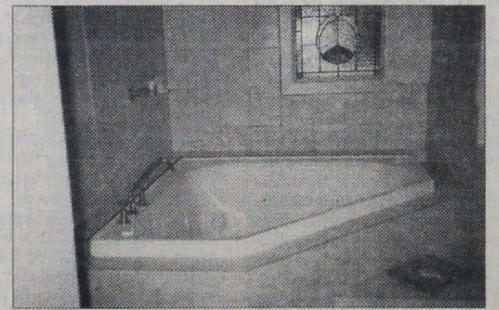
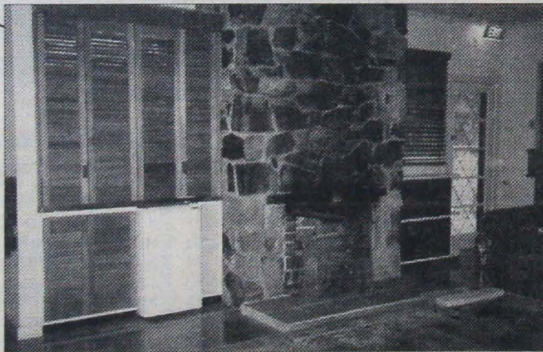
establishment. The special upper suite has its own spa. The cost of a twin/double room is \$95.00 per night and this includes a delicious breakfast.

There are lovely views of the bush garden from all rooms, and the garden vista can be really enjoyed from the verandahs. The garden patio will be perfect for summer barbecues.

But, better than words, come and have a look. We would like to extend an invitation to our open days. Come and meet Dianne and Pip, the carers of this lovely place, and enjoy light refreshments while inspecting the B & B.

We will be open from 2 to 4.30pm:

- * Wednesday, July 9
- * Saturday, July 12
- * Sunday, July 13.



Land mines

an ecological tragedy

AFTER seven months in war-torn Mozambique as the Operations Officer for the United Nations' mine-clearing operation in 1995, it was difficult to return to an Australia that still supported the use of landmines.

Having seen at first hand the physical, emotional and economic devastation caused by this terrible weapon (including having two of my Mozambiquan de-miners killed and six injured by landmines), I was determined to spread the true message of this ecological tragedy. Talking with many and varied groups on my return from Mozambique was an important experience for me, and gave many Australians an opportunity to understand the world's mine problem in a practical and hands-on way.

The raw statistics, as supplied by the International Committee of the Red Cross are chilling:

More than 110 million active mines are scattered in 64 countries; there are just as many stock-piled all over the world waiting to be laid; about two million new mines are sewn each year; for every mine that is removed 20 new ones are laid.

Australia now supports a ban on landmines and many Australian soldiers are world leaders in their clearance. The clearance of landmines is no easy task, and despite various advances in technology the primary method of detection is still by hand. The CRC summarise the problems of mine clearance: More than 250 types of antipersonnel mines have been produced in 48 countries; more than 25 countries are



DON HUGHES recently retired as a major in the Royal Australian Engineers. He still serves as an officer in the Army Reserve, commanding 105 Construction Squadron. He now operates a building and property maintenance service in and around Warrandyte.

in a state of crisis because of landmine infestation; in 1994 alone 100,000 mines were removed while another two million were planted; mines cost between US\$3 and US\$30 each; the cost of neutralising each mine is between \$300 and \$1000 each.

It is hoped that an international ban on landmines will be signed in December this year.

Compared to other regions, support for a ban in Asia has remained minimal despite severe mine problems in several countries. To address this imbalance, the International Committee of the Red Cross will host a seminar in Manila from 20-23 July 1997. A number of international experts on landmines from legal, military and mine-clearance perspectives will participate.

(Major Don Hughes will attend this conference as a guest of the International Committee of the Red Cross.)



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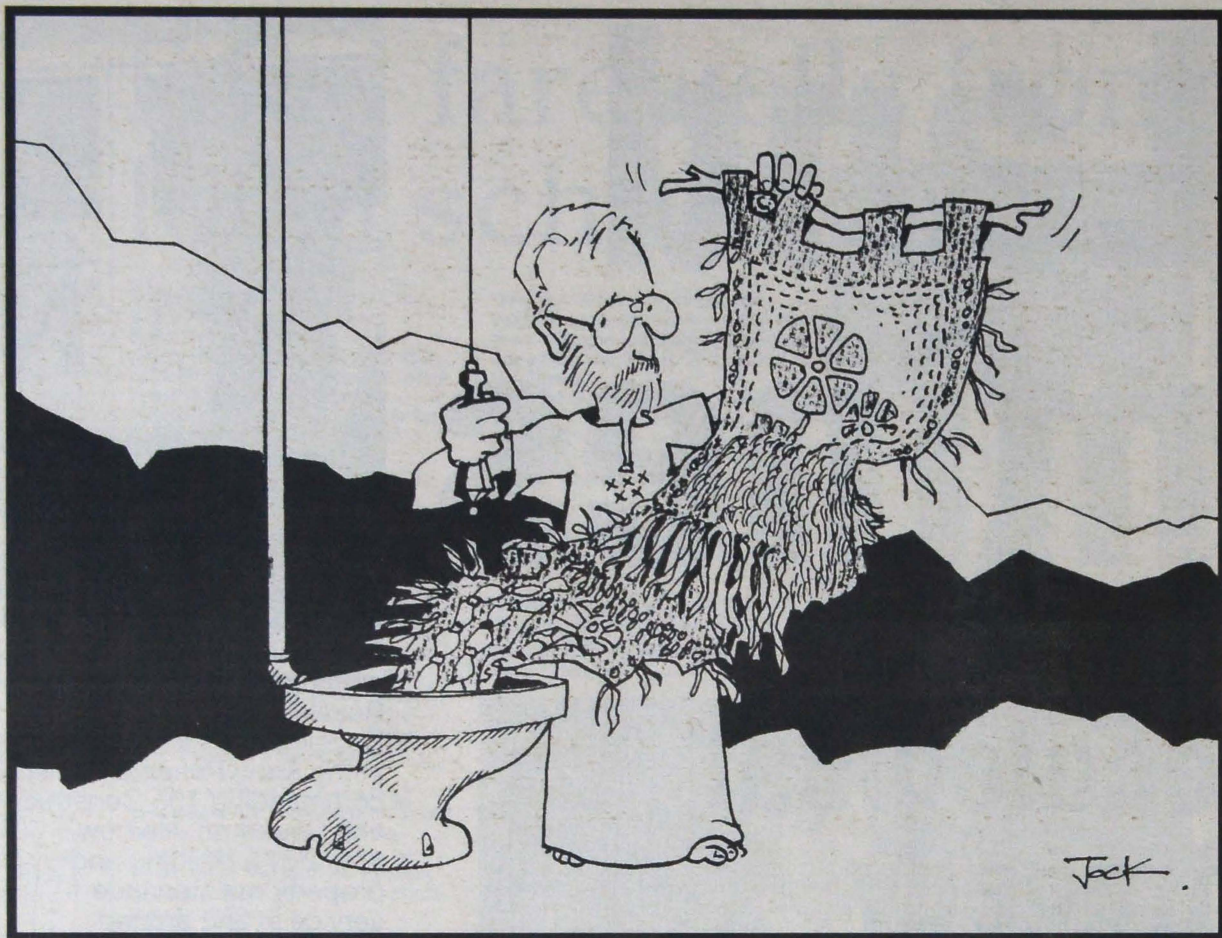
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Silkscreened relics of a macrame past

IT wasn't really all that difficult to throw out the macrame wall hanging. After all, it had sat in the wardrobe on the top shelf amongst a pre-loved cardigan, an academic gown, an almost-too-good-to-throw-out flared tracksuit and a rather anonymous piece of whitish drill made into an elongated sausage bag.

The piece in question was a jute creation, complete with wooden beads and fringed bits. The supporting stay was a carefully selected piece of branch, vaguely straight, but still with enough character to satisfy the most discerning earth mother.

I remember, at the time, spending hours in occupational therapy on the kitchen table, measuring then knotting lengths of jute, string and fabric strips in an effort to create the 70s version of the 90s Indian dream web.

At the time I couldn't understand the lack of involvement or even interest of some of our less switched-on friends. Whilst I was knotting, shredding, weaving and thatching, they were busy making careers and buying useless things like cars, refrigerators and houses.

But that was well into our marriage. The warning bells should have begun to ring when Herself and I were smitten with screen printing. Obviously, with nothing better to do with our time, we thought that printing was our thing. We experimented with how to cut the silk screen and



KIBBLED

"Measuring then knotting lengths of jute, string and fabric strips..."

then produced a very passable version of a flower, stylised of course; nothing too realistic as we were very avant garde.

Now it was all very well producing the screen print but there is a limit to the number of flowers, stylised or not, one can inflict on a household. So it was here that the embryonic germ of Herself's business acumen was fertilised. Why not make wall hangings and flog them to the burgeoning craft shops in the local area? Not Warrandyte, I hasten to add.

They say the statistics are that 80 percent of small businesses

go bust and I think I can see why. Herself and I bought several rolls of prickly hessian, all of a subtle aqua, lime green, pink and orange. We then set about producing dozens of hangings. The world was about to be assaulted by the next best thing to the Green Chinese Lady. Neither of us could see why the population wouldn't fall over themselves in an effort to snaffle such objets d'art.

We hawked ourselves and our wares around the streets, buoyed by the sale refusal but words of encouragement from one shopkeeper. She was old and probably had spent the last few years humouring her own arrested adolescents.

The fat really hit the fire, however, when we encountered our first real Young Turk businessman. He heard out our spiel, looked at our treasures, asked how much per item we wanted and then asked for our registered business number. Wow! Not only did we not have one but we didn't know what it was. Not made of the stuff Bill Gates obviously is, we looked at one another, at our bagful of smouldering decoratoria, said goodbye and decided that commerce was crass and we were lucky to have escaped in time.

For several years later, friends received modest bought gifts plus a bonus orange and lime hessian wall hanging.

In hindsight, had we gone through the simple process of registering our business, doing

some market research, renting a factory, employing dozens of artists and artisans, hiring a flashy lawyer and acquired an artistically discerning patron, we probably would be coining it today.

As it was, we wimped out, left screen printing, and whereas Herself went on to real creativity, I launched myself into making sheepskin Ug boots and matching coats!

It's simple to blame everything on the Americans and in my case it was easy. I had the good fortune to meet a recently arrived Yank who had flown straight from McArthur Park to Oz with a bag crammed full of 'neat' ways to make sheepskin gear.

Whereas Italy is the home of fine, stylish well-cut leather goods, I became the centre of Yeti fashion. My goods were shapeless, voluminous and stretched. My blinkered passion was such that I wore the awful garment in England.

So there. Apart from some abortive carpentry, spinning, weaving and silversmithing, my craft past is laid bare, as are our wardrobes and cupboards. Just as well the removalists come in two days' time.

Shifting's a bit like an enema. The end result is usually satisfactory but it's not achieved without passing a lot of macrame and screen printed orange hessian along the way.

ROGER KIBELL

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A feathered feral is more foe than friend

FOUR and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie." Nursery rhymes and blackbirds ran like threads through the tapestry of my early childhood. I grew out of the nursery rhymes but never tired of the blackbirds.

Lead singers in the dawn chorus with their cheerful fluty warbling, the blackbirds were a garden favourite around my English home. When other birds migrated to warmer climes, the faithful blackbirds remained. On bitter winter days, from the warmth of my lounge room, I would watch the intrepid birds scratch and peck at the frozen lawn, pausing every now and then with head cocked to listen for worms.

While blackbird might be an appropriate name for the males of the species, female blackbirds are 'brownbirds' without a single black feather on their body. They even lack the male's stunning yellow eye-ring and brilliant orange beak. Such is the nature of birds where it is the flamboyantly-attired males that flaunt themselves to attract the dull-plumaged females.

The blackbird is one of the most common British birds and also one of the country's most melodious songsters. It is no surprise then, that in the 1860s, homesick early settlers shipped these birds, along with thrushes, goldfinch, linnets, larks and starlings over to Australia. Of all the importees it was the blackbirds



NATURE
By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

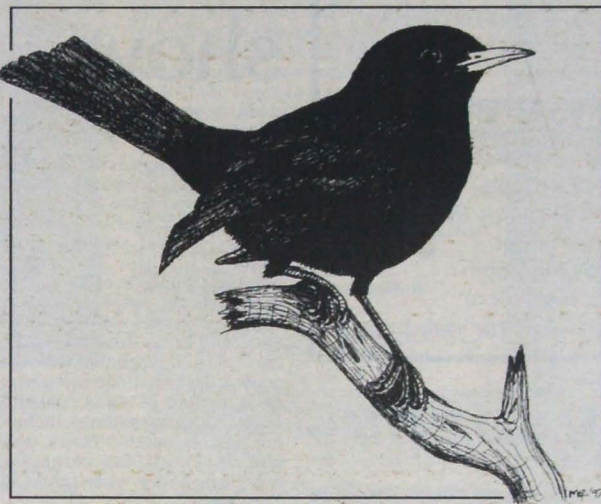
that best adapted to their new home. They quickly became established in all southern states where they were released and soon found their way across Bass Strait to Tasmania where, in a climate similar to their homeland, they thrived.

Part of the reason for their success is that blackbirds are the ultimate omnivore, eating almost anything from food scraps and fruit to small skinks and earthworms. Their greatest impact, however, is not the decimation of native fauna but the proliferation of exotic flora.

Because of the birds' obsession with berries, they are instrumental in the spread of weeds such as boneseed, cotoneaster, hawthorn and blackberry. Warrandyte has its fair share of blackbirds and weeds: the two go hand-in-hand.

Two weed species which seriously threaten the local environment are the bush-smothering bridal creeper—also known as smilax—and the gully-engulfing sweet pittosporum—both surreptitiously distributed in the droppings of blackbirds.

Blackbirds can be very aggressive, another reason for this immigrant bird's monumental success in urban and rural areas.



Wattlebirds, themselves known for their aggression to other garden birds, are no match for these bullies. Like their furred counterparts the fox, blackbirds have become accustomed to human ways, turning them to their advantage.

They have few enemies and many friends. People like having the birds around, as I too once did. Even now I have to admire the wily blackbird for its shrewd adaptability. However, the affection I once felt for the birds was left back in England with the innocence of childhood.

So far no serious measures have been taken to curb the blackbirds' free rein in this coun-

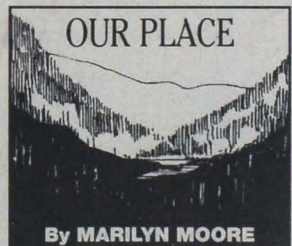
try and, when the options are considered, it is no wonder. Shooting is impractical, poisoning impossible and trapping is extremely labour intensive. Meantime while we do nothing, the birds just keep guzzling exotic berries and dropping seeds like time bombs into our native bushland. Surely there is something that can be done to reduce blackbird numbers? Anything. And perhaps there is. It is perfectly acceptable to eat pigeon, quail, duck and, while holidaying on Flinders Island I even sampled mutton bird. So why not the accessible, indomitable blackbird—it could make quite a tasty dish baked in a pie.

Cool cats cull kids' kinder capers; can't kill convention

TO make any sort of fuss about most of life's little landmarks is definitely uncool. Super casual's the only way to go. Except for children's birthday parties. From baby's first cute candle to a rowdy mayhem for a dozen teenagers, each birthday passes a milestone which even the most dedicated Mr and Mrs Cool Dude celebrate with gusto.

Any attempt at formality represents a big turnaround for such dudes who have remained seriously cool throughout a decade of 18th and 21st birthdays, college balls and graduations. A fairly laid-back sort of bash probably sufficed for all of these once-formal events.

The Dude Wedding, succumbing to both tradition and big business, was probably as formal as their parents could wangle, but it would have been uncool to be too serious on the day. So perhaps a jocular video cameraman stage-managed the whole show, maybe the bride showed off her G-string later outside the church, and at the reception, the best man almost certainly remained just sober enough to inform the assembled guests that Gazza was a "bloody



OUR PLACE
By MARILYN MOORE

great bloke", or, more likely, Gazza was a "flamin' idiot".

Half the guests dressed to kill. The other half turned up in tails, jeans and the latest in designer shades.

Showers of cards, flowers and little woollen knitted things would have greeted the arrival of Baby Dude. Overwhelmed with joy and barely functioning through lack of sleep, the once-cool parents probably never got around to having their firstborn formally introduced to the human race by way of the christening font.

But lo! A year down the track, and can this possibly be the same Mr & Mrs C. Dude? For the first time in living memory, at baby's first birthday, a little enthusiasm for formality flour-

ishes. Custom-made invitations (forget gate-crashing and "I'll turn up-on-the-night-if-I-feel-like-it". RSVP damn you!) balloons, toys, and a sumptuous feast represent the culmination of weeks of preparation.

On his second birthday, the party gets more lavish. The big question revolves around candles. Will he or won't he? Watching Little Dude struggle to produce an effective blow, smug neighbours inform anyone within earshot that "their dear little Pumpkin had no trouble blowing hers out first try".

By the third birthday, most Little Dudes realise that parcels mean toys. They become adept paper-peelers. By the fourth or fifth birthday, guests are frisked on arrival.

Party overkill abounds by now, as the Dudes over-react to a bit of peer pressure. The guest list is likely to include the whole kinder group, and political correctness rules. No one must feel left out.

All 25 children take turns at blowing out the candles. The cake, a magnificent sculpture in liquorice tubing and coloured icing, took days to decorate but nobody eats it. (Hardly surprising with so much blowing, drib-

bling and molten wax!)

When 25 little vegemites eventually leave, each clutching a lolly bag and a present, they are probably wondering whose birthday it was. Needless to say, this party finishes off the Dudes. Next year they can't get to the big yellow M fast enough.

Only one year later, however, a manipulative seven year-old beguiles them into having a sleepover for half the grade. Big mistake! By 3am Mr Dude heartily wishes he'd got on with the extensions to the cubby. Mrs D. inwardly groans about the mess. How could she possibly not have foreseen the outcome of three hours of junk food interspersed with four hours of gymnastics and pillow fights?

Sounds familiar? Not to us. Most of our birthdays are celebrated offshore. Unfailingly. Or so we thought until one of our offspring, barely into double figures, organised her own sleepover, sent out invitations and presented us with a fait accompli in terms of the guest list, menu, list of games and videos required.

Well lead on, Macduff! I think this is going to be my sort of party after all. Many happy returns!

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High art and craft on show

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte High School's theatre was transformed into an artistic gallery on the weekend of June 20 to 22 to display works for the annual art and craft show.

In continuation of the nine-year tradition, pieces from local and other artists were gathered and exhibited. Chris White, local artist and teacher at the high school, described the exhibition as "a mixture of traditional and contemporary paintings, including pastels, watercolours, oils and drawings plus ceramics, jewellery and a wide range of craft media".

After months were spent preparing for the show, he said the results "were pleasing. The standard of the artwork was high, and included the work of notable artists such as Syd Tunn, Ona Henderson, Walter Magilton and Ron Miller".

Although the range at this year's show was impressive, no student work was included. "Student art has been included in previous years but due to a lack of display room we were unable to include any this year," Chris White said. "It's quite disappointing because the standard is usually very high."

The show depends heavily on assistance from parents. "Volun-



Warrandyte High School choir entertained patrons at the opening of their art show.

teer parents organise artists and advertising and are responsible for setting up and dismantling displays, monitoring the exhibition and providing refreshments over the weekend." These aspects are crucial to the art show, and Chris White claims that "the art show's profitability and success are due to the parents who volunteer to help".

The first Warrandyte High School art and craft show was

held in 1988, initiated by the parents' association. "It started as a fund-raising exercise but the school recognised the worth of an art show as an educational pursuit."

This year's show continued the long-running success the exhibitions have met. "The shows have been successful on fund-raising and artistic levels and we hope to continue holding them in the future."



What's on at Warrandyte Primary School...

Warrandyte Primary School presents Storytime

AN INVITATION is extended to all pre-schoolers to come and share a special reading activity. The program is open to all children from 3-5 years. The aim of the program is to:

- introduce children to positive reading experiences
- familiarise children with the school environment
- provide parents with ideas for storytelling
- give children the opportunity to borrow from our library

DATES

Friday 1 August
 Friday 5th September
 Friday 17th October
 Friday 14th November
 Friday 5th December
 at the
 WARRANDYTE PRIMARY
 SCHOOL LIBRARY
 TIME: 2.15-3.15pm

ENQUIRIES: 9844 3537

This program is offered as a service to the community and to assist children in their transition to school.

Warrandyte Primary School presents

Reading Recovery: A key to Literacy

EVEN with the provision of a balanced and well-planned classroom program, there will still be some students who will need extra support to ensure success in reading and writing.

Research has shown that it is vital that this additional assistance occur in the early years. Warrandyte Primary School has provided a Reading Recovery Program for the third year running, showing its commitment to giving literacy success to its students. It does not replace the classroom program but operates alongside it.

The program is targeted at the Grade 1 level and children on the program are given ongoing monitoring and support throughout their subsequent 3-5 years at the school. Thus the program has a flow-on effect to literacy skills within the whole school.

The Reading Recovery Program runs for 30 minutes daily over approximately 20 weeks; it is individual, intensive and consistent. The teacher builds on the children's strengths, each child's program being different. The aims are to accelerate progress to enable each child to work at average levels with their peers, to increase reading enjoyment, to improve fluency and understanding, to teach reading and writing strategies for life and to increase self-esteem.

The power of the program is greatly enhanced with parent support. Those parents of children at Warrandyte Primary School who have been and are on the Reading Recovery Program have willingly helped their children at home. They have testified to the remarkable change in their children's whole approach to reading and to their raised confidence levels. Daily communication occurs between parents and the Reading Recovery teacher. One mother wrote how her child "just wants to read everything" after only five weeks on the Reading Recovery program.

At Warrandyte Primary School the Reading Recovery program is a team approach, involving the commitment of the Principal, staff, Reading Recovery teacher and parents. It has been a challenge at times to juggle the school budget in order to train teachers in reading recovery, buy the books needed and to run the program. However the success that the children are experiencing makes the Reading Recovery Program extremely worthwhile for the children, the parents and the school. Reading Recovery really does work!

As Marie Clay (literary author) says: "There is no room for an amateur approach to children with reading difficulties, for, unlike many human conditions, failure to read almost never ends in spontaneous recovery".

Jenny Sutherland is the Reading Recovery teacher at Warrandyte Primary School.



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Touching the future

Manningham City Council is embracing electronic service delivery through its innovative Info-Lynx project. Info-Lynx comprises three components: an Internet site, launched last December, Info-Shelf and touch screen kiosks.

The council is installing touch screen information kiosks in central locations around the municipality. The kiosks will provide residents and local business access to a wealth of information on council and community activities.

The Minister for Multimedia, the Hon Alan Stockdale officially launched the touch screen information kiosks, which is a key component of Manningham Council's electronic service delivery project, Info-Lynx at Warrandyte Community Centre late last month.

Manningham mayor Cr Beynon said the touch screen information kiosks demonstrate Manningham's commitment to using innovative technology and multi-media facilities to transform and enhance the way the council delivers quality services to the community.

"Manningham is at the forefront of local government in using leading-edge information technology to expand our customer service to make it more accessible and convenient," Cr Beynon said.

"As part of our Info-Lynx project, we have already launched our Internet home page, Customer Feedback System and the internal Info-Shelf, which have revolutionised access to council information and streamlined the delivery of



Minister Alan Stockdale shows Mayor Bob Beynon how to do it.

services.

"Residents and businesses now have access to council information and can make requests for services 24 hours a day, seven day a week.

"The touch screen information kiosks, similar to those found in shopping centres, will enable people to access a wealth of council information and community activities at a number of central locations in the city.

"No longer will it be necessary for people to come into the council offices to gain information about

council services, they can access the information via their home computer or at a kiosk," Cr Beynon said.

Manningham council hopes part of its involvement in the State government's electronic service delivery project, known as Maxi Multi-Media, will result in the touch screen information kiosks being further developed to allow residents undertake routine transactions with the council such as payment of rates and dog registration.

"Manningham's vision is to see these easy-to-use touch screen kiosks provide a convenient 'one stop' single face of government services. The launch of the information kiosks is the first step towards realising that vision," Cr Beynon said.

The touch screen information kiosks will be located at:

- Warrandyte Community Centre
- Westfield Shoppingtown

Doncaster

- Bulleen Plaza
- The Pines Shopping Centre
- Wonga Park Community Cottage
- Libraries
- Civic Centre

Cr Beynon said that Manningham was leading the way for local government in the area of electronic enhanced service delivery.

"Electronic Service Delivery is the way of the future and Manningham is at the forefront of this development," he said.

Everyone wants to get into the act: Manningham's Info-Lynx system is launched at Warrandyte Community Centre.





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An enchanting evening with the Dragon Girl



FAITH in yourself triumphs over evil in much the same way as being part of a team calms stage fright.

Apprehension as well as a dragon and a banished knight were quelled by the cast of Warrandyte Primary School in their production of *Dragon Girl*, a musical fantasy at Karralyka Theatre.

An orphan, Annalisa, finds a magic necklace and is whisked back to a medieval court where all is not well in the Kingdom of Begonia. A dragon has torched villages and an evil knight rounded up peasants as dragon fodder. In the dramatic opening, an imperious wizard, Zardok, foretells the coming of Annalisa to save the kingdom. Played with confidence and clarity by Rebecca Parsons, Zardok lets younger ones in the audience know all will end well.

The swashbuckling exile, Sir Basil (Courtney Jordan) menaces the village with his henchmen, rubbery Josh Parsons as Scale and the sinister Thrip (Jake Humble). Harry Bullard as king avoids his royal duties—and his pompous queen (Kim Armstrong)—with a

KIDS' STUFF

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Charlesian interest in his greenfly count.

Practical, bossy Bramble Bush (Anna Moergerlein) counterbalanced the brainless-but-adorable Cooch Grass (Kirsty Moergerlein) with Adrian Wilson as the third peasant, Pete Moss. Alexandra Phelan was gracefully supportive as Annalisa's nanna.

Hayley Williamson was a very polished modern Annalisa, contrasting well with the pomposity of the court. A pity the score didn't make more of Hayley's lovely singing voice.

Depth also came from Shaun Brown, the dragon, roaring and shaking the village until magical powers reduced him to a lisp, wimpish puffer.

Carolyn Jones' set designs were spot-on and well-lit, with an especially bold, stark torture chamber. Costumes were

detailed and extensive but the witches' costumes were wasted in a very short scene. Reducing the number of set changes would allow the audience unbroken concentration.

Program notes, especially lead profiles, were excellent.

Director Fiona Wells said the cast and crew were some of the best she's ever worked with.

"The whole team was very motivated", she said. "They workshopped the script and really made the parts their own. One group of students even did the choreography."

Penning by Lynne Bartlett, Mark Leehy and Kevin O'Mara, *Dragon Girl* was first performed by Warrandyte Primary School in 1989.

Dragon Girl was preceded over its three performances by items from younger classes at Warrandyte, amiably compered by the Grade 4 teacher, Ian Caffin.

This was Ian's final appearance for the school after teaching there for 21 years. May there be lots of gin in your milk, Ian.



An hilarious night of death and doom

THE Warrandyte Theatre Company showed us some of its remarkable depth of talent in Ken Virtue's production of

Visiting Hours, written by Richard Harris. With the audience seated on the stage and looking down on to the set—an English hospital ward—we were treated to a great view of the six stories which unfolded during the evening.

Trevor Hanna was our first patient. He had suffered the indignity of his car being struck from behind by a lorry whilst he was with a mysterious lady, his trousers around his ankles.

The consoling wife, who had brought our unfortunate soup and trifle—his favourites—was beautifully played by Raine Dinale. Gradually we learn what the police had told her about the accident and, almost innocently, she sets him up to make himself look the clod that he is.

Dinale unfolds her mischievous character with great timing as the audience switches their condolences from the road victim to the marriage victim. A fine piece of writing and well delivered by both actors.

The next piece was called *Keeping Mum*, and it centred around the rather sad figure of a middle-aged woman, visiting a patient unable to speak. She is determined to keep his spirits up. First we assume the patient is the mother of the visitor, particularly given the title, but through the long monologue it becomes possible, then obvious, that the lady is not related.

The words allowed us to see the wonderful talent of Sue Dyring, who did not

THEATRE

By NICHOLAS PARSONS

miss a beat in her lengthy, demanding monologue, requiring a variety of emotions, but it was overlong, especially when it became clear that the poor old lady in the hospital bed was a substitute for a mother who had passed on.

Before interval the audience was revitalised by a snappy comedy, *Show Business*, about the one-upmanship of surgeons who are trying to make names for themselves.

Clever Caroline Shaw played the surgeon who welcomed the television crew, headed by Alison Leutchford as the interviewer. Newcomers Katie Throssell and Nieta Mansor were funny as the sound and vision team—more interested in their lovers than their jobs.

The nurse, who had to answer the needs of the patient, the surgeon and the film crew (not necessarily in that order) was amusingly acted by Keith Cook. The tempo was fast and there were several memorable moments.

Act Two began with a sketch called *Going Home*, highlighting how patients can bond during a stay in hospital. Dying played a woman who had just had a 'major' and had obviously spent a while in the women's ward, making friends with others who had similar operations. The script showed how individuals behave differently when their time has come to leave; some going

quietly, others needing to say goodbye with everyone, others wanting to go back to the drudgery of their own lives.

Leutchford played the close friend, and other patients included Shirley Rowe and Christine Andell. A fine sketch and well delivered.

Perhaps the night was stolen by some brilliant acting by Trevor Hanna in a moving piece called *Waiting*. As an old man, Hanna was wheeled out to the front of the audience and gave us a heartfelt reading of the aged condition, moving in and out of reality.

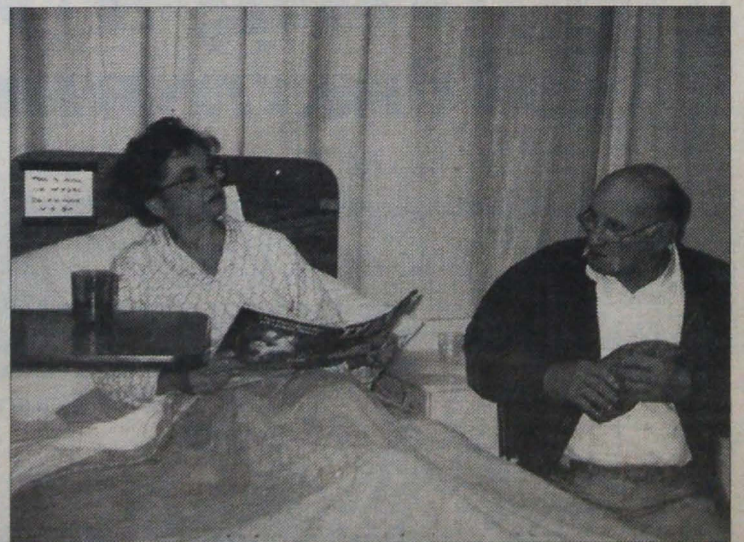
Memories, experiences, relationships and emotions were expressed by this gifted actor, moving the entire audience.

To save us going into the night with a tear in our eyes, *Virtue* finished the evening with a comedy called *Magic*. Yvonne Morey played the suffering patient Brenda, who had visitors from hell—Trevor Hanna and Caroline Shaw playing a wise cracking couple more intent on entertaining the ward than cheering up the patient who was about to have a major operation.

Behind Brenda lay a lovelorn young lady called Sandra, played by Mansor, who was trying to resurrect a relationship with some no-hoper on the phone. Christine Andell and David Howell played the older straight couple who served as audience to our two terrible pranksters.

A fun way to end a great night's entertainment.

Thanks Ken Virtue for a great choice of theatre, well backed-up by a group of talented actors.



Breakfast with Fabian

Wellknown Melbourne businesswoman Fabian Dattner will be addressing Warrandyte Business Association members at a breakfast seminar at Potters Restaurant on Wednesday, July 23, commencing at 7am. Cost of the seminar, including breakfast, is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Bookings through Trish Qualtrough at Needles And Pins, 9844 1720.

History

The Warrandyte Historical Society will be holding their annual general meeting in the Warrandyte Community Centre on Sunday, July 20 at 3pm. Guest speaker will be Mrs Paddy Childs, who will talk on the history of the cottage garden. Afternoon tea will be served and all are welcome to attend.

Follies

Coming Grand Hotel fundraisers include Midwinter Follies on Friday, July 18 in aid of the Mechanics Institute Hall. The original mechanics institute hall was opened in December, 1890, following the establishment of the institute in 1882. The present hall was built in 1926. The follies will be presented by the Warrandyte Theatre Company and friends. For bookings call 9844 3202.

Fundraisers

Other fundraisers at the Grand include Paradiddle on Friday, August 1 in aid of Information Warrandyte and a Blues Brothers night on August 15 for the Wonga Park CFA.

Helpers

Warrandyte Historical Society, now 21 years old, is seeking new members to help in the presentation of our local history. They also need volunteers to man their museum for three hours on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon every second month. If you are interested, please call Gina on 9844 3662.

Seniors

The 35th annual general meeting of Warrandyte Senior Citizens will be held on Thursday, August 7 at 1pm at their centre in Taroona Avenue.



Beautiful Mount Lofty was recently added to Warrandyte State Park. The Friends of the Park will be busy over coming years restoring this natural feature to its former glory. (Picture by Jan Tindale)



Conducted by JUDY GREEN
Drop your news in the letterbox in the front door of our office at the Community Centre, fax it to 9844 4168, or post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte, 3113, by the last Friday in the month.

Friends

Friends of Warrandyte State Park's Thursday activities include a Yarra Valley Billabong's Tour on July 17, a Pigeon Bank Creek Wander on July 24 and a Mullum Mullum Creek Revegetation Walk on July 31. Sunday events include a Frog Walk on July 27. Anyone interested can call the membership secretary, Julie Bishop, on 9844 4661.

Reunion

A reunion has been organised for all who have worked at Harry Heath's supermarket. It will be held at the Grand Hotel on Saturday, September 6 at 8pm. Cost is \$5 a head. RSVP by July 30 to 9844 3803 or 9876 3056.

Dance

The next social dances at the South Warrandyte Hall will be on Saturday, July 12 and Saturday, August 9. Enjoy old time dancing, new vogue and modern to a superb band. Cost \$5. Call 9723 3892 for further information.

Wildlife

A series of wildlife seminars are being held at the community centre on the first Thursday of each month, arranged and sponsored by the Friends of Warrandyte State Park, Bend of Isles Conservation Association and the City of Manningham. The next session will be on August 7, when Melody Serena will talk on the platypus, followed by a

session on September 4. Enquiries to Bill Mallinson on 9840 9338 or 9840 9333.

Convalescing

Local identity Jim Horkings is home again after another stay in hospital, followed by three weeks at the Warranvale retirement home in Reynolds Road. Jim is full of praise for the care and attention he received from the staff there. Jim's wife Marnie said she almost had to lasso him to get him home! Jim celebrated his 91st birthday on June 18. Happy birthday, Jim!

Artspace

The current exhibition at the Manningham Artspace in Doncaster Road features contemporary Chinese art. This exhibition is one of a series designed to promote the emerging contemporary artists of China. Come and experience a little bit of China. It will remain open until July 20, from 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Friday and from 2pm to 5pm, Saturdays and Sundays.

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YEAR ROUND SERVICE

Breaking free from reading problems

An exciting course in speed reading and comprehension is beginning at Warrandyte Youth Services. Designed for students in years 7 to 12, it is aptly titled Breaking Free.

"Breaking Free is a four day course which uses accelerated learning strategies and exciting self development activities to give students a sense of purpose and achievement," a Youth Services spokesperson told the *Diary*. "Students learn to double their reading speed, increase comprehension, halve study time, make efficient use of notes and remember easily. Young people are also given the opportunity to learn techniques to enhance self esteem, build confidence, improve relationships, manage stress and handle peer pressure in a safe and caring environment."

"The Breaking Free Pro-

gram is about being the very best you can. Importantly, the Breaking Free Program will be run by the people who created the program."

If you would like to be part of this exciting program, a free information evening will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre (multi-purpose room), 168-176 Yarra Street, Warrandyte on Wednesday, July 23 at 7pm. The evening will provide an opportunity for parents and students to ask questions and speak with the program's facilitators.

The four day program will run from August 21 to 24. The venue will be announced at the information evening.

To attend the obligation free information evening, please telephone Lisa Harris or Jennifer Campbell at Warrandyte Youth Services on 9844 2985.

CLYDE & OCKER



"I can read readin', Ock, but I can't read writin'!"

A great night for the Irish!

By ADAM BORWICK

The finals of Warrandyte Basketball Club's midweek men's and women's competitions were completed this month, with close finishes in all sections.

In open men's section, the Fighting Irish lived right up to their name by downing reigning champions the Hitmen in their first grand final appearance in four attempts.

A big crowd at the Warrandyte High School stadium was treated to a good-standard game, with neither side able to grab a telling advantage.

The Irish led narrowly going into the half-time break. They should have been further in front, but poor free-throw shooting had cost them eight points.

The second half saw the Irish pull away, thanks to a good running offence and solid drives to the basket by Leigh Evans and Brad Giampietro. They led by 10 points and looked like going right on with it.

Someone had to step up for the Hitmen if they were going to make a serious defence of their title—and that someone turned out to be Jon Moore. As the crowd responded, the best

SPORT



shooter in the competition hit four three-pointers to give the River Rats the lead and a sniff of victory.

But the Irish kept their heads, regrouped and pulled together. A combination of good defence work and clutch free-throw shooting from Giampietro saw them home by seven points.

In the Over-30 men's section, defending champions The Plastics ran into the River Rats, who had earned favouritism by beating them in the semi-final.

The game was played with a lot of spirit—particularly by the River Rats. They wanted the ball more and that desire was reflected on the scoreboard at half-time.

The Rats, seeking their first title, carried their hunger for the ball and their good form into the second half, restricting the Plastics' big men from grabbing rebounds as they ran the floor and converted defensive rebounds into easy lay-ups.

They won quite convincingly.

In the women's Grand Hotel Cup, the PP Champs made it five wins in six seasons when they took on the Chuckles.

It was a similar game to last year's grand final—played tight but with Amanda McLellan and Suzi Edwards keeping the scorers busy for most of the first half.

The PP Champs gave McLellan plenty of support, applying enough pressure to rattle the Chuckles into costly turnovers down the stretch.

McLellan put the nail into the Chuckles' coffin with some fine clutch shooting from the stripe and the PP Champs got home by six points.

The Most Valuable Player award winners for each section were:

Open men: Marcus Imbery (The Haris).

Over-30 men: Graham Pollock (Warrandyte).

Women: Amanda McLellan (PP Champs), Karina Reid (The Sneakers).

The players thank Graeme Ballinger and Naomi Grosdanis for their efforts in keeping the competition on track in the absence of Clinton Grybas.

ACT GLOBALLY...SHOP LOCALLY



Planning & Environment Act 1987 • Planning & Environment (Planning Scheme) Act 1996 NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF PLANNING SCHEME

Nillumbik Shire Council has prepared a new Nillumbik Planning Scheme.

The planning scheme affects all of the areas of the municipal district of the Nillumbik Shire Council.

The planning scheme introduces a new Nillumbik Planning Scheme as required by the Planning and Environment (Planning Schemes) Act 1996, including a new format containing selected State standard provisions from the Victoria Planning Provisions, a municipal strategic statement, state and local policy frameworks, standardised zones, overlay, particular provisions relating to use and development, and a number of administrative provisions and definitions. The new planning scheme also incorporates a number of documents specified in the planning scheme, and contains new maps applying the standardised zones and overlays to land with the area covered by the scheme.

The planning scheme, including incorporated documents and maps, can be inspected during office hours (8.30am—4.45pm) from

Thursday 10 July 1997 until Wednesday 10 September 1997 at the following locations.

Nillumbik Shire Council, Civic Drive, Greensborough, or the Department of Infrastructure, Ground Floor, Olderfleet Buildings, 477 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Submissions about the planning scheme must be sent to: **Mr Barry P. Rochford, Chief Executive Officer, Nillumbik Shire Council, PO Box 476 Greensborough, Vic 3088 by WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 1997.**

Owners and occupiers may make submissions. A submission may include a request that a State standard provision be included in or deleted from the planning scheme, but cannot request a change to the terms of any state standard provision. A submission can be made on any of the 'local provisions'.

Barry P. Rochford
Chief Executive Officer

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Bloods, you blew it!

Golden chance for glory goes begging

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club sacrificed a golden opportunity to alleviate the threat of relegation by "blowing it" in the home game against North Ringwood on July 5.

The Bloods led by 32 points early in the third quarter and really looked to have the measure of the EDFL Second Division finals contenders.

But the visitors, steadier under pressure, finished too strongly. They trailed by just nine points at the last change and won by 21 after scores had been level twice in the final term.

Victory would have put Warrandyte a game clear of Mulgrave at the foot of the ladder, with a very winnable home game against Blackburn coming up on July 19.

The defeat—and Mulgrave's loss to Montrose—left the cellar-dwellers on one win apiece for the season, Warrandyte off the bottom by virtue of a slightly better percentage.

The issue of relegation to Third Division could be decided when Warrandyte travel to Mulgrave on August 2, in the third-last home-and-away round.

Despite the result, Warrandyte's form against North Ringwood was their best of the season—better, according to coach Dale McCartin, than they produced to easily beat Mulgrave at home on May 24.

"We lost today because we made mistakes at crucial times," McCartin told the Diary.

"We had only 15 fit players at the end, but that's not an excuse.

"We're working very hard at eliminating the errors and we're getting them down.

"We were confident of beating North Ringwood—quality opposition—and we're looking forward to getting stuck into Mooroolbark (who have been one of the competition's pace-setters) next week."

A measure of Warrandyte's superiority over North Ringwood for much of the game was that the visitors hit the front for the first time at the 19-minute mark of the final quarter.

The Bloods had started full of running, captain John O'Brien goaling soon after the first bounce, North Ringwood responding quickly, Matt Grybas putting Warrandyte's second on the board but North again level-



SPORT

ling the score.

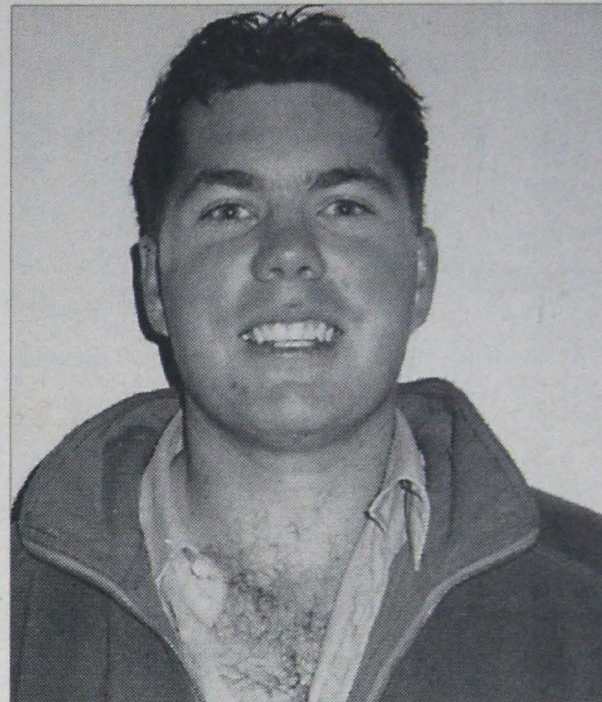
O'Brien put Warrandyte back in front after accepting a beautiful pass from young Ben Saaksjarvi and when Chris Sharp converted a free it was 4.0 to 2.0 and the local supporters were on excellent terms with themselves.

Brad Valentine to Grybas at 13 minutes put Warrandyte further ahead before North Ringwood struck back, but O'Brien did it again and North responded for a 6.1 to 4.0 scoreline with 20 minutes gone.

Chris Springett grabbed what may or may not have been an intentional pass with a couple of minutes of the quarter to go and the scoreboard at the change—7.1 to 4.2—told the story of War-

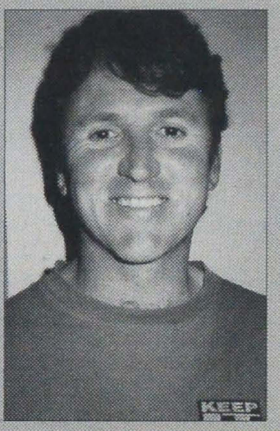


John O'Brien (left) and Dale Vitiritti ... two of the Bloods' best in what might have been a glorious victory.



"We lost today because we made mistakes at crucial times"

—Dale McCartin



randyde's best start of the season.

Two quick North Ringwood goals early in the second term whittled the Bloods' advantage down to just five points. Brad Valentine dashed from near the centre of the ground to steer one through after eight minutes, but North hit back from a free to make it a four-point ball game.

Then it was Warrandyte's turn again. Liam Riley and Kimberley O'Connor goaled to give the home side a buffer and when Russell Treverton scored against the pattern of play in the quarter's dying minutes, the Bloods had seized a 20-point advantage, reduced by just a point by the interval.

It looked very much like a long-

overdue Warrandyte victory when Grybas goaled early in the third quarter and Andrew Brown, one of an outstanding crop of local youngsters, snapped cleverly a few minutes later. It was 13.4 to 7.8 and Warrandyte were looking very good.

But it was about here that they mislaid the plot, or decided the game was already won.

It would be unfair, however, not to mention North Ringwood's professionalism. They knuckled down and began to take control.

Where the Bloods had hit the ball hard for the best part of three quarters, the visitors were now winning the race for it.

They kicked four unanswered goals—the last a long shot late

in the quarter—to go into the last change just nine points adrift (13.5 to 11.8) and looking ominous.

The last quarter was a desperate affair, a North Ringwood behind, then a goal, reducing the deficit to two points before Riley took a clever chest mark in the middle of a pack to give Warrandyte marginal breathing space.

A North Ringwood goal at five minutes was answered by Valentine and behinds were exchanged before North goaled at 14 minutes. A forced behind at 16 levelled the score.

The turning point might have been when Valentine missed a sitter from the goal square. Scarcely able to believe their good fortune, North surged for-

ward to level again at 18 minutes and hit the front for the first time a minute later.

Two unanswered goals from the visitors in the next six minutes made it a case of what might have been for Warrandyte.

The final score was North

Ringwood 17.16 (118), Warrandyte 15.7 (97). The Bloods' best were O'Brien, Dale Vitiritti and Aaron Woolley.

The Reserves were beaten by 31 points, 9.8 (62) to 4.7 (31) but are showing encouraging form. The Under-18s have yet to win this season.

"I'm very proud of the character these kids have shown in such a tough season," Alchin said.

"They consistently go in undermanned and, yes, we've had some hidings—but they never whinge, never complain."

● The Under-16s away game at East Ringwood on July 20 will be televised on the Optus network.

The kids crack it at last

It was almost as good as a premiership for Warrandyte's Under-16 football team.

A 44-point win over Norwood at home on June 29 was the young Bloods' first success of the season—and they did it in emphatic fashion, coming from just a few points up at three-quarter time.

The hero was centreman Ben McKellar, who collected almost 60 possessions for the game.

And he had plenty of help from the likes of ruckman Harvey Brown, captain and rover Aidan Davey and wingmen/ruck-rovers Lachlan macdonald (four goals) and Adam Schaffer.

The Under-16s play in the top division of the

EDFL competition and have lacked numbers all season.

They have suffered some big defeats—but their attitude has drawn warm praise from coach Greg Alchin and his assistant, Eric Houghton.

"I'm very proud of the character these kids have shown in such a tough season," Alchin said.

"They consistently go in undermanned and, yes, we've had some hidings—but they never whinge, never complain."

● The Under-16s away game at East Ringwood on July 20 will be televised on the Optus network.

Beefed-up barracking

Warrandyte Football Club past players will host a beef-and-burgundy luncheon at the clubrooms before the game against Blackburn on July 19.

Tickets are \$20 a head and are available from Anthony Giles-Peters (9844 2573) and Brian

Tomlinson (9876 2178).

The clash with Blackburn is critical to the Bloods' survival in EDFL Second Division and the club urge all supporters to be there and to support what will be a very enjoyable social function.

Bushrangers name new captain-coach

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Cricket Club have appointed well-credentialled Paul Montgomery captain-coach for the 1997-98 season.

Montgomery, 32, has been recruited from VCA club Ringwood. He will take full control of senior club training and coaching, captain the first eleven and oversee the management of the junior development program.

"Paul was identified as possessing the leadership qualities, playing experience and ability to fulfil the role required by our club in seasons to come," WCC administration manager Steve Pascoe told the Diary.

Montgomery played 201 games in 15 years at Ringwood, five of those years as captain of the third eleven. He played in five finals series, including a premiership in 1990-91.

An accredited cricket coach, he has been involved in coaching Ringwood's Dowling Shield squads and the Eastern Suburbs Cricket Academy.

"My aim is to take Warrandyte to a position where we are highly competitive in all grades and greatly respected in Ringwood District Cricket Association circles in both competitiveness and the way we play it," he said.

"I believe that all participants in team

sports must enjoy what they are doing and I hope to create an environment where enjoyment is derived while constantly improving our skills and techniques."

Montgomery will be introduced to players and members at a "meet the coach" sausage sizzle at the Baker home at 8-10 Orchard Grove, Warrandyte, on Sunday, July 27.

The Bushrangers start training for the new season indoors at Maddocks Sports, 11 Mary Street, Blackburn, on Sunday, July 20, at 11am.

Two nets have been booked for an hour and all senior and Under-16 players are invited.

Warrandyte approach 1997-98 marginally "in the red" financially after a disappointing season on and off the field.

"To say that the 1996-97 season was a disappointing one would be an understatement," outgoing treasurer Michael Canty said in the club's annual report.

"This year saw the club go from a relatively liquid position after the completion of the 1995-96 season to one in which we struggled to survive.

"Many people do not realise how important numbers around the club are to both the playing performance and the financial performance of the club.

"If people are not willing to attend club functions that are organised to generate funds for such things as new pitches, nets and the like, then these items will simply be out of reach of the club in the foreseeable future.

"It is easy to say with hindsight that the club possibly overcommitted itself in relation to coaching and player payments...

"This was a committee initiative at the beginning of the season to try to gain some success on the field as well as to provide a stable training environment in which all players, junior and senior, could learn and progress.

"However, this was not the case and the success, and subsequently the numbers around the club, did not increase."

The club have put together a range of cricket gear which will give it an easily-recognised image both on and off the field.

The gear includes club badges, training pants, tracksuits, cricket polo shirts and baseball-type caps all with embroidered club logo, and cricket caps.

Orders for Christmas must be lodged by October 15. Order forms have been sent to members and should be returned to The Secretary, 7 Mopoke Hill Road.



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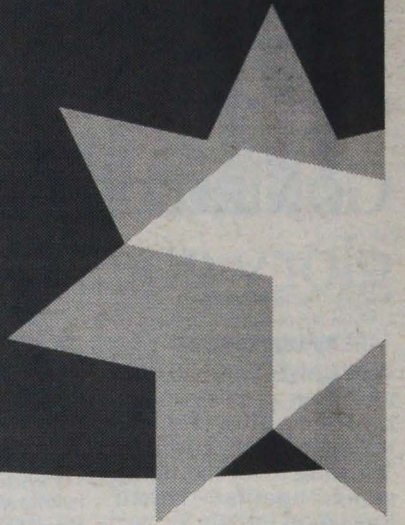
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