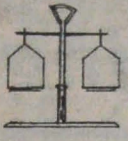


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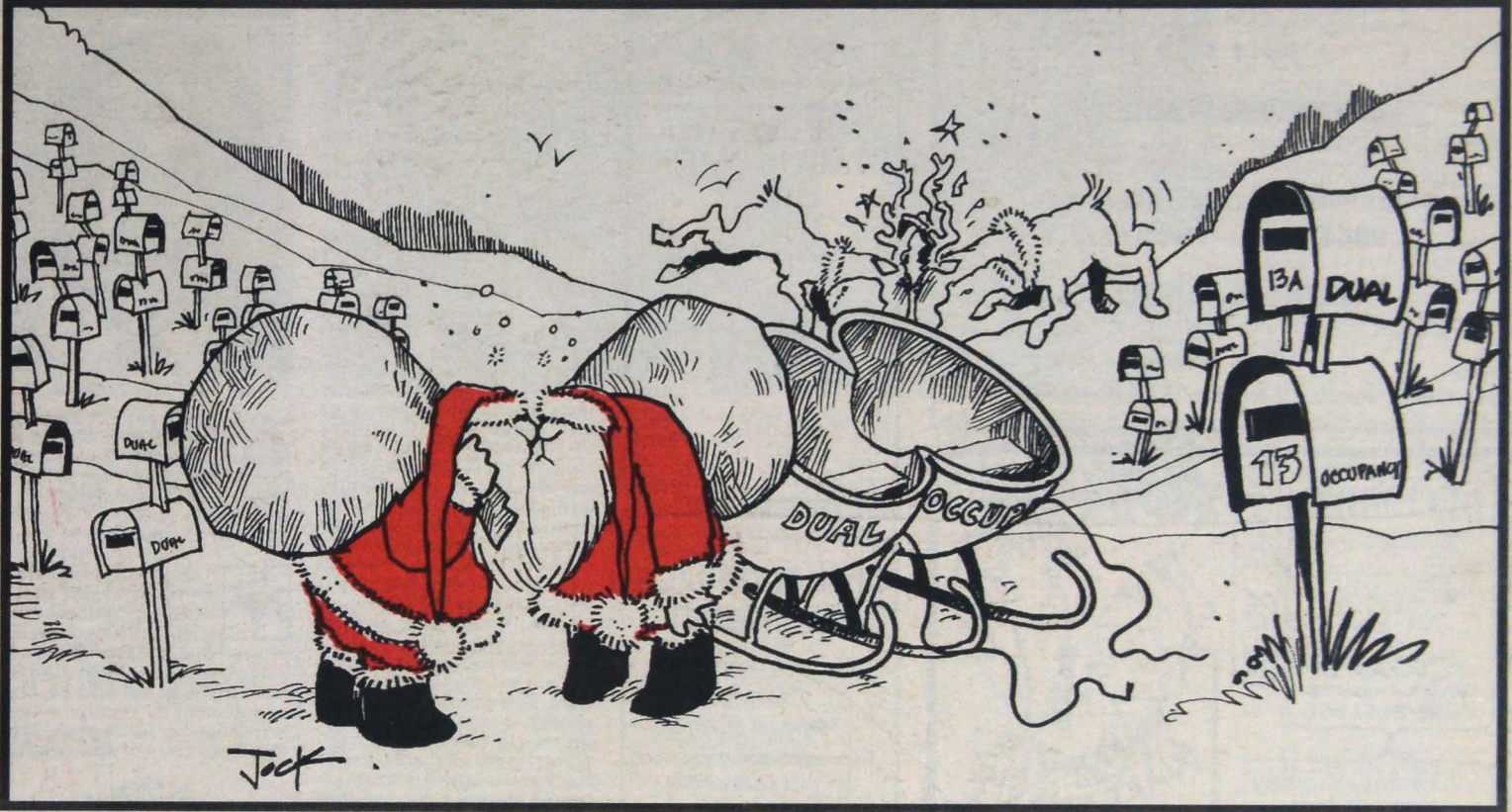
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Christmas and New Year greetings from all at the Diary



Keep developers out!

by DAVID WYMAN

Warrandyte residents are being urged to take immediate action to ensure that the ban on dual occupancy is upheld and further subdivision of the township does not take place.

Local MP Phil Honeywood said it was now important that the majority view in the community, to continue the ban on dual occupancy, be conveyed to Manningham council and the Minister for Planning, Rob Maclellan.

Cr Patricia Young, one of the two Mullum Mullum Ward councillors covering Warrandyte, said that "council cannot do it (retain the ban on dual occupancy) alone".

"I am sure that the support of residents sending in their objections to dual occupancy and a letter to the minister would help the council," she said. "There should be no dual occupancy in Warrandyte especially on small parcels of land."

A public meeting, protesting the possible introduction of dual occupancy, will be held at the Warrandyte Mechanics Hall on Monday, December 15 at 8pm.

Phil Honeywood told the *Diary* that there was still some hope that Warrandyte would remain free of dual occupancy.

"There are several stages of the planning process to be negotiated before we need to panic," he said. "Council will

Locals urged to lobby minister on dual occupancy

consider all the submissions made in response to its Municipal Strategic Statement."

This statement proposes a new Low Density Residential Zone which would protect Warrandyte from dual occupancy. None of the new urban zones introduced by the state government give this protection and the Minister for Planning, Mr Maclellan, has written to council rejecting the new Manningham zone.

Phil Honeywood said the council would vote on the Municipal Strategic Statement which would then be submitted to the minister, who would refer it to an independent panel.

"That panel may well find that a special situation does exist in Warrandyte and recommend that to the minister."

Phil Honeywood urged Warrandyte residents to make representations to the Minister for Planning opposing dual occupancy.

"We have had a degree of contentment

about our ban on dual occupancy. We now need to stress that the special characteristics of Warrandyte do not suit a denser form of housing.

"Obviously, I'll be lobbying Minister Maclellan intensively. As a minister and local member I am doing all I can to convey the views of my community to the minister."

Phil Honeywood said residents could "take heart" that the Green Wedge was secure under the new state zones. "If we lost the Green Wedge the whole character of the area would be lost anyway," he said.

"Given that there is a vocal minority of landowners who have made submissions for extensive subdivision of both the Green Wedge and Warrandyte, it is now important that the majority view of the community be conveyed to the council and the minister."

Cr Patricia Young pointed out that all the new zones in the Victoria Planning

Provisions would permit owners and developers to apply for a dual occupancy or multi-unit development in Warrandyte township.

"It is not possible to maintain the existing controls on unit development through the use of any of the residential zones available now, combined with overlay controls and local policies," she said.

"In an attempt to preserve the existing controls council has chosen to use a Special Use Zone and has attached a schedule which incorporates the existing controls in the Warrandyte township.

"There is a need for looking at the possibility of more retirement accommodation so that people who have been living here all their lives do not have to move out when they cannot sustain their homes any more.

"It is also important that consideration be given to extra large acreages that have been used as a business, such as orchards, or other family business before 1978, to try and guide them into more sustainable businesses that they can manage so they, too, do not have to leave the area.

"Splitting up large acreages for developers to move in, in my opinion, cannot be allowed to happen. We all want to keep the Green Wedge and the rural landscape for our children and children's children."

● **Further background, comment: Page 5**

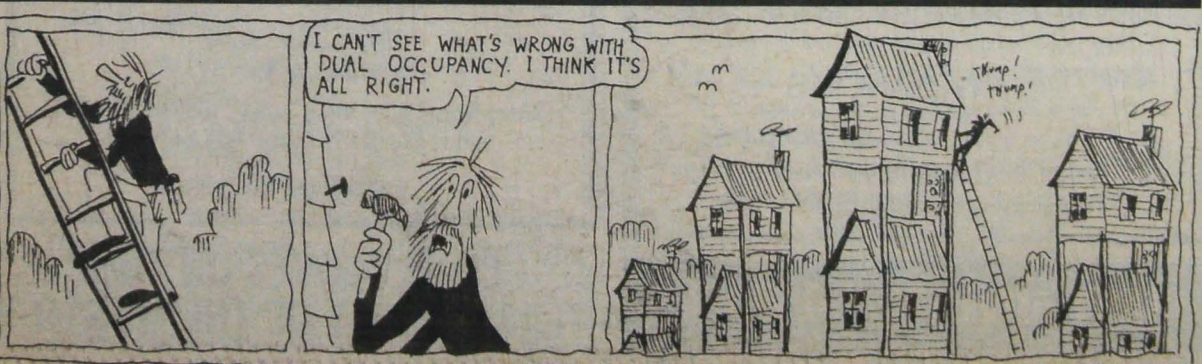


Phil Honeywood: "make representations"



Patricia Young: "council cannot do it alone"

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David Hogg, 9844 1858

Ex-president Lawrie back in full training



It was an office send-off, one of those city lunches that run into supper, and, being a man of sober habits (ha!), Lawrie Sloan was not quite the last to leave. Lawrie, long-time former Warrandyte footy club president, reckons it was about 9pm when he arrived at Spencer Street station to train it home to Ringwood. A Glen Waverley train was about to leave and because long lunches tend sometimes to cloud absolute clarity of reason, he thought it might be an idea to catch it to Burnley and wait for a Belgrave via Ringwood there. So off he went. And woke up at Glen Waverley. Lawrie rather sheepishly told the Met bloke on the platform that he'd slept past his stop and the bloke smiled knowingly and assured him he wasn't the first to do that, especially on a Friday night. Lawrie caught the return train back to the city where, as luck would have it, another Glen Waverley train was about to leave. Sticking with his original plan to take it to Burnley and catch the Belgrave one there, he got aboard. And woke up at Glen Waverley again. The same Met bloke on the platform was both amused and bemused but complimented Lawrie on his consistency. Okay, another return journey and Lawrie got off at Burnley and, eventually, on to that elusive Belgrave train. This time he woke up at Upwey, having overshot Ringwood by many country miles. He got off there to await the next city-bound train, which turned out to be the one that had taken him to Upwey anyway, and, in a rare fit of insomnia, still had his eyes open when it got to Ringwood. A taxi dropped him off at his North Ringwood home at 1.45am. The good news is that Lawrie travels on a yearly ticket. Still, the Met might be justified in claiming that he had used up 12 months' travelling entitlement in one night.



If you think life isn't full of surprises, talk to Barry and Dorothy Hawkins, who moved to Cairns from Tills Drive a couple of years ago. And if you want confirmation, have a word with John and Julie Ryan, of David Road. The Hawkins had been targeted for a surprise visit, departing Warrandyte October 9, from their old mates Carolyn Corcoran, Laurie Warr and Tom and Penny Kerkhof and one secret became two when Rhino, unaware of their upcoming trip, announced he and Julie were flying to Cairns on October 10 for a holiday financed by his handed-in firearms. Barry was on the phone to John, making arrangements to pick him up at the airport next day, when the party of four arrived at the Hawkins haicenda, so they hid in the garden (oblivious to the pet python that calls it home), knocked on the door again and gave him such a surprise that it took two, maybe three, beers to steady the nerves. Then they waited in the bedroom as Dorothy arrived home from work and gave her similar treatment. It was

IN RED & WHITE



Lawrie Sloan: railroaded.

back to the bedroom next day as Barry arrived home from the airport with the Ryans and Penny says John was so surprised he was actually lost for words! That's a big call, Penny, but we'll go along with it.



The surprises sprung so far, however, were nothing compared with the one Laurie produced at the Port Douglas Sheraton a couple of nights later when he announced his engagement to Carolyn after being together for 21 years! Ah, the impetuosity of post-youth!



Before you read this, please turn to Page 19 and see if the Out of The Box column is there. It is? Beaut, because it's very lucky to have made it. OOTB, in which we invite local groups and individuals to briefly announce upcoming events, is collated by Judy Green, whose hubby Cliff, our founding father, sticks each month's contributions in a large envelope as they arrive and takes them home on deadline to be sorted out. He left the office several days ago with this month's envelope and on the way out of the community centre put it down to help centre manager Norm Tillack and Jim Pleasance load some junk into one of Jim's Instant Skips. Good deed done, Cliff arrived home—minus envelope. Oh gawd! Back to the community centre and dismay. Skip gone and no sign of envelope, which by now might be part of some landfill somewhere. Norm called Jim on the mobile. Engaged. Out of reach. Engaged again. Then success. Ring, ring. Jim was at Ron Day's Soil Shop near the corner of Tindals Road on his way to the Box Hill tip. Yeah, okay, he'd meet them at the top of Melbourne Hill. By the time the other two had arrived, Jim had

turned the skip inside out and retrieved the precious envelope. So now everyone could know when the next Nursing Mum's coffee morning was to be held and who won the Anglican Church's raffle. All was saved and life in Warrandyte could proceed at its usual frantic pace.



There's been a spate of minor crime (it's only minor, of course, if it happens to somebody else) in this town lately and none more heinous than the shocking indignity inflicted upon that lady dummy who sits outside the Club Store (late the Gospel Chapel) during trading hours. Some fiend stole her diamond-and-ruby black velvet hat! How could they! The lady is now wearing considerably less swish headgear and looks quite sad. We doubt if any local would be mean-spirited enough to commit such an outrage, so we'll blame the tourists.



Lovely response to Jan Tindale's Page 1 picture and Julie Murray's Page 5 story last issue of Cory the little lost koala. Lots of oohs and aahs and ain't he cute. We gather a lot of you have taken Cory to heart and we'll be giving you regular updates on his welfare. The latest is that he's doing just fine in the specialist wildlife care of Julie Pryor and has gained 200 grams since he was found all alone in the world.



The middle-aged lady, who just happens to pride herself on her knowledge of local flora, tacitly tut-tutted as she approached two young blokes standing out back of the community centre. In her middle-aged eyes, they were typical of today's youth—long-haired layabouts with pierced ears. What's more, they were arguing. Indeed they were—about the precise identity of a tall native plant growing there. "It's a pomaderris *aspera*," said one. "Wrong, it's a pomaderris *racemosa*," insisted the other. If the lady had been the expert she'd believed herself to be, she could have told them it was indeed an *aspera*, a fact she later established with Joan McMahon, who tends the centre gardens. Anyhow, with faith in today's youth restored, she moved on, smiling inwardly and tacitly apologising.



And on that heart-warming note we sign off for '97. We'll see you in February, but in the meantime may your New Year joys be as boundless as Santa's generosity on Christmas Day.

Smokey Joe

DECEMBER

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AT THE BRIDGE



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Brigade to blitz fire risk



Recent devastating and tragic fires in New South Wales and unusually early hot weather have caused us all to focus on fire risks in our own neighbourhoods.

By **CLIFF GREEN**

Warrandyte Fire Brigade is concentrating major resources on an area-wide 'bushfire blitz' during December and January, as part of a state-wide CFA campaign.

Planned to complement the Community Fireguard project—already successfully underway in Warrandyte—the brigade will be holding street meetings at a number of strategic locations. Well-known local resident and CFA member, Ken Sharp, has been appointed Bushfire Blitz community consultant.

According to the CFA, Bushfire Blitz is the first such campaign anywhere in the world. "It will concentrate on bringing fire awareness to people in their own homes, at street level," Ken Sharp told the *Diary*. "It will provide residents with information concerning fire behaviour, home preparation and forward planning in case of the need for evacuation."

Meetings will be held in high-risk streets. They will consist of hour-long presentations, delivered by Ken Sharp, with support from the brigade. "Residents will be encouraged to ask questions and discuss problems and possible strategies within their immediate neighbourhood," Ken Sharp said.

"The material to be presented at these meetings has come out of a major CFA research project, conducted since Ash Wednesday. The aim is to directly deliver this material into the hands of residents in high-risk areas."

High-risk streets south of the river, so far targeted by the Warrandyte brigade, include Pound Road, Webb Street, Brackenbury Street, Melbourne Hill Road, Houghton Road, Everard Drive, Mitchell Avenue, Drysdale Road, Leber Street, Norton Avenue, Hutchinson Avenue, West End Road, Lorraine Avenue, Fossickers Way, Tindals Road, First, Second and Third Streets, Russell Road, Magpie Lane, Masonic



Residents discuss fire precautions at Warrandyte's recent fire safety expo. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

Avenue, David Road, Sloans Road, Forbes Street, Mullens Road, Lynette Avenue, Tarooona Avenue, Trezise Street and others.

Meetings will held on weekends and weekday evenings and residents will be notified by mail of forthcoming meeting times and places in their particular localities.

"Each meeting will look at specific factors affecting each immediate neighbourhood. This will include particular fire risk factors such as terrain and ground slope, aspect, road access, fuel loads—from which direction a fire could come and the need for pre-planning by residents.

"Evacuation during a bushfire is a controversial issue. Residents who have planned carefully, prepared thoroughly and decided to stay during a fire, have the best chance of saving their house in a major fire.

"Those residents, who for a variety of reasons, decide that evacuation is their preferred option, must also plan: what circumstances will trigger their evacuation, what they will take with them, what they will wear,

which route out they will follow and where they will go.

"Late evacuation is not recommended. It has been shown, over and over, that late evacuation can be fatal. Many people decide to see, on the day—even on the hour of the emergency—how big the fire is.

"The situation can change drastically within minutes, and what appeared to be safe one moment could be fatal the next. This will be especially so, given the threatening conditions of this fire season.

"The best result that could come out of a Bushfire Blitz street meeting would be the formation of a Community Fireguard group in that particular neighbourhood," Ken Sharp said.

CLYDE & OCKER



"Just so long as it's not Carols By Bushfirelight this year, Ock!"

Councils declare fire danger periods

The fire danger periods for the Nillumbik shire and Manningham city have been declared and will begin at 1am on Monday, December 15, 1997.

During this period all fires in open areas in Nillumbik require permits from council's municipal fire prevention officer, Norm Golgerth.

Residents found burning off without a permit face fines up to \$5000 and/or 12 months' imprisonment, while residents discovered burning off on a total fire

ban day face fines up to \$10,000 and/or two years' imprisonment.

Mr Golgerth said Nillumbik residents are advised to carry out all necessary fuel reduction burns prior to December 15.

"All residents in the shire are responsible for cleaning up around their property before the onset of the bushfire season," Mr Golgerth said.

Special conditions cover burning off and the fire danger period in Manningham, and residents should ring council on 9840 9333.

No Hungry Jack's for Eltham

By **FIA CLENDINEN**

In a move welcomed by Nillumbik shire president Robert Marshall, the developer of the proposed commercial development in the main street of Eltham withdrew from the contract of sale early this month. The ownership of the site now reverts to the council and Dallas Howgate's plans for a Shell-Hungry Jack's development have been scrapped.

Robert Marshall described the outcome as "fantastic". He said the community had worked very hard and deserved congratulation.

"It's been a momentous struggle. EGAG (Eltham Gateway Action Group) has done a fantastic job. People have been very courageous. Some councillors have had to face intimidation, including personal writs of up to \$10 million. This outcome is an enormous credit to those

councillors and other people in the community. It's a great win to the democratic planning process."

The contract of sale for the proposed Shell-Hungry Jack's development had expired twice and on both occasions the council had extended the due date to "allow time for negotiation".

At a meeting on December 3, council planned to withdraw from the contract, but several hours beforehand was informed Dallas Howgate had already withdrawn.

Margaret Jennings, councillor for Wattle Ward and former secretary of EGAG, described the result as "a wonderful signal to the world". She said Dallas Howgate's withdrawal was "an honourable way out". She also said that the Minister for Planning, Rob Maclellan was influenced by local opposition to the

development. "The minister knew how strong the community feeling was. He knew in his heart that the proposed development was not good for Eltham."

Cr Jennings said the first priority of the council was to make the site safe. "We'll make sure there's no rubbish, tidy up, put some grass down and take down those fences."

She stressed that further decisions would not be made for some time. "This is a very long-term plan, it's not going to happen in the next two months. It's critical we get it right."

EGAG president Jenni Mitchell said she was "thrilled" by the result, describing it as proof "that people can change the world".

"We've worked our guts out and it's paid off in the end. We've held concerts, exhibitions, auctions. We've raised

\$25,000. We've put out 14 newsletters. It's been a very full-on exercise."

Jenni Mitchell said she would resign as EGAG president. "My task is over, I've achieved what I wanted to achieve. I want to get on with my painting, I'm 18 months behind." EGAG will be meeting to discussing future directions.

However Cr Marshall is worried by a rumour that the state government may put a police station on the site.

Cr Marshall conceded that the current Eltham police station is no longer adequate but said he hoped a solution could be arrived at amicably.

"We need a new police station in Eltham and preferably on the main road but not on that site. We hope we can work with the government to come up with an alternative position," Cr Marshall said.

LATE NEWS

A new "petrol station, convenience store and manual car-wash" is proposed for the Riverview Motors site in Yarra Street, opposite Stiggants Reserve. Betta Choice Pty Ltd has applied to Manningham council for an amendment to the planning scheme to permit this development.

● Full story: Page 4

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Major service station planned

By CLIFF GREEN

A large new 24-hour petrol station and convenience store and a four-bay carwash is planned for the Riverview Motors site in Yarra Street, opposite Stiggants Reserve.

The complex, with a total area of approximately 400 square metres of buildings and approximately 750 square metres of bitumen, would be built on the site occupied by the present garage and an adjacent house. The development would necessitate an excavation up to 4.5 metres deep.

The petrol station and convenience store would open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The carwash would open between 7am and 10pm, Monday to Saturday and between 9am and 7pm on Sunday.

The development would feature a large illuminated "monolith" sign on Yarra Street, seven metres high.

Weaver Schultz and Associates, on behalf of Better Buy Pty Ltd, has applied to Manningham council for an amendment to the planning scheme to permit this development.

The site is in the Warrandyte Environmental Residential Zone. Riverview Motors was permitted to continue operating in the zone as it existed before the advent of zoning. However, any new development will require an amendment to the planning scheme.

The application is being opposed by a number of nearby residents.

"The proposed development will be large and unsightly," Rob Nabben of Brackenbury Street told the *Diary*. "It will impinge significantly on the amenity of neighbouring properties with lights and noise. The storage of refuse and chemicals will be a major concern. The hours of operation mean that residents will have no privacy or respite."

"The proposed development would dominate the streetscape. Warrandyte township has a unique and valuable culture. People choose to live in Warrandyte because it does not have developments like the one proposed. People are attracted to the area for

LATE NEWS

its rural aspect and sense of community. The building of a 24-hour, seven days a week development is contrary to the desired appearance and function of the area."

The proposed site, near a blind bend on the road, is seen as a major problem. "Yarra Street is a busy and dangerous road," Rob Nabben said.

"The existing petrol station has been the scene of numerous accidents as motorists try to leave or enter the premises. This will be significantly worsened by the operation of the proposed development."

The site is directly across the road from Stiggants Reserve. "The Warrandyte festival and the monthly markets exist as a rural retreat away from suburbia. As the proposed development faces the reserve it will detract from this aspect. It will be extremely

dangerous for children crossing the road at this point. Parking during market time is dangerous now, without the added difficulties of negotiating added traffic generated by the development."

Manningham council officers appear to support the proposed development, placing emphasis on its benefits to tourism. In material sent to adjoining residents they suggest that "a new development would offer a higher level of service to Warrandyte's residents and visitors. This helps to support Warrandyte's important tourism role."

However, according to Rob Nabben, "tourists don't come to Warrandyte to wash their cars or visit a convenience store. They come to get away from such things and to enjoy the unique character of the town. The major gateway to Warrandyte should not have a major petrol station. The development is contrary to tourist values."

Council officers also claim environmental benefits from the

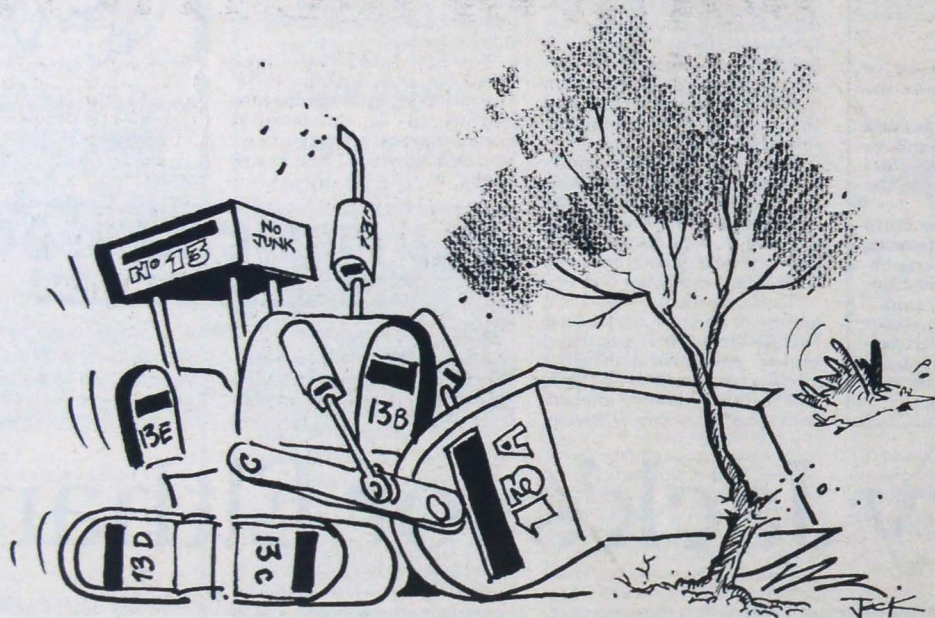
proposal: "The township of Warrandyte does not yet have a manual car washing facility which traps grease and other pollutants. Such a facility will lessen the amount of pollutants arising from car cleaning and washing into the Yarra River."

Although sited in a residential zone, Rob Batten is not advocating the total removal of a petrol station. "The site could accommodate a small, appropriately designed and managed facility," he said. "But this must be required to fit in with the character of its neighbourhood and the local community."

Plans and specifications and the wording of the proposed amendment can be examined at Manningham municipal offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, phone 9840 9469. Objections close on Monday, December 29.

Further enquiries and offers of support can be directed to Rob Nabben and Kerri McKenna on 9844 3168, or Tim Umbers on 9844 1828.

SAVE WARRANDYTE FROM SUBDIVISION



PUBLIC MEETING

In support of Manningham Council's stand against Dual Occupancy in Warrandyte township

SPEAKERS:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Phil Honeywood | - State member for Warrandyte |
| Cr Robert Marshall | - President, Shire of Nillumbik |
| Cr Patricia Young | - Ward Councillor, Manningham City Council |
| Roger Collins | - Strategic Planner, Manningham City Council |

WARRANDYTE MECHANICS HALL
MONDAY, 15 DECEMBER, 8pm

Dual occupancy: double trouble for Warrandyte

Elderlies' sacrifice for us

"Opposition Leader Mr Jeff Kennett visited the town last month and assured residents that Warrandyte would be exempt from dual occupancy under a Liberal Government."

Warrandyte Diary
June 1988

By CLIFF GREEN

For two long years Warrandyte fought against dual occupancy and its threat to the character of the township.

Warrandyte is especially vulnerable to closer density. Many of the residential blocks are between a third and half an acre in area. Some are larger.

Any such over-development would be disastrous. The population would more than double within a few years. Traffic would choke the roads, local services and facilities would fail to cope, schools and kindergartens would be overcrowded. The cat and dog population would escalate, the State Park and the river would come under enormous pressure, our gardens would be submerged beneath bricks and mortar and the tree cover of the area would disappear.

The character of the town, which has survived for almost 150 years, would be lost forever. The situation, in the event of a major bushfire, would be too awful to contemplate. Ten years ago, it all came frighteningly close to reality.

The threat of dual occupancy first revealed itself in January 1987 when a sign appeared on a site at the corner of Yarra Street and Anderson Street, advising of the new owner's intention to apply for a permit for "dual occupancy" on the site.

This galvanised local opposition, a group of concerned residents banded together and the Warrandyte Environment League and Cr Ken McKenzie of Doncaster-Templestowe council pledged their support.

A second house was subsequently built on this block, and two residences were later erected on a single site further along Yarra Street. These are the only completed dual occupancy residences in Warrandyte.

Doncaster council then conducted a survey of the township area, resulting in 68.1 per cent of residents expressing their opposition to dual occu-

pancy. Several months later, the state government placed a "freeze" on closer density in Warrandyte while special new environmental controls were being considered. Under this provision, any further building was temporarily halted.

Finally, after months of confusion and indecision, Doncaster council came out in firm opposition to closer density and flat development in Warrandyte.

Not one voice was raised in Warrandyte in support of dual occupancy through the duration of the campaign. This newspaper did not receive one letter or statement in favour of dual occupancy at this time. If there was any local support for this provision, we could not find it.

However, the Cain Labor government continued to promote dual occupancy as part of their social policy. The then local Labor MP, Lou Hill, forcefully represented our position at ministerial level, but he was arguing against both government and ALP policy.

But when Liberal candidate, Phil Honeywood, supported Warrandyte's stand and convinced Opposition Leader Jeff Kennett he should do likewise, the government had to think again, and dual occupancy and flat development in Warrandyte were pronounced "dead" by the Minister for Planning and Environment, Tom Roper, almost on the eve of the state election.

Warrandyte had another close shave in June 1993 when Minister for Planning, Rob Maclellan, introduced VicCode, which appeared to override local planning schemes "to encourage the use and development of land for multi-dwellings".

However, Phil Honeywood (now MP for Warrandyte) interceded on our behalf, and the following issue we were able to announce that Mr Maclellan had told the *Diary* that "the new Victorian multi-dwelling code will not affect the Environmental Residential Zone for Warrandyte".



Dual occupancy could result in the destruction of many of Warrandyte's gardens.

Dual occupancy north of the river?

By FIA CLENDINNE

Under the old Eltham shire planning zones, any second dwelling erected on a property north of the river had to share a party wall. This control did not prevent second dwellings, but it did discourage would-be developers.

However, Warrandyte Environment League spokesman Doug Seymour has alerted the *Diary* to disturbing changes in the proposed new zone created by Nillumbik shire to cover most of North Warrandyte.

Under the new zone, the requirement that the houses share a party wall has been removed.

"We are concerned that a second building will be easier to build in North Warrandyte," Doug Seymour said.

Yvonne Rust, from the Environment and Land Use Section at Nillumbik council confirmed that the new zones did allow for a second building on the property. "With a planning permit,

there can be two dwellings, yes."

But she pointed out that the planning scheme states that in the absence of reticulated sewerage, it must be demonstrated that all waste water can be treated and retained on the property.

Doug Seymour conceded that the absence of sewerage would be a big constraint in preventing a rush of second dwellings being erected in North Warrandyte.

Most houses are situated on steep, clayey ground where it would be impossible to demonstrate that waste water from a second dwelling could be treated and retained.

But Mr Seymour said he was worried by the changes to the zone. "There's an old campaigner's saying: never give an inch," he said.

Khan Franke, chairman of the Green Wedge Protection Group, agreed that dual occupancy was unlikely to be a major issue

in North Warrandyte. "I don't think dual occupancy will happen in the north part of Warrandyte. There's a lack of infrastructure."

Some residents on both sides of the river are concerned that the new zones put in place by Mr Maclellan show that the minister is unsympathetic to the Green Wedge.

However Mr Franke disagreed.

"I don't see the lifting of the exemption on dual occupancy as a trend. I see it as the standardisation of the planning zone. I think Maclellan wants standardisation across the state. I don't think it means the beginning of the end of the Green Wedge."

Mr Franke said that while other councils were unhappy with some outcomes instigated by the minister, Mr Maclellan had always been supportive of Nillumbik.

"The decisions he's made out here we've agreed with."

This community won its fight against dual occupancy in 1987-8 because the overwhelming majority of the people put their concern for Warrandyte before their own financial gain.

The dual occupancy provisions, which would have allowed residents to develop their properties in the township area, could have brought them considerable personal profit, perhaps even secured their futures financially. Instead they chose to oppose these measures in order to save the environment of their village for coming generations.

But one group of residents made a special sacrifice. The elderly folk of Warrandyte joined in the campaign with as much vigour and conviction as everyone else in this community. But they are the ones who have paid a high price for our victory.

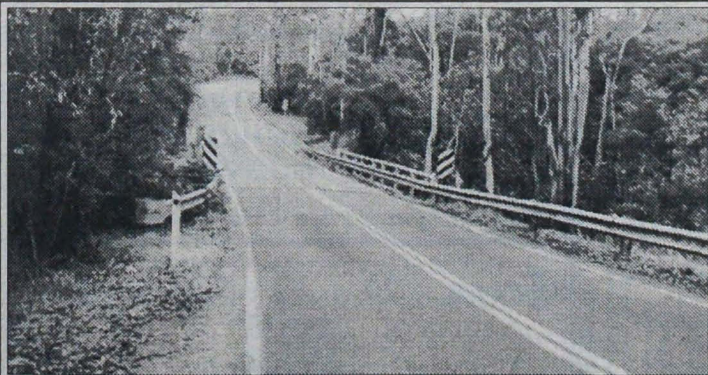
Dual occupancy offered them a chance to sell their large gardens and rambling houses, have units built upon them and buy back one of the units for their own use. Minimum garden maintenance, a new, compact, convenient residence—and the opportunity to stay at home—in the place they love.

Without adequate retirement housing, many of Warrandyte's elderly citizens have been forced to leave; at the very time when they most need the security of familiar surroundings and the support of a caring community.

So this newspaper launched a campaign—in February 1992—to have suitable land purchased and a retirement village built. A local committee was formed and council was lobbied. In October 1994 Doncaster council granted \$350,000 for the purchase of land.

By July 1995 the elected councillors had been sacked and the government-appointed commissioners had, to all intents and purposes, renege on this promise and withdrawn the money. Warrandyte's elderly residents had been betrayed. So far, Manningham's elected councillors have not seen fit to reinstate this commitment.

CLIFF GREEN



Jumping Creek: it's your say

Public comment on Manningham council's plans for Jumping Creek Road and its bridge will be called for early in 1998, with construction hoped to be started by mid-year.

A council spokesman told the *Diary* that planning permission had been sought to upgrade the bridge

The existing bridge on Jumping Creek Road. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

over Jumping Creek, although some details, such as retaining walls and their impact on vegetation had yet to be finalised.

It was council's strategy to encompass all uses of the route, the spokesman said.

"It is important that Jumping Creek Road is not upgraded more than necessary," he said. "It is a natural link for local users from Warrandyte and Wonga Park and

council is keen that outside vehicular traffic is diverted to more major arterial roads.

"There are significant flora and fauna areas, as well as safety issues for cars, pedestrian and horse traffic to be considered by the reference panel, which comprises people from throughout the district, as well as emergency services."

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Our high school students trawl the internet world

Warrandyte High School has been selected to be part of the AT&T Virtual Classroom Project on the net. There are 231 world-wide schools in the classroom, 25 of which are Australian, with eight Victorian schools.

Warrandyte High School has teamed with Maddison Middle School of Oregon, USA and Chiba Junior High School in Japan.

Claire Bloom, WHS computer coordinator, told the *Diary*: "To be selected I had to pass an international skills audit test to show I had the skills to participate and submit a proposal on a project we would like to develop in collaboration with two other schools."

"All the computers at our school have internet access and all students pay a small fee to have an email account. This gives them unlimited

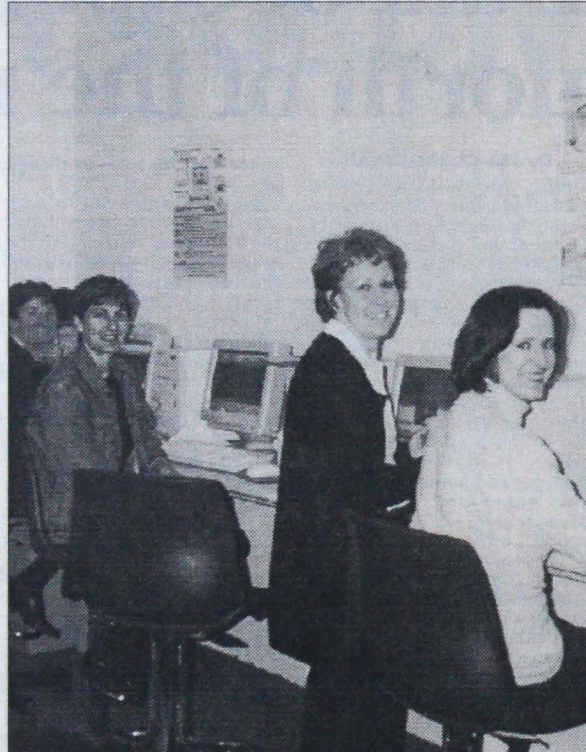
global communication opportunities, so our students were set to participate in the project.

"Our students suggested that a cross-cultural comparison of leisure and recreation activities for teenagers in the three countries would make a good study. The project will involve all our years 7-11 students and their computer teachers. At the moment we are waiting to see if the two other schools like our proposal."

The goal of the program is to familiarise students with international collaborative activities. The AT&T Virtual Classroom Project provides an opportunity to experience international cooperation firsthand.

"I hope that one day the students from the three schools involved may be able to actually meet, thus strengthening the initial friendships they will be making on the net," Claire Bloom said.

Computer room at Warrandyte High School



Young chess champions at KG school



Guy West, current Australian chess champion, playing in a simulated chess exhibition match, with children from Kangaroo Ground Primary School. (Picture by Fia Clendinnen)

By ANASTASIA CLENDINNEN

Kangaroo Ground Primary School on a Wednesday lunchtime is chaotic: buzzing with life and movement. Inside isn't a different story. We Chess Club kids are laughing and talking as we play chess, watch others play, and try to figure out chess puzzles.

Our coach, Stephen Clendinnen (my Dad) sits in the middle of the cheerful racket showing some beginners the basics. At the end of lunch-play everybody tramps outside to line up.

Dad announces Kangaroo Ground Primary School's results at the last RJ Shield Novice Chess Tournament and asks if anybody would like to go to the next. Hands fly up and Dad starts recording names.

Organized by the Victorian Junior Chess League, RJ Shield tournaments are held about once a month on a Sunday. They are open to all children and players use chess clocks.

Kangaroo Ground Primary

has done very well on all chess accounts. This year we have won millions of individual trophies at RJ Shield tournaments (the actual number is seven—Mum). We won the Hilda O'Callaghan trophy for best school in March. Our all-girls' team consisting of Taya Ashelford, Anastasia Clendinnen, Hannah McMaster, Aston Mitchell and Kacey Rowe came second out of 12 in the Girls State Tournament.

Our mixed team, consisting of Taya Ashelford, Anastasia Clendinnen, Hannah McMaster, Ashton Mitchell, Daniel Rowe and Kacey Rowe came second out of 12 in the Outer Eastern Zone, and progressed to the Mixed State Finals where we came tenth out of about 90 teams.

Considering that Kangaroo Ground Primary School is a small school (85 students) pitted against schools where chess is part of the curriculum and taught by professional coaches, I think we've done terrifically. We'll keep it up, too!



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PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

Notice of Amendment to the Doncaster and Templestowe Planning Scheme Amendment L126

Manningham City Council has prepared Amendment L126 to the Doncaster and Templestowe Planning Scheme.

The amendment affects land at 44-46 Yarra Street (Lots 1 & 2, LP 26448), Warrandyte.

The amendment proposes to insert a site specific provision into the Environmental Residential Zone. The site specific provision will make it clear that a planning permit is required to enable the use and development of the land for the purpose of a petrol station, convenience shop and manual car wash. This would facilitate the redevelopment of an existing petrol station, mechanical repairs workshop and dwelling on the land.

The amendment can be inspected at:

Manningham City Council Offices,
699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

Department of Infrastructure
Level 3 Plaza, Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne

Submissions about the amendment must be sent to:
Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster Vic 3108.

Attention: Manager Economic & Environmental Planning

Before: 29 December 1997
Signed: BOB SEIFFERT
Chief Executive
Date: 19 November 1997

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Thanks again to the Diary mob

It hasn't been our best year, here at the *Diary*, but we survived our break-in and now it's time to thank all those hard-working people—mostly volunteers—who have brought you your community newspaper during 1997.

News stories were written by David Wyman, Fia Clendinnen, Cliff Green, Rachel Baker, Prudence Truby King, Jeni Willis and Clinton Grybas. Our regular columnists were Smokey Joe, Roger Kibell, Pat Coupar, Marilyn Moore and Judy Green.

Features were written by Glen Jameson, Richard Warwick, Don Charlwood, Sandy Burgoyne, Julie Murray and Nick Parsons. Sports pages were by Lee Tindale, Damian Arsenis, Judy Green and Clinton Grybas. Our resident poets were Helena Allan and Janet Foote.

Occasional contributors included David Hogg, Eric Sandblom, Don Hughes, Adam

Borwick, Kael Oosthizen and Emma-Rose Parsons. The flying fingers of Helen Underwood typed our copy.

Artists Jock Macneish, Melanie Parsons and Wayne Rankin decorated our pages and photographers Sandy Burgoyne and Jan Tindale illustrated them.

The paper was edited and designed by Cliff Green and Lee Tindale and chief-of-staff Jan Tindale organised the assignments and assisted with research and community liaison.

Rachel Schroeder set the type, designed the ads and handled production, assisted by Mark Schroeder. Allardice Graphic Arts converted our data to negative film and the craftspeople at Streamline Press printed the paper. We travelled out into cyberspace this year, thanks to our internet editor, Eric Sandblom.

Rae Danks charmed our ad-

vertisers and kept our accounts and John Roberts looked after our corporate responsibilities. Don Humpreys kept our office spic and span and Peter Norman took our newspaper out to our much-appreciated distribution points, all over the area.

Last but not least, we remember the people who make it all financially possible—our advertisers.

And, finally, heartfelt thanks to you, our loyal and enthusiastic readers, with a special mention for those of you who contributed to our Dear Diary page.

We won't be around in January, but come the second week in February and we'll be back, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, bringing you all the local news that's fit to print. In the meantime, here's wishing everyone a joyous Christmas and a bright and peaceful 1998.

CLYDE & OCKER

"January's the best month, Ock. There's no damned Warrandyte Diary!"

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Local jobs for local people

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House has announced the revival of a local jobs placement scheme. Known as the Warrandyte Job Exchange, it operated between 1981 and 1993. The new project is called Local Jobs for Local People.

"This project will be an important stepping stone for the unemployed in our community, providing much needed self-esteem through satisfying employment in chosen fields," a spokesperson for Neighbourhood House told the *Diary*.

Local people of all ages will be given the opportunity to obtain work in a project which is "not based on pressure to take every job offered, but on each person's right to decide which job is appropriate to their needs," the spokesperson said.

The Neighbourhood House has received \$1000 funding from Nillumbik council to implement the scheme and is eager to hear from both prospective employers and jobseekers.

"Local Jobs for Local People is an opportunity for unemployed, retired and self-employed people to promote themselves in their local community," the spokesperson said.

A register of details of people looking for work and their skills will be consulted when an employer rings, requesting someone for a particular job. Potential employees will then be given the employer's phone number.

There will be no charge for people wishing to register for employment. A minimal fee will be charged to employers, each time a position is filled.

Phone 9844 1839 for more information.

Government cash for historical displays

Warrandyte Historical Society has received a \$5000 grant from the state government towards additional display facilities. Local MP Phil Honeywood announced the grant, made through the government's Housing the Arts program.

"As the society has a substantial collection of significant material which forms part of a permanent display at its museum," Phil Honeywood said, "this grant will enable it to purchase additional display facilities and allow for greater security and flexibility for display purposes."

"Housing the Arts program assists a wide range of Victorian arts organisations develop and enhance facilities for the production and presentation of the arts."

"These facilities improve the cultural life of the state and encourage the vibrancy of Victoria's artistic endeavours."

WRONG!

Several errors found their way into the *Diary* last issue. A story headed "Garden remembers a mother's sad passing" referred to a woman who had died of cancer as "pre-menstrual" instead of "pre-menopausal".

A story entitled "Club hits 'time out' on basketball stadium" reported that the state government had contributed \$3000 towards the \$9000 required for a new facility. This should have read \$30,000 and \$90,000 respectively. All three mistakes were made during the editing process.

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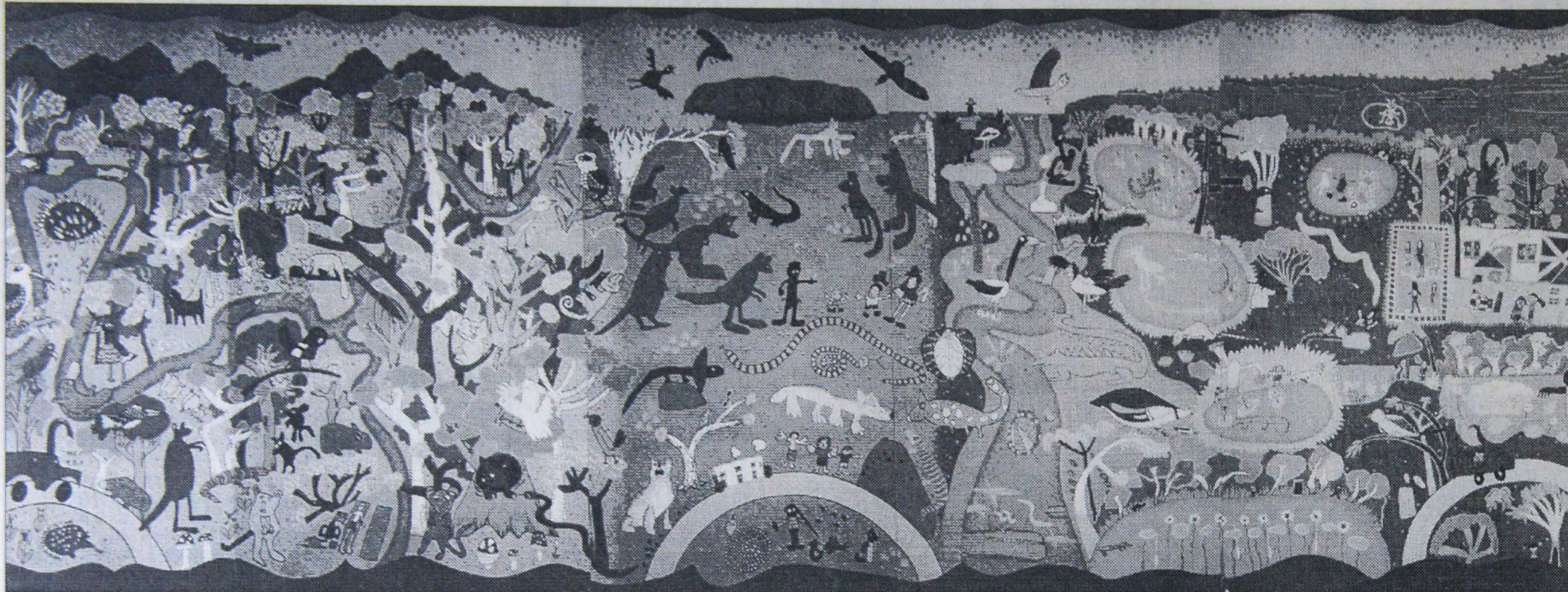
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Caring For The Country mural: (from left) Warrandyte, Uluru and Kakadu.

Children's work in memory of a beloved friend of the bush

Children at Warrandyte Primary School have contributed to a striking mural, installed at Bowali National Park in the Northern Territory, to honour the memory of local conservationist, Georgie Saunders.

Throughout September this year, Grade 2 children at the school were involved in the joint creation of the mural with children of a similar age from Jabiru Area School in the Northern Territory.

The mural, entitled Caring For The Country, was inspired by the life of Georgie Saunders (Waterman), who died in October 1996.

Georgie had worked as an interpretations officer at Kakadu, and at Warrandyte State Park, the Yarra Valley Metropolitan parks

and others. She wrote many news stories on conservation themes for the *Diary*. Her son, Edward, attends Warrandyte Primary School.

"Preliminary planning for the mural required liaising with Kakadu National Park and Jabiru Area School," teacher Sue Reynolds told the *Diary*. "Warrandyte primary children were involved in considerable research and design work, undertaken with artist Ron Reynolds."

The Warrandyte section was completed using scaled-down motifs, which were sent to Kakadu to be incorporated into the overall design by artist Annie Franklin.

"The mural contains many vivid paintings of wildlife and of people interacting with the environment," Sue Reynolds said. It depicts "three

different parts of Australia: the south (Warrandyte), the centre (Uluru) and the north (Kakadu).

"A video and prints of the mural have recently been received and the parents and children who have seen these were thrilled by the outstanding result.

"If you are Kakadu-bound, do look out for this wonderful work which is featured on a wall of the magnificent Bowali National Park information centre at Jabiru—a very appropriate setting because Georgie was responsible for the exciting and creative display in that centre," Sue Reynolds said.

Seat erected in memory of Georgie Saunders at Warrandyte State Park



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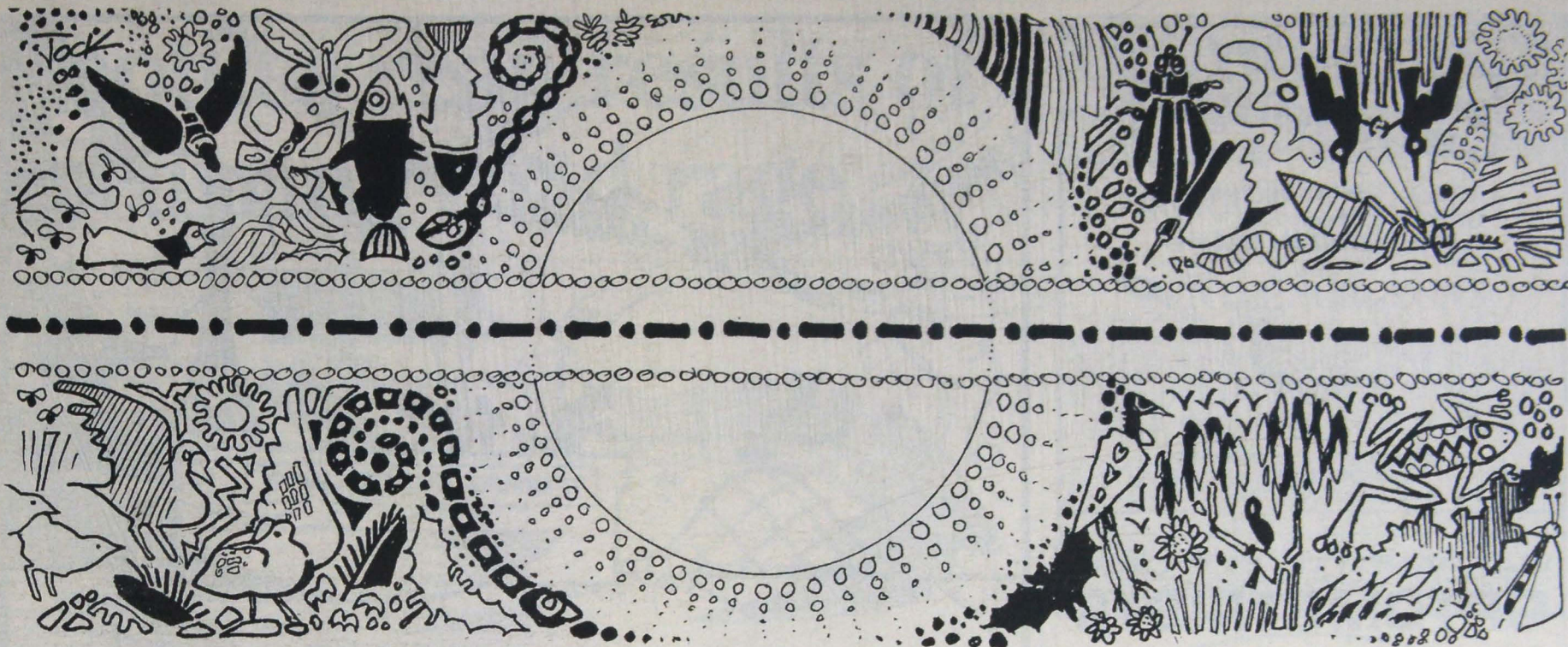
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5 HIGH SUMMER

The hottest weather of the year occurs as high summer sloughs off the last skin of moisture from the earth and the power of the sun radiates through the ecosystems energizing everything. The weather stabilizes into long sequences of rhythmic pulses of hot days, broken by occasional, often violent, cool changes. Many young creatures emerge from nests and drey to find their place in the world.

HIGH summer, and you wake up with the sun in your eye, and it stays there all day. Wander down to the Yarra River under apricot dawn skies to breathe in the cool, muddy smells before the day's heat destroys it all. On the water's edge in the riparian forest, river lomatia has its last flowers, having been out fully on the summer solstice. Timelonic moments of truth from the river, as the call of the wood duck is carried for miles along the steep gorge walls.

The shallow, sun-warmed river water generates a rich benthic plantlife, growing on rocks and on other plants. The diatoms are actively growing, in turn supporting a high variety of invertebrates, many of which complete successive generations in the ideal conditions.

Chironomids, water pennys, mayflies, caddis fly and ecnomus, water boatman and others allow small young fish, only months old, to grow quickly. Spotted glaxids and Australian grayling disperse from estuary breeding grounds to colonize the river and tupong will continue its upstream migration past the high summer period, all taking advantage of the rich feeding opportunities the low-flow river provides.

River reed flowers, stimulated by the drop in water levels. Amongst the thick debris of its leaves, buff-banded rails sleuth. Welcome swallows gather to glide above the glassy water on which the last wisps of mist evaporate with an almost audible fizz. Sacred kingfisher in fast hummingbird-flight, a breath above the water, skims the only layer of cool air. It returns to the big yellow box on the riverbank where it has young in a hollow. Occasional manna gums are in flower, on one of which an immature night heron perches warily; yesterday it was an adult bird in flight, with its nuptial feather streaming behind, as it followed the river's course upstream. The peeling bark of manna gums provide dusky woodswallows with opportunities for nesting sites; their young have already fledged. At the feet of the manna gums, hop goodenja sports plenty of

Our four-season annual cycle—summer, autumn, winter, spring—arrived with the first white settlers from Europe. It bears little relevance to the natural rhythm of an Australian year. The Koori people used a sequence of six seasons. We would call them high summer, late summer, early winter, deep winter, early spring and true spring. They knew them as timelines.

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.

flowers. Tree everlasting, with its white flowerheads, and the occasional late-flowering Christmas bush, break the greenness of the riparian forest.

Prickly coprosma is full of sweet berries attracting visits from nesting red-browed firetails and blue wrens. Pick a few of the dark red, well-ripened ones which are sweet to eat, and listen to the scissoring sounds of the satin fly-catcher. In a thicket of burgan a nesting rufous fantail male fusses with caught and offered insects.

Purple fruits of the muttonwood, sometimes prolific during the wet summers, cluster on the bare wood of the branches above the running river water. The fruit of violet bush, that smell like sultanas when dried, grow prolifically under the silver wattles. On the rocks of the river rapids, a young eastern brown snake hunts between the crevices for a few frogs. In the mud that has built up around the rocks are flowers. The last few seedcases of the silver wattles float past to new destinations.

Downstream, billabongs and wetlands are going through a metamorphosis. Responding to low water levels, quick-growing herbaceous plants run riot on the drying mud of the expanding littoral edge. The emergent herbfield is full of callitriche sonderi, polygonum plebium and amphibromus fluitans. Upon the water of the wetlands, a floating herbfield of ferny azzolla, pacific azolla, duckweeds (wolffia australiana and lemna disperma) and riccia duplex create a tapestry of red and green.

Lewins rail flickers quickly along the wetland edge, finishing its hunting in the rich littoral pickings. Also stalking the fringe is the white-faced heron, straw-necked ibis and the intermediate egret. Occasionally a latham's snipe takes off with a great flapping in twisting, weaving flight. Fairy martins leave their mud nests in culverts to busily feed upon insects by

the water's edge. Hidden amongst the thick cumbungi leaves, clamorous reed warblers give their melodious call as the river red gums above them begin to flower. Olive-backed oriole and rufous whistlers are still feeding young. On grassy slopes full of flowering yellow rush lily, morning sun warms papery wings and common brown butterflies chase about in the kangaroo grass which is now a rich, rusty red as its flowers mature.

Many butterflies busy themselves: brown-shouldered, Australian admirals, eastern-ringed xenica, dingy swallow-tail and imperial whites searching for partners and sipping nectar from the profusely flowering sweet bursaria which provides an important source of nectar for a range of insects during this time.

Candlebark begins to shed its bark with a spectacular flame of red colouring running up the trunk on the north-western side of the tree. Bright purple berries of the smooth flaxlily dianella longifolia provide a vivid contrast in the drying landscape.

The seed of most local acacias drop to the ground providing food for the common bronze-wing pigeon. Many other plants are in seed, such as the elegant pomiderris, native hemp, as well as the grasses and the lanky lomandra, all helping provide food for the migrating birds, down for the high summer.

From the ridge tops, the view of the horizon is distorted by the swaying haze of the heatwaves. Bright pink hyacinth orchids, tropical in appearance, belie the dryness of the hills. In fact, all is dry. Summer has sloughed off its last skin of moisture as the grasses turn brown and crackle underfoot. It is the peak dry period of the year. Lightwood, that handsome tough wattle, shrugs off the heat and thirst with a profuse flowering amidst its sickle leaves.

Jacky lizards, bright orange mouths in vivid contrast to the dried colours, hunt on the rocky escarpments. Dusky

woodswallows swoop in well-practised sweeps, catching insects; smooth-flying harvesters of the ridge tops. Little willie-willies of dust spiral on roadsides as cars take their passengers off to holiday destinations.

A black-shouldered kite pair after an afternoon stretch of playful aerialism, lock feet together and fall towards the ground in a fast death-defying spiral, pulling apart at the very last moment. A family of eastern yellow robins rest, panting, feathers dishevelled on low branches of a black wattle from the effort of feeding in the afternoon heat. Cicada orchestras in rhythmic pulses and swings of momentum, fill the afternoon with vibrating musical patterns energized by the ambient heat.

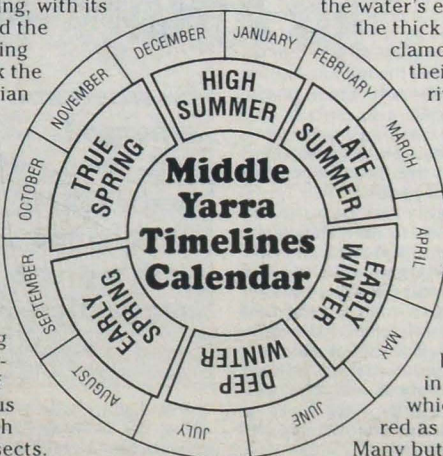
Above the Yarra in the Warrandyte Gorge, a huge flock of white-throated needletails, whose appearance marks the beginning of high summer, feast on a wave of insects using the updraft of the cool river to gain height. The needletails sweep the airways with long, raking glides, gracefully manoeuvring at high speed to intercept the insects. Working each area until the food is exhausted, they move in front of the changing weather conditions and herald a cool change. Change in the weather, marked by the needletails, will become more frequent towards the end of high summer.

The hot weather can have a balanced, focused power which radiates through the ecosystem and energizes everything, although this is not always the case with high summer. Extreme north wind days, when temperatures soar, threatening to ignite every living thing carry an awesome, terrifying power.

In the gloaming dusk of an enervating high summer's day, bats take advantage of the prolific numbers of insects. Bats often seem to be almost as prolific as birds as they feed in the darkening skies. Christmas beetles in slow flight, their brilliant metallic sheen hidden in the night, are seduced by night lights.

When evening has fallen, a few southern brown tree frogs and spotted marsh frogs call from wetlands, occasionally joined by the pobblebunks. However, they are all out-called by the maniacal cackle of the Peron's tree frog. This frog marks out the length of high summer. It only calls during the warmest weather, starting on occasional balmy nights in September and finishing, as high summer does, when the Yarra Valley cools and mists return to dominate the morning sky.

The incandescent night is full of the pleasant chirruping of long-horned (katydid) grasshoppers and the lovely whirring calls of the owllet nightjar. They are interrupted only occasionally by the harsh rasps of juvenile tawny frogmouths amongst red box as they find their way around their home territory.



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Candles blowing in the hot wind of Christmas

THIS time of year is full of uncertainties. It's the time when we worry about whether to choose a red or green candle, an environmentally sound native gum nut door wreath or the full snow, sleigh bells and tartan ribbon version. Whether we should have the full roast, plum pud and brandy sauce or the cold meat and salad and spoiled ice-cream—the one with annoying little bits of dried peel and the floor sweepings from a nut shop.

Invariably family harmony suffers in the process. Take table settings. Herself and I are usually soul-mates. Over the past 32 years we have honed our skills to such a point that we can sniff a fight approaching at 50 paces. So it was with some trepidation that I listened to her innocent, "What do you think would be a good way to organise the candles for the Christmas dinner?"

A less sensitive male might have said something like, "Up the parson's nose for all I care!" but, not being so crass, I kept quiet. I mean, how do you manage to exalt three yellow candles into the realm of High Art?

The question lapsed amongst less important issues like the evening meal, bills, problems with the cat and all the invoicing that hadn't been done for the past three weeks. But it didn't go away.

We had spent a very relaxing few days away, gardening, read-



KIBBLED

"...when she emerged red-eyed and bag packed, I had come up with a great suggestion..."

ing and generally pottering about the holiday house. I'd noticed that Herself had been up to her armpits in cookery tomes. This is a sure sign of one of two things; a great meal or a problem. In this case it was the latter.

"What do you think we should have for an entree?"

"When?" I foolishly asked.

"For heaven's sake! What do you mean, 'When?' You know we're having the family for Christmas dinner next week. I don't think it's unreasonable to ask you to take some slight interest in the proceedings. After all, I'm doing all the work. All I ask is that you show a little bit

of interest in the organising."

By this stage I realised I was up to my nose in it. And she was right. I should have known and it wasn't unreasonable to expect me to take some interest.

"Who's coming?" I offered.

It must have been something deep-seated that made Herself burst into tears and leave the room. Anyway an hour or so later, when she emerged, red-eyed and bag packed, I had come up with a great suggestion.

"Why don't you buy some of that goose liver pate?"

Herself stopped, threw down her car keys and just stared.

"What on earth goes on in that head of yours? Liver pate? Your cholesterol level is sky-high, my brother has just had heart surgery and Boy Wonder's girlfriend is vegetarian! And, I know how to cook!"

Having done so well with the menu, I thought I should move along to the less traumatic issue of table decorations.

"You know those three yellow candles you were asking about? Well, I've been thinking and I think I've come up with a great solution. Why don't you put them in a line along the middle of the table? If you want to get really fancy, you could thread some tinsel around them."

"I think even I could come up with that option," Herself quipped.

"I was hoping for something a little more imaginative. After all, you're supposed to be the arty one in the family—the actor, the writer, the one who won the

school art prize. And three yellow candles in a straight line along the middle of the table with or without tinsel is a little underwhelming to say the very least!"

That's what I mean about uncertainties. There I was, thinking that all was going well; that after 32 Christmases we'd ironed out all the wrinkles.

The trip back home was quiet. That is until we sailed past a sign leading off the highway to Bass that read, "Sale: thermal underwear".

We both looked at one another and laughed. The incongruity and uncertainties inherent in the sign cemented our flagging spirits.

"Has Bass become the epicentre of Australia's changing climate—the vanguard of the greenhouse effect? Is Bass particularly cold at night? Has some Bass entrepreneur overbought and is remaindering thermals to the passing trekking community?"

Herself and I spend the next ten minutes exploring the possibilities and reminiscing about another sign we'd seen on a motorway in Devon, England. "Quick denture repairs," it read. Just think about it!

Well, the candles are arranged artistically, the entree—an antipasto—decided on and I have been very interested and involved in the setting of the table. All uncertainties have been resolved—it certainly will be a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

ROGER KIBELL

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Reptiles reap results of recurring road rage

THE blue-tongue lay in a mangled mess at the side of the road. Looking at the bottle-red, lacerated body it was impossible to tell if death had come from canine teeth or car tyres.

Habitual sunbaking on bitumen makes blue-tongue lizards an often unavoidable target for motorists and an open invitation to predators. Against cars, these slow-moving lizards have no defence, but when threatened by a predator they put on quite a show. With head thrown back, the lizard opens wide its cavernous, pink-lined mouth and sticks out a broad fleshy tongue of deep purple. A low, insistent hiss of expelled air from its inflated body makes the bluff even more fearsome.

For bluff is all it is. Although blue-tongues can inflict a crushing bite, they have no teeth and the bony ridge inside the mouth, which serves instead, is no match for the sharp teeth of feral carnivorous hunters.

Blue-tongues belong to the largest family of lizards—the skinks—named Skink-idee after a non-Australian genus of skinks. Members of the skink family range greatly in size and mobility from the zippy little garden variety to the blue-tongues, shingleback and land mullet—a sluggish, shiny black skink confined to coastal forest fringes of Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Shinglebacks and blue-



NATURE

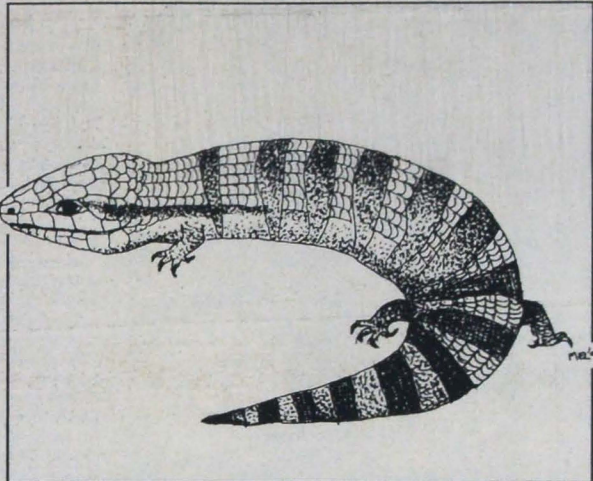
By **PAT COUPAR**
Drawn by **MELANIE COUPAR**

tongues are of similar build, the main difference being that the former has a rounded, stumpy tail and scales that are rough like the surface of a pine cone. Blue-tongues are smooth-scaled and quite variable in colour, but most are grey with darker grey or blue-grey bands across the body. The unbanded head is usually pale grey or sometimes brown.

On stubby legs, this free-ranging carnivore scuttles through the bush searching for insects, snails, flowers and fruit. When not out sunbathing or foraging for food, blue-tongues shelter beneath bushes and grass tussocks or hide in hollow logs. They give themselves away by making loud rustles in the undergrowth—a sound which gives snake-phobics an instant panic attack.

Many years ago, when our children were still children, they had a pet blue-tongue which they named Bee-Tee. They made a home for him in a large glass tank with leaves, bark, grass and an empty toilet roll.

When not confined to his tank, Bee-Tee roamed the house, sunning himself on window ledges and eating bananas



and grapes. On several occasions we thought we had lost him, but he always turned up, sometimes wedged between the cushions of the sofa or hidden amongst the piles of magazines. Once we even found him wrapped around the pump at the back of the freezer, his flattened body drawing warmth from the compressor.

Whenever the children's friends came around they would make a beeline, so to speak, for the lizard's tank. With that wonderful, uncomplicated, fearless innocence of childhood they would stroke, kiss, poke and prod him. Bee-Tee took it all with good grace. He had not

only a pampered life, but a long and safe one.

Now, it is illegal to take blue-tongues, or any reptile for that matter, from the wild in Victoria. Although no actual licence is required to keep a blue-tongue they must be obtained from a legal source, such as a wildlife dealer or breeder.

Blue-tongue lizards are common enough in the suburbs, where they live side-by-side with cats and dogs. Sometimes, to raise their body temperature, they venture out onto suburban roads where, in full view of the domestic hunters, they play Russian roulette with the passing cars.

Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, your gummy smell delights us

TIME to dust off the decorations and set out on the annual Christmas tree hunt. None of your synthetic imitations for us. Christmas just wouldn't be the same without a lop-sided specimen of amputated conifer.

Whichever sapling we bring home seems to have whiskers on it once it's in the door. So does the car seat, the carpet and the route from the front door to the lounge room. Mother Nature did not have Christmas in mind when she invented 'pinus radiata'.

One year we rebelled and hauled inside a prettily-shaped crown of dead eucalypt. Covered with golden baubles and tiny twinkles of white light, its long, sunburnt leaves filled the room with the scent of warm bushland. No obvious spot for the star, but nonetheless it looked brilliant. But (sigh) the troops didn't agree. They wanted a real tree, so we've dutifully stuck with suitably verdant and resinous evergreenery ever since.

But now, out of the blue, just when the ashes of the final pre-summer bonfire have been hosed into a soggy black euca-



OUR PLACE

By **MARILYN MOORE**

lypt-scented mush, certain people have developed an unwanted yearning for dead eucalyptus.

"Remember our Christmas gum-tree?" Of course I do. Nobody stopped complaining about it. "Not us! We liked it! Couldn't we please have another one?"

Well, I guess that's one thing sorted out. Now we just need a couple of windy days to deliver the goods.

While we're waiting, there's heaps of cards to write. Condensing months of adventure, achievement and emotion into a short paragraph used to be acceptable in a handwritten message. But now we've succumbed to sloth, technology and family newsletters, people expect a bit more. We certainly

don't save any time, but we do have a lot more fun!

The following anecdote, winner of our understatement-of-the-year award, was written by Richard, our 13 year-old:

"I'd like to make a complaint about crummy tent zips. Recently we were having a quiet paddle down Cooper's Creek when we came across some friends having a splash. My sister Rosie decided to join them, so I helped her out of the canoe, which she didn't appreciate one bit.

"Mum immediately started yelling at Rosie to get out of the water, but Rose reckoned she knew what she was doing, and no amount of yelling from Mum'd shift her. Then I saw what Mum hadn't mentioned, a deadly king brown snake about two metres long, and it was swimming straight for Rose.

"Rosie was still arguing so I shouted 'Snake!' There was a loud 'Arrggghhh!' followed by massive splashing. Next second Rosie was up the bank in knee-deep grass, and so was the snake. Rose leapt backwards into the canoe while the snake headed straight for our tent.

"We searched everywhere but the only place the snake could

be was under the tent! 'Well,' said Mum to Dad, 'Get in there and thump around a bit till it comes out.' We were still trying to flush it out when a cry came from our friends nearby: 'Snake!' Aha, so this was where the beggar went.

"But no, the serpent slithering past their tent was the deadliest land snake in the world, a Fierce Snake. The King Brown was still hiding in our stuff somewhere. We kids started reading out some fascinating facts from 'Venomous Creatures of Australia,' like how both these snakes strike again and again with unrestrained ferocity, aggressively chewing the bitten area, and how Fierce Snake venom could kill a quarter of a million mice in seconds. "Somebody told us to shut up. Dad jumped into the canoe to keep a closer eye on the Fierce Snake, but it disappeared on the steep grassy bank. That night everybody slept with their tent securely zipped, but the next night our zip broke and we couldn't close the door!"

With that, I'll say farewell for 1997, have a wonderful Christmas, and mind where you tread while you're collecting that little green tree.

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When fire roared

1925 Mrs Bloom surveys the ruins of Warrandyte Hotel



1927 Governor Lord Somers (centre) lends a hand



1939 Remains of Hutchinson home, Pound Bend



By RICHARD WARWICK

SOUTH-EASTERN Australia is located in one of the three most fire-prone areas of the world—the others being the French Riviera and Southern California. Over the years there have been several major fires including Black Friday in 1939 and Ash Wednesday in 1983. Since the discovery of gold in 1851, the township of Warrandyte has had its fair share of destruction by bushfires and there were major fires in the area in 1927, 1939, 1962, 1965, 1969 and 1991.

In the 1920s and 1930s many fires were allowed to burn almost unchecked as there were no organised fire brigades, no modern equipment and fewer houses.

With increasing development and consequent concern about the dangers of fire, the Warrandyte Bush Fire Brigade was established in June 1938—principally as a result of some scrub fires and a house burning down at that time. The early brigade had such basic equipment as handbeaters, rakes and knapsack sprays.

On Friday, January 13, 1939 the temperature reached 46 degrees and conditions were extremely dry following a long drought. The newly-formed brigade was about to experience a "baptism of fire" such as they could never have dreamed of in their wildest nightmare.

Because of the long drought and the extremely dry conditions, large areas of Victoria had been burning for a week or so. A fire started between Eltham township and the river, and with a strong north-west wind behind, burned through the middle of Warrandyte and towards Wonga Park. A total of 160 houses and three churches were destroyed and two men died in the fires. The Grand Hotel and the post office were saved. They had good water supplies and a number of people were there and were able to save the buildings.

In the aftermath of this fire there was a concerted community effort to become better organised in the battle against bushfires. In 1944 the Country Fire Authority was constituted, and as part of that organisation, the South Warrandyte brigade was formed in 1947, followed by the North Warrandyte brigade in 1953. A fire-spotting tower was erected on Fourth Hill in the early 1960s to assist in the early detection of outbreaks.

On the morning of Sunday, January 14, 1962 a fire broke out in rugged country at Christmas Hills to the north of Yarra Glen. The blaze was fanned by strong north winds, eventually reaching Warrandyte. It destroyed the whole area to the east of a line between Glynn's Road and Tindals Road, with the exception of the main township area around Yarra Street. The fire burned a total of 22,520

hectares and was finally stopped at the Maroondah Highway at Mitcham on the evening of Tuesday, January 16. This fire destroyed a large number of houses and two men lost their lives in Blooms Road in North Warrandyte.

On Thursday, March 11, 1965, the weather was such that disastrous fires spread across Victoria. The township of Greensborough became a battleground when a fire swept down on it from Plenty. While Eltham and Research brigades were battling to contain a fire in Zig Zag Road, another began on the side of the road in Brenda Street in Research. Two Warrandyte brigade members, on their way to help Research, saw the fire start, attacked it with knapsack sprays, but were unable to contain it. This fire swept across Laughing Waters Road, jumped the river at Alexander Road and was finally stopped at the Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road. It destroyed nine homes.

January 8, 1969 was another of those bad fire days we have come to expect during a typical Warrandyte summer. This was the day there were serious fires at Lara and lives were lost on the Geelong Road. A fire started in Alexander Road when power lines clashed. It spread quickly, fanned by strong winds. This fire burned out an area right through to Old Melbourne Road and was eventually stopped at Leber Street.

A separate fire, which began in Eltham, spread to North Warrandyte and burned a large area down to a line between Glynn's Road and Henley Road. At Glynn's Road, the fire destroyed the original North Warrandyte Community Centre, which was located next to the fire station.

In February 1983, the Ash Wednesday fires burned large areas of Victoria and there was extensive loss of life. Apart from some minor outbreaks, there were no fires in Warrandyte on that day—due more to good luck than anything else.

The most recent fire in Warrandyte was on February 22, 1991, when grass was ignited on open ground at Pound Bend, spreading across the river into North Warrandyte. There was remarkably little loss from this fire, due in part to the very quick response from the CFA brigades and a massive concentration of resources, including several helicopters.

Warrandyte has suffered more than its share of disastrous bushfires, and whilst firefighting methods have improved greatly in recent years, each summer the high risk returns.

● Interested in local history? Call in at the Old Post Office museum in Yarra Street any weekend afternoon, or phone the Warrandyte Historical Society on 9844 3662.

along these gullies

1927 Fire crosses road, heading for Warrandyte township



1991 This was Victoria's first youth hostel at Pound Bend



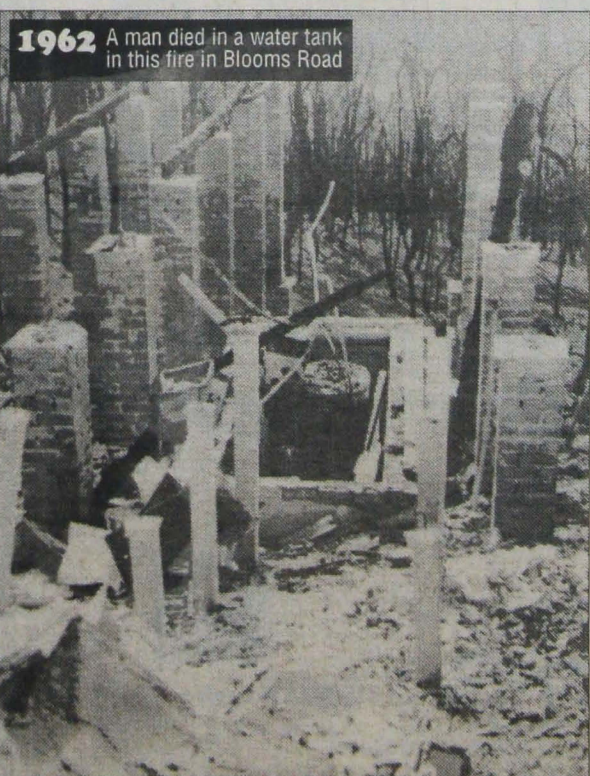
1939 McCullocks view their Brackenbury Street home



1939 Remains of Kia-Ora Café, next to the Bakery



1962 A man died in a water tank in this fire in Blooms Road



BUSHFIRES

PLAN TO SURVIVE

- This summer has the potential to be a particularly severe bushfire season
- Minimising the risk from bushfires is a shared responsibility between the community and the individual
- Fire Brigades cannot guarantee individual protection to every home threatened by a bushfire
- Your safety and survival could depend on the decisions and actions you take
- You must decide NOW what you will need to do to protect your life, your family, your property

YOUR LIFE

PLAN AND PREPARE EARLY

Your life may be at risk from:

- lack of planning
- decisions made at the last minute
- expecting others to help

If you are caught in the open in a bushfire:

- wear protective clothing such as heavy cotton
- seek shelter during the passage of the fire front
- drink plenty of water regularly

Most people who die in bushfires are caught during last minute evacuation. A well prepared home can be saved and can save your life.

YOUR LIFE YOUR PROPERTY YOUR DECISION!

During the Ash Wednesday bushfires, three family members evacuated their home as fire approached. Their car met a wall of flame, stalled, and they ran, dressed only in very light summer clothing, narrowly escaping death from radiant heat. Their home survived—saved by a fourth family member.

**PLAN TO SURVIVE
LAST MINUTE DECISIONS CAN BE FATAL**

YOUR DECISION

- To STAY with your house on high risk days
- plan now • prepare now • practise now
- To LEAVE the area EARLY on high risk days
- plan now • prepare now • practise now

YOUR PROPERTY

PLAN AND PREPARE EARLY

Your house may be at risk from:

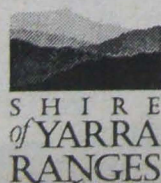
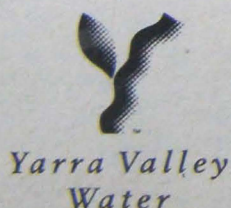
- burning debris (embers)
- radiant heat
- direct flames

Clear around your property:

- remove combustible material from around the house
- in bushy areas reduce vegetation at ground level
- clean gutters
- prevent embers from entering any buildings
- have a reliable water supply

The survival of your house will depend on clearance around the house, its siting and construction and having someone actively defending the house in a fire.

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:





Eric Sandblom, Jock Macneish

Pop goes the Diary!

The *Diary* gang celebrated our paper's 27th birthday at Mings restaurant last month. We did wonder if we'd make it this year! Sandy Burgoyne took these pictures.



They're a slightly more cultured bunch at this table



A good time was certainly had by all this lot



Cecilia Chang, Cliff Green



Peter Norman, Lee Tindale

Roger Rabbit struts the boards

THE stage of the Warrandyte Mechanics Hall once again came to life at the end of November with a bright performance written by John Swindley and directed by Alison Leutchford.

Mr Muddle And The Magic Rabbit, a children's pantomime, followed the story of a hopeless magician (Steve Robinson) and his four "wabbits" (Cameron Boyle, Rob Regester, Caroline Johnson and Roger the Rabbit).

Sick to death of his ears being pulled and living in squasy conditions, Roger the Rabbit (Keith Cook), the ringleader of the bunnies, decides to escape from the magic hat. Entertaining himself at others' expenses, Roger uses Mr Muddle's Magic Spell Book to take away the senses of the students of Warrandyte. Without sight, smell or hearing, the students are in despair.

Sergeant Strong (Matt Allgood) and Constable Plod (Paul Lambrick) save the day with the help of Miss Melody (Georgie Allgood), Miss Bookworm

KIDS' STUFF

By EMMA-ROSE PARSONS

(Caroline Shaw) and Mrs Loudhailer (Jo Hill), after an exciting and fun battle against the four rabbits.

The performance involved over 20 cast members and more than 10 crew.

Beginning the show with the famous "Who Will Buy?" from *Oliver*, the show included many other well-known pieces, such as "Oh What a Beautiful Morning", which turned out to be "Oh What a Terrible Day", a song by Roger Rabbit expressing feelings towards being a magic rabbit and "Love Me Tender, Love Me Sweet", which was rolled into "Cook Them Tender, Cook Them Sweet". Miss Bookworm's idea of how to cook rabbit stew.

All of the other songs followed the weird and wonderful twists of their lyrics and were accompanied by that magnificent pianist, Jack Stringer.

The play was brilliantly directed. The policemen marched the rabbits through the audience, and even made one poor audience member join the marching squad—which was done in a fit of laughter and with a bright red face.

Each character was totally individual and yet they all blended to produce a fine result. The song numbers were bright and bubbly and the costuming, by Gayl O'Conner, was most appropriate. The large audience was involved constantly throughout the show, and there was a great amount of cheering and clapping of tiny hands.

Mr Muddle And The Magic Rabbit was a performance for the parents to enjoy as well as the youngsters. The Warrandyte Theatre Company appears to be getting stronger and more talented each show and on Sunday, February 1, 1998 at 2pm, they will be holding auditions for the 1998 Follies.

Muddling through Mr Muddle And The Magic Rabbit





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MADGE GAUNTLETT

A loving life

By JACKY LAW

WELL-KNOWN local identity Madge Gauntlett died on November 18 following a three weeks stay in hospital. She was 85. With her passing, Warrandyte has lost one of the "leading lights" in the Senior Citizens' concert party.

Madge was born in 1912 in London and, like so many of her generation, endured those hardships common to so many in the early years of this century. She raised three daughters through England's depression and World War, only to be widowed at quite a young age.

In 1974, Madge came to Australia for a holiday with her sister Maisie Temple. She liked it so much she stayed! Eventually two of her daughters and their respective families joined her (the third going to America).

Madge often said the happiest times of her life had been those years living in Warrandyte. This affinity she developed for this community, coupled with the support of her daughter Pat, went a long way to seeing her through the unhappy times. Sadly, Madge lost her son-in-law Bob, her daughter Sheila and her daughter Maureen in America.

Some of you reading this might remember Madge babysitting your children or your neighbour's children. She truly loved children

and young people, and they loved her. In the early 1970s, Madge and Maisie were in great demand. In her care for others she showed great empathy and a desire to see things done with a minimum of fuss.

The other joy in Madge's life was her membership of the concert party with her fellow Warrandyte senior citizens. Who could forget her "tripping the light fantastic" in many a ballet sequence, or her comedy acts with Maisie? When asked why they didn't do serious items she explained, "Well we started out that way but it turned out that I'm tone deaf and Maisie could never remember the words."

Although her recent stay in hospital was for only three weeks, she was well prepared. Her health had been failing for some considerable time, with hospital visits becoming more frequent. However, even given her ongoing bad health she sought to ensure her illness was not imposed on others.

Despite this, she knew she had the selfless and loving support of not only her family but of her neighbours Nora, Helen, Betty and Darryl. I have no doubt that she would want them to know that their love and care has been such an immense comfort to her in her final years.

Madge Gauntlett (right) with her sister Maisie Temple: "tripping the light fantastic"



MARGO KROYER-PEDERSON

She lived for her animals

By PHILIP WESTWOOD

LEADING Australian wildlife artist Margo Kroyer-Pederson, formerly of Eltham, died on October 28, aged 66. She became best known for her paintings of birds but her first love was possums and she has been widely recognised as "The Possum Lady".

Art was a means of supporting her wildlife shelter, enabling her to care for sick, injured and orphaned native animals. She was a pioneer in the care of many species, especially possums, wombats and birds.

The knowledge she built up was shared with anyone who wanted to learn and there are many wildlife permit holders who owe their expertise to Margo's care and generosity.

She did not judge other people, just accepted them for what they were—her motto for life was, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

Margo Kroyer-Pederson: "The Possum Lady"

She was always surrounded by animals, and visitors never knew if they would be greeted by a tawny frogmouth, a galah or a magpie hopping around the house—together with her dog and cats.

Up to eight hours a day was spent painting to support her wildlife shelter activities. Examples of her work can be found all over Australia and Europe. As well as producing commissioned work she illustrated many publications for the RSPCA and the Gould League—including Birds Of Victoria: Urban Areas.

She was a lady of great compassion and understanding. This is reflected in her work; the animals live and look as if they could jump off the surface onto your shoulder.

Her much-loved husband Erik, a former Danish seaman, was a furniture maker at Montsalvat and they moved to Eltham a few years after their marriage. Margo stayed there with her animals after Erik died 23 years ago, then moved to Grantville in 1994.

Her windows and doors were always open to wildlife

and she continued her sensitive studies of Australian flora and fauna.

There is a lovely story of visitors bringing Margo some very expensive long-stemmed roses. She took one look, grabbed them and saying, "Oh great, roses", proceeded to tear the blooms off and feed them to her possums.

Just prior to her death she had been illustrating brochures for the Friends of Bass Valley Bush, and when she died was looking forward to the completion of a series of posters of local fauna. She had begun work designing a children's book as well as planning a commissioned painting. She had also started reworking her notes on caring for possums.

She renewed her wildlife permit and established a shelter which will continue as the Margo Kroyer-Pedersen Wildlife Shelter operating at Grantville.

She died as she wished, at home, surrounded by her animals and birds, knowing she was loved and needed. She enriched the lives of everyone who knew her.

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Where once they walked

COMING to terms with Aboriginal Australia is proving a perplexing theme for European Australia. Mick Woiwod's novel, *The Last Cry* (Tarcoola Press, \$19.95) is an exploration of the early Melbourne experience, the first ten years from the beginning of the Yarra village. The unresolved issues of those times still sit uncomfortably beneath the surface today.

Not a great deal of historical fiction has been produced using the Yarra Valley as a backdrop, and Mick has drawn upon a rich store of historical characters and events to thread his story together.

If the Yarra Valley had been in the United States there would have been celebration of early events, statues to founding colonialists and information everywhere. Perhaps we are still sorting through the peoples and processes.

Through the eyes of a young Wurundjeri man, we see the changes brought to the Yarra Valley by the steady stream of settlers or usurpers—depending on your point of view. There are those sympathetic to the plight of the indigenous and those who are not. There are those who have been banished from their own home country by the English overlords and now guiltily become part of the process that destroys another society.

Mick Woiwod's rich understanding of the early European history of the Yarra Valley give

REVIEW
By GLEN JAMESON

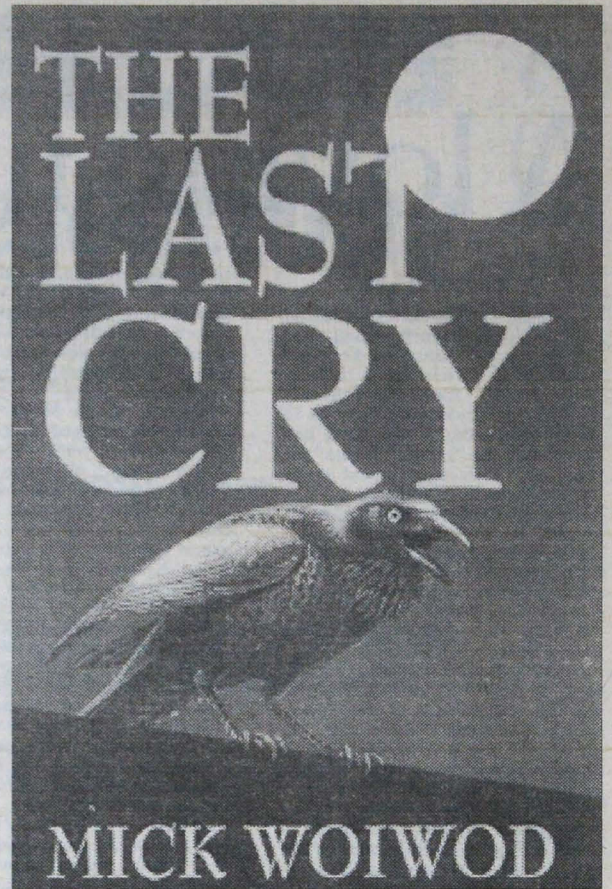
authenticity and perspective. Details emerge of the inside of bark huts, inns and living conditions. Historical portraits of the early settlers are drawn from Mick's extensive research—the enigmatic Ryrie, benign Tom Sweeney and autocratic Newman.

It was from his research that Mick sensed a story not told, or told from only one perspective.

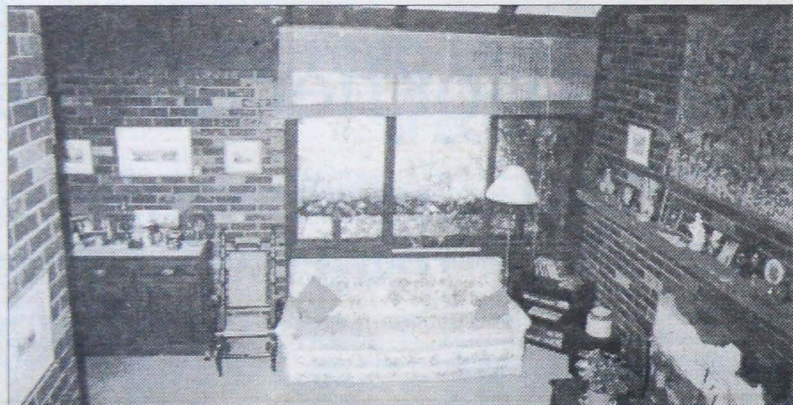
"European history led me to the Aboriginal history, the story told itself as I unravelled the fragments of material available. It's all part of understanding the land, of understanding who we are," said Mick. "Jaga Jaga is a real Rainbow Warrior for his people, but descriptions by authorities of the time paint a different character, a trouble-maker."

Mick's greatest worry was how the Wurundjeri would receive the novel. Joy Murphy, an elder, was happy enough with the story that she wrote the preface. "Anyway," says Mick, "this doesn't end the discussion. Other novels will come, maybe next time from the Wurundjeri community. Nothing's ever finished. The Wurundjeri are still being beaten around the ears. What happened in the 1840s is still happening today".

As the multinationals and ex-



tremely rich men twist governments to do their work of downsizing our expectations and expending our humanity, the global economy extracts the very last wealth it can glean from the earth's treasures. Local corporations that we once knew, herd us along like frightened sheep towards the abattoir of unemployment and boiled down despair. One wonders who will be the next group of humans to issue a "Last Cry". Are we afraid to look between the sheets of history, is it still too soon to put it to rest? What are those bumpy lumps under the bedspread of the past? Are they the unresolved lumps of issues that we haven't quite put to bed, or are we waiting for a fairy story that resolves the guilt and violence?



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Season's Greetings and Best Wishes to all for the year 1998

We will be open over Christmas break.
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Shopping bonanza

The Warrandyte business community invites you to shop locally this Christmas. All residents in the 3113 postcode area are receiving flyers, which include coupons to be stamped and signed by local traders when purchases are made. These will be placed in a draw for a Christmas hamper valued at \$1000. The draw will take place outside Information Warrandyte at the community centre at 5pm on Sunday, December 21. Winners will be notified. This opportunity has been provided by the Warrandyte Local Enhancement Scheme, funded by local traders and Manningham council, co-ordinated by the Warrandyte Business Association.



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.



Christmas in a Warrandyte shopping centre

the mysteries of the Internet, organised by Information Warrandyte and Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, backed by the state government. The project will take you from basic steps of understanding through to operating skills, in a relaxed and informal environment. For information call Jenny or Nicole on 9844 1839.

Exhibition

Bridget Liddell, the first winner of the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award, invites everyone to her solo exhibition, *Stuck In The Kitchen*, at the Blackwood Street Gallery, Meat Market Craft Centre, 42 Courtney Street, North Melbourne. The exhibition will run from Wednesday, December 10 to Wednesday, December 24. Gallery hours are 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday.

Greenwaste

Residents of Warrandyte, South Warrandyte, Wonga Park, Park Orchards and Donvale are eligible for free vouchers to dispose of green or dry wood and garden waste to a maximum of 250mm diameter. The service is located at the Municipal Depot, Websters Road entrance, and will operate for a limited time only. To obtain a voucher telephone Manningham council on 9840 9272.

Skills

The Skills.Net Online project is now accepting participants. This is a low-cost course for beginners who want to unravel

Paper

Manningham's upcoming collection dates for waste paper in Warrandyte are December 19, January 23 and February 20—all Fridays.

Presentations

Manningham councillors Patricia Young and Lionel Allemand recently presented a cheque for \$2000 from ward funds to the Warrandyte Historical Society. Former councillor, Vern Denford, presented the society with the documents for the winning submission by the Warrandyte Community Centre for the Design for Living, Charles Joseph La Trobe Award in 1992.

Thanks

Pat Guile, daughter of Madge Gauntlett who died recently, has asked us to thank Madge's many Warrandyte friends for their kindness and support.

Nursing

The next meeting of the Warrandyte group of the Nursing Mothers Association will be on Tuesday, December 16 at 8pm. The topic is Breastfeeding and Holidaying During Summer and Christmas Celebrations. Ring Andrea on 9844 1112 or Jenny on 9844 4730 for details of venue.

Wishes

The Warrandyte Historical Society has asked us to pass on their warmest Christmas wishes and happiness for the new year to all their valuable volunteers, support groups and friends.

Environment

The Australia: State of the Environment education resource package, prepared by Environment Australia and the Curriculum Corporation, is available at no cost to schools and teachers, through Kevin Andrews, Federal MP for Menzies. Copies can be ordered by phoning 1800 803 772 during business hours.

Bushland

The next Bushland Management Seminar to be held at Currawong Bush Park in Reynolds Road will be entitled

Heritage With Murrundini of the Wurundjeri Tribe. It will be on Thursday, December 11 from 7 to 10pm.

Memorial

Each year, a number of Grade 6 children at Warrandyte Primary School receive a book as part of the Hutchinson Fellowship Award to commemorate the memories of Alma and John Hutchinson. This is the most prestigious award at the school and winners are selected on a wide range of criteria.

Raffle

St Stephens and Emmanuel Anglican churches have asked us to announce the following winners of their raffle, held on November 1. First: S.Boyle, Warrandyte; second: J. McPherson, North Ringwood; third: P.Horman, Glen Waverley; fourth: M. Mahoney, Templestowe.

Show

Original artwork by Australian artists and craftspeople will be available for sale prior to Christmas at the Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, from December 5 to 21. The gallery is open Tuesday to Friday, 2-5pm and Saturday and Sunday, 2-5pm.

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CAN WE CREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE?
Manningham City Council has released the draft GreenPrint for a sustainable city for public comment. Your comments, thoughts and creativity are now sought.
The Strategy provides details of how the Council proposes to address the range of environmental issues relevant to a sustainable community including how to minimise waste, reduce pollution, tackle greenhouse emissions, protect biodiversity and stop the process of soil degradation.
Input from the community is essential. Already, many of the actions – suggested and developed with community input – call upon individuals and groups to monitor the environment and collect vital bits of information. The aim is to maximise participation and achieve real improvements to our local and global environment.
Submissions on the GreenPrint close on 15 January, 1998.
Copies of the draft are available by contacting Kay Toussaint at the Economic and Environmental Planning Unit of Council on 9840 9348 or for perusal of local libraries.

Asphalt for school
Warrandyte Primary School will receive a state government grant of \$17,000 for new asphalt works at the school.
"This funding was made available through the \$1.7 million of new funding for the repair and replacement of asphalt in more than 100 Victorian government schools," Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood told the Diary.
"The asphaltting works may be in areas such as basketball and tennis courts, general purpose outdoor areas, carparks and walkways and will improve the physical appearance of our schools, and will ensure our students can learn and play in a safe environment", he said.

Local Christmas church services
The annual carols by candlelight service will be held at Stiggants Reserve on Sunday, December 14 at 8.30pm. It is a combined presentation of the local churches. BYO candles and rugs. Donations will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

★ ANGLICAN (9844 3473): Christmas Eve—11.30pm; Christmas Day—8am and 9.30am.

★ CATHOLIC (9876 1509): Christmas Eve—Children's Mass 7pm (Park Orchards), Youth Mass 9.30pm (Park Orchards), Midnight Mass (Warrandyte);

★ COMMUNITY (9844 4148): December 21—10am; Christmas Eve—7pm; Christmas Day—10am.

★ UNITING (9844 3727): Christmas Eve—7.30pm and 11.30pm; Christmas Day—9am.

People requiring transport or more information should contact the church of their choice on the phone numbers above.

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TIMELINES

EARLY SPRING

The Diary has published a unique set of Warrandyte Christmas cards, featuring Jock Macneish's beautiful graphic interpretations of our TIMELINE essay series by Glen Jameson.

Each of the six designs represents one of the six seasons in the Middle Yarra Timelines Calendar, a sequence used by the Koori people before white settlement. They illustrate High Summer, Late Summer, Early Winter, Deep Winter, Early Spring and True Spring.

Each card, measuring 21cm x 10cm, features one of the designs, printed in black on a distinctive background colour representing each season. Inside is the message 'Season's Greetings' and a short description of the Timelines concept.

The cards are packed in sets of 12; two cards for each season. Matching envelopes are included.

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● Cards also available at Warrandyte Post Office, Potters Cottage and the Old Post Office Museum.

● All profits will go to the Warrandyte Diary Equipment Fund.

● Further enquiries, call Judy Green on 9844 2096.

Not a wasted effort



Rotarians Tony Mooney, Richard Forde and Don Kinnear—with help from Lyn and Cathy Kinnear—pose at the end of their last collection round.

Each month for more than 20 years, Warrandyte Apex Club has been collecting waste paper in and around the Warrandyte area, as a fundraising effort.

As their membership has declined in recent years, Warrandyte Rotary has assisted Apex handle the many tonnes of paper collected.

"In recent times," Richard

Forde of Rotary told the *Diary*, "the average collection from both roadside pick-up and residents dropping off at the football ground has resulted in more than 20 tonnes of paper being sent to be recycled each month."

Now the familiar sight of utes and trailers running around on a Sunday morning will no longer be seen. The last volunteer collection was

made on Sunday, November 9. The waste paper is now being collected by contractors to Manningham council.

"Both Warrandyte Apex and Warrandyte Rotary clubs would like to thank the local community for their assistance over the years," Richard Forde said. "Proceeds from the sale of waste paper have always gone back into community projects."

High school students play at politicians



WHS student Kara Williams addressing members of the Children's Parliament.

Imagine 74 young people in Melbourne's Legislative Assembly and more than 50 in the Legislative Council, all debating the major issues concerning Victorians today: youth suicide, economic conditions in rural areas and unemployment, just to name a few.

More than 120 students from at least 40 different schools asking each other to answer the difficult questions our politicians

spend a four-year parliamentary term working to address. This was the Children's Parliament, held during October.

Designed to introduce students to the working of the Parliament of Victoria, each student learned about the role of each House and the Parliamentary procedures followed and was expected to follow the same rules.

Warrandyte High School was

one of the state schools invited to participate in the Children's Parliament.

The school's representatives were Dee Arsenis, Nic George and Kara Williams, all Year 9 students. They debated the issue: "24 hour gambling is harmful to society". One case study, a casino visit and many poker machines later and the questions from other schools flowed quick and fast.

Warrandyte Community Market

Under the gum trees, beside the Yarra on Stiggants Reserve, Yarra St, Warrandyte . First Saturday of each month — except January, 9am–1pm.

Come and join us!

Hand-crafted gifts of all kinds, toys, art works, pottery, plants, clothing, gift cards, leatherwork, cakes, jams, honey, fruit, produce.



Our youngest olds

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte Elderly Citizens Club is very much alive and kicking as it celebrates its 35th birthday this month.

The club was established in 1962 and is still going strong. As well as the annual concert, the club organises a wide range of activities that the club secretary, Maisie Temple, says are "a lot of fun".

Club members enjoy bowls, outings to cinemas, bingo and snooker, amongst other activities.

"There are always plenty of

people to meet and chat to. It's a busy club," Maisie said.

The club is open to anyone who would like to join in. "We never say no to anybody, regardless of age. If anyone is lonely and wants some good company, they can come."

"We're a very caring lot of people," Maisie said. "There's a wonderful community feeling here."

Diary photographer, Jan Tindale, went along to a rehearsal for the club's birthday celebration concert and took these pictures.



DIARY MINI ADS

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Coach Fabio calls it a day

By JUDY GREEN

Several members of Warrandyte Tennis Club were honoured at the club's recent Christmas dinner.

The Keith Wilson Clubperson of the Year award went jointly to Pauline and Neil Dusting in recognition of their outstanding contribution to club life during the year.

Plaques for outstanding service were presented to Frank Waites and Fabio Forlano.

Waites retired from the committee earlier this year, having served 12 years as treasurer followed by two as president.

Forlano, who resigns as club coach this month, has occupied that position for nine years. He has coached a great number of juniors over that time, taking many from their first attempts to hit a ball, right through to being competent young players.



Retiring coach Fabio Forlano receives an outstanding service award from Warrandyte Tennis Club president Mark Bence at the club's Christmas dinner.

He has also coached many adults and has been involved in club activities at a variety of levels.

Forlano is leaving the coaching scene to start a career in real estate.

President Mark Bence, on behalf of the club, wished him every success in his new venture.

A new coach will be appointed to start early in

1998.

Warrandyte's Section 11 tennis team, playing in the Ferntree Gully and District mid-week womens competition, won their grand final earlier this month. The team—Ann Lynch, Kate Baker, Kerrie Van Scoy, Wendy Allardice, Sharyn Masson and Denise Sleeth—defeated North Croydon 46 games to 32.

1998 a new ball game!

By DAMIAN ARSENIS

After a long and hard championship campaign, Warrandyte Basketball Club are looking towards the new year with high hopes and expectations.

The bitter disappointments of the VJBA Friday Night Championship finals last month have made the Redbacks even more determined to achieve bigger and better things next time around.

As reported in the November *Diary*, five of Warrandyte's 10 boys teams made the Friday night finals and three progressed to the grand finals. But none was able to rise to the ultimate occasion.

The beaten grand finalists included the U12 Metro 2 boys coached by Gerry Pearce, who lost only one game for the season—the one that mattered most. Their only other blemish was a draw in the regular season.

Eight boys and three girls teams have been entered for the renewed assault on the Friday Night Championship. Although down on this year's numbers, the emphasis will be on "quality rather than quantity", with three boys teams stepping up a rung and being graded in the Metro 1 division.

The U12, U14 and U18 first boys teams will

contest this elite division, confirming that the Redbacks are on the rise.

Junior development within the club has become a major priority, with Redbacks director of coaching Gavin Whitmore in charge of the U12 boys first team.

The second team has also been targeted and will be coached by Pearce and Damian Arsenis. Pearce, who will also coach the U14 boys first team, believes the improved coaching the youngsters receive will see the club continue to improve as a whole.

Other boys teams entered for the new season are a second U14 outfit coached by Graham Drake, an U16 side coached by Kerry Cleaves, an U18 first team coached by Malcolm Anderson and Whitmore, an U18 second team coached by Drake and Scott Morrison's U20 side.

The three girls teams will contest the Metro 2 division. Two of them are U15s coached by Lorraine Parfitt, currently directing the fortunes of the Redback representative team in Fiji.

The third girls team will be an U17 unit, the coach yet to be announced.

The club are looking forward to an exciting new year, starting with January's Eltham and Dandenong Australia Day tournament.

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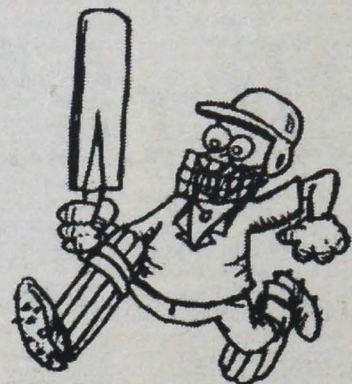
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Rangers are on a roll!

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte Cricket Club have bounced back from an humiliating outright defeat with consecutive victories against Parkwood and Ringwood North to put themselves back on the credit side of the ledger.

The Bushrangers have now won three and lost two. Captain-coach Paul Montgomery is impressed with the turnaround and is stressing to his players the importance of winning the one remaining game before the Christmas break, which would put them in a sound position to pursue a finals berth.

Warrandyte lost the toss in the home game against North Ringwood but thanks to what Montgomery described as "some mental telepathy on our part", the opposition chose to bat.

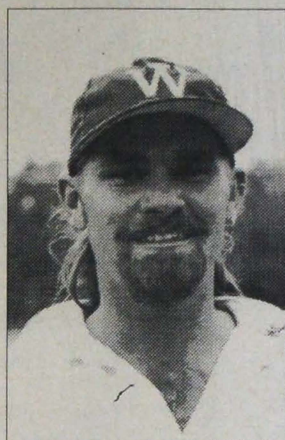
This allowed Warrandyte's stronger point—bowling—to be utilised early. The expectations were met, with fine performances from Chris Snaidero (4/33) and Jason Graf (3/34) bundling Ringwood out for 124.

On the second day, the Bushrangers' reputation as a brittle batting unit was at least temporarily put to rest. Tony Sturesteps made 36 and Greg Tregear 28 runs as Warrandyte made a certainty of first-innings points and David Mooney and Nick Brisbane hit out when the target had been achieved, making 70 and 63 respectively.

The Bushrangers finished with 280, an effort which supported Montgomery's claim that the Dytes are "right up there".

The previous match, against Parkwood, saw Warrandyte win the toss and elect to bowl. Paceman Gerald Walsh did the damage, taking 5/31 in 17 overs (five of which were maidens) as Parkwood succumbed for just 123.

Montgomery spoke of his team's impressive batting per-



From left: David Mooney, Nick Brisbane and Tony Sturesteps ... among the runs against Ringwood North.

formance in reply. "Graf came in and spanked the ball around the ground and we ended up declaring, with about 29 overs to go, at 8/207," he said. "Graf scored 44 not out and Tregear a well-made 41."

Snaidero had Parkwood in trouble at their second visit to the crease, taking 5/59 in a final score of 6/102.

"So it was a good win," Montgomery said. "We went for the outright and had a hit for some good bonus points."

Montgomery told his players after the Ringwood North game: "We've got two in a row now—that's the first time this season. We've set ourselves a new target of trying to make it three in a row to turn it into four wins before Christmas."

Winning the last game of the year is the common goal of all five teams.

The second eleven spoil their previously-untarnished record with a loss to Ringwood North. Warrandyte managed only 88 runs in the first innings and Ringwood North declared at 9/99, Peter Raby taking 4/36. The

Bushrangers were 5/144, Cam Day contributing 60, in their second innings.

The seconds are now looking to win their next match to resume in the new year with a 5:1 record.

The thirds achieved an encouraging win against Ringwood North, making 7/251 in reply to 195, but the fourths, who are struggling for numbers, were again very disappointing. Batting short, they managed only 7/110 and 7/99 against Ringwood North's 6/302.

It was an easy win for the fifth eleven in their one-day competition, outshining Parkwood's 96 with an outstanding 4/201.

Reflecting on the season so far, Montgomery remains optimistic about future games and finals prospects.

"Things are starting to pick up a bit of momentum," he said. "The firsts have started to assert their authority a bit and other teams are starting to move well up the ladder."

However, he warned players not to become complacent.

"These two games, the one we just played, and the next one, really go a long way to setting up the season," he said.

"Finals are what we are all about."

Re-emphasising the importance of the last game before Christmas, he said: "If you don't set yourselves up now you'll be playing catch-up cricket."

CRICKET DETAILS

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 280 (G. Tregear 28, T. Sturesteps 36, D. Mooney 70, N. Brisbane 63) d Ringwood North 124 (C. Snaidero 4/33, J. Graf 3/34). Warrandyte 8/207 dec (J. Graf 44 no, G. Tregear 41) d Parkwood 123 (G Walsh 5/31) and 6/102 (C. Snaidero 5/59).

SECONDS: Warrandyte 88 and 5/144 (C. Day 60) lost to Ringwood North 9/99 dec (P Raby 4/36)

THIRDS: Warrandyte 7/251 d Ringwood North 195

FOURTHS: Warrandyte 7/110 (all out) and 7/99 (all out) lost to Ringwood North 6/302

FIFTHS: Warrandyte 4/201 d Parkwood 96



Paul Montgomery ... impressed with Warrandyte's turnaround.

All this and Santa too

Warrandyte Cricket Club will hold a Christmas Party at the clubrooms on Saturday, December 20.

There will be a spit roast, entertainment, raffles, Father

Christmas for the kids, and more.

Tickets are \$15 a head or \$40 for a family and are available from Steve Pascoe on 9844 1213.

Bloods are up and running

Training run, meeting launch new campaign

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club launched their 1998 premiership campaign this week (December 8) with a light training run a team meeting dedicated to a speedy return to EDFL Second Division.

The Bloods, relegated to Third Division after winning only one game last season, were to train four times before the Christmas-New Year recess, with each player set a holiday fitness program. Full training resumes on January 19.

New coach Lex Munro, club president in 1995-96, told last month's annual general meeting he planned to have Warrandyte back in Division 2 for the 1999 season. "But without a doubt I want to play in next year's finals," he said.

The appointment of Munro in time to set the wheels in motion has put the club in a much better position, compared with the past two seasons, to fully prepare and mount a meaningful premiership campaign.

"I believe we're three months ahead," he told the AGM.

Certainly, the Bloods have gone underdone into their last two seasons. Ralph Jones, who coached them in 1996, was a not appointed until late January. Greg Cole, the short-lived 1997 coach, was also a late appointment.

Club president Jeff Evans be-



lieves Warrandyte have retained all wanted players from last season.

"Lex and the committee have already done a lot of hard work," Evans said. "At this stage we are confident of keeping all last season's players and we have already spoken to several prospective recruits."

"We definitely need a couple of new players but our main reliance will be on the existing ones and our upcoming juniors."

Evans named Glen Carle and Pater Saaksjarvi as two of last season's under-18s likely to make senior ranks next season. He expects them to join the likes of Liam Riley, Andrew Brown and Justin Edwards, youngsters who made a big impact when promoted to the firsts last season.

Coach Munro has already signalled a radical new approach to training for the Bloods' return to Third Division after four years in the "bigger league".

He told the annual meeting that he, last year's captain John O'Brien and veteran EDFL coach and administrator Ray Gale had been working on a "vastly different" training program, varied training



Robert Ireland: a very busy boy

which would involve such things as triathlons.

"We're trying to initiate something different apart from routine training," he said.

"I expect a lot more feedback from the players. We'll be scouting ahead, trying to work out game plans weeks ahead."

"If a kid is dragged up from the Under-18s he'll know exactly what is expected of him."

Munro told the *Diary* the club were seeking senior, reserves and under-18 players to give depth for the new season.

"We're talking here of new players, and players who might have dropped out last season but feel they'd like to come back," he said. "Anyone at all who'll like to play footy for Warrandyte is very welcome to call me on 9727 4686 (home) or 0412 397 394 (mobile)."

The club will approach 1998

Sloan and Co to lend a hand

Some very familiar faces will be moving among the crowds at Warrandyte Football Club's home games next season.

An unofficial "Saturday working committee" has been formed by former club president Lawrie Sloan to lighten the workload of the official committee and other volunteers on match days at the recreation reserve.

"We'll do anything we can to share the workload around more," Sloan told the *Diary*.

"I can't say specifically what we'll be doing because I really don't know at this stage. But if there's a job to be done, if the committee need a hand, then we'll do it."

"We won't be usurping anyone else's regular job but if, say, the club need someone behind the bar for an hour or so during a game, then one of us will oblige."

Already seconded to the working team are Sloan's prother Terry, former committeeman John Ryan and former treasurer Tom Kerkhof (although he has agreed to manage the club's finances since declining the treasurer's job at the annual general meeting).

The Sloan initiative has been applauded by club president Jeff Evans.

"It's far better to break down the job into small bits than break the backs of a few," he said.

in a healthy financial situation, having achieved a \$15,000 turnaround for a trading profit for last year of \$5545. The canteen, which recorded a trading profit of \$16,683, was largely responsible for the turnaround.

Jeff Evans was elected unopposed at the AGM for his second term as president and Robert "Noddy" Ireland for his second term as club secretary.

It has been a whirlwind recent association with club for stalwart Ireland, who declined a position on the committee at the 1996 AGM, was talked around and a few weeks later accepted the vacant secretaryship. He has also coached the under-18s for the past two seasons.

Vice-presidents are Andrew Rodgers and Rod Valentine and treasurer Tom Kerkhof.

The general committee is Terry Ryan, Lisa Ryan, Anne Drew, Roger Dalli and Chris Springett.



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