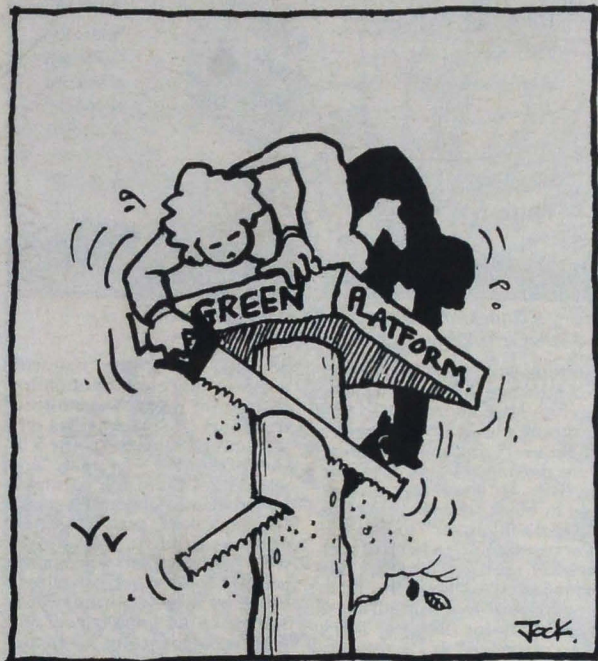


# Wedge precedent?



By CLIFF GREEN

Locals who have campaigned for 20 years against subdivision in the Green Wedge are alarmed that a recent decision by Manningham council could create a precedent, leading to increased pressure for development in the area.

At their meeting on January 13, council rejected a submission from Mr Vorach Brodsky of South Warrandyte for a four lot subdivision of his eight hectare property on Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, extending through to Gold Memorial Drive.

However, it did decide to invite Mr Brodsky to submit a proposal for an amendment to the planning scheme which would enable the creation of a one lot, one dwelling subdivision. Council would then exhibit this proposed amendment for public comment.

Mr Vorach is blind, and the *Diary* understands the decision

## Subdivision to be 'exhibited'

has been made "on compassionate grounds".

"Lionel Allemand and myself have spent a lot of time with this resident, speaking with his solicitors and doctors and his bank," Cr Patricia Young told the *Diary*.

Council policy on this issue states: "The non-urban area of the municipality will be protected, maintained and enhanced to ensure that it provides a scenic open space, (providing) botanical and zoological qualities as well as lifestyle choices in a way which is sustainable."

"This decision is made solely on compassionate grounds and in particular on the basis of the exceptional circumstances of this particular owner and this particular land parcel, and should not in any way be construed as establishing a prece-

dent for subsequent like proposals."

Phil Honeywood, State MP for Warrandyte, believes this decision is "cause for concern".

"Members of parliament and local councillors are often made aware of individuals who face health and financial difficulties," he told the *Diary*.

"Wherever possible, assistance is organised or advice given. However, there are real dangers when elected representatives interfere with town planning schemes to suit the individual circumstances of a particular property owner at a particular point of time."

Planning schemes are put in place by governments after major consultation has occurred with local councils, community groups and residents.

"These schemes are all about providing some predictability

of lifestyle choice for a community," Phil Honeywood said.

"Not only has Manningham council's recent decision created a potential precedent, but it has come at the worst possible time, as all planning schemes across the state are under review."

"Only recently, councillors have been made very much aware of the Warrandyte and Park Orchards communities' support for both the Green Wedge and the ban on dual occupancy developments in the two townships. This decision seems to fly in the face of the overwhelming majority of local residents' opinion."

Manningham council has advised Mr Brodsky that it was prepared to exhibit an amendment to the planning scheme which enables the creation of a one lot, one dwelling subdivision on receipt, by February 24, of a proposal acceptable to council.

If a satisfactory proposal is not received by this date, then the offer is closed.

● Letter: Page 4

## Councillors talk lots

The *Diary* believes Manningham mayor, Cr Bob Beynon, recently called a special all-day meeting of councillors to discuss the future of the Green Wedge.

Held some time in early February—"behind closed doors"—it is understood that the meeting was attended by councillors only. No council officers, members of the public or press were present.

It is further understood that a new minimum lot size for the Green Wedge was discussed. The present minimum size is eight hectares (20 acres).

Soon after the return of elected local government, Manningham councillors unanimously agreed to support the landscape interest and environmental living zones in the Green Wedge area.

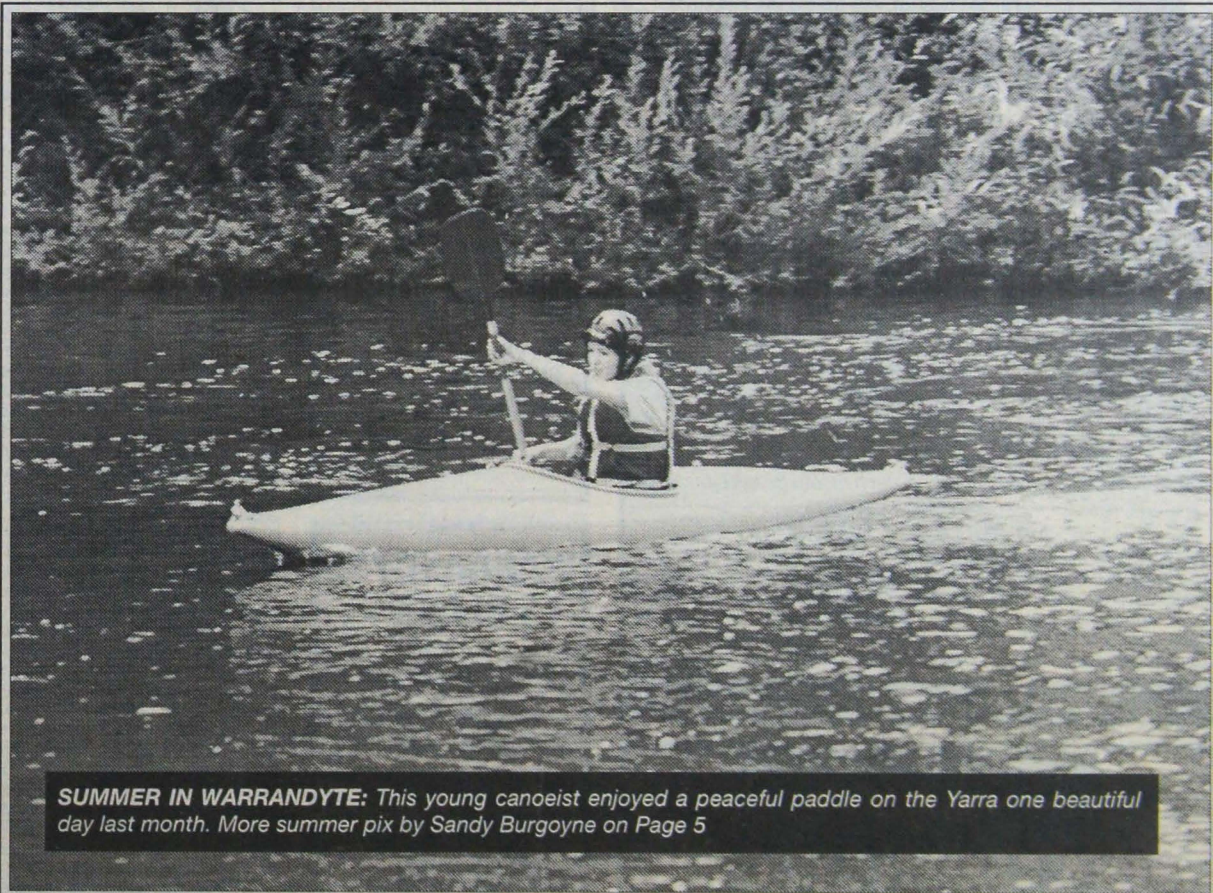
In a *Diary* survey of Mullum Mullum ward candidates prior to the council election, Patricia Young and Lionel Allemand were asked: "Would you support the retention of the

Green Wedge and oppose any moves for its subdivision?" Both answered "yes"—unequivocally. Both were elected. It can be assumed that their success in these elections was due, at least in part, to their stand on this issue.

The communities of Warrandyte and Park Orchards fought long and hard, across 20 years, in defence of the Green Wedge. They defeated a landowner-sponsored candidate in a succession of Doncaster council elections, returning pro-Green Wedge councillors on four separate occasions.

Numerous surveys and enquiries have been held into the Green Wedge, culminating in a state government panel hearing in 1995 finally concluding "that the existing eight hectare subdivision size should not be modified". This report was "signed off" by planning minister Rob Maclellan, thus becoming government policy.

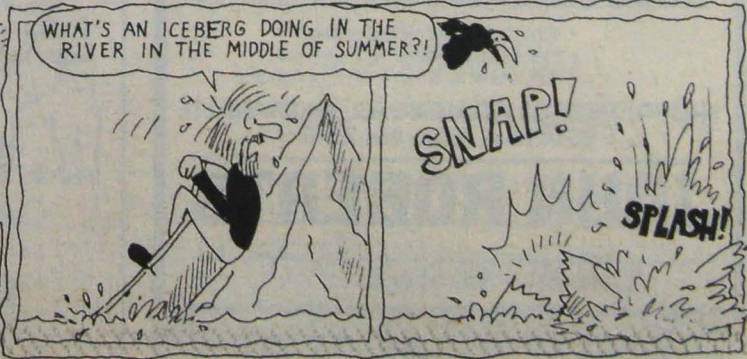
CLIFF GREEN



SUMMER IN WARRANDYTE: This young canoeist enjoyed a peaceful paddle on the Yarra one beautiful day last month. More summer pix by Sandy Burgoyne on Page 5

## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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WARRANDYTE

**DIARY**

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DIARY ADVERTISING WORKS

# Actually, we're into news and not moos


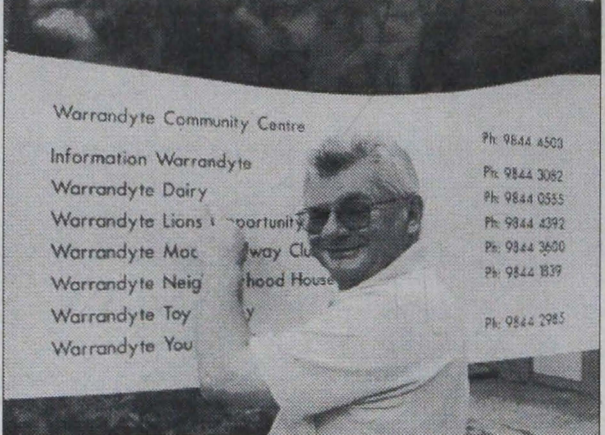
Years ago, when the new millennium was out of sight but still a bummer of a thing to spell, the *Diary's* major contact point with the community was a letterbox affixed to a cypress tree opposite Warrandyte Cellars. People used to drop a lot of things in it apart from ads and editorial contributions for our upcoming issue. Some were unmentionable, but icy pole sticks were quite popular, as were bottle-tops. One we enjoyed was a note from someone who read "Dairy" for "Diary" and ordered two pints of milk a day for an address in Yarra Street. Gave us quite a giggle—but not as big a guffaw as the new sign erected by Manningham council outside the community centre listing tenants and their phone numbers. Yep, there we are again: Warrandyte Dairy. So far, only Glenyse Riches, the fun Op Shop lady next door, has put in an order — litre of milk and a small cream — but we told her we wouldn't dare take business away from the genuine traders up the street.

Another sign of the time: A rough-hewn notice on the fence of a South Warrandyte paddock offered agistment for "two hors". Hmm. We don't know if the signwriter is a phonetic speller who was advertising rented alfresco accommodation to a couple of ladies of the night, or simply ran out of space or paint. And we might never.

When people talk about warmth in a relationship, we don't think they mean 42-degree heat. But that's the way married life started last month for Ben and Melanie Sumpter. Melanie (nee Ritter), of North Warrandyte, daughter of David and Robin, and Ben, son of Lawrence and Pam (late of Hurstbride, now of Northcote) were wed by a celebrant under gum trees at the Sumpter family's holiday retreat at Merrijig, almost in the shadows of Mount Buller. The reception was held in a huge white marquee. When we say 42-degree heat, we fib a little. It was officially 42 in Melbourne that day but slightly cooler up there. Plenty hot enough, though, to enjoy even more than usual a very cold beer — to which the large Warrandyte contingent at the wedding will attest. There's a beaut picture of the bridal couple on Page 8.

They buried Big Red the other night, and they did it in style. They gathered at the Hodson Road home of Terry and Barbara Sloan and mourned the passing of one of Terry's closest mates — his 1981 red Ford Falcon. It was quite a wake. Terry had loved and cherished Big Red since he acquired it 15 years ago. They went everywhere together, always at a sedate speed befitting a bonded relationship between man and machine. Terry came in for a lot of ribbing over those years for under-using the power under Big Red's bonnet, but he's alive today and a lot of

**IN RED & WHITE**

Warrandyte Community Centre Ph: 9844 4503  
Information Warrandyte Ph: 9844 3082  
Warrandyte Dairy Ph: 9844 0555  
Warrandyte Lions Opportunity Ph: 9844 4392  
Warrandyte Macaway Club Ph: 9844 3650  
Warrandyte Neighbourhood House Ph: 9844 1839  
Warrandyte Toy Ph: 9844 2985  
Warrandyte You

Diary founder and editor Cliff Green points out a cow of a spelling mistake.

leadfoots aren't and there must be a message there somewhere. Anyhow, the invitation to the barbecue wake said "no flowers by request" and the mourners were decent enough to abide by that. An irreverent eulogy tied in black ribbon described Big Red as unique. "No one will ever replace such a heap of rubbish," it said. But Big Red has indeed been replaced, traded in for not very much at all on a new Falcon for Barbara. Terry has copped Barb's hand-me-down (another Ford, of course). So RIP, Big Red. Terry is wheelie missing you.

Diary photographer Sandy Burgoyne was fascinated by a document called Eastern Activities sent out to consumers by Eastern Energy, the local power company. It told her (with diagrams) how to make a lemon battery, by pushing two different kinds of metal (a brass thumb tack, say, and a steel paperclip) into a lemon and connecting them with coated copper wire to a bulb ("Hint: you may need several lemons"). Sandy reckons that if we could get hold of a couple of warehouses of lemons, this gadget, mass produced, might be just the thing to light up our lives next time Warrandyte and its environs are plunged into darkness by some act of some higher power.

A Second Street couple phoned the local fire station one Sunday morning last month seeking the location of a street meeting being addressed by Ken Sharp as part of Bushfire Blitz. We suspect the couple had enjoyed a rather late night because the meeting was in progress right outside their home as they rang.

Easyrider, who was known as Bus Stop Spy until he went upmarket with the privatisation by the National company of the Met's eastern suburbs services,

checked in the other day with a compelling case for abolition of mobile phones on public transport. "There was this girl, attractive brunette, on the 5.08 to Warrandyte," he said, "and when I got on at the corner of Lonsdale and Queen she was in the very back seat in earnest conversation on her mobile with her boyfriend who clearly was no longer her boyfriend. Bloke by name of Brian, whom she could no longer trust and who wasn't getting too many words in, I can tell you. And I can tell you she was still punishing his ear 32 minutes later! So that's why I reckon mobile phones should be barred from public transport — not out of consideration for other passengers, but to give poor blokes like this Brian a break from scorned women that hell hath no fury like! I mean, 32 bloody minutes. That puts her in the class of my missus!"

We promised you updates on Cory the kowala, who was found under a tree in Yarra Street in October and foster-mummed by Kerri Fairley, wife of local vet Derek. Well, we can report that young Corey, who weighed just 650 grams when he was plucked from the street, is not only doing just fine but is, in the words of Wonga Park wildlife carer Julie Prior, "absolutely fabulous". He now weighs 1625 grams, which, according to our reading of the metrics table, means he's gained just about a kilo. Onyer, Corey!

**Smokey Joe**



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# Green Wedge 'slice-off'

## Open letter to the Mayor and Councillors, City of Manningham

Re: Decision to prepare to exhibit an amendment.  
456 Warrandyte/Ringwood Road South Warrandyte

The Conservation Group of Wonga Park hereby expresses our deep disappointment in councillors' attitude to the protection of the Green Wedge evident in your decision to go ahead with the exhibition of this amendment.

I enclose a copy of an article in the *Warrandyte Diary* last year to remind Crs Allemand and Young of quotations reaffirming their support for retention of the Green Wedge.



### DEAR DIARY

tion of the Green Wedge.

Perhaps councillors need a reminder also of the strong public support for measures designed to protect conservation values within Mullum Mullum Ward as seen in big attendances at public meetings to discuss the MSS and new planning scheme and, more recently, dual occupancy in Warrandyte township.

It would be wise to remember that in 1995, a thousand people signed a petition supporting the Green Wedge.

We object to your decision to exhibit an amendment which allows subdivision of a property of 7.6ha where the current zoning allows a minimum lot size of 8ha and, moreover has an overlay referring to the botanical and zoological significance. The new planning scheme intends to continue this protection with the use of a Special Use Zone 1-8.

We object on the following grounds:

- You have set a dangerous precedent. By wishing to appear compassionate you introduced a potential for further applications on similar grounds.
- Planning decisions should be made only on firm planning

and environmental grounds.

- Maintenance of Melbourne's Green Wedge is seen by the majority of the community as an important responsibility of local government.

• Protection and enhancement of the natural environment is implicit in City of Manningham's Municipal Strategic Statement. You should therefore support your council officers in their endeavours to enforce the planning scheme.

We are very disappointed indeed in this indication of your weakness when it comes to the protection of the Green Wedge.

**Flora Anderson**  
Wonga Park Environment Group

## WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL '98



**MARCH 26-29**

Full program in the March issue of the Diary

## Cottage looks good

It was with pleasure that I approached Mr Nick Crivelli today to congratulate him on the efforts he is making to make number 95 Yarra Street a feature of our main street.

I was astounded to be informed that Mr Crivelli is apparently in receipt, through council, of numerous objections to his renovations. It is alleged that certain unnamed persons have approached Manningham City Council in the name of our village, and stated their disapproval. Efforts by Mr Crivelli to ascertain who these people are have met with no satisfaction.

As a member of this community who looked after those premises when the Lions Club Opportunity Shop used it during the construction of the community centre, I praise Nick for its transformation from the state it had fallen into; its recent condition due, I am led to believe, to bureaucratic wrangling over what use the premises would be permitted and the frequent use

by young persons following unlawful entry at night times.

I would like to ask two questions:

• If I am correct in the above, then are these persons an elected body of this community with the right to approach council in the name of Warrandyte, and

• Who are they and what are their objections?

If I am wrong, I make an abject apology to this community. If I am right, then I await a response to my questions.

**John Cox**  
Webb Street

### Thanks

To everyone who expressed sympathy and well wishes at my bereavement and stay in hospital. My sincere thanks to you all.

**Willy Jenson**  
Valias Street



Kevin Andrews MP presents a cheque to help repair the war memorial to members of the Warrandyte RSL.

## Lest we forget

The Warrandyte Community War Memorial—built in 1922 and "suffering the ravages of time"—has been rescued by a \$2000 grant from the federal government.

The memorial stands in the memorial grounds opposite the bridge, and its decay has been a concern to the Warrandyte RSL for some time.

The grant, part of the government's four year commemorative program, "Their Service—Our Heritage", was presented to the Warrandyte RSL sub-branch by Kevin Andrews, MP for Menzies.

"This grant of \$2000 demonstrates the Federal Government's commitment of meeting the needs of the Menzies electorate," Mr Andrews said.

"The commemorative program aims to encourage all Australians to acknowledge

the service and sacrifice of Australia's veterans from all wars and conflicts," he said.

Along with further funding from Manningham council and the RSL, the grant will help cover the restoration costs. The masonry will be repaired to ensure public safety, and the monument's inscriptions will be re-coloured.

"The stonework is showing urgent need of repair," RSL president Neil Pearson told the *Diary*.

But the existing grants will not be enough. "The RSL is making a strong appeal to the citizens, service groups and traders of the area to raise money for the purpose," Mr Pearson said.

• Anyone wishing to assist can contact the RSL on 9844 3567 between 4.30pm and 8pm daily.

### MANNINGHAM

#### C.F.A. FIRE RESTRICTIONS Permits to Burn

The Country Fire Authority has imposed fire restrictions on the municipality which will be effective from 15th December 1997. The restrictions will impose a ban on open air burning throughout that part of this municipality which lies within the C.F.A. area. Residents are required to strictly adhere to this ban and to ensure that no open air burning is conducted. Infringement notices can be issued to persons acting contrary to the regulations. Residents living within the Metropolitan Fire Brigade area are not affected by these restrictions.

If you require information of Council's Local Laws regarding open air burning, please telephone the Health and Local Laws Unit on 9840 9237.

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## Currawong Bush Park INVITATION

Manningham City Council and the Currawong Bush Park Committee of Management are preparing a management plan for the park. The Management Plan will guide the future development and operation of Currawong.

**YOU ARE INVITED to provide submissions and comments on any aspect of the park and its management. Your feedback is eagerly sought and will shape the development of the Draft Currawong Bush Park Management Plan.**

**A PUBLIC COMMENTS PAPER is available outlining issues to be covered by the management plan including possible improvements, such as new entrance points, walking tracks and picnic/camping facilities.**

To have a say or obtain your copy of the comments paper please: Telephone the Ranger, ph:9841 9810 or the Cultural and Leisure Services Unit on 9840 9393, for one to be sent to you

OR

Drop into the park and pick up a copy at the Environment Centre in the Currawong picnic ground

### ALTERNATIVELY

Telephone the Management Plan Hotline on 9840 9491 to leave a recorded message with your comments and suggestions.



### MANNINGHAM MANNINGHAM DRAFT OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

After extensive consultation, a new Open Space Strategy for the City of Manningham has been developed and is now on public exhibition.

The draft Manningham Open Space Strategy supports and builds on many of the key findings and directions developed in the 1991 Doncaster and Templestowe Open Space Strategy. It also identifies many issues which have arisen during the implementation of the 1991 Strategy.

To answer any questions you may have about the strategy, three Information Sessions are being held. You can attend any session, at any time, and discuss the draft Strategy with Council officers.

The Information Sessions are being held at:

- 9.00am-1.00pm Tuesday 17th February 1998
- 5.00pm-9.00pm Thursday 19th February 1998
- 10.00am-2.00pm Saturday 21st February 1998

All sessions are being held in the Koonung Room, at the Council offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster. (Enter through the Council chambers door).

Comments on the draft Open Space Strategy are invited by Friday 13th March 1998.

Written comments can be addressed to:

Roger Collins, Manager—Economic and Environmental Planning, Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster, Vic 3108.

Facsimile: 9840 9465

Email: kristen.jackson@manningham.vic.gov.au

If you have any questions about the draft Open Space Strategy or would like a copy, please contact Kristen Jackson, Council's Open Space Planner, on 9840 9468.

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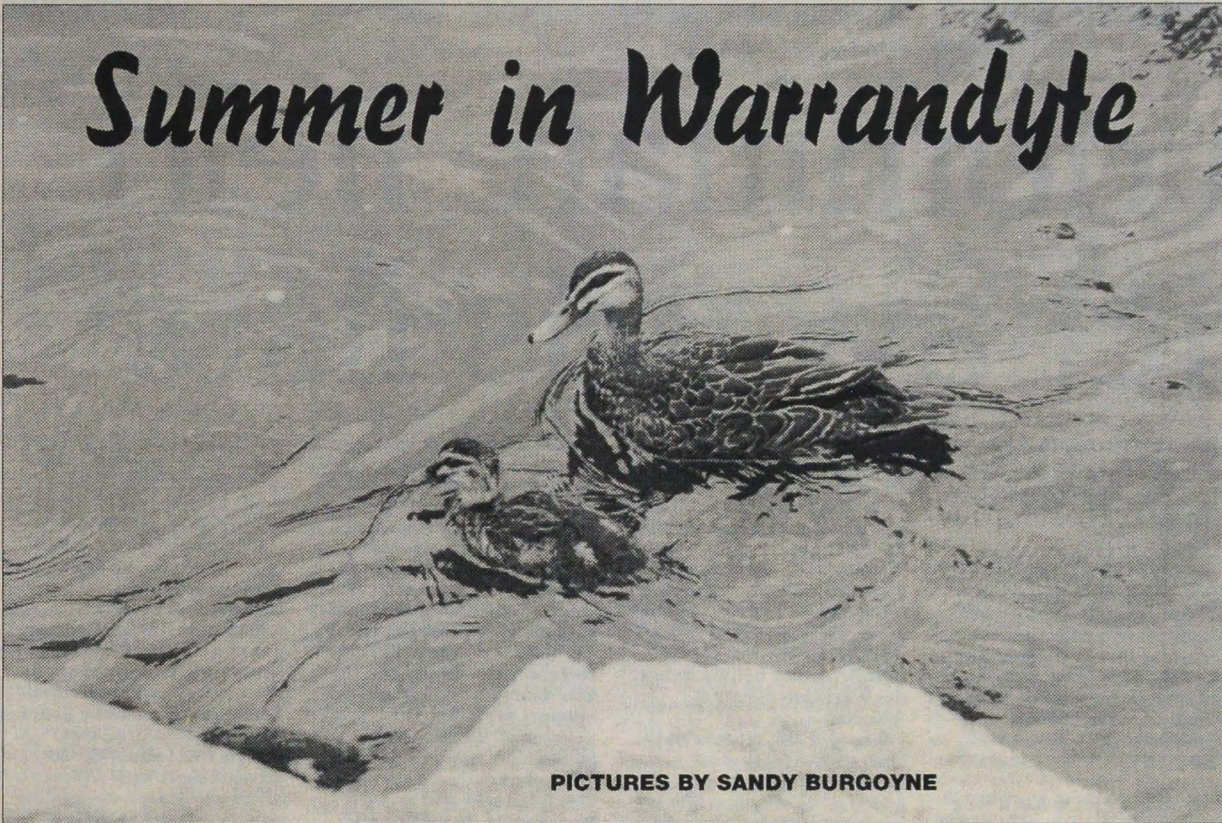
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# Summer in Warrandyte

PICTURES BY SANDY BURGOYNE



# AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS



Margory Lapworth



Margaret Burke



Joan Golding, OAM



Louise Joy

## Women dominate field in district awards lists

**A**USTRALIA DAY awards were presented to five local residents last month, in recognition of their "outstanding contributions to the local community".

The Menzies Australia Day Awards were inaugurated by Federal MP Kevin Andrews in 1995 and are presented every year to people in the Menzies electorate.

"The purpose of the awards," Mr Andrews said, "is to recognize the valued contribution that many people make to the local community."

Awards are also made in the Jagajaga federal electorate, north of the river. They started in 1993, and are designed to ensure that "individuals and groups are recognised for their contributions," according to MP Jenny Macklin.

Maree Burns, Joan Golding OAM, Louise Joy, Margory Lapworth and Margaret Burke were recognised for their contributions to the Warrandyte community.

● Maree Burns has been involved with Anderson's Creek Primary School for six years. Along with her husband, she co-ordinates all

the school's fundraising projects. She was also a key player in the establishment of the Parents' Club at the school.

Maree has also been the president of Warrandyte Pre-School for over five years. These roles, along with her involvement with Guides, Nursing Mothers' Association and the East Doncaster branch of Little Athletics Victoria, have led to her being seen as "an inspiring force in the field of community service".

● Joan Golding has a long history of community service. She spends much of

her time caring for AIDS patients and their families and raising community awareness about HIV/AIDS. She has been a member of the Fairfield Hospital Committee since 1989 and has been a family counsellor for relations of AIDS victims. Joan participated in relief work following the 1962 bushfires, and helped found the Warrandyte Arts Association.

● Louise Joy pioneered the Warrandyte CAB—now Information Warrandyte—and is a life member. She is a long-standing chairperson and life member of

Neighbourhood House (formerly the Warrandyte Co-operative). In addition to these roles, Louise was recognised for her commitment to after-school care, youth services, and child-care. Louise works as a counsellor, individually and with many welfare groups.

● Margory Lapworth is the secretary-coordinator of the Warrandyte Housing and Support Services. This voluntary role involves managing a number of crisis and emergency accommodation houses in and around Warrandyte. In addition to this, Margory is available to

provide 24-hour support to anyone who needs it. This includes overnight shelter, food, advice, family support advocacy, and emergency transport. As well as local cases, Margory handles many situations outside the immediate area.

● Margaret Burke, recipient of a Jagajaga award, has been devoted to preserving the natural environment of Warrandyte for many years. She successfully shares information about the local environment with residents, and was a long-term leading member of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park.

### DIARY MINI ADS

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**WANTED TO RENT:** Warrandyte resident requires small cottage or similar for rental as he doesn't want to leave the area! Please phone Ron on 9844 4285 if you can help.

**WANT A DIARY MINI AD?** The cheapest way to send your message to the Warrandyte community. \$3 for 4 lines, then \$1 each additional line, prepaid. Phone 9844 3819.

### Warrandyte Community Market

First Saturday in each month (except January) at Stiggants Reserve.



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Information Warrandyte & Manningham

### FACE-TO-FACE

### Orientation to Volunteering

If you would like to know more about where and how to volunteer:

**DATES:**  
Saturday, 4th April  
Saturday, 18th April

**TIME:** 2-5pm

**VENUE:** Warrandyte Community Centre

**TRAINERS:** Babette Oshry and Jenny Chapman

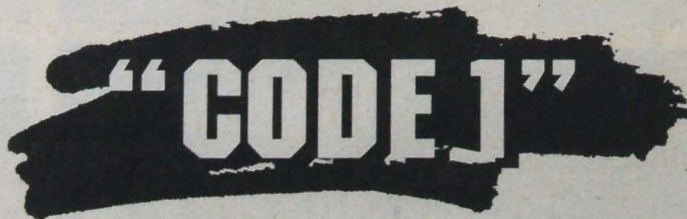
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A Lions Club of Warrandyte project

# Residents on fire alert

By CLIFF GREEN

The Warrandyte community has reacted splendidly to the local fire brigades' campaign to bring the bushfire risk right home to local neighbourhoods.

A total of 25 Bushfire Blitz street meetings were attended by 400 Warrandyte residents across a four week period, from early December into January. In addition, 27 new Community Fireguard groups were formed in Warrandyte and North Warrandyte.

"The combined campaigns of Bushfire Blitz and Community Fireguard have reinforced our belief that residents wanted more detailed information," Warrandyte CFA's community support facilitator Jeff Adair told the *Diary*.

"Residents have been very keen to learn how to protect their families and their properties, evidenced by their depth of preparation as a result of these meetings.

"Most significantly, we see residents struggling with the

decision to stay or to go on a day of high fire risk. The decision to leave may initially seem to be the easier one to make. However, from discussions among residents, we recognise the recommended decision to leave early is fraught with complications."

The decision to leave early, for many people, still represents the safer option, however there are many factors to be carefully considered.

"Physical and mental abilities to defend their homes, mixed with the degree of preparation and readiness are the most critical factors," Jeff Adair said. "The decision also varies from individual to individual and household to household. Communication and discussion within families is so critical.

"Is it practical to leave the family home on the morning of an acute fire danger day? Should your pets go with you? What possessions do you take if you have not re-located them already? How will you find out

what is happening in Warrandyte? If the answers to these questions are difficult and cannot be resolved, perhaps your decision to leave needs re-thinking.

"For many people, the decision to stay will be simpler, but could be riskier in terms of defending your home. Early and full preparation could help to minimise this risk."

CFA believes the fire risk in Warrandyte during January has not been as severe as initially forecast.

"February is our hottest month," Jeff Adair said, "and the likelihood of fires starting and behaving unpredictably still very much exists. We would be very disappointed if the community became complacent as a result of a fire-free January."

● For further information on personal safety, protecting your home or developing fire preparation plans, contact Jeff Adair on 9844 3375 or 0419 877 574.



A CFA community consultant addresses a Warrandyte street meeting during Bushfire Blitz.

## High kids are tops

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte High School's class of 1997 has exceeded the success of previous years with their VCE results.

Of the group of 59 students, 12 per cent gained Tertiary Entrance Ranks (TERs) over 90, and almost a third reached scores above 80. "They have done extremely well," VCE coordinator Peter Morris told the *Diary*.

In the first round of tertiary offers, released in January, 80 per cent of students received a placement at a university or TAFE college. "The level of entry success is very high," Mr Morris said. "There have been some very impressive tertiary placements."

Katrina Guerin, who was dux of the 1997 class with a TER of 98.85, has received a coveted

place to study medicine at the University of Melbourne.

"I was really surprised," she said. "I'm really happy about it." But Katrina, who stands to continue the family tradition in medicine—her father is a pathologist—is still not sure if a medical career is for her. "But I can always change to something else," she said.

Karlis Atvars is also moving into a science field. With a TER of 91.15 Karlis was the top male of the class, and had his pick of most courses.

"I chose a double degree in science and engineering," he said. "I've always been interested in maths and I wanted to keep it up. I also thought the course would be a good challenge."

Warrandyte High School's outstanding record in art has

been maintained by Andrew Batty. After working consistently throughout VCE on his visual arts folio, Andrew was rewarded with a place in a very competitive graphics course, Visual Merchandising at RMIT.

While most new tertiary students will be heading towards the city, Nerida Colvin's studies will be coming to her from both interstate and the country. She plans to study Oenology—otherwise known as winemaking—at Charles Sturt University in Wagga.

"But I'm not moving up there," Nerida said. "I'll do the course part-time by correspondence, working in the industry at the same time."

The school's VCE graduates are all moving away from the high school and heading to-

wards a variety of different careers. But Barbara Mills, the school's marketing coordinator, hopes that the proposed WASA—Warrandyte Alumni Students Association—will provide a means for past students to keep connections with school friends, the school, and present students.

"The association will be a great way for students to network. Graduates from Warrandyte High School have ended up in some fascinating fields, so it will be great for them to see each other, as well as showing present students some examples of exciting careers," Mrs Mills said.

Speaking of the achievements of students, both present and past, Mrs Mills attributes the excellent results to a combination of factors at the school.

"We have a very positive atmosphere here," she said. "The students are dedicated to achieving, and academic success is something that is held in very high regard."

The bush environment also plays a part. "Warrandyte is a very pretty place. I think the peaceful surroundings are important in helping both staff and students feel relaxed and comfortable at school."

So great is the success at the school, Mrs Mills said, that many staff members send their own children to the school. "They are so impressed with the standards and community spirit," she said.

The parent-child groups at the school currently include Nora Elliot and sons Trevor and Brian, Bob Hickman and daughters Carly and Jessica, Jenny Devitt with son Aaron, Sue Martin and son Ethan, Roy Haynes with daughter Vanessa, and Judy Colvin and son Robert.

## 'One-love' score on local courts

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte's long battle for an additional tennis court at the Recreation Reserve looks all but over, however the basketball club could still have a year to wait—at best—before their proposed new stadium is finished.

The tennis club committee was unofficially notified by council late last month that their sixth court development had received approval.

"Council have agreed to go ahead with it," president Mark Bence said. "We're just waiting to get a timetable organised; when the work will start and the various stages involved."

A spokesperson for Manningham Council confirmed that the tennis court will be built, and the adjacent cricket practice facility will also be repaired.

"The tennis court has received approval, and the repairs on the cricket practice area have been approved," the spokesperson said.

When the court will be built and completed, however, is still unknown. "We don't know when it will be finished," Mark Bence said. "We're waiting to hear from the council on that."

Meanwhile, Warrandyte Basketball Club believes their campaign for additional facilities is making headway, but the struggle is not yet over.

They are still unsure as to whether a second basketball stadium—proposed for land at Anderson's Creek Primary School—will go ahead. Some signs indicate that they might have an answer by the end of the month.

"An answer on the development was expected from council in mid-November last year," club president Bruce McDonald said. "But that didn't transpire. Then Cr Patricia Young negoti-

ated an extension until the beginning of February. So we hoped to know by early February," he said.

It is because of that extension, Mr McDonald said, that the bid survived. "Patricia Young has been instrumental in keeping this afloat. The basketball club is appreciative of her efforts," he said.

However, Manningham council has still not given an answer on the development.

"There are planning issues that need to be addressed," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "Such things as the suitability of the proposed site and whether the stadium development will be self-funded. These types of issues will be addressed in a report that is due at the end of February or early March."

However, local MP Phil Honeywood is "very optimistic" that the stadium will be approved by mid-February.

"The state government has already approved a \$100,000 grant. There will be a meeting on February 16 of the Community Support Fund, to decide whether an additional \$200,000 will be provided," Mr Honeywood said.

According to Mr Honeywood, Manningham council will meet on February 17 to decide whether or not they will pledge the additional finance required for the stadium to go ahead.

"That will be the key to the development, he said. "If council approves the funds, that will lock it in for the next financial year. The stadium could be finished by early next year—if side issues can be resolved speedily."

"We really need this new stadium," Bruce McDonald said. "We just can't cope with only one court."



Doubly sure: High school teachers and their student children.

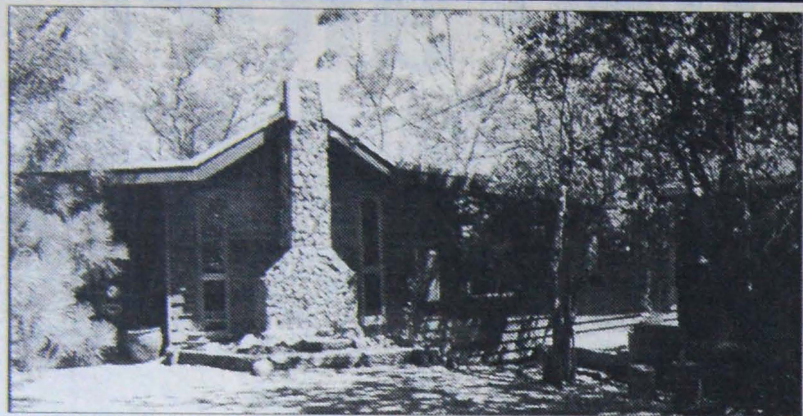
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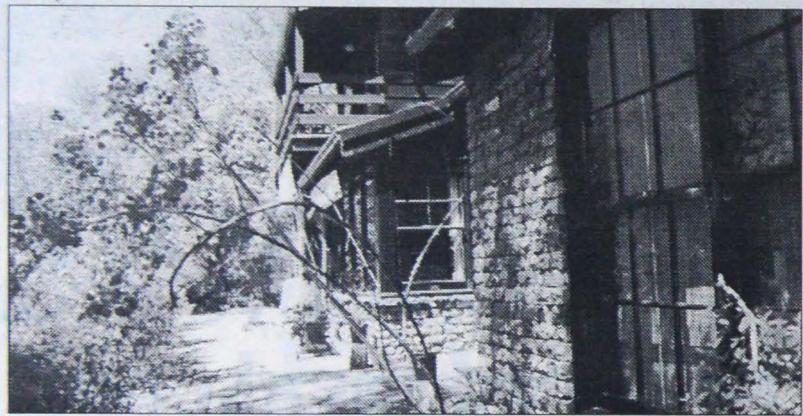
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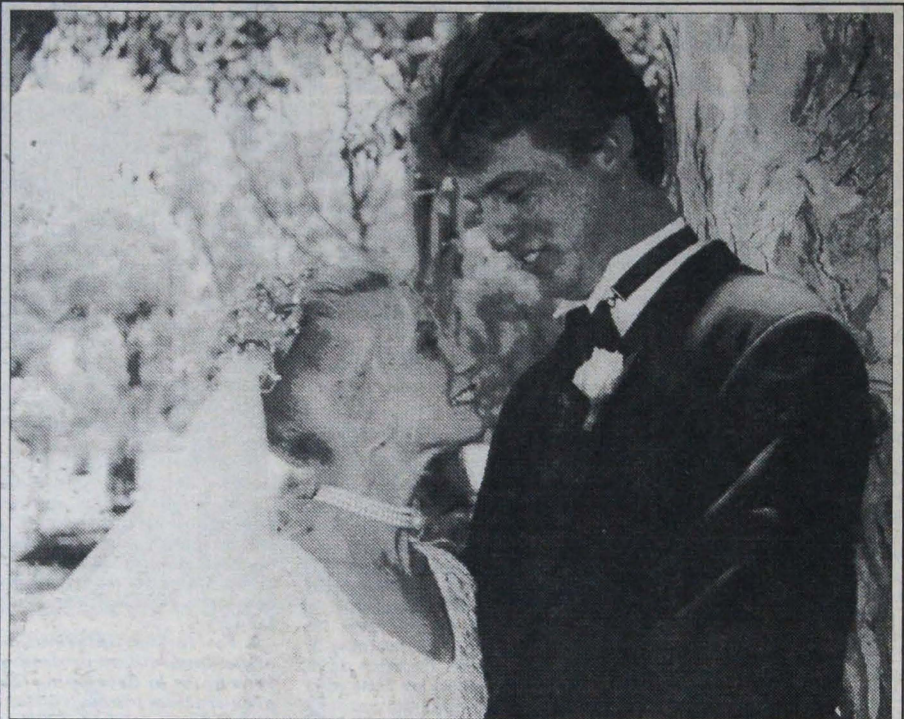
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Melanie and Ben Sumpter after their wedding at Merrijig last month. It was, as Smokey Joe reports on Page 2, an unusually warm welcome to married life.

## Rachel is a star

## Lions win top award

Here at the *Diary* we're very proud of our newest "cadet", Rachel Baker, and her outstanding showing in last year's VCE results. Achieving a TER score of 98.05, including A+ for English, Rachel took second highest place in Year 12 at Warrandyte High School.

Seeking to make a career in journalism, Rachel began writing for the *Diary* at the beginning of 1997. Her first story, announcing the community garden at the police station, made it onto the front page! She continued contributing news stories and features throughout the year, and in December joined our sports pages as cricket writer.

A few weeks ago, Rachel, 18, was admitted to the prestigious journalism course at RMIT, following the paths taken by such successful former *Diary* "cadets" as Georgi Stickels and Clinton Grybas.

"I wanted to be a journalist as long ago as Grade 5," Rachel told us. "Then I wanted to be a vet, then a physiotherapist, then something different every week. But in Year 10 I came back to journalism. My year with the *Diary* definitely con-



Rachel Baker

firmed this for me."

Rachel will continue working with us through the duration of her course, gaining further practical experience to back up her studies.

● *Young people living in Warrandyte, who are considering a career in journalism, should ring Jan Tindale on 9844 3719 or Cliff Green on 9844 2096.*

Warrandyte Lions Club has been selected as the state winner of the National Australia Bank's CommunityLink Awards. The CommunityLink Program seeks to recognise volunteer organisations which have performed outstandingly and have added to the social capital of the community.

The award, worth \$2000, was presented to the club's president, Laurie McEnaney, and the secretary, Peter Watts, at a dinner held recently at the Melbourne Hyatt where 42 finalist organisations attended.

Peter Watts was also the instigator of the award-winning Lions project, The Driver's Seat. Conducted in 1997, The Driver's Seat is a project which gives a blind person the opportunity to drive a motor car in controlled circumstances.

"Over 100 blind participants achieved something which was beyond their wildest dreams," a Lions club spokesman told the *Diary*.

"So successful was the project the club will stage the event again on Saturday, February 28 at the Sandown Race Track. Already over 160 blind people have applied to participate."

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## SKIRMISHING NORTH OF THE RIVER

# Is there a crisis at Nillumbik council?

By FIA CLENDINEN

Nillumbik council has been at the centre of a storm of controversy for the last three months. Media reports of a rift between senior staff and councillors and the appointment of a commissioner, David Abraham, to investigate that rift have caused intense community concern.

Many people have been worried that Nillumbik is heading towards a repeat of the situation at Darebin, where a similar investigation led to elected councillors being sacked and replaced by a state government appointed commissioner.

Even more worrying has been the re-surfacing of the old rumour that Nillumbik was to be carved up and distributed among neighbouring municipalities, and the shire created specifically to preserve the Green Wedge north of the Yarra would no longer exist.

However, shire president Robert Marshall has told the *Diary* that Nillumbik was no longer in crisis.

"The situation in Nillumbik is under control. We five councillors are doing our job and running the place. We're trying to keep the show on the road as much as we can. And we're doing our best to provide good governance."

Cr Marshall described his mood as "cautiously optimistic." He said that while he felt an investigation into the council was premature, he and the other councillors were co-operating.

"The state government jumped in far too early in wanting an inquiry. I think they were given the wrong information by people within and without the council who have a political axe to grind. But now the inquiry is there I welcome it. I'm very happy to be told where the councillors are going wrong, if we're going wrong at all, so we can address those issues."

A key figure in the Nillumbik controversy has been the CEO Barry Rochford. Mr Rochford has made a series of complaints about Cr Marshall. Some of Mr Rochford's complaints have been described as "trivial". He

has complained that Cr Marshall forced him to lower the height of a coffee table and he has also complained about the size of Cr Marshall's name tag.

But some of Mr Rochford's allegations are more serious. He has alleged that Cr Marshall does not really understand the differences between the role of the staff and that of councillors.

Given Mr Rochford's uneasiness about working with Cr Marshall it was not surprising when he announced he wanted to leave Nillumbik, conditional on the negotiation of a suitable package.

What was a surprise was the news that Mr Rochford had been offered a job with Brisbane City Council. A press release issued by Brisbane council on December 9 announced Mr Rochford as a new manager, to take up his position in February. Mr Rochford had not informed either Nillumbik or the government of his new appointment. According to press reports, he told Cr Marshall it would take him six months to find another job.

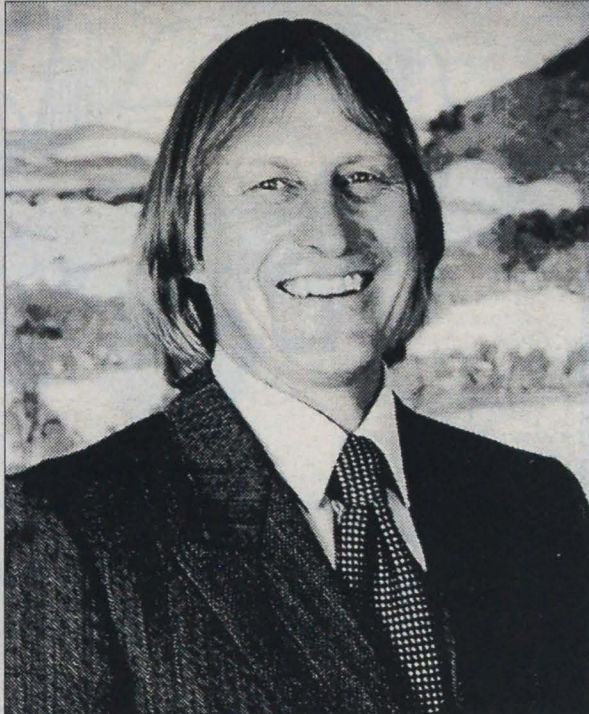
Mr Rochford has since withdrawn his application to Brisbane City Council and will be staying on at Nillumbik.

Cr Marshall explained that any decision regarding Mr Rochford's employment was not up to the council.

"Barry is on a five-year contract, the contract was put in place between himself and the commissioners. And that contract is still a live contract; it's really up to Barry as to what he does at the moment."

When Mr Rochford was asked whether he planned to stay on at Nillumbik he answered, "I think that's under pretty heavy review at the moment."

Controversy over the amount of the proposed termination payout to Mr Rochford was one of the issues that led to the state government deciding to place Nillumbik council under investigation. Other issues were a letter to the Minister for Local Government signed by 14 Nillumbik senior staff allegedly complaining about strained re-



Cr Robert Marshall: "The situation in Nillumbik is under control".

lations with councillors. Also, in December last year, documents were leaked to the Diamond Valley News. The leak may be in breach of the Local Government Act.

Cr Marshall warned the community that although the situation at Nillumbik had stabilised, the danger was not over. "It's a very real concern that we councillors might be sacked. I think it's an outrageous prospect," he said. "And if the councillors were removed it could only be for political reasons, there's no other reason. The councillors collectively provide very good direction, I believe."

Cr Marshall said he was convinced that part of the reason Nillumbik was coming under scrutiny was because of the shire's strong conservationist reputation.

"I know it's the case that there

are people who would like to see the downfall of some of us councillors. They believe we're too environmentally minded or too community minded or too green or whatever. They'd rather see more hard-nosed developers in there."

Wayne Phillips, state member for Eltham, has angered some residents with his comments that he supported a return of commissioners to Nillumbik.

"Yes, I stand by the statement," said Mr Phillips. "If it is proved the councillors are not operating properly, one of the options the minister would have, would be to bring back commissioners."

But Mr Phillips also said, "I have no evidence to say the councillors are not doing a good job".

Commissioner Abraham did not answer the *Diary's* calls.

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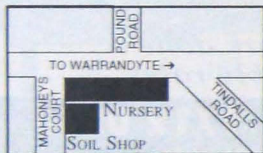
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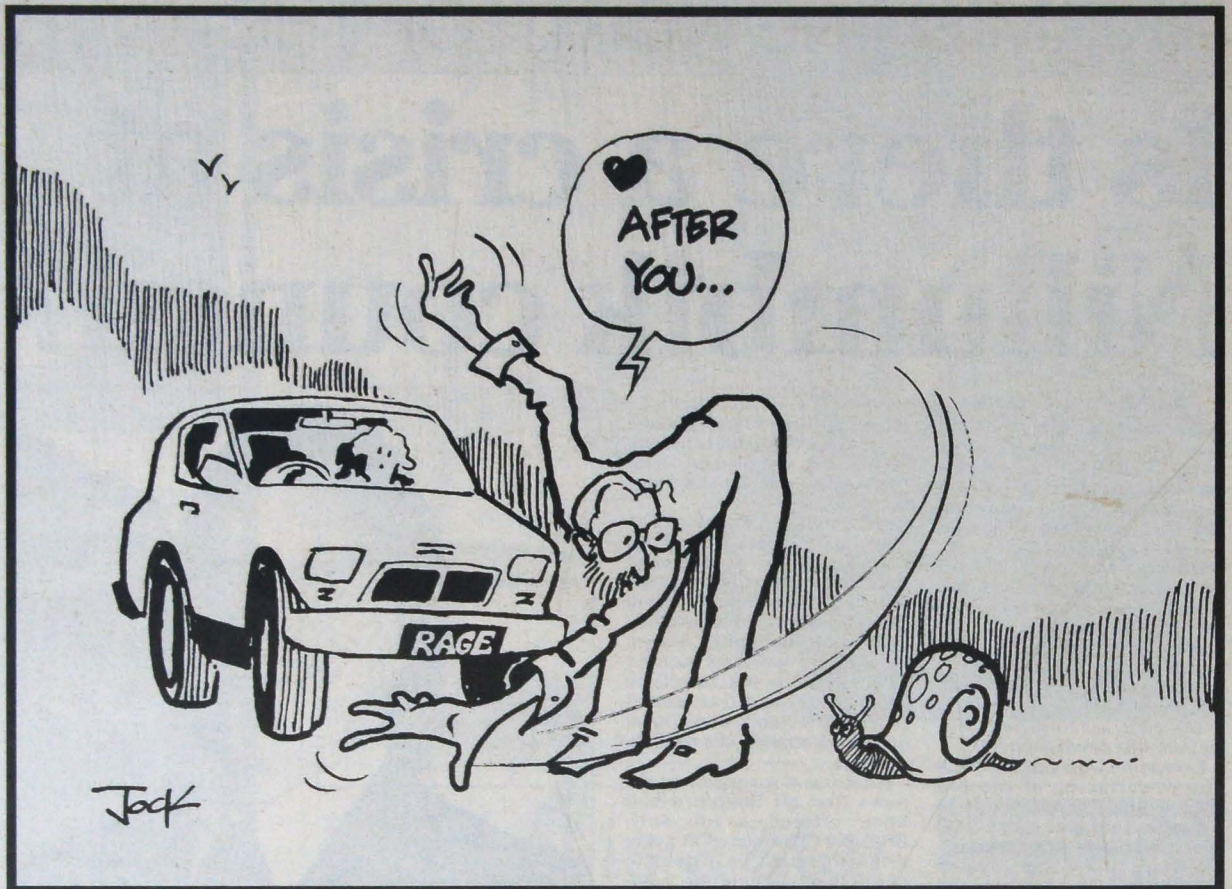
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# Maintaining road rage: in a roundabout way

FOR about two days I was very tolerant of other drivers and of any traffic problems.

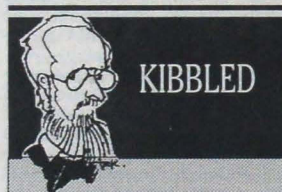
I smiled benignly at road workers and was patient when I missed a set of traffic lights. I tenderly touched the horn button on the steering wheel, safe in the knowledge that, given the right time, I would be able to use it and people would take notice. I even stopped at the bridge roundabout and waited for the on-coming traffic to come to me.

But it was only for two days. Memory is short and it only took a few days for me to forget about the chaotic and terrifying traffic of Hanoi. There and in every other Vietnamese city, the traffic is mind-boggling. It's not that it's fast—but it is dense. White lines are aids to judging gaps between vehicles and double lines are enticements to pass on steep, blind hairpin bends.

Why go to the sanitised scary rides on the Gold Coast theme parks when you can sit in the front seat, next to the driver, in a mini bus crossing Saigon or traversing the Hai Van pass through the mountains!

It took about a week to fathom how to cross streets. If you wait for the traffic to stop you need to take a cut lunch, so the only way to manage is to set out, purposefully, and just assume the traffic will miss you. And it does.

With the number of people riding bicycles, motor bikes, walking and a worryingly in-



**"It took about a week to fathom how to cross streets. If you wait for the traffic to stop you need to take a cut lunch..."**

creasing number of cars and trucks, the roads are like rivers and just as intersecting rivers don't stop but blend and adapt to one another as they meet, so too does the traffic.

Computer programmers and road traffic designers devote innumerable man hours to working out the length of time between red lights and the most sensible turning cycles. All very admirable and essential here, but an intersection in the old quarter of Hanoi has been denied their time and efforts.

Imagine your platoons march-

ing from opposite and intersecting directions. The first time I saw several motor cyclists cross the intersection without slowing down I expected mass carnage. This didn't happen. Courtesy and a respect for another's space allow it all to flow relatively well. Rarely do you see outward displays of road rage as loss of personal control is regarded as infantile. The few bingles we did see were no worse than that; grazes and some buckled metal.

Congested roads create time problems and it's impossible to go faster than the 60kph speed limit anyway. So it was not surprising that we took five and-a-half hours to travel the 125kms from Hanoi to Halong Bay.

"We're staying in the hotel next to the one Catherine Deneuve stayed in whilst she was filming Indochine." We weren't quite sure how to react to that one. We had also stayed in the Continental Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, the very hotel in which Graham Greene wrote *The Quiet American*. And that's not easy to forget. Every time you leave the hotel, there are swarms of lads selling postcards and photocopied Penguin versions of the novel. I bought one and managed to read it despite the offending overtone and undertone pages. But for \$3!

Vietnam is a country full of ghosts, memories and famous names. As a people they are warm, friendly and remarkably pragmatic. They look forward. After 75 years, give or take a

few, they have been at war with the Chinese, French, Japanese and Americans, and it would be understandable if they were cynical, bitter and negative—but they are not.

It was eerie to find myself in a missing age group. The population is predominantly young with the average age around 30. With three million killed in the war over 25 years ago, it is easy to see why a 53 year-old male, like me, was hard to find.

In Beijing in the early 1990s, we were amazed to see the proliferation of billboards advertising different products—a sure sign of a communist country in transition. Similarly, the transition is on its way in Vietnam.

Since 1994, private enterprise is allowable and, as a result, workers in their droves have left government-run enterprises to start up their own small businesses. The down side is that the government is opting out of all the old services: free medicine, pensions and free schooling. If government workers haven't been rationalised they do have some job security and the prospects of an age pension, but their salary is low. Sounds familiar?

I left Vietnam encouraged but uneasy. The people, their enthusiasm, quest for knowledge and the fertility of the country all augur well, but I have a nagging fear that once the 80 million are all vehicle owners, they might have to consider installing a few roundabouts.

ROGER KIBELL

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# Soaring up the valley on powerful wings of prey

**A**GAINST the amorphous grey cloud of early dawn, the dark shape of a wedge-tailed eagle appears, circling lazily with just the occasional flap of his mighty wings. Beneath him an unruly squadron of sulphur-crested cockatoos emerge from the manna gums where they have spent the night.

In this transitory time between night and day, many birds are on the move as roost sites change tenancy. After a night's hunting, a tawny frogmouth opts for camouflaged security on an exposed grey-brown bough, whilst a diminutive owl nightjar heads for cover among thick foliage.

It is still only semi-light as a ringtail possum, with the agility of a gymnast, makes its way along a narrow branch back to its bulbous nest in the burgan. In a nearby tree a family of sugar gliders, having already retreated to their hollow, are snuggling together in a leafy-lined nest.

For the kangaroos and wallabies it is time to move out from the shelter of the forest to graze in the open paddocks.

The wedge-tailed eagle knows this dawn-time routine well. He knows also that soon it will be the turn of the two-legged up-rights to emerge from their dwellings and get into their machines on wheels and form a purring procession to the con-



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



crete forest. The eagle, who has never known anything else but freedom, cannot comprehend these strange land-grounded creatures who choose to spend so much of their lives cocooned in one cage or another. Occasionally he sees one or two of them out walking over the hills of his hunting ground and sometimes they will see him and point.

As the sun arcs higher in the now cloudless blue sky, the eagle moves up the valley, contemptuously ignoring two small birds that pester him like persistent mosquitos. Hills flatten to floodplains. Down below, orange-brown dust billows from angry yellow machines as they churn up the earth. The land is being ripped apart—redesigned from pastoral paddocks to golf greens and fairways. No use hunting here in this dust

bowl devoid of life.

The eagle leaves the ugly unfinished landscape behind and continues on up the valley, flying over farmland shrivelled brown by the extended drought. His acute piercing eyes detect a familiar greyish-white shape on the ground below. He flies lower to confirm the sighting of the dead sheep. In a somewhat ungainly fashion, he lands on top of it, shuffling

mutilated were already dead—the main prey of these birds was in fact the rabbit.

For hours and hours this king of birds soars majestically, his famous tail more of an arrowhead than a wedge, silhouetted black against the sun. Flying effortlessly, carried on updrafts of warm air, he reaches great heights. Freedom without limits for pure pleasure.

Fading daylight falls softly, light and shadows emphasising the contours of the land. It is time for the eagle to return to his great stick nest in the tall tree. Although fully fledged, his three month old, sandy-plumed youngster still depends on him for food. It has been a good day, the dead sheep was a bonus.

The cooling air rings with the raucous screeches of cockatoos and a lone kookaburra laughs as darkness returns to the valley.

● **FOOTNOTE:** The construction of golf greens and fairways referred to are part of a new Heritage and Country Club development that is occurring just upstream of the Warrandyte State Park's Mount Lofty Reserve in Wonga Park.

his long feathered legs and extending his lethal talons to get a better grip. Soon his strong curved beak is tearing at the flesh of the carrion.

For many years wedge-tailed eagles were unjustly persecuted for killing sheep and lambs. A bounty was paid for each bird shot and the victims strung up on fencelines as trophies. Not before time, realisation dawned on the farmers that the eagles were friend not foe and that the sheep they

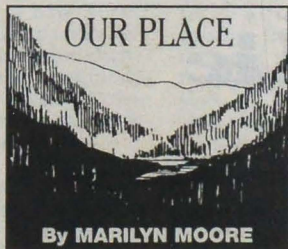
# In a blissful haze, lazing through those blazing days of summer

**W**E dream all year of January's lazy days, when golden warmth lingers late into balmy evenings, and the days melt together like distant memories. Sleep in till all hours, throw on any old clothes, maybe hang out a load of washing, turn on a sprinkler or two, then wander down the hill to fetch the paper before getting comfortable with a nice cup of tea—it's a tough life, but somebody's got to do it.

By mid-morning there is a pitter-patter of little feet, which bypass the kitchen and head straight for the Monopoly spread out in the lounge room. The game has been going for days, interrupted only by visitors and the need for food or a swim.

Partly finished games of Squatter and Sherlock Holmes also decorate the floor, along with various Lego bases and about twenty metres of train track.

There is, of course, an enormous number of other things which we should be doing, a myriad assortment of paperwork and repairs which, for the past 11 months, we've been sav-



**OUR PLACE**  
By MARILYN MOORE

ing up for January. But once the magical month arrives, the urge to get anything done wanes to a mere whisper of the conscience. The days pass very pleasantly with friends dropping in, and the odd sortie to the fridge or the clothesline.

Children busy outdoors need constant refreshment, and, in this delightfully hot weather, frequent drinks and snacks are required to minimise the risk of dehydration. Snipping off a few spent flower heads or helping the kids explore a new route across the river seem much more important than doing last year's tax return. And I simply cannot look at those winter clothes in the mending pile.

The one downside of this lethargic lifestyle is food. More

specifically, lack of it, since a trip to the shops would be excruciatingly tiresome. It's amazing how long we can survive on oddments of cereal, fruit, leftover salad and toast. However things haven't got too desperate. We'll know we're really starving when somebody suggests opening one of the battered-looking tins we brought home from our last camping trip.

As January draws to an all-too-rapid close, the dreaded twin spectres of timetables and deadlines loom ahead. Early morning starts, rushed meals, late night meetings! Ugh! Maybe we should start practising, by getting dressed before midday. And it's pounds to peanuts last year's uniforms won't fit. The only clothes I can vouch for at the moment are pyjamas and bathers.

Come February, the mid-afternoon sun will blaze mercilessly on the old silver-grey Corona as it crawls through heavy traffic in a haze of heat and carcinogenic fumes, and the dappled shade and cool blue waters of the pool will seem like a distant mirage. Weary children, hot and sweaty from an action-packed school day will have the same

vision on the stuffy bus trip home.

But after two minutes in the pool, they will be re-energated enough for a rowdy game of Marco Polo. After two hours, they'll be revved up enough to play 40-40 till midnight. Nobody will want to go to bed and nobody will want to get up the next morning. Nobody will have done any homework. Sigh! There must be some way of successfully interweaving a dash of January's rallentando into the rest of the year.

So I've been trying to think up a New Year's resolution, other than the usual one of dropping a few items off the weekly schedule, but nothing realistic springs to mind.

Maybe it's time to start having a mid-life crisis! Caught in that eerie limbo between being a 30-something size 12 active sportsperson and a 50-something size 18 wreck who can hardly waddle up her own driveway, maybe it's time to read the writing on the wall and undertake some serious reassessment.

On the other hand, it's too hot to think. The pool looks terribly inviting. And anyway, it's still January!

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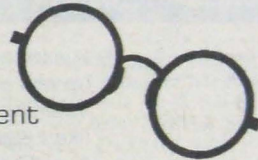
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# Homing

Evening filtered light,  
 Roses drinking feather-blowing rain.  
 Books: like autumn leaves  
 falling falling falling  
 amber hand to amber hand  
 passing across ancestors' hidden lands.  
 Wind is the breath swaying the boughs,  
 brittle branches scratch at window panes—  
 skeletal lives' pasts knocking at distant memories.  
 We read their inscriptions,  
 we are reading their lives:  
 parental birthday wishes, siblings' Christmas gifts,  
 lovers' secrets pressed into floral bookmarks,  
 childhood imagination, adolescent dreams  
 we pick up.  
 And carry with us.

My eyes travel beyond the musty page,  
 beyond the childhood dreams my mother once held in her hands:  
 the force of the swans' stream-lined calling is pulling me away.  
 Mid-flight paralysis,  
 my sister's piano fingers rise,  
 her notes she can no longer play...  
 the call of the journey is my call to the beyond.

I used to swing high for their winged views  
 up and over the roof of the shed,  
 straining to skim sweeping wooded hillcrests and skies,  
 like v-necked stretches chasing seasonal evening shadows.  
 Now I hear the power in their wings,  
 I feel the strength in their unity.  
 We see the white nose,  
 we hear the roar,  
 my sister and I...  
 in the distance far away.

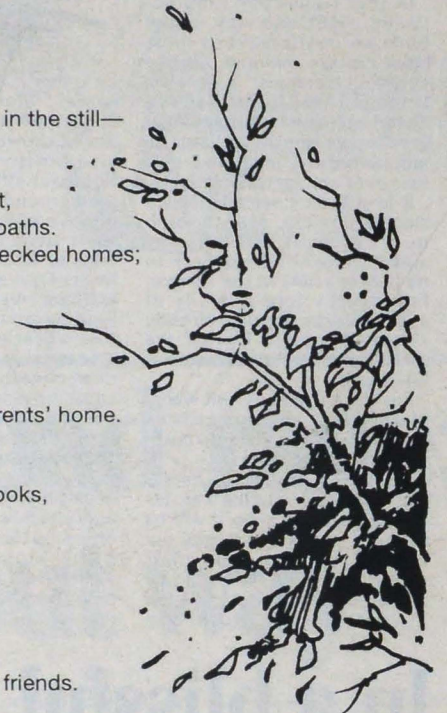
A pale-faced Australian dawn raises a blurry eye,  
 white aerodynamic noses sweep down into Melbourne's awakening sky.  
 Tracks of telegraph poles silhouette into the distance.  
 Roads dip and dive and merge—  
 pale-barked riverbank gully.  
 A funerary drive through sleeping Warrandyte:  
 boozy breath, heavy snores  
 whistle through hotel windows;  
 sleepless, restless bedside partners  
 fortified by flying pillows,  
 Tattsлото gold miners will suffer all.

In our misty haze of jetlag,  
 between our dreams and our dreamy wakefulness,  
 we wake and watch in sleepy stupour  
 our dream-like, mystical surrounds.  
 Webs of fine-threaded gauze cling,  
 enveloping us into invisibility.  
 Foggy swirls and curls rolling down the valley,  
 horses' snorts and whinnies echo mysteriously in the still—  
 white-winged flying Pegasus.

Streaks of sunlight split through cascading mist,  
 drifts of woodsmoke lead into forested, windy paths.  
 Branches balance and rustle around wooden decked homes;  
 a kookaburra calls and cackles;  
 silence-splitting, stirring the living,  
 we drop out of the car in awe.

In one hand I hold Warrandyte earth red rock,  
 in another grey-marbled flint stone from my parents' home.  
 I place each on the bookshelf inside—  
 once distant, neighbours now.  
 Between: a throne of my mother's childhood books,  
 my childhood doll sits and stares.  
 In the home of their childhood,  
 my children can remember and recall.  
 Home.

Across the setting amber sky of another day,  
 white cockatoos' wings beat to the call of their friends.



HELENA ALLAN

# Let Sleeping Dragons Lie

Summer hills like sleeping dragons lie,  
 Dreamily vapourising eucalyptus,  
 Heaving, heavy, in hot stunned air.  
 Slowly, scan the rolling ridges,  
 For first faint puff of smoke,  
 May emanate from lair.  
 No bird calls sound,  
 In midday's gaping mouth,  
 Ominous silence, everywhere  
 And we're caught in the dragon's snare.

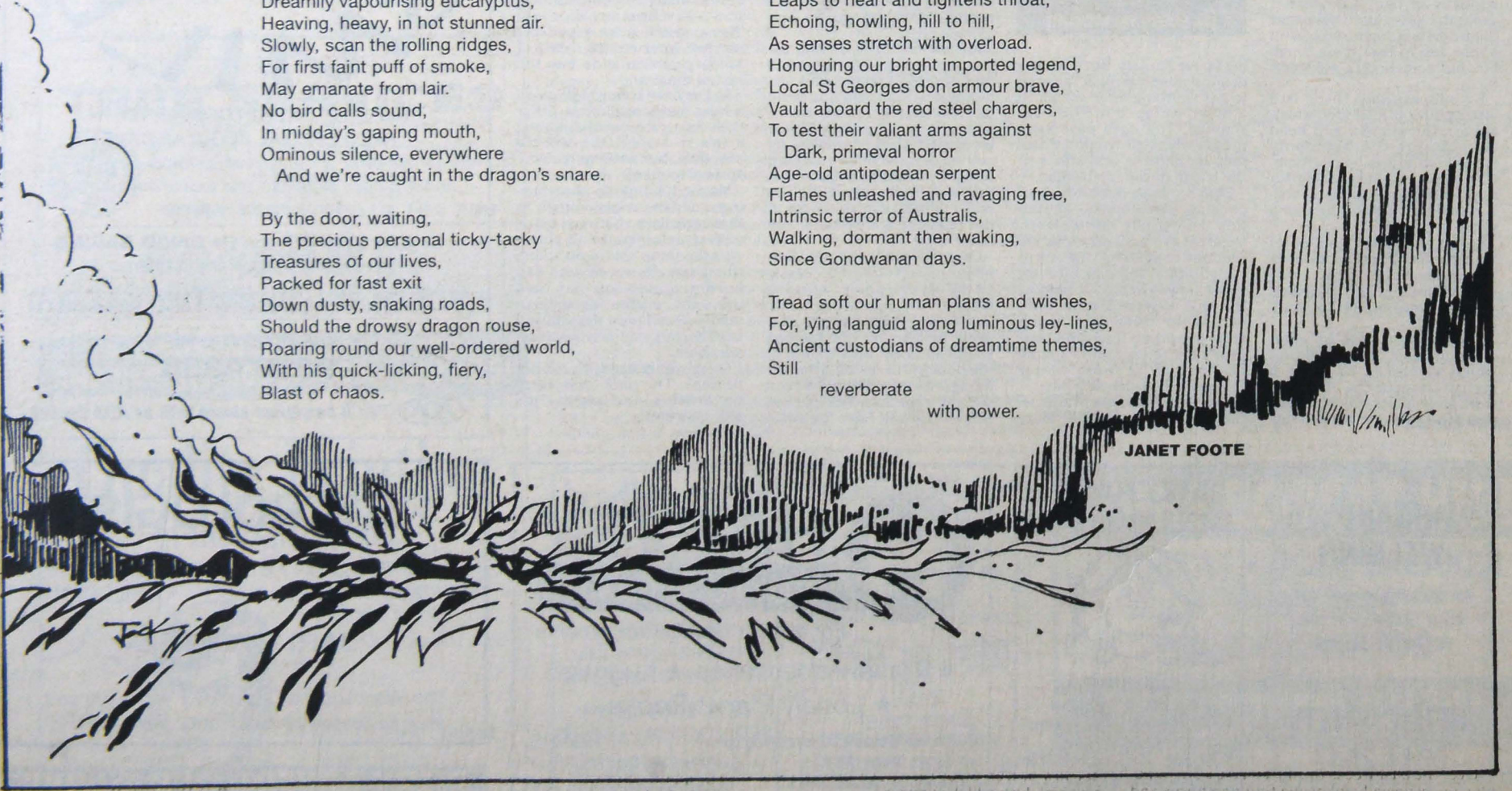
By the door, waiting,  
 The precious personal ticky-tacky  
 Treasures of our lives,  
 Packed for fast exit  
 Down dusty, snaking roads,  
 Should the drowsy dragon rouse,  
 Roaring round our well-ordered world,  
 With his quick-licking, fiery,  
 Blast of chaos.

Sounding, screeching, screaming siren,  
 Leaps to heart and tightens throat,  
 Echoing, howling, hill to hill,  
 As senses stretch with overload.  
 Honouring our bright imported legend,  
 Local St Georges don armour brave,  
 Vault aboard the red steel chargers,  
 To test their valiant arms against  
 Dark, primeval horror  
 Age-old antipodean serpent  
 Flames unleashed and ravaging free,  
 Intrinsic terror of Australis,  
 Walking, dormant then waking,  
 Since Gondwanan days.

Tread soft our human plans and wishes,  
 For, lying languid along luminous ley-lines,  
 Ancient custodians of dreamtime themes,  
 Still

reverberate  
 with power.

JANET FOOTE





# Mists along the river

TIMELINES TIMELINES TIMELINES TIMELINES TIMELINES TIMELINES TIMELINES TIMELINES TIMELINES TIMELINES TIMELINES TIMELINES

## 6 LATE SUMMER

*Cooler weather returns as the dryness of high summer is broken by more frequent rains, many bird species are found in flocks as young adults swell the populations. Mists return to trace the rising river's journey through the Yarra Valley. International migratory birds begin their return to the northern hemisphere.*

**T**HE coolness of morning air strikes you as you walk in the thick mist that traces the journey of the river. Mists that present a new world, shrouded in mystery and magic. Silver mists that shimmer or catch golden shafts of morning sun before they melt and race quickly downstream, following the flow of water. A chorus of kookaburras break the morning skies with a seasonal flocking of the local population.

Manna gums, resplendent after shedding their bark during high summer, their sleek and elegant trunks and boughs and lush canopy of deep green dotted with cream flowers, are a commanding presence along the river. Winding down from the night's foraging, a female koala, with a young on its back, prepares for a quiet doze on a chosen bough. Last night a male was calling from along the river, marking out territory. A mixed flock of yellow-rumped thornbills and white-plumed honeyeaters work the riparian tree leaves for invertebrates. River reed continues to flower on the river's edge.

The river level is a little higher, and its pale creamy chocolate colour describes the degree of turbidity and suspended materials that have been washed down with the rains, also causing localised erosion.

This in turn affects the biological productivity of the Yarra River, which is largely limited by the degree of turbidity that occurs. The river water is still reasonably clear and warm enough to support a high diversity of aquatic invertebrates, however the life cycles begin to slow, with no new instars being formed as the populations of chironomids, mayflies, caddis fly, water boatman and others, mature and begin to die off.

The invertebrate fauna over the true spring to late summer period is dominated by fauna of tropical region origins. During the cooler winter months, invertebrate fauna with Gonwana affiliations will dominate.

It is time for young platypus to emerge from riverbank nests for the first time since hatching in October or November. The downstream migration of short-finned eels, known as silver eels in this part of their life cycle, picks up momentum with a peak in migration of mainly mature females, between 10 and 20 years old, heading towards the estuaries. The slower swimming males have been leaving since true spring. All the silver eels will now begin a two to three month swim towards the Coral Sea to spawn. Tupong will complete its upstream migration from estuary breeding grounds, reduced water flow and higher water temperature assisting its upstream migration.

Over the past weeks the mists have been building up, especially following thunderstorms and

subsequent rain. The thunderstorms dramatically descend upon the Yarra Valley after sweeping across the flat landscape of the western basalt plains, breaking up the pleasant settled weather patterns of late summer; weather that is some of the most pleasant and livable for the whole year.

It is a time for gatherings and celebration, whether it is a flocking of birds, a traditional gathering of the Wurundjeri tribe and others of the Kulin Nation at Bolin Bolin to dance the Gaggit and other healing ceremonies or parading along Yarra Street.

The winds preceding the change cause an enormous amount of leaf to fall and carry flocks of white-throated needletails that feed on the abundance of invertebrates swept up in the updraft caused by the change in weather. However, this is the last season before they return to Eastern Siberia, maintaining an eternal summer (to the envy of the great Australian beachcomber).

Sacred kingfisher, having completed their breeding cycle, are often observed relaxing on their favourite perches before their northern trek. However some rufous fantails still have young in a nest in a damp gully and will need to work hard to be ready for the northward migration to New Guinea, 10,000 kilometers away. Perhaps they will have to pick up some takeaway food on the journey.

The pied currawongs have returned from their secretive mountain breeding places, used over true spring and high summer. They tour in huge assemblies along the river valley with their whistling, ringing range of calls announcing their timelonic triumphant return to the lowlands. After this, they break into smaller groups to forage or to harass such resident birds as the collared sparrowhawk. Gang gangs have also returned from the mountains, and with the pied currawongs, take full advantage of the ripe fruit of the highly invasive pest plant hawthorn which has naturalised along the riverine environment.

Downstream, billabongs and wetlands metamorphosis further. Low river levels and lack of substantial floods during this past year have meant that the older and shallower billabongs, such as the Annulus, are almost completely dry. A scattering of carp corpses mark a critical low water level for these exotic fish, reached during high summer.

Bolin Bolin billabong, being formed more recently and with a lower river ingress level, managed to fill during the last modest rise in river levels in August the previous year. Its waters are still fairly deep, supporting a range of wildlife, including darters which are breeding further downstream. Nomadic black-fronted plovers work the wetland margins where mud-mat in pale mauve flowers, small knotweed and spreading sneezeweed try to cover the available space. There is still an occasional Latham's snipe to see before they migrate to Japan during the next season. The frogs are generally quiet and will need a good soaking rain to reactivate them again; the Perons tree frogs have stopped calling altogether.

The rains that have fallen have begun to green up the grassy valley slopes where the bright red bell flowers of cranberry heath, the white orchid parson's band join the autumn bird orchid and the autumn greenhood to mark the change of season.

Occasional flowering of twining rush lily and golden weatherglass happen as temperate conditions return. Sweet bursaria and lightwood will complete their flowering. Flocks of up to 30 eastern rosellas feed on the ground among the native and exotic grasses. Large flocks of sulphur-crested cockatoos feast on the corms of the well-established pest plant, onion grass.

Candlebark has also shed its bark over high summer and is now gleaming white in the afternoon sun. On one of its boughs a drooping mistletoe flowers, food plant for the larvae of the olane azure butterfly. More of a dominant of the vegetation towards Ringwood and beyond, silver-leaved stringybark flowers in its scattered Middle Yarra occurrences. A few clouds begin to drift over the sky; a feature of late summer as moisture gathers in the atmosphere.

Excitable family flocks of magpies sweep the treetops, their ranks swollen with the now aerially able, sub-adults of the last breeding season. The non-indigenous sugar gums in flower provide an important focus for increasingly larger flocks of musk lorikeets and rainbow lorikeets. Over the past few years they have swept the Yarra Valley in vast flocks numbering over a thousand birds, as was observed at Petty's Orchard in Yarra Valley Parklands. Swift parrots also take advantage of this and other nectar feeding opportunities on the mainland after their winter migration from Tasmania.

Long-leaf box is in flower along the ridge tops. Its wood was not valued by timber harvesters over the years, therefore it is often the dominant remnant tree on the drier hilltops. Snakes are more often observed now that the very hot weather has passed, out for the last feeds prior to winter inactivity.

The last of the late summer generation of imperial white butterflies, and some wood whites, feed on the flowers of box mistletoe, which is also a food plant for the larvae of both species. Common brown butterflies are plentiful and often accumulate on the ridge tops awaiting breeding opportunities. Some mornings they can be found fluttering helplessly on the ground until their wings dry from the overnight dew. Dusky woodswallows have begun to flock as a prelude to migration after a busy late summer of feeding. Often a group will sit huddled along a dead branch, preening and sunning.

In the mid afternoon heat on a dry rocky ridge, sugar ants are in the process of launching winged reproductive males and females in anticipation of wind and a change in weather to help dispersal. A chain of frenetically busy worker ants is helping the winged flying ants reach the top of a small flat rock which will be the launching pad. An immense amount of the sugar ant colony's energy is put into the preparation of each of the flying ants for the launch. Huge soldier ants strut around the perimeter checking security details. The whole process takes hours and requires such a high degree of social planning that is must be the envy of every Warrandyte Festival parade organiser.

Common mynas and other birds will take advantage of sugar ants swarming prior to late summer rainstorms by "anting" themselves (that is, using ants to de-louse their bodies). A bird will either take up a posture over the ant colony entrance, forcing the ants to climb over its body, or actively pick up ants and place them under its armpit.

A huge gathering of black-faced cuckoo shrikes of almost 50 birds, having radiated out into the local forests of Warrandyte and Eltham to feed during the day, are now returning to their roosting trees in the late afternoon. They have congregated in two large red box on a commanding ridge overlooking the Warrandyte Gorge after returning from all points of the compass.

Mole crickets ring out their vibrating calls just prior to a sunset showing a spectacular range of texture and colour, due to the smog-painted atmosphere above Melbourne's city centre. The settled late summer weather is conducive to the build-up of smog-laden pollutants, produced by the daily routines of industrialized cities, the absence of breezes allowing them to concentrate.

Sugar gliders, some with newly-weaned young, move into the flowering sugar gums as soon as night falls, taking advantage of the prolific nectar and pollen production of this non-indigenous eucalypt. Unfortunately, the sugar gums, being well pollinated by their many visitors, have begun to spread into nearby bushlands and hybridize with local eucalypts.

Deep into the darkness of the starry night, haunting deep calls of the powerful owl boom out from a heavily wooded gully, resonantly filling the river valley with its mystery and strength.

● CONCLUDED

# Chasing a tiger's tale

By JULIE MURRAY

**T**ASMANIAN tiger in the Warrandyte area? Unbelievable? Maybe.

Over the past 100 years many species of flora, fauna and wildlife have not only become endangered but have been lost to us forever. The most publicised of this wildlife is the Tasmanian tiger. Official records state that the last Tasmanian tiger or thylacine died in a Hobart zoo in 1936.

Since that time more than 400 official sightings have been reported. The most recent in Tasmania was early in 1995 in the north-east, but what made it seem more authentic was that the man making the claim was a parks and wildlife ranger.

Indonesia has also made claim to this large marsupial native to Tasmania. Villagers in Irian Jaya believe that a Tasmanian tiger has been the cause of livestock killing and is the mystery creature locals have sighted. The villagers say the creature lives in the caves or among rocks, and described it as having the head of a dog with a huge jaw and a thinning body, with stripes to the rear and along its tail. The descriptions match the common attributes of the tiger. During the 1960s a fossilized jaw was discovered in Papua New Guinea.

Warrandyte now has made its claim to sightings. The reluctance to come forward in the past in the reporting or publicising of such events is understandable, and reminiscent of reporting a sighting of Elvis or a UFO. Maybe the closeness of the year 2000 has brought us, as a species, closer to standing in and acknowledging our own truth without fear or favour.

Jacky Law, a resident who managed the canteen at the high school for many years, was picking her daughter up from a friend's place in Trezise Street in 1979 when she caught a glimpse of the rear of an unknown animal.

"I didn't see the head," she told the *Diary*. "What stood out was the long striped tail. It was certainly not a cat's tail. It was beige-brown in colour and there was a harshness or stiffness about it. I remember the awkwardness of the rear. I had never seen anything like this before."

Bob and Trish Millington of Kangaroo Ground have also had two independent sightings. Four years ago, Trish and her son Gareth, while walking at dusk, saw an animal crossing Pigeon Bank Road. Their immediate reaction was to look at each other and say: "Did we just see what we just saw?"

Twelve months ago, Bob Millington saw a similar animal crossing to Kan-

garoo Ground Road from Pigeon Bank during daylight hours. Their descriptions were exactly the same: "Little ears, black stripes on the rear and tapering down to a long thin tail. Bigger than a large dog with the lean look of a greyhound". Bob Millington, former editor of the *Diary*, is a well-known Melbourne journalist.

You can download an 11 second video from the Internet to see that these are certainly the characteristics of the tiger. Also notable is how widely the tiger's jaws open. The jaws of a Tasmanian tiger are believed to open wider than any other mammal.

They were hunted extensively because they threatened sheep.

In the unfinished writings of his memories of Warrandyte at the turn of the last century, the late John Hutchinson senior, whose ancestors settled the Pound Bend area of the Yarra River in the 1850s, states: "Wattles lined the river and underneath all the big timber, beautiful green grass with kangaroos and wallabies. Also tiger cats and wild cats." He was most probably referring to the quoll. Or was he?

There are many firm believers who will swear the tiger is still alive. Of one thing we can be certain—the mystery and intrigue that surrounds the sightings of the Tasmanian tiger will continue well into the next century.



DOROTHY BAWDEN

## A pioneer of our town

**D**OROTHY Bawden, who lived in Warrandyte for many years, passed away on January 24. She was in her 99th year.

Dot was born at Roxburgh, Central Otago, New Zealand on December 7, 1899. She moved to Australia with her mother, two sisters and a brother about 60 years ago.

With her mother, Dot conducted a mixed business and tea room in Yarra Street, Warrandyte (opposite Stiggants Reserve). Their home was at the rear of the

premises. Dot and her mother very soon became well known and respected in the district.

Dot married Frederick William Bawden on September 16, 1958. They spent many happy years together in their Yarra Street home before Fred's sudden death in 1979.

Dot remained living on her own in her Warrandyte home until she suffered a fall in January 1993. She was admitted to the Austin Hospital for hip surgery and recovered there for six weeks. She then moved into

Eltham Lodge retirement home and after a period of time there, she moved to Brooklea retirement home in Donvale. She spent her last three years at Brooklea, and was admitted to Mitcham Private Hospital on January 16, where she died.

Dot was a very private and independent person with a wonderfully sharp mind and sense of humour. She will be sadly missed by those who knew her. Dot is survived by her sister Georgina who lives in Western Australia.

**DOREEN BURGE**

RODNEY EDWARDS

## A special life of love

**R**ODNEY Edwards died at home on December 13, 1997, his health having begun to fail in August.

Rodney was a very special person. Those who knew him will remember him as someone always happy, always ready to join in and never afraid to have a go, and those around him would be swept up in his enthusiasm.

As a young man he loved going to the Warrandyte football with his dad, always dressed in red and white to support the Seconds team.

He enjoyed himself when his

brother Ivon would take him to the fire station activities and later when his sister Louise introduced him to rug-making.

Rug-making became a focus of Rodney's life. It gave him a sense of achievement, especially when he went on to win many prizes at the Royal Melbourne Show and the Dandenong show with his beautiful rugs.

In his earlier years he attended Araluen Day Training Centre in Balwyn, then at 16 he moved into Araluen Residential Centre and Sheltered Workshop in Lower Plenty, but always spent the weekends at home.

In later years he became a valued member of Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club having been introduced by his grandmother, Corrie Davies. He went on to join the concert party—which he loved—and then to learn carpet bowls. He became a proficient player.

Rodney loved to be surrounded by people and to be able to celebrate his 40th birthday at the Senior Citizens Club was very special to him, especially as his mother Audrey had the room decorated in his favourite colours—blue and white for his beloved Carlton.

**JACKY LAW**



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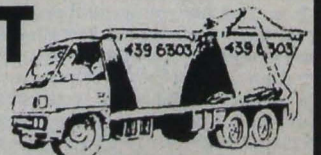
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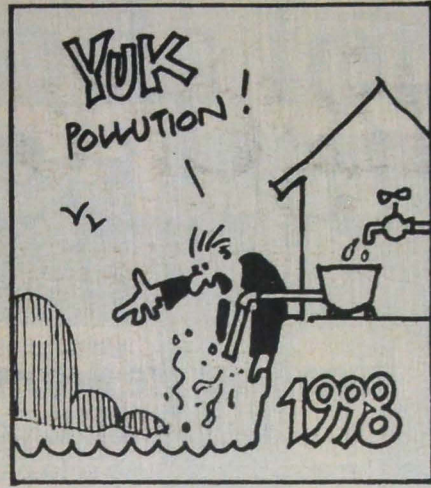
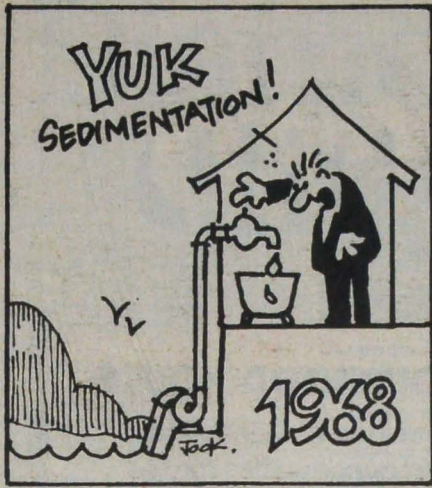
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# Bringing water to our village

by RICHARD WARWICK

**W**ITH the Yarra River flowing through Warrandyte, there has always been a steady supply of water for the people living here. But this did not guarantee a ready supply of clean fresh water available to all residents.

In the early days, water was collected in either rainwater tanks filled with runoff from the roof, or for those who lived near the river, it was pumped into tanks near the house. If you walk along the river now, you can still see many pipes and pumps that either were, or still are, used for this purpose.

As Warrandyte became more populated and those living here demanded a better supply of water, moves were made to set up some form of reticulated water supply. The government body responsible at the time was the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and they suggested setting up a local trust to manage the system.

The Warrandyte Waterworks Trust was established as a combined project of the Shire of Eltham and the City of Doncaster and Templestowe in 1961. The trust was made up of representatives from both councils. The first chairman was Alan Croxford, who kept the position until he resigned to become chairman of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW). The next chairperson was Charis Pelling, first female president of the Shire of Eltham.

The trust had several members over the years that it existed. From the Shire of Eltham came Eric Butler, Arthur Cracknell, Charis Pelling, Anton Brinkkötter, Fred Gratton and Frank Nankervis. Representing the City of Doncaster and

Templestowe were Viv Rush, Percy Withers, Alan Croxford, Ken Buxton and Keith Wilson.

The original work included a storage reservoir on Fourth Hill, which was fed from a pumping station on the Yarra River at Kangaroo Ground Road near Castle Road. A nine inch main was laid down Kangaroo Ground Road, across the bridge, along Yarra, Webb and Tunnel Streets and then into the reservoir on Fourth Hill.

The water was then fed by gravity and reticulated to the more settled areas of Warrandyte. The work was completed in December 1961 and the water, somewhat murky, started to flow to households just in time for the bushfires in January 1962. The system was later supplemented with another tank on Growlers Hill, which was built some time after the 1962 bushfires.

The effect of the water supply scheme was to double property values overnight. It virtually suburbanised Warrandyte, as many people were not prepared to come to the area without reticulated water.

The original scheme envisaged that the storage would always hold seven days' supply, allowing any sediment to settle out in the bottom of the reservoir.

If the river ran brown after a storm, the water would be clear before there was a need to pump more from the river.

The quality of water from the Yarra was always poorest during winter, due to turbulence. Some residents installed their own tanks to allow the water to settle before they used it. Over time, the trust connected more and more houses, until finally the pumps were running continuously, and hence the quality of the water deteriorated as there was not enough time to settle out the sediment in the

reservoir.

The trust was taken over by the MMBW in 1970 when a supply of cleaner but more expensive water was made available. The new water was flavoured with chlorine rather than Yarra mud and didn't leave a brown stain around the bath.

Since that time, we have been serviced by Melbourne Water and now Yarra Valley Water, and water is now fed into the system from Silvan Reservoir and its quality is the same as the rest of Melbourne. When the MMBW took over the system, the pumps were no longer used. One night some of the local lads fired up the pump and had water gushing all over Kangaroo Ground Road. When MMBW crews arrived to repair what they thought was a burst main, it took them a little while to figure out what was really going on! The reservoir on Fourth Hill was removed at that time.

Local plumber Bob Sargeant, who, together with his son Ken, was well known to local residents, was responsible for the maintenance of the system. His valiant effort in repairing a major breakdown just before the bushfires in 1962 is worth a special mention.

The only physical remnants of the system which remain today are a cairn commemorating the establishment of the Warrandyte Waterworks Trust, which is located at the north-east corner of the bridge, the steps down to the old pumping station near Castle Road, the old tank on Growlers Hill—now a Telecom mobile phone tower—and several kilometres of old water main buried under the streets of Warrandyte.

● 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.

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- ★★★★ Peter Lehmann—Clancys ..... \$13.95 (\$150 per doz)
- ★★★★ Ashwood Grove—Chardonnay ..... \$11.95 (\$130 per doz)
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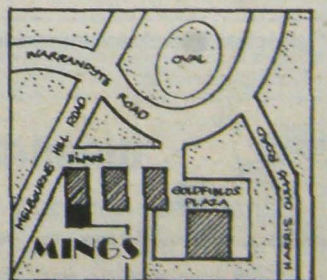
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# COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

## **INFORMATION WARRANDYTE**

...is your local Citizens Advice Bureau, staffed by trained volunteers and receiving minimal funding from local councils. We provide a free, confidential, impartial and independent advice and referral service, including financial counselling, personal counselling and tax help. Our Tourism Centre offers a comprehensive range of local tourist maps and information.

## **WARRANDYTE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE**

...is managed by a voluntary Committee of Management. The aim of the House is to provide opportunities for the community to learn, have fun and participate in social interaction. We provide occasional child care, book exchange, Local Jobs for Local People, internet access, courses and workshops in a friendly atmosphere.

## **WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

...is the ideal venue for your next conference, seminar, celebration or business meeting. Audio-visual and catering services are available. Hiring rates are reasonable. The Warrandyte Community Centre houses several community organisations. Parking via Webb Street and opposite the Centre on the river bank.

## **WARRANDYTE MECHANICS INSTITUTE & ARTS ASSOCIATION**

...is a community based group with access to all forms of the arts. Within the association there are theatre, pottery, painting, music, tapdancing and craft groups. Members receive a monthly newsletter and all profits and fees are used to maintain the historic Mechanics Institute Hall. Phone 9844 2795 for more information.

## **WARRANDYTE YOUTH SERVICES**

...operates a drop-in centre on Level 1 of the Community Centre most afternoons and every Friday and Saturday night until 10pm. We also run school holiday programs in association with Manningham Youth Services, band events and many other activities for young people in the area. Contact: Cathy Adamson (coordinator) telephone 9844 2985.

## **WARRANDYTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

...records the history of Warrandyte through its vast display of photographs, artefacts and publications at their museum in the Old Post Office at 111 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and volunteers open the museum each weekend from 1-4pm. Appointments to visit can be made for groups. Tel: 9844 3662 or 9844 4176.

## **WARRANDYTE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB**

...has something on every day. Dancing, singing and exercise programs, concerts, carpet bowls, snooker, card games and bingo. Regular outings organized. Other services include visiting doctor and podiatrist. For more information and enquiries ring secretary Maisie Temple 9844 1411.

## **WARRANDYTE ROTARY CLUB**

...meets every Tuesday evening upstairs at the Grand Hotel. Rotarians have a busy schedule of social and service activities involving both hands-on and hands-off work for the community. The main fund-raiser is the art show held at Stiggants Reserve in conjunction with the Warrandyte Festival in March. Enquiries to John Provan on 9844 4916.

## **WARRANDYTE LIONS CLUB**

...has been serving Warrandyte over 25 years. It meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, 7pm at Kellybrook Winery Restaurant. Visitors always welcome, bookings necessary 24 hours in advance. Membership by invitation. For more information, see our web pages at <http://people.enternet.com.au/~retz> or telephone 9712 0326 or write PO Box 18, Warrandyte 3113.

## **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

Local community, sporting and service groups are invited to contribute material for continuing free insertion on this page. Information should be of a permanent nature and no longer than 50 words. Use other notices as your model. Material can be faxed to 9844 4168, dropped through the front door of our office in the Community Centre, or posted to P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte, 3113.



# Diamonds forever

Everyone in Warrandyte will want to join in congratulating Helen and Bill Ward of Stiggant Street on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Helen and Bill celebrated their diamond jubilee with friends on December 11 at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens' Club.



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.



*Ain't love grand? Bill and Helen Ward celebrate their diamond wedding.*

## Festival

The Warrandyte Festival Committee is seeking new recruits. Volunteers from schools, service and sporting clubs, churches, environment groups and any interested people from the community are asked to contact the following: John Boyle on 9844 3120 or 9894 2233 (BH), Alistair Brown on 9844 2021, or Claire Dawson on 9844 2375.

## Clean-up

Following the success of last year's effort, the 1998 Clean-up Australia Day will be held on Sunday, March 1. Volunteers keen to help may pick up bags from the carpark in Yarra Street, opposite Whipstick Gully, from 10am to 1pm on the day. Manningham council will then collect and dispose of the bags of rubbish. Any enquiries to Peter Hanson on 9844 3906.

## Hamper

The Warrandyte Women's Hospital Auxiliary have asked us to announce the winners of their Christmas hamper raffle, drawn on December 13. First prize went to Mrs Heather Williams and second prize to Mr Fred Hambett.

## Badminton

Social badminton is being held each Wednesday night in the Uniting Church Hall in Tarooma Avenue. Cost is \$2 per person per night, commencing in February. Players of all ages and standards are welcome. For further information call John Hanson on 9844 3906.

## Bowls

The Warrandyte Senior Citizens' Club carpet bowls championship was played at their Tarooma Avenue centre on January 17. The winner was Mr Fred Knibbs with Mr Bill Ward runner-up. In the absence of the president, Mrs Bradford, the trophies were presented by Mrs Temple.

## Carols

More than a thousand people attended the annual carols by candlelight celebration at Stiggants Reserve in December. The Interchurch Council has asked us to thank the community for their support and their generous donations to the Christmas Bowl Appeal for less fortunate people. These totalled \$404.

## Mums

The next morning coffee get-together of the Warrandyte Nursing Mothers will be held on Wednesday, February 25 at 10am at the Warrandyte Maternal and Child Health Centre in Tarooma Avenue. Further information from Sandi on 9844 1933.

## Parents

A five weeks program for parents, entitled Parenting With Confidence, will be conducted at Warrandyte Youth Services at the community centre, beginning in early March. The program is designed for parents of pre and early adolescence (10-15 years). Facilitators are Kaye Ward, parent resource and support worker, and Cathy Adamson, co-ordinator of Warrandyte Youth Services. For further information call Kaye on 9848 2977 or Cathy on 9844 2985.

## Variety

The Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club is holding a "Variety Nite" at their centre in Tarooma Avenue on Friday, February 27, commencing at 7.30pm. \$5 per head donation, BYO food and drink. For table bookings call Helen on 9844 2671 or the centre on 9844 2437.

## Paper

The next Manningham council waste paper collection will be on Friday, February 20.

## Dance

The next South Warrandyte Social Dance will be held from 8pm to midnight on St Valentines Day, Saturday, February 14. The location is the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road. BYO drinks and supper, tea and coffee provided. Cost is \$5 for adults. Enquiries to 9723 3892.

## Hearing

Better Hearing Australia has two groups operating close to Warrandyte. In Doncaster they meet at 1.30pm on Fridays at Doncare, 7th Floor, Westfield Tower, Shoppingtown. An Eltham group also meets on Fridays at 1.30pm, at the Community Health Centre, 917 Main Road, Eltham. These are hearing loss management programs for adults. For information contact Jenny Adcock on 9510 1577—9 to 5, Monday to Friday.

## Reconciliation at Kangaroo Ground

Nillumbik Shire Council will hold a major Aboriginal reconciliation and recognition event at the Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower on Sunday, March 14.

The theme of the event will be Reconciliation Through Recognition. Long-standing Aboriginal tradition and current culture and spiritual connections to the land will be acknowledged.

Nillumbik's cultural and community services manager, Garry King, said the emphasis of the event will be on celebration, entertainment and education.

"The proposal to hold a reconciliation and recognition day was generated by interested people in the community. They will be working closely with

council officers in organising the event," Mr King said.

"Reconciliation Through Recognition will have Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal displays, workshops and musical entertainment throughout the day and will culminate with a closing ceremony coinciding with the rising of the full moon."

Reconciliation issues will be raised by appropriate speakers throughout the day.

The event will promote the establishment of an Aboriginal memorial cairn on Kangaroo Ground hill.

Reconciliation Through Recognition will be held at the Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower site on Sunday, March 14, from about 1pm to 9pm (moonrise).

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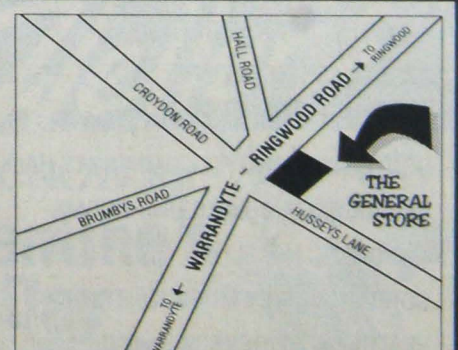
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## Aaron's calling the shots

By JUDY GREEN

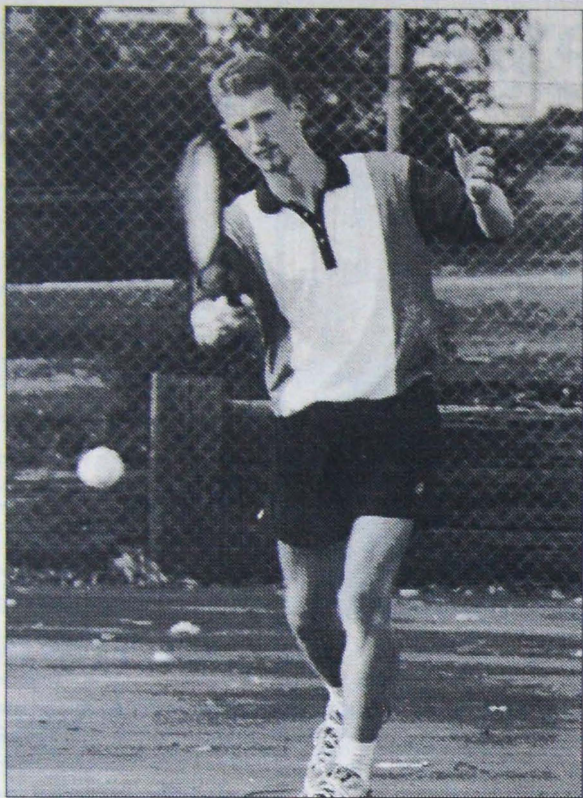
Following the resignation of Fabio Forlano at the end of last year, Warrandyte Tennis Club has appointed a new coach.

Aaron Nolan, who previously coached at Eltham Tennis Club and Epping Indoor Leisure City, started at his new club early last month. Holder of a Tennis Coaches of Victoria level 2 qualification, Nolan plays State Grade Pennant for Grace Park.

He told the *Diary*: "I am very pleased to be at Warrandyte. I plan to continue and build on the club's successful coaching program, previously carried on under Fabio Forlano."

Lessons for players of all levels and all ages will be provided, including the Little Joey program, catering for beginners in the five to seven age group.

"This program is designed to teach young people the fundamentals of the game in a fun environment, using modified learning equipment," Nolan said.



Aaron Nolan, new coach at Warrandyte Tennis Club.

# Redbacks rule in the Pacific

By DAMIEN ARSENIS

Warrandyte Basketball Club have again put their name in the international spotlight, with the U15 girls team victorious in the South Pacific Basketball Championships in Fiji in December.

The girls easily accounted for the local Pacific island competition to keep the Redbacks' unbeaten record intact.

A team coached by Gavin Whitmore had won the inaugural title in 1996.

Lorraine Parfitt, who coached the new outfit, was "ecstatic" and equally impressed impressed with the trophy—a locally-made kava bowl.

"It was a great experience for the girls to play in a different country against different teams," she said. "They represented our country well."

Although the Warrandyte girls were never seriously threatened in any of their games, they said they had learnt a great

deal from their opportunity to play in international competition.

Their first game was against the Suva-based Youth Sports Sports Academy. Told that this was a representative combination, the Redbacks proceeded to dismantle the academy's defence on the way to a 42-point demolition.

Stronger opposition was to be found in the next game, against local team Raiwaqa. The Redbacks led by only six points at the break but steadied for a 37-15 win.

The third qualifying game in the round-robin series was against Lautoka (Mighty Saints) and the girls played well within themselves to win by 15 points.

Warrandyte went into the final full of confidence for a rematch with Raiwaqa, ran to a commanding early lead and were never headed. Playing their best basketball of the

tournament, they overwhelmed the locals to post a 44-20 victory.

Basketball is a very popular and fast-growing sport in Fiji and coach Parfitt was surprised to find herself being interviewed by the local media.

Fijian officials were so impressed with Warrandyte's participation in the tournament they have already invited the Redbacks back.

The touring party comprised coach Parfitt, Ellie Parfitt, Kelly Pollard, Dee Arsenis, Danielle Feldman, Jo Tonnison, Phillipa Bottomley and Daina Klunder, team manager Dianne Pollard and parents Bill Bottomley and Hynda Feldman.

The win was a fitting reward for 12 months of fundraising.

Registration day for the Redbacks' 1998 winter season will be at the Warrandyte High School stadium on Saturday, February 14, from 10am.



MANNINGHAM

### MANNINGHAM CITY COUNCIL SPORTING FACILITIES 1998 Winter Season

Sporting Clubs and organisations are invited to lodge applications for use of Council Reserves for the 1998 Winter Season.

Application forms may be obtained by contacting the Sports Liaison Officer on 9840 9258 and should be returned no later than Friday 27 February 1998.

Applications received after the above date will not be considered.

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## Warrandyte Senior BASKETBALL

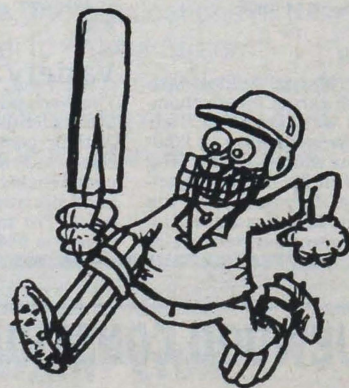
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- Steve Doyle 018 370 389 • Joanne Morison 014 949 117

## Warrandyte Cricket Club wishes to thank the following sponsors and hopes you avail yourselves of their services



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# Bushrangers on brink

By RACHEL BAKER

Despite an impressive start to 1998, with two wins out of three, Warrandyte Cricket Club are "on the brink" as Chandler Shield finals contenders.

The Bushrangers, who have won five and lost four, are no certainties to be part of the finals action even if they win their last two games of the RDCA home-and-away season. Captain-coach coach Paul Montgomery concedes it is "not looking good".

"Even if we win our last two,

## SPORT

we may still miss out," Montgomery said. "It could be in the hands of the gods after that."

Warrandyte will be chasing a formidable total when their two-day away game against South Ringwood resumes next Saturday (February 14).

By stumps on day one, South Ringwood had racked up 284 runs for the loss of just five wickets and with four overs remaining.

But Montgomery was not dis-

appointed with his players' performance. "We played very well," he said. And he still believes the Bushrangers can win the game, with "no problems".

"With four overs remaining, it will probably mean we'll be chasing close to 300 runs. But then again, with the way the ground is, how quick the ground is, I think we can do it," Montgomery said.

"We just need to get three to four runs per over. As long as we can keep our wickets intact and still have batsmen out there scoring in the last overs, it's definitely not out of the realms of possibility."

Warrandyte's last home-and-away assignment is against Croydon North, the reigning premiers.

"But they haven't won a game this year," Montgomery pointed out. "They were at the top of the ladder, but they've slipped to third or fourth."

The coach is optimistic about Warrandyte's chances. "We've always played well against them," he said.

"There are some teams that you just match up well against, and we've always matched up well against Croydon North; we've always played well against them."

The second eleven are in a happier position, 0/12 at stumps after dismissing South Ringwood for 191.

**'It could be in the hands of the gods'**

— Paul Montgomery



really felt the brunt of it," Montgomery said. After coming up early (in the season), they're out of the finals now.

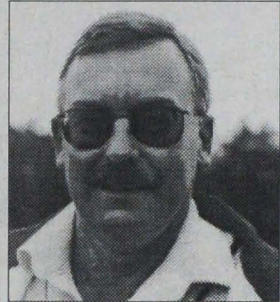
But the club are not forgetting the value of the lower grades in building up younger players.

"There are a lot of good, younger players there and they're coming along really well," the coach said. "Adam Geardall and Dean Gidley are a couple of positives coming out of the thirds."

For the fourths, who haven't won a game this season, patience was required.

"They may take two or three years to rebuild, and we'll just have to wait, Montgomery said. "They've got some young players coming through — some good youngsters in the fourths and fifths as well — and we've just got to be patient."

## Meeting not to be missed



Steve Pascoe

Warrandyte Cricket Club will hold their annual general meeting at the clubrooms on Thursday, February 19, starting at 8pm.

In a circular to members, administration manager Steve Pascoe has warned that a number of current committee members will not be renominating.

"It's time you stood up to be counted," he said. "Your attendance at this meeting is vital."

## CRICKET DETAILS

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 165 (G Triagear 39, S Bell 38, G Walshe 35) d Norwood 9/105 and 3/6 (G Walshe 2/4); Warrandyte 144 (S Bell 40) lost to Ferntree Gully 6/272 (G Triagear 3/59) and 6/42 (G Walshe 4/22); Warrandyte 8/223 (S Bell 37, N Brisbane 30, G Triagear 33) d Ainslie Park 203 (G Walshe 4/90, G Triagear 4/49); Warrandyte v South Ringwood 5/284.

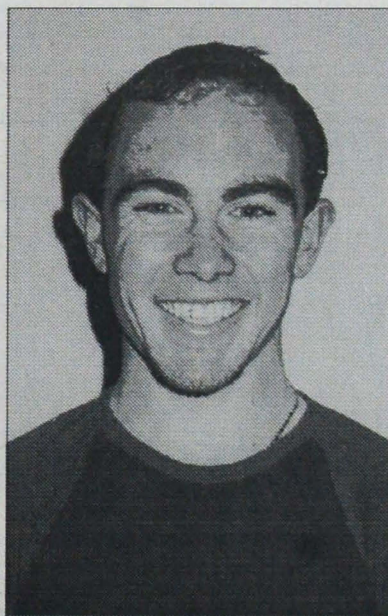
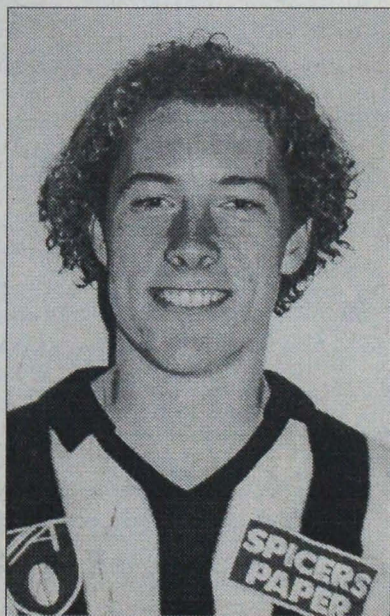
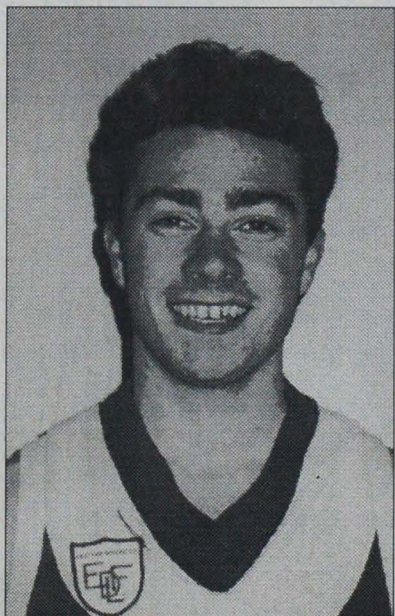
SECONDS: Warrandyte 113 (B Valentine 41) lost to Ferntree Gully 4/139; Warrandyte 211 (N Peterson 76, D Gidley 36) d Ainslie Park 128 (M Davis 6/27, D Gidley 4/43) and 4/136;

Warrandyte 0/12 v South Ringwood 191 (M Davis 6/53).

THIRDS: Warrandyte 9/190 (B Baker 44, A De Leo 63) d Ferntree Gully 9/150 (A Beardall 5/45); Warrandyte 8/221 (S Pascoe 105 n.o.) lost to Ainslie Park 5/279; Warrandyte v South Ringwood 182 (M Scheele 6/40)

FOURTHS: Warrandyte 8/162 (C Holland 52) lost to Ferntree Gully 243 (T Gathercole 4/52); Warrandyte 207 (R Valentine 76, S Snell 33, T Gathercole 32) lost to Ainslie Park 8/279 (R Sutherland 2/21); Warrandyte 112 (W Gay 36) v South Ringwood 2/34.

# Bloodhounds on the scent



From left: Liam Riley, Andrew Brown and Justin Edwards, three young players of whom big things are expected this season after senior debuts last year.

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club are talking with "about a dozen" prospective recruits to kick off their 1998 premierships campaign.

When this edition of the *Diary* went to press, the Bloods' attention was focused on a high-profile EDFL First Division player who was expected to give them an answer within hours.

Warrandyte's scouts have been particularly busy in the off-season to bolster the ranks for the return to Third Division after last season's Division Two debacle which produced just one win in 18 games.

The new season starts with the Bloods at home to Upper Ferntree Gully on April 4.

Pre-season training resumed on January 19 and will be held each Monday, Wednesday and Friday until the end of the local cricket season, when it will revert to Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Numbers and enthusiasm have encouraged new coach and former club president Lex Munro.

The Bloods are likely to lose only one player from last year's senior list. They may yet hold him.

Munro said negotiations were continuing with "about a dozen" prospective recruits.

"I'm pretty happy with the way things are going," he said. "We just have to secure some new players in the next week or two."

"Several young players who haven't been at the club for a year or two are back training with us and this will give us depth.

"At the moment, my only aspiration is to see us in the 1998 finals. Then we'll take it from there."

WFC president Jeff Evans said he and the committee had "thrown it back on to the play-

ers" to bring on-field success back to the club.

"We had a miserable 1997 on the field," he said. "Off the field it was successful and we'll basically be following last season's off-field formula.

"We need things to happen out there on the ground and we're confident they will."

"We're all expecting big things from Liam Riley, Andrew Brown, Justin Edwards and Chris Tomlinson, who made such an impression last year when they took the big step from the Under-18s to senior football.

"I've no doubt we'll see the benefits of that experience."

Coach Munro has, as promised, varied the Bloods' training schedule to include an upcoming triathlon and a kayak endurance race on the Yarra.

Warrandyte will play three pre-season practice matches — all Sunday games at home — against Mt Evelyn on March 15, Norwood on March 22 and Rowville on March 29 (Warrandyte Festival weekend).

A 1000-can raffle will be drawn after the Rowville game.

## Junior footy club to field new Colts team

Warrandyte Junior Football Club will field a Colts (Under-17) side in the new season, replacing and absorbing the Under-16s.

The young Bloods have now severed ties with the EDFL and all eight teams — from Under-9s to Colts — will play in the Yarra Junior Football League, which came into being last season with the merging of the Doncaster and Hawthorn junior competitions.

The two Tackers (Under-9)

sides introduced last season have been reduced to one. "The Tackers have been a big success and have certainly given us more depth," said new WJFC president Tony Pieper.

The club's 1998 registration day was held last Sunday (February 8) but anyone who was unable to make it can register by phoning Pieper on 9844 1340 or recruiting officer Anthony Mirabella on 9844 2623.

## The pre-season premiers

Warrandyte footballers already have a 1998 premierships under their belts almost two months before the season starts.

A team of Bloods calling themselves Pre-season this month won the grand final of Box Hill Indoor Cricket Centre's third division competition.

The all-conquering team

comprised Ashley Grybas, Craig Evans, Chris Springett, Travis Brogan, Aaron Woolley, John Rough, Rod Valentine and Steve Warr.

Warrandyte Football Club officials obviously are hoping their success with bat and ball can be translated into the winter sport.

## Syndicate on the pace



Jeff Evans

If they lose on a Saturday afternoon in 1999, maybe a syndicate of Warrandyte Football Club personnel can win on Saturday night.

The syndicate of players and officials is buying a pacer, a youngster which will not race until next year.

One suggested name for the horse is "Noddy and Big Ears" — a "tribute" to club secretary Robert "Noddy" Ireland and his good mate and president Jeff Evans, both members of the syndicate.

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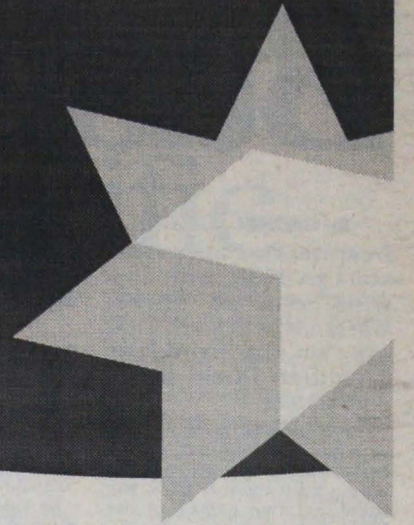
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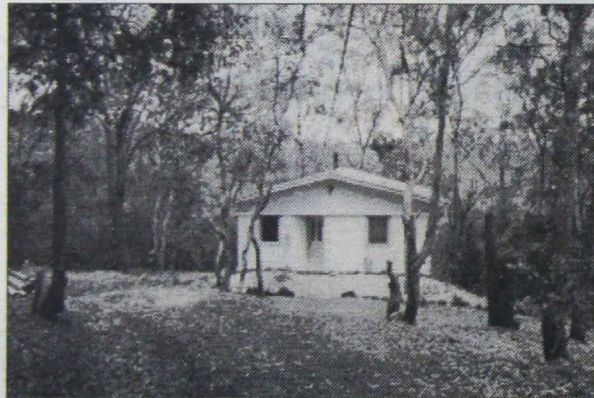


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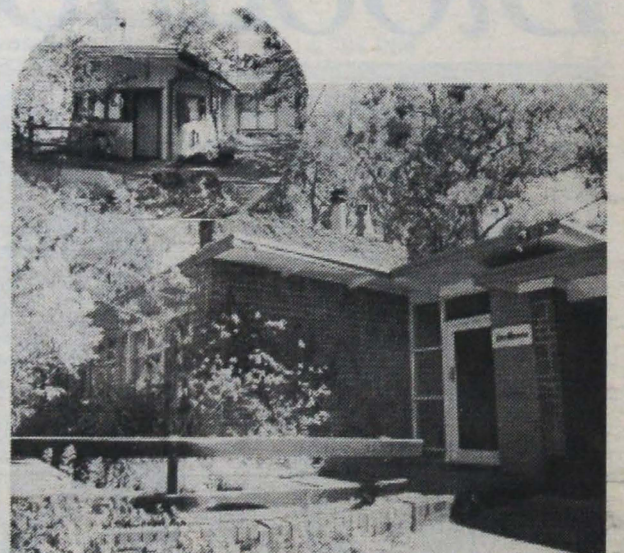
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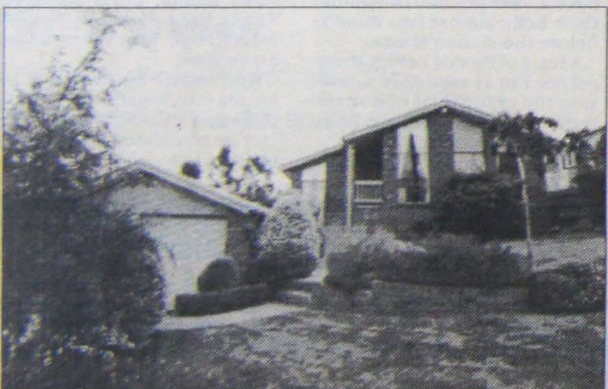
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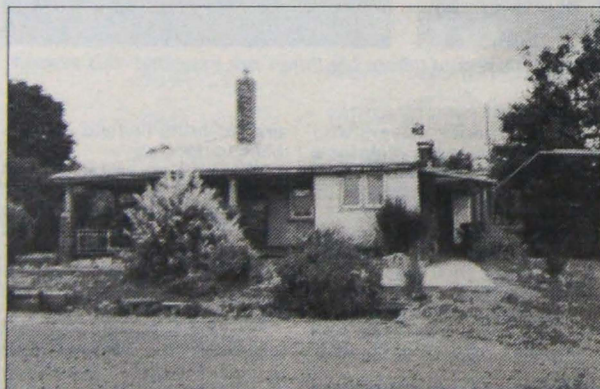
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