

The last of the many. A lone piper leads Warrandyte's Anzac Day parade along Yarra Street. Stories, more Austin Polley pics inside.

Big plans at school

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte High School is about to unveil an exciting new master strategy, designed to take the school into the 21st century.

The plan—to be fully revealed at a launch on Monday, May 11—involves extending the theatre, building a new VCE centre, improving technical resources and upgrading sporting facilities.

Although funding for these proposals are not yet in place, the school is hoping for widespread state government, council and community support.

The school's principal, Michael Blake, describes the plan as a "vision for the future," which he hopes will provide Warrandyte's school and general community with the best in modern resources.

The theatre will be enlarged to become a community performing arts centre, a meeting place, and a "major focus of the school," the school council president, Glenn Martin, told the *Diary*.

The other key area of the development will be a new VCE centre.

To be built adjacent to the library, where a lawn currently exists, the centre will be the size of two classrooms, and may include teachers', co-ordinators', and careers resources offices.

It will alleviate overcrowding in the library, allowing VCE students to study in a quieter, more spacious environment, with fewer distractions.

The centre will also be used as a meeting place for committees, both from within the school, and for groups from the wider community.

The third major phase of the plan is technological development.

Two computer laboratories are already in place, and their facilities will be improved in the future. The library has a bank of computers established, but the school aims to eventually have computers in every classroom, linked to the library, thus allowing access from any room in the school.

"We had to start this phase of the development early," Mr Blake said. "It's important to keep up with changes in technology."

Plans include an extension to the ceramics room and the darkroom. These will meet the increased demand for fine arts and photography courses.

"We already have a good environment at the school", he said. "But in ten years time we will be out of date, unless we think ahead and keep moving forward."

The plans coincide with the school's 20th year, and Mr Blake believes this is a good

opportunity to pause and look back on what has been achieved in the past, and what can be achieved in the future. "We're looking at how we can improve what we've got," he said.

The school's curriculum will also be further developed. The school is currently reviewing its course outlines, and another language will be offered.

Other ideas include developing "withdrawal space" for classrooms; a place in which students can work separately from the rest of the class. This facility is particularly intended for students who learn at a faster or slower rate than others.

The school is expecting a positive reception for this master plan when it is launched on Monday, May 11.

"Everyone had the opportunity to put their views into the plan," Michael Blake said. So the school is hoping the community will embrace the proposals. Then, with the support of the Warrandyte community, the government, and the school community, the developments will be able to go ahead.

Finance for the master plan is not yet in place. "We haven't worked out exact details of how we will fund the projects, but we hope we will be able to raise the money," Mr Blake said.

Youth arts prize jumps to \$6000

The Warrandyte Youth Arts Award is now worth \$6000. Laurie McEnaney, president of Warrandyte Lions Club, told the *Diary*: "We have sponsored the award from its inception and as the 10th anniversary of the inaugural award is next year, the club considered the increase, from \$5000 to \$6000, most appropriate."

The award, organised by the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust, publishers of the *Diary*, aims to assist young artists with outstanding potential. It was established to mark Warrandyte's place in the history of Australian art.

Selection of a winner follows assessment of each entrant by noted experts and

leaders in each particular artistic field.

Past winners of the award have been Bridgett Liddell (jewellery design) 1989, Gabrielle Davidson (ballet dancer) and Andrew Horne (painter) 1991, Peter Davrington (painter) and Katherine Adcock (singer) 1993, Isla Shaw (theatre design) 1995 and Malcolm Laurence (sculptor) 1997.

Laurie McEnaney said he "felt proud that the Lions Club was associated with the award and that it fitted well with the many other functions the club supports for young people in the community".

● Entries for the 1998-99 award are now being received. Full details on Page 13

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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A grand holiday? No, a 50 grand one, actually



It's a safe bet that Robin Ritter, of North Warrandyte, will not become a case history if and when the pernicious evils of gambling surface in the Federal Government's promised inquiry into the punt. Robin's gambling habits are confined to a couple of bucks each way and a quinella on Cup Day and a very occasional encounter with the pokies on social occasions. It was such an occasion last month—lunch at the Bagara Hotel outside Bundaberg with recently-married daughter Melanie and son-in-law Ben Sumpter, whom she was visiting while on holiday. They'd intended to sacrifice a few coins on the poker machines but instead decided to have a go at Keno. Eight numbers (10 games) for \$5 each, numbers selected virtually at random (although Ben did throw in his birthday). It was left to Robin to pick the last two and she said gee, I dunno ... oh well ... 70 ... and ... what the hell ... 71. And guess what, folks? Their numbers came up. A cool \$50,000 collect, the pub's biggest payout. The loot was split, without the suggestion of dispute, down the middle. Twenty-five grand for Robin, 25 for Mel and Ben. Robin already has her half spent, on a new car. She says that if they'd gone for 10 numbers and got the lot they'd have picked up a couple of million. But she's not greedy.



Mobile phone technology is a wonderful thing, eh? And far-reaching as well, as former Warrandyte plumber Peter Bool is still discovering. Peter and lovely wife Debbie moved from Drysdale Road to Brisbane about a year ago, but obviously not everyone in this town is aware of that. Terry Oakley, past president of Warrandyte Lions, phoned the Boos on their mobile the other day and got Debbie. "Could you ask Peter to come around and fix a leaking valve on my hot water service?" he asked. "He knows where I live." "Certainly", replied Debbie, unaware that he was calling from Warrandyte, "he'll be there after lunch." Peter phoned back that evening and said he'd be happy to do the job—if Terry would pay the return air fare. The Boos tell us they love the warm Brisbane climate but miss Warrandyte. "It's funny," said Peter, "but I still get a lot of calls from Warrandyte. I was out fishing in the middle of Moreton Bay last week when the mobile rang. It was a Warrandyte lady wanting me to come and unblock her drain." We obviously miss you, mate.



Sue Davies wanted to do something a little different to celebrate her 50th birthday. Yes, she would go horseriding. And she would take along her good mates Denise Farran, Rae Danks and Caroline Shaw, all mature-age Warrandyte ladies like herself. It sounded like a good idea, but the ladies were a trifle ambitious. Rather than settle for a

IN RED & WHITE



Another major milestone in the eventful young life of Cory the koala: his first birthday (give or take a week or two). You'll recall how three teenage boys found Cory last October under the gums that tower above what is now The Club Store in Yarra Street and took him to local vet Derek Fairley. And how Derek's wife Kerri foster-mummed him before handing him over to wildlife carer Julie Pryor. Well, it's been all good news for the little fella since. An estimated seven months old and just 650 grams when found, he now weighs three kilograms and is being prepared at Julie's Wonga park sanctuary for eventual release back into the wild, probably late this year. No one will ever know, of course, exactly when Cory was born, but Julie put seven and five together and came up with 12 months and a late-April birthday. So say hello to the birthday boy! (Picture by Jan Tindale)

nice little ride in a flat field of daisies or something like that, they chose a three-hour marathon on hired steeds in the state forest near Glenburn. Which was okay for Denise, an experienced horsewoman, but not so good for her novice friends, who were unable to walk, or even put their knees together, for a week. Rae, the *Diary* advertising and accounts manager, tells us that, being very English, Caroline took along her own boots and saddle and that Denise's horse was named Princess Dragontits. Sounds like a fun gallop.



Joan MacMahon, who tends the garden at the community centre, has had quite enough, thank you very much, of the horde of common (or Indian) mynahs which roost daily at dusk in the red box trees near the Mitchell Avenue steps. "What a mess they make!" she says. "The grevilleas, wax-flowers and fringe-myrtles beneath are covered in an unsightly white mess (as if someone has dropped a white paint bomb on them). This is not good for their health—they need to breathe. Additionally, the birds' droppings contain weeds (lots of)." Okay, so we have a problem, Joan. Is there a solution? Sure, she says. "The mynahs seem easily disturbed and will fly away when I shake the tree or make a loud noise. I'm hoping someone who lives nearby might come down at dusk on a

regular basis and scare them into choosing another roosting site (maybe the large conifer behind the WAA building)." So come on, you tree shakers and noise makers. Let's get Joan's garden out of the poo. Or should that be the poo out of Joan's garden?



Cemeteries, we know, are among the most serious and solemn of places, certainly not to be sniggered over. But we allowed ourselves a bit of a giggle as we read the story in a recent edition of the Diamond Valley News of a proposal to set up a "friends" group to keep the gardens at the historic Diamond Creek cemetery up to scratch. "We'd like to do it as soon as possible," cemetery trust manager Mike Dobson was quoted as saying. "We would like to start immediately. The cemetery has great potential and when we have done a few things and the grass is all cut, it looks good. It really comes to life."

Smokey Joe



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'Shame on you, Warrandyte!'

By CLINTON GRYBAS

The continued absence of retirement housing in Warrandyte is still forcing many of our post-war pioneers out of the area.

Those who survived the hard years and helped establish local schools, sporting and social clubs, making Warrandyte what it is today, are being pushed out—unable to manage their sprawling properties.

And it seems there is little being done to alleviate the crisis. The issue of retirement housing in Warrandyte will not even be looked at by council's Community Hostel and Associated Housing Project committee until a large new hostel is finished on Manningham Road later this year.

But while nothing official may

be happening, and the Warrandyte Retirement Housing Project committee hasn't met since council withdrew the \$350,000 set aside to purchase land for the project, it seems the issue may be set to again become a high community priority.

Margory Lapworth, who was secretary of the committee and is now a driving force in the provision of emergency housing in the area, says she is still fielding many calls from people seeking retirement housing.

"It's very sad what has happened," she said. "We have had more people ring us recently to say that they would like a unit.

"We know that there are people who would like to move into retirement accommodation but are stuck in their houses with nowhere to go. They don't want to leave

Warrandyte but are unable to manage their properties. They have no alternatives."

Mrs Lapworth will raise the issue with local councillors Patricia Young and Lionel Allemand when she meets them next month to discuss emergency housing in the area.

"It's back to square one as far as I can see, we have to start from scratch again. For anyone who is interested in retirement accommodation in Warrandyte or in joining a committee to investigate the matter, we will take your calls."

She says that six units being built on the corner of Everard Drive and Yarra Street will not provide the answer to the crisis.

"These are very elaborate and are not what we had in mind. These aren't part of the Warrandyte Retirement Housing Project committee."

The units, on approximately 0.3 hectares (three-quarters of an acre), will be on land zoned Environmental Residential with a retirement village as a permitted use. Such a development is controlled by the Retirement Villages Act of 1986, limiting occupants to retired persons as defined by the Act.

Syd Smale, former chairman of the committee and now on the municipality-wide Community Hostel and Associated Housing Project committee, says the issue of retirement housing in Warrandyte will be looked at when the new centre on Manningham Road is opened.

"The committee is charged with looking at options and models across the entire municipality. It will meet again after the hostel is opened.

"I insisted when the committee was formed that they needed to look across the municipality for a range of options and what the other areas

needed. The issue of retirement housing in Warrandyte is not dead. There is still some level of interest and commitment across the whole municipality," he said.

"The Warrandyte committee is in abeyance, it had gone as far as it could go. There was no final meeting of it. When the money was withdrawn it left us with no funds to do anything."

He said the six units in Everard Drive at least provide alternative housing in the area, which was a positive to come from the committee.

The campaign for a retirement village in Warrandyte is not a new one. For more than 10 years elderly locals have had their hopes raised for a solution to the crisis, only to see them dashed with no resolution in sight.

The first fruitless plan came in November 1987 when Reverend Stan Fishley, then Uniting Church minister, envisaged 30 single-storey, self-funding units built on a fairly flat central site. But it amounted to nothing.

The defeat in Warrandyte of the state government's dual occupancy planning scheme in 1988, the only community in Victoria to do so, meant that a local retirement village was even more important. While the elderly folk of Warrandyte joined the fight against dual occupancy, they sacrificed the chance to sell their large houses and gardens and build a small unit in which they could live.

By 1992 a committee under the umbrella of the Warrandyte Uniting Church had been formed to further investigate the issue. In December 1993, and with the full backing of local councillors and MP Phil Honeywood, the group conducted an extensive survey of the 3113 postcode. They received 118 responses of which



Your article in the *Diary* (December 1997), "Elderlies sacrifice for us" was so true. We have lived in Warrandyte for 49 years. Our children and 13 grandchildren were born here and all attended schools in the area.

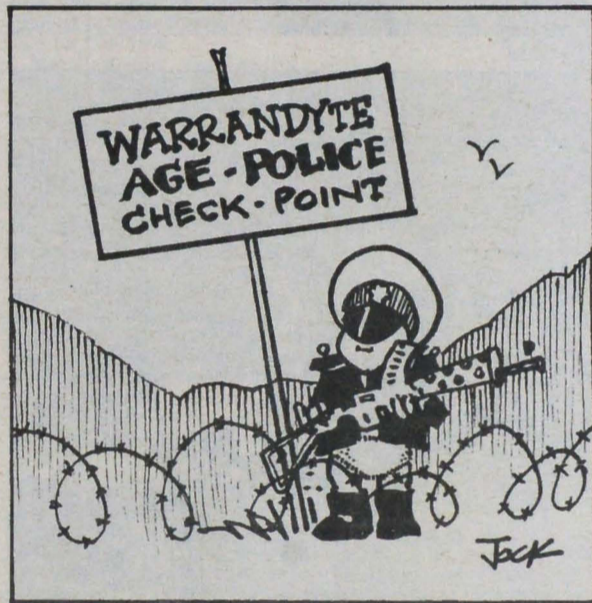
Like many in our age group, (a few of us are still left) we fought and won a battle to have a kindergarten in Warrandyte, helped campaign for Andersons Creek School, attended the Country Women's Association meetings, joined in all the activities to raise funds for the WAA. There are still a few of us still in Warrandyte who attended the first meeting at the Golden Gate Cafe.

We showed interest in the suggestion of a retirement village in Warrandyte and like many others felt let down by council when the matter was shelved. At that time several senior citizens left the area. Now our turn has come. We are forced to leave at a time in our lives when we greatly need security and friendship, and family care—all are being denied us.

To those who so eagerly rallied to sign petitions against dual occupancy without some consideration for your senior citizens, while you are enjoying your surroundings think of us who fought to make it such a beautiful place to live.

Shame on you, Warrandyte.

Betty Lavender
Fossickers Way



Council backing locals on dual occupancy issue

By DAVID WYMAN

Manningham Council has resolved to retain the Special Use Zone to replace the current Environmental Residential Zone which prohibits dual occupancy housing in Warrandyte township.

This move followed council receiving a total of 242 submissions, including two petitions, supporting council's Special Use Zone to protect Warrandyte from dual occupancy.

Under the State Government's planning reform—the Victoria Planning Provisions—there is no new zone available to council to continue the

prohibition of dual occupancy in the town.

So council has introduced its own Special Use Zone which the Minister for Planning, Robert Maclellan, does not support.

Warrandyte originally won its battle against closer residential development, through dual occupancy, following a hard-fought campaign in 1987-88. More than 200 local residents rallied to a public meeting last December, supporting council's proposal.

In a letter to those who made submissions to council, Roger Collins, manager of economic and environmental planning, reports that

council resolved to refer all submissions on dual occupancy to an independent panel which will be appointed by the minister to review Manningham's new planning scheme, including the provision of the Special Use Zone for Warrandyte.

"You will be advised of the hearing dates in due course and be invited to make a short verbal presentation in support of your written submission," Mr Collins says. "Hearing dates are unlikely to be set for at least three months."

Copies of a report on the submissions (item 7.4) are available for perusal at the council's planning office.



No, it's not Warrandyte's new privatised prison. Keith Walker holds the key to the community garden. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Garden grows with our help

Warrandyte Community Garden has experienced "lots of progress" and should be ready soon, Sergeant Keith Walker told the *Diary*.

A new fence has been built and a shed has been donated. The next phase of development includes preparing the garden beds and getting water connected to the block.

"We've had a great deal of support from the local community with establishing the garden to this point," Sergeant Walker said. Donations have come from Manningham council, local businesses, community groups, and individuals.

"David Watson donated a shed, and we've received help with machinery and know-how from Ziggy Link, Glen Pinder and Paul Stanfield. The Warrandyte Business Association has donated a gift voucher for a raffle.

"It takes real community effort to get a project like this going, but it's something that the community will benefit from enormously."

RACHEL BAKER

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*'...and in the morning,
we will remember them'*

Pictures by AUSTIN POLLEY • Words by RACHEL BAKER



THE bitumen was shiny with autumn rain, which kept thrumming all morning. The peaceful quiet was broken by the occasional cry of a child. The landmarks of Warrandyte were close by—the Grand Hotel, the bridge, the Mechanics Institute hall. But the thoughts of those marching in last month's Anzac Day parade were far from their present surroundings. The marchers were there to remember—or imagine—what went on in the wars of our past. And to thank those who suffered and died for the sake of our freedom.

Around 70 local people marched. The procession was led by members of the RSL, their faces lined by the

years and their experiences. They were followed by others—adults, teenagers—those who were too young to remember the wars or understand what they were like; but old enough to try.

Then there were children. Most of them knew very little of what Anzac Day was all about. All they knew was that it had something to do with war. But they did know it was important. And they all marched.

With the lone bagpiper playing a poignant tune, the group arrived at the War Memorial.

They assembled on the lawn, and sang 'God Save the Queen', 'Advance Australia Fair', and 'Lest We Forget'. Prayers were spoken. Wreaths were laid. One minute's silence was ob-

served. Then, with the trumpet sounding, the Australian flag was raised.

The ceremony was over. Everyone reverted to chit-chat. Children were allowed to run about and play. People sipped cups of tea and nibbled on sandwiches.

But no-one forgot what they had seen and heard. The words of Pastor Peter Keep stayed in people's minds:

"Anzac Day has significance for our past and our future. It's a day of celebration and liberty. We celebrate the liberty we enjoy today, which was achieved at a great cost."

The sound of the bagpipes still rang in everyone's ears. And nobody forgot the expressions on the faces of the old diggers.





Neil Pearson

Neil Pearson was at the front of the procession, and placed a wreath on the cenotaph. He fought for six years in World War Two, in New Guinea, from the age of 18 to 24. "It's a big part of your life that you miss out on," he said.

Mr Pearson celebrates Anzac Day with mixed feelings: "In a way it's difficult to remember the war.

"But it's a good day, too, because the units can get together and soldiers can see each other. We can rekindle our comradeships. But it is very sad. So many friends died, both in the war, and since then," he said.

But he is adamant about the importance of honouring the Anzac tradition. "We're all here to remember. It's very important. It's the one day that all Australians get together," he said.



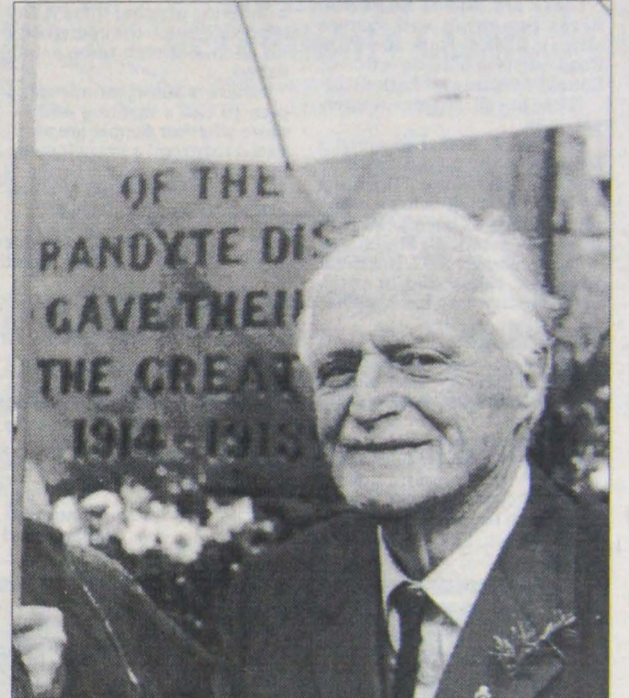
Viv Rush

Viv Rush served as an army engineer in the Second World War, in Darwin and Far North Queensland.

He remembers working on different projects: finding old bits of machinery and repairing them and making them work, so the men could sustain themselves; mass-producing folding beds, so they didn't have to lie on the ground with scorpions and insects.

Mr Rush enjoys the Anzac celebrations. "It's good to come here, and remember other people, and meet up with people," he said.

And, like most, he is confident the tradition will be continued. "I think it's marvellous that the Viet boys are coming up now, and taking over. I think it's a good day, Anzac Day. I think it's important for the younger people to be able to show respect to the older people who fought in war," he said.



Flanders Poppies, 1982

Heavy with memory
The fields of France lie mute
Poppy-splattered, sun-gilded
Belying the old truth.

Sadness weighs the sun-filled day
And tears are all in vain—
Hard lessons still not learned
For now we fight again.

ELISABETH GALLAGHER

Alec Edwards

Alec Edwards, well-known in Warrandyte as a local builder, fought in the Second World War.

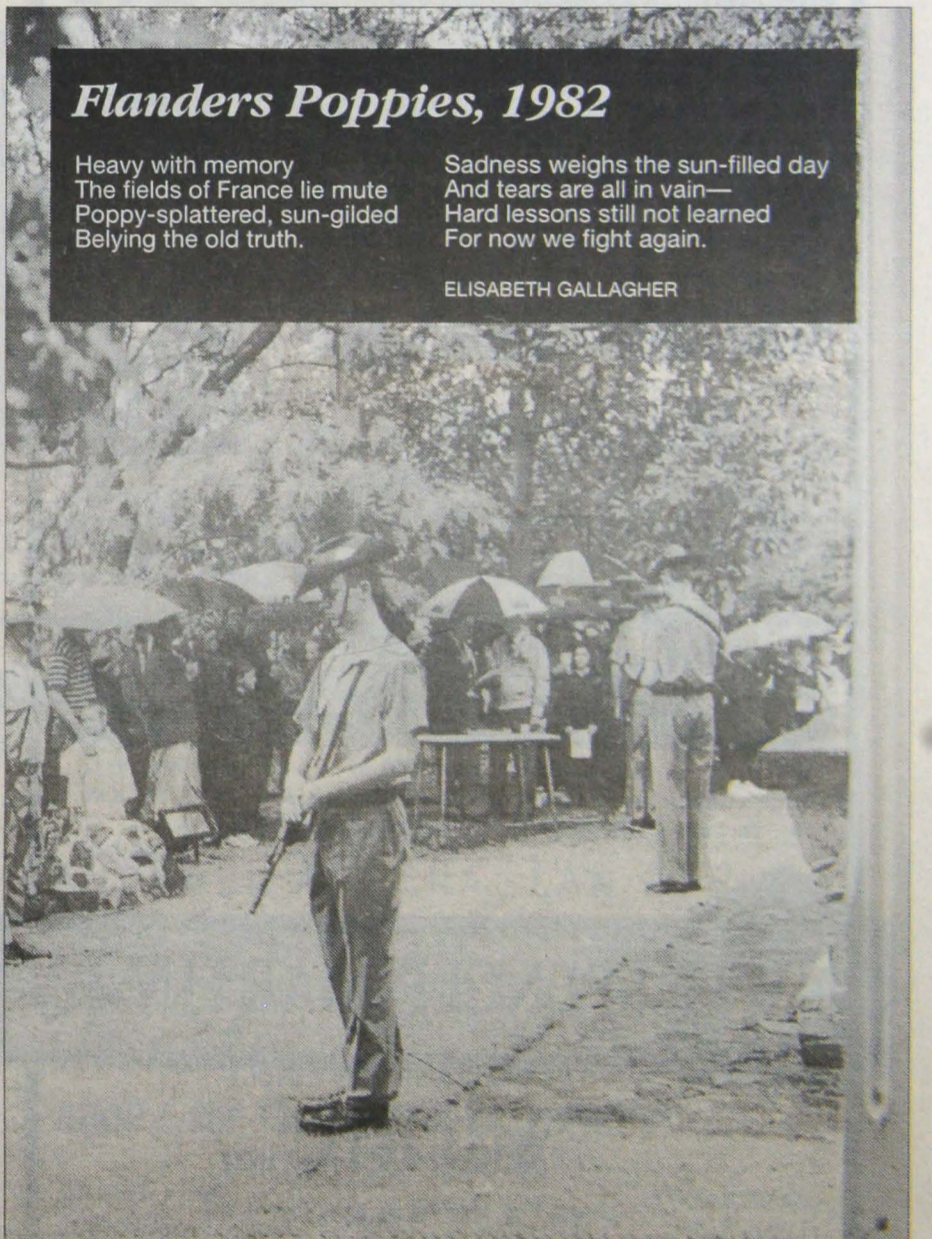
He enlisted in the 2/7th Infantry Battalion, 6th division in November 1939.

Among the first Australian troops sent overseas, he saw action in Libya, Greece, Crete, Ceylon and New Guinea.

He commanded a pioneer unit in New Guinea to construct an airstrip under difficult conditions. He was made a Member of the British Empire for this work.

He also received the Desert Star and various service medals and was demobbed in 1945.

The RSL president, Ennio Torresin, describes him as a real "war hero".



Park Road cause for deep concern

How much time does it take to get things done? On Friday, April 24, 1998, at night a man was killed in Park Road at the intersection of Arundel Avenue; his 4WD rolled many times, he died instantly.

This accident may not have occurred if:

1. Council had heeded warnings to install additional safety signs in both directions.
2. Repaired rumble strips at Granard and Park Roads. They have been done twice and still have not been done properly.
3. Better street lighting.

Other areas where many accidents occur, council has still not heeded warnings of dangerous accident spots.

These are: Knees Road, 100 Acres (guardrail and rumble strips); Alva Avenue and Park Road (signs in both directions); Enfield Avenue and Park Road.

These are all dangerous intersections.

On April 2, 1998, I received a letter from the mayor, Cr. Irene Goonan, and I quote: "The issue of white perimeter lines along Milne Road has been dealt with in letters dated 5th March and 19th November, 1997. No threat to public safety and/or property damage has been identified."

What an attitude. VicRoads say they are necessary because of deep culverts either side of the road. What a statement for the mayor to make, does our council really care.

Another issue of public safety is the Pines Shopping Centre. Landscaping irregularities exist along with fire hazards. The fire prevention officer at

Manningham and a chief CFA officer from Lilydale District both say there are no fire hazards. It seems amazing that a section of the property did burn, lucky no one was injured.

So how many people will die before council bites the bullet and looks after ratepayers' interests; they are important.

Paul Slattery
President
Park Orchards Ratepayers Association

ALP branch?

I am interested in forming a North Warrandyte branch of the Australian Labor Party. I am wondering whether there is any local support in the community for such a branch to be established.

If there is sufficient interest, I plan to call a meeting and explore whether people are motivated to attend a branch meeting regularly.

If you are interested can you call me at work on 9836 6922.

Philip Cottier
Research Road

Thanks

I would like to thank the angel who picked up my car keys, dropped in a riverside car park, and placed them under a little pile of leaves on the car bonnet. They were found just before panic set in. Many thanks!

Carol Hampson
Pound Road

Nillumbik report 'misled'

I was surprised to read Fia Clendinnen's article, "Democracy at Risk in Nillumbik," (Warrandyte Diary, April 1998). I believe it could mislead the public. Fia relies mainly on information provided by the shire president, Robert Marshall and Kahn Franke, chairman of the Green Wedge Protection Group.

It is understandable that Cr Marshall puts his own spin on the inquiry, which he calls a "political inquisition" but this gives only part of the story to your readers.

Cr Marshall implies he is being vilified for having belonged to the ALP for a short time, but he was the only person who mentioned the ALP at the inquiry. Nobody else was interested.

Cr Marshall is quoted in your article as saying it was scandalous to be questioned about what he thought and what he believed when Chris Wren, counsel assisting Commissioner David Abraham, described him as an "activist".

Mr Wren said he opposed the

DEAR DIARY

commissioners and the appointment of the CEO; wrote a controversial column in the Diamond Valley Advertiser and didn't pay his rates for 12 months as a protest against the appointment of commissioners. When Eugene White, counsel for Robert Marshall objected, Commissioner Abraham ruled that past relationships between Cr Marshall and Mr Rochford affected good government and Cr Marshall's attitude, as indicated in the Advertiser articles was relevant to his inquiry.

Because Cr Marshall elected not to pay his rates because of his belief, Mr Wren suggested it was his political philosophy to disregard laws he disagreed with. Mr Wren quoted also the fact that he ignored Local Law 3, that states questions to council should be in writing, and allowed instead a volatile gallery

to criticise council officers and fellow councillors.

Mr Wren accused him of not undertaking his financial obligations as shire president with due diligence, and suggested he was compromised from taking an evenhanded approach, as he himself was a substantial debtor. Cr Marshall's nondisclosure of unpaid rates also represented an undeclared potential conflict of interest.

At the inquiry Cr Marshall showed concern for unit development in the Green Wedge and the destruction of bushland, but Brian Lacey, counsel for Mr Rochford, pointed out he himself had just received a permit to build nine units in Main Road, Hurstbridge which required the axing of eight significant trees.

Although Cr Marshall quoted the Proctor Street culvert as an example of poor planning, an assessment commissioned November 12, 1997 from Water Eco Science and tabled at the council meeting April 8, 1998, found

that the culvert was probably ecologically benign—no better or worse than the previously unmade crossing.

Mr Wren reminded Cr Marshall that the planning policies the CEO Mr Rochford was administering under powers of delegation, had actually been created by Eltham council when he was a councillor.

Mr Franke was quoted as saying, "Nillumbik has attempted to do everything within the guidelines of the Local Government Act, there's no grounds of bad governance." But Mr Wren implicitly queried such an assumption by suggesting Cr Marshall had broken four laws, three from the Local Government Act and one Local Law.

I am writing this letter because having attended every session of the open hearing and taken extensive notes, I am concerned that your readers get a more evenhanded report of the inquiry.

June English,
Eltham

No facts in ferret fight farrago

I was flipping through the *Diary* when I saw Smokey Joe's "Fur flies as ferret goes ratty" which describes a ferret trying to eat a rat at the Warrandyte Festival Pet Parade. We are actually the owners of this ferret and would like to state the following facts:

- Ferrets do not eat breakfast, ever, but our ferret was very well fed and full at the time;
- Tavi (the ferret involved) could not even bite the ear off a rat and was almost definitely

as scared of the rat as the rat was of him;

● We are certain that Tavi was not even considering eating the rat and was only demonstrating typical ferret curiosity;

● We are sure that a huge number of dogs were sniffing—or even biting and snarling at each other at the festival and none of this was reported in the *Warrandyte Diary*.

We know that a large amount of the material in Smokey Joe

is gathered by word of mouth but we were shocked to see such a gross untruth. The truth is that ferrets are gorgeous and friendly animals and completely harmless to all but moths.

Anastasia and Gilchrist
Clendinnen, Doleen Road

Letters to the Diary on local topics are most welcome. Real names are preferred. Pen names can only be used if actual names and addresses are included, even if not for publication.

CLYDE & OCKER

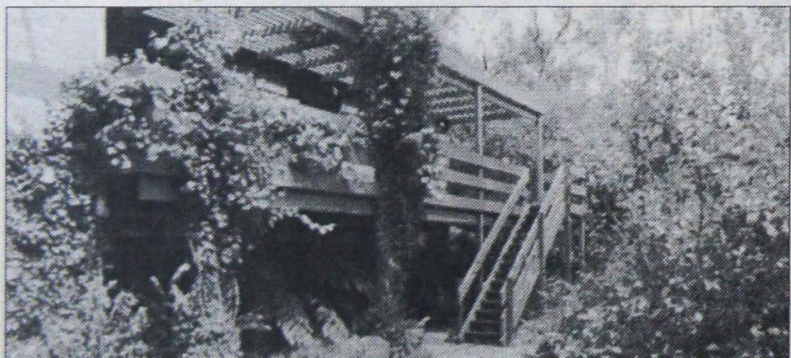


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AT WARRANDYTE
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Celebrating Education Week

SCHOOL OPEN DAY: Tuesday 26th May

A warm invitation is extended to all members of the local community, pre-school through to grandparents. Help us celebrate over 100 years of quality learning.

OPEN AFTERNOON — 1.30-3.30pm

- Normal classroom programs
- Children's work on display
- Afternoon tea will be provided

OPEN EVENING — 7-8.30pm

The school will be open for you to wander around and visit classrooms and attend a number of special activities.

- Computer Room
- Warrandyte Bushband
- 3/4 Recorder
- Supper

School tours will be conducted throughout the day (these will be held on the hour starting at 10am) by Ken Wing Jan (Principal) and Darryl Furze (Assistant Principal).

OPEN CLASSROOM AT THE PINES SHOPPING CENTRE: Friday 29th May

Our Grade 5/6R will relocate tables, chairs, pencils, books... the entire class... to the Pines Shopping Centre in Reynolds Road. Come and see them in action from 9.30am to 3pm.

Pre-Schooler's Storytime

HAVE you come along to the fun of the Preschoolers Storytime? We welcome all families with 3-5 year old children to join us in this special shared reading activity.

Due to its success in meeting needs of the community and by popular demand, the Pre-Schooler's Storytime sessions in the Warrandyte Primary School Library are continuing in 1998.

The aim of the program is to:

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

TERM 2 DATES ARE:
Friday, May 8th
Friday, May 29th
June 19th

VENUE: Warrandyte Primary School Library.

TIME: 2.15-3.15pm



Pre-Schooler's story time at Warrandyte Primary School.

Please contact the school for further details:
Warrandyte Primary School, Forbes Street, Warrandyte. Phone 9844 3537

Nillumbik council is still under pressure

BY FIA CLENDINEN

Nillumbik shire president Robert Marshall has described as "unforgivable" the provisos Cr Lex de Man, Cr Natalie Woodley and CEO Barry Rochford are attempting to have added to the minimum requirements set down by Commissioner David Abraham.

Mr Abraham was appointed by the state government in December last year to lead an inquiry into Nillumbik council. He has not yet released his report but has prepared a list of minimum requirements he intends submitting to the state government later this month.

Mr Rochford's lawyer has submitted two extra conditions. The first is that Robert Marshall stand down as Nillumbik shire president. The second is that the boundaries of the shire, both external and internal, be redrawn. Cr de Man and Cr Woodley's lawyer has put forward the same conditions.

Mr Abraham will decide later this week whether to include the two controversial conditions in his submission to the government.

Mr Abraham's minimum requirements recommend, among other things, that an "independent consultant" carry out a "major overhaul of procedures and processes of the management of council business." He has also recommended "that the council and the consultant provide monthly written reports" to the Department of Infrastructure.

Cr Marshall told the *Diary* that he, Cr John Graves and Cr Margaret Jennings welcomed Mr Abraham's minimum requirements. "We accepted them, with a few minor alterations. And we saw it as a good way forward."

But he described the additional provisos put forward by CEO Barry Rochford, Cr de Man and Cr Woodley as inappropriately "political".



Cr Robert Marshall: "...an attempt to change the balance of power in council".

"We've tried our hardest to compromise and we're met with a continual excursion into politics, which shouldn't be happening," he said.

Cr Marshall believes the rationale behind the two provisos is an attempt to change the balance of power in council. "There's a very sharp divide on council," he said. "It's a sharp division of opinion. Three councillors strongly support the Green Wedge and two councillors appear not to. I say appear not to because they claim they do, but one has to look at the voting to see what the situation really is."

He said Mr Rochford, Cr de Man and Cr Woodley hoped by altering the boundaries of the wards and the external boundaries of the shire, to ensure that new councillors were elected, this time with philosophies similar to themselves.

"They don't like being in a minority," he said. "They just don't accept the democratic process. They want to bring in the whole of Greensborough. They think that would then give them the numbers."

Robert Marshall, who represents Sugarloaf Ward, received 49.7 per cent of the primary vote at the Nillumbik elections in March 1997. He was unanimously elected shire president at the first meeting of the new council.

In March 1998 he was again elected shire president, this time without the support of Cr de Man and Cr Woodley.

Khan Franke, chairman of the Green Wedge Protection Group, agreed the Nillumbik councillors were sometimes divided on issues.

"The split is philosophical," he said. "I'd say you've got two people who are shaping up as pro-developer, and you've got the other three who are looking at maintaining the environment." But he stressed there was not a three-two split on every vote, and the councillors often voted unanimously.

Mr Franke said the state government appeared to think the division in council was unhealthy. But he pointed out the situation in Nillumbik was no different than at any other level of government, state or federal. He said to expect consensus amongst the councillors was unrealistic. "That's not democracy," he said.

The community was waiting with "bated breath," said Mr Franke, for the release of Mr Abraham's report.

Barry Rochford did not return repeated calls from the *Diary*. Cr Woodley and Cr de Man were unavailable for comment.

Housing help for needy

By CLINTON GRYBAS

While it may be only a couple of years old, Warrandyte Housing and Support Services is expanding—rapidly.

The group now co-ordinates crisis accommodation not just in Warrandyte but from as far afield as Box Hill and Kew to Ringwood and Knoxfield.

The agency looks after 12 houses, and according to co-ordinator Margory Lapworth they are yet to satisfy the demand for services in the area.

"We are being inundated with requests for accommodation," she told the *Diary*. "We are taking calls every day from people seeking help."

The agency is currently without state or council funding and is searching for more volunteers to help with their programs.

"We're meeting with council this month to see if we can get

some financial support," Mrs Lapworth said.

The agency provides emergency short-term accommodation for people in need, arranges financial counselling and family support services as well as managing the Warrandyte Food Bank—all with a shoe-string budget, primarily donated by Warrandyte Rotary and the community market.

They are also set to become the second largest provider of emergency housing for the Salvation Army in Victoria.

"The purpose of the agency is to provide assistance to residents of the region who, through reasons of financial hardship, family breakdown or other situations are either homeless or are potentially homeless," Mrs Lapworth said.

"This takes the form of emergency short term accommodation as well as advice, support

and referral.

"The users of the services are mainly sole parents of both sexes, youth and couples on low incomes and pensions with children.

"The agency is utilised as a central point for emergency housing needs, advice, support and referrals by the local police, community policing squad, refuges, churches and other agencies."

The food bank service is also of vital importance.

"Clients in the main for the food bank come from the local area. We supplied some 284 food parcels in 1997 with 54 Christmas hampers also provided."

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help the service or to donate money to help with the agency's petrol and phone bills can contact Margory Lapworth on 9844 4495.



Margory Lapworth

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

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COPY CLOSES ON THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH



Walking the wondrous ways of magical Nepal


“YOU’LL have to stay in your hotel tomorrow. It will be too dangerous for you to go out. Anyway all the shops will be closed and all public transport will stop.”

Kathmandu. Mystic capital of Nepal. Closed because the Maoists had declared a strike day. They had already softened up the population by fire-bombing a few politicians' cars and mugging the odd local who looked the wrong way. The prospect of spending our one full day in Kathmandu in a hotel with the only entertainment being flickering cable TV in the lobby was not appealing. A few of us men, one a trained SAS man, went out on a recce. All was relatively normal. Fewer open stalls but the tourist ones seemed tranquil. Even better because there were only pedestrians on the roads.

We spent a great day, walking to the temple and seeing more of the capital than we probably would had we followed our itinerary. It was only after dinner that night that we heard about the two killed, the 185 arrested and the two buses set alight.

Travelling is like that. It's the unexpected that makes it special—the sort of serendipitous happenings that stay in your mind long after the predictable have been filed away in the photograph albums.

Like our first view of the range. We had travelled from Kathmandu to Pokhara, a bus ride that places the Warrandyte-Melbourne route in the mega woosy league. From Pokhara, we began our trek,



KIBBLLED

“...after dinner that night we heard about the two killed, the 185 arrested and the two buses set alight.”

through chestnut forests, Hindu temples, Nepalese villages and always up. We soon learnt the irony of the phrase “Nepali flat” and that our destination was always “a few minutes away”.

After a day's trekking we arrived at our camp, a rock-strewn section of farmland, a flattish hollow between two hills. Behind us was more “Nepali flat” but in front was a valley filled with clouds, a tiny grey triangle of rocky-looking stuff poking out.

“That's Fishtail” our guide informed us. “A sacred mountain that is off bounds to climbers.”

We all looked at Fishtail, then at one another. Was this it! Was this what we had packed dozens of rolls of films for? Oblig-

ingly I took out my camera and photographed the grey smudge in the distance.

This was about 3pm and we were reassured that with a bit of rain or wind all would be revealed.

As we unpacked our sausage bags and organised our tents we were distracted by whoops of delight.

“Come and have a look now!” We ambled out to photograph another smudge.

By 4pm the sun had broken through and the great-scene-changer-in-the-sky had decided it was showtime.

We had arrived to a ho-hum view, but by the end of the afternoon, the Stage Manager had lifted the clouds to reveal the majesty of the Annapurna Range. We just sat and enjoyed and thanked whoever it was who had made it all.

Each day we trekked we got closer to the snowy peaks, getting to know the various mountains and their changing shapes. The views were enhanced by the rhododendron forests we trekked through. Every now and then we saw snow-white magnolias and were helped on our way by the perfume from strands of daphne.

Every day we passed through villages. Picturesque, true, but desperately poor. It surprised me to learn that there are 25 million people living in Nepal. My guess would be that 20 million are living in desperately difficult conditions.

Despite the poverty, conservation is alive and well. We passed many plantations of rapidly growing birches. Firewood and fodder have traditionally accounted for the depletion of

forests with trekkers worsening the situation. Nowadays, responsible trekkers use kerosene for cooking and lighting and night-time bonfires are things of the past.

We arrived at one village to find a whole village meeting in progress. They were deciding on their environmental programs for the year. From my tent I listened to the speakers, all male, and it may have been the altitude or the magic of the place but I could swear I heard the words “green wedge” and something that sounded like Cliff Green's voice.

We ended our trip with a few days at the Chitwan National Park. This is 1000 square kilometres of natural vegetation and is the armed guarded home to elephants, rhino, deer, bear, crocodiles, tigers and lots more.

Tourists are treated to a range of activities and lectures. For me, the highlights were the elephant rides and helping to wash them in the river. Elephants are endearing, although their ambling gait is difficult to adjust to.

We had just about finished our elephant ride at dusk. We had seen lots of deer and rhino and we were within 10 minutes of the lodge. The sun was setting, the sky was beautiful. The grass was waving, the birds singing and suddenly my friend, Julie, was motion sick all over the elephant's bum. There was nothing we could do but laugh. And think.

Travelling can be overly romantic. Every now and then reality must intrude.

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The morbid mystery of our disappearing frog

THERE are more mysteries in nature than Agatha Christie could dream up in a lifetime. Take the case of the disappearing frog, for example. Not so long ago, *Litoria raniformis*, also known as the growling grass frog or southern bell frog, was abundant and secure throughout its range in south-eastern Australia. Then, in the early 1970s, populations began to plummet. Now the frog is rarely, if ever, seen and its deep growling grunt is seldom heard in places where it was once common. Warrandyte is one such place.

Questioning locals who have lived in the area for a decade or more, confirmed that *raniformis* was often encountered around ponds and hopping across roads on warm summer nights after rain. They all report, with sadness, that "the frogs just aren't around any more".

To start the investigation we should first build up a profile of the missing frog. *Raniformis* is one of Victoria's largest frogs. Its colours of green and golden brown can change within minutes to blend with the surroundings. Although termed a tree frog, *raniformis* has only small circular discs on its fingers and toes and is not adept at climbing anything much taller than a bullrush.

While searching the frog's habitat for clues, a prime suspect soon emerges. Environmental degradation. Draining of swamps for development, and



NATURE

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

other land use changes, demolishes breeding sites. Herbicides, pesticides and insecticides are accomplices that cannot be ignored.

Number one hitman, though, is probably *gambusia*—the mosquito fish, present in permanent ponds and farm dams which were once the habitat of *raniformis*.

These small aggressive fish were introduced to Australia by the American army in a ridiculously naive attempt to control mosquitos. But *gambusia* is not a selective feeder and, in addition to mosquito larvae, their diet includes native fish and tadpoles.

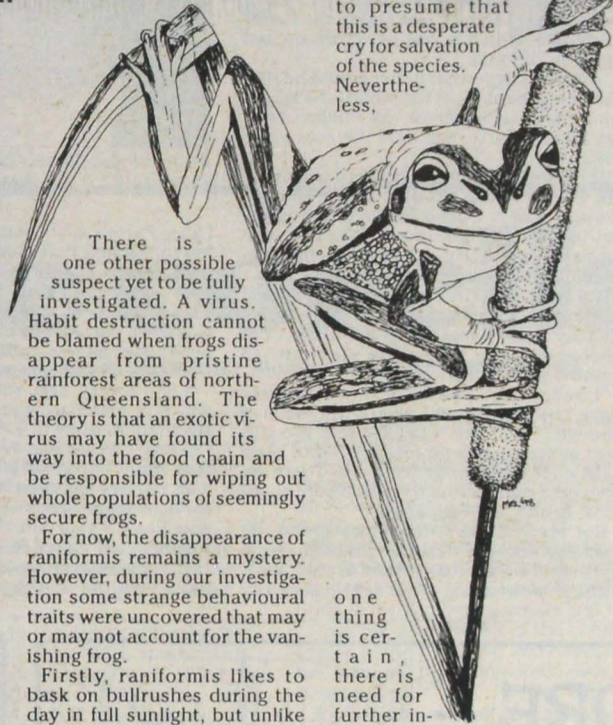
If they are the villains, why then are other frog species in the area not suffering the same decline? One reason might be that *raniformis* tadpoles are exceptionally large and take over a year to complete their life cycle, whereas most of the other local frogs have a relatively quick metamorphosis and can breed in intermittent pools not suitable for *gambusia*.

Other less tangible evidence considered as contributing factors in the frog's disappearance include the thinning of the ozone layer—the band of gas which encircles our planet and

absorbs skin-damaging ultra violet radiation, and the ubiquitous greenhouse effect. Could changing climate patterns be the real culprit? After all, declining frog populations are a global problem.

raniformis preys on other frogs. Maybe it has turned cannibalistic and is self-destructing.

Thirdly, when handled, the frog emits a piercing scream. It would be too fanciful to presume that this is a desperate cry for salvation of the species. Nevertheless,



There is one other possible suspect yet to be fully investigated. A virus. Habitat destruction cannot be blamed when frogs disappear from pristine rainforest areas of northern Queensland. The theory is that an exotic virus may have found its way into the food chain and be responsible for wiping out whole populations of seemingly secure frogs.

For now, the disappearance of *raniformis* remains a mystery. However, during our investigation some strange behavioural traits were uncovered that may or may not account for the vanishing frog.

Firstly, *raniformis* likes to bask on bullrushes during the day in full sunlight, but unlike us it does not have the luxury of 30+ sunscreen. Perhaps melanoma is the killer. Secondly,

one thing is certain, there is need for further investigation before this case is finally closed.

How to build a better mailbox to foil nocturnal boofheads

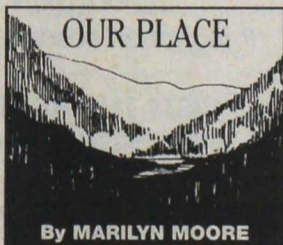
IN rare moments of absolutely-nothing-else-to-think-about, one might wonder why the mail is always parcelled up in rubber bands. Along with 'ring-things', cigarette ends and icy pole sticks, these thick reddish missile-launchers lurk with unsightly abandon along verges and footpaths everywhere.

The obvious answer is that it saves the postie time by not having to scabble endlessly in the bag at every box. But a second reason has also recently dawned.

By way of explanation, interest in the size and shape of our mail began when our much-loved letterbox was reduced to a pile of jagged kindling by some immature boofhead who had an uncontrollable urge to do something about his deep-seated insecurity complex at 3am one Sunday morning.

This box had been no flimsy affair, but a carefully designed and painstakingly constructed edifice in solid timber. It was with considerable disbelief that we first beheld its splintered green planking.

The main poser, apart from where the postie might leave Monday's mail, was the immediate question of another box. It transpired that the obvious



OUR PLACE

By **MARILYN MOORE**

options were rather in the 'Buckley's-or-none' category.

The most easily arrived at solution was to imitate the precedent of a number of our friends and construct a stone monument guaranteed to tingle the toes of any future would-be vandal. All it would need would be a trailer-load of local sandstone and a bag of cement. However, this option would definitely not be as easy as it sounded.

Firstly, despite the fact that tripping over loose rocks is an occupational hazard of daily life around Warrandyte, suitable specimens are pretty thin on the ground when you want them. And secondly, despite having various notable stonemasons way back in the family tree, nobody here has a clue. Any undertaking involving actual stone and cement would

almost certainly find itself on long-term hold.

We could, of course, buy a new letterbox. This sounds easy, but a quick check of a few hardware stores gives rise to feelings somewhat akin to frustration. Off-the-shelf metal offerings are little more than dolls' house miniatures, apparently designed for elegant notelets and teensy bills the likes of which never adorn our in-tray.

Their rustic timber counterparts, with or without gumleaf motif, also generally have a strangely miniscule mouth. What do the manufacturers think we're afraid of letting in? Rain? Snails? Spiders? Mail?

An unbelievable number of shop-bought mailboxes have a newspaper tube. Maybe there's a suburb out there somewhere where papers are neatly hand-delivered into purpose-built receptacles. But certainly not here.

On fine days our paper lies roughly midstream on the gravel driveway. Even better, it might be off to one side so that by strategically halting the car, driver or passenger can merely open their door and lean out to reach it. Perversely, on wet days, the paper is invariably hurled deep into heavily drip-

laden bushes surrounding the gateway.

Strangely, a wander around some local by-ways didn't provide much inspiration in letterbox design, since most Warrandytians seem to have swum with the tide generated by off-the-shelf suppliers. There's very little out there that could swallow an Australian Geo in its unfurled state.

Hence the postie's big box of rubber bands. It's probably the easiest way to compress A4-sized mail to a size which can be coaxed into the average aperture.

We did find a few truly indigent specimens on our travels, but they are not easy to quickly emulate.

A vintage milk can in exactly the optimum state of deterioration, a rustic collection of weathered bridge timbers with huge bolts, and a decorative hunk of local pink-stained sandstone, not too heavy for the postie to prise upward, but large enough to shelter the daily wad of missives inserted beneath its bulk.

So indecision reigns. Meanwhile, we are getting to know the new crew down at the post office. And they will be the first to tell you that the service is great, but the jokes are terrible!

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Candidate makes bid

By FIA CLENDINNEN

The community is at breaking point, believes Pam Hanney of North Warrandyte, newly preselected ALP candidate for the state seat of Eltham. She told the *Diary* that cuts to health, education and unemployment programs have eroded people's sense of security and placed enormous stress on family life.

"We've got a government where the bottom line is dollars. We need to have a policy that puts people back into the picture," she said.

But incumbent Wayne Phillips reacted angrily to Ms Hanney's comments. "Obviously Pam is simply just taking the Labor Party line, which is one of negativity and untruth," he said.

"And my suggestion to her would be that before she babbles at the mouth she knows what she's talking about." Mr Phillips, from the Liberal Party, has held the seat since 1992.

ALP preselection for Eltham was won by Ms Hanney last month. She defeated around half a dozen other candidates, among them Sigmund Jorgensen, the former Eltham ALP candidate and chairman of the Montsalvat trust fund.

Although Mr Phillip's current electoral majority is a comfortable 6.8 percent, Ms Hanney is confident about her chances of success at the next state election, 18 months to two years away.

"I believe the people of this electorate have reached a point where they've had enough," she said. "I believe that the current government's policies are out of skew with what the community needs. There are concerns right across this electorate about jobs, health and education."

But Mr Phillips strongly disagreed. He said that many of Victoria's problems were a result of what he described as the "absolute haemorrhaging of the debt" caused by



Pam Hanney, newly selected ALP candidate for the state seat of Eltham

youth unemployment programs.

Her background has given Ms Hanney what she claims is "a very thorough understanding of educational and employment policy". She also feels that as a woman she offers the electorate, "an understanding of families and an understanding of the complex nature of women in society these days. Women in modern, contemporary society wear a number of caps".

Ms Hanney has stated herself to be in total opposition to the controversial ring road. While it is state government policy to complete the ring road, no definite route for the "north-east access" has been released, although notional maps show the route travelling through Eltham and Warrandyte.

"The ring road would be destructive to the environment beyond anybody's wild imaginings," said Ms Hanney. She also believes there is no justification for such a road. "It doesn't solve any of our problems, in terms of congestion. Our problems are inward congestion, access to the city."

For the last few years Mr Phillips' position on the ring road has always been that he needs more information before he can make up his mind. He told the *Diary*, "I'm not necessarily going to be put in a position to say I don't or do support a ring road, because I haven't seen what the concept of a ring road is."

However he conceded that there was widespread concern in the area about the possible route of what he called, "the nasty ring road concept".

He said, "What Wayne Phillips doesn't support is the wholesale bulldozing of houses and the reservation put through where there already are residential streets."

Mr Phillips said Ms Hanney was a formidable opponent and he was sure they would be locking horns on the election trail. But he said, "naturally I wish her the best."

Labor Party's mismanagement. In his opinion the Liberal Party has achieved tremendous results in only five years.

He pointed out that unemployment was now 8.3 percent, five percent less than it was when the Liberals took office. Victoria's health system was, he thought, "one of the better, or if not the best, in the world."

"I find it very, very sad to have someone who is prepared to be critical, after we have restored the state to a AAA rating," said Mr Phillips. "We've had to pick up the mess that Pam's party had left."

Ms Hanney has lived in North Warrandyte for nine years. She is 46 years old, married and has 21 year-old twins. She runs an organisation called Mature Action which helps unemployed people over 35 to get back into the workforce. She also runs

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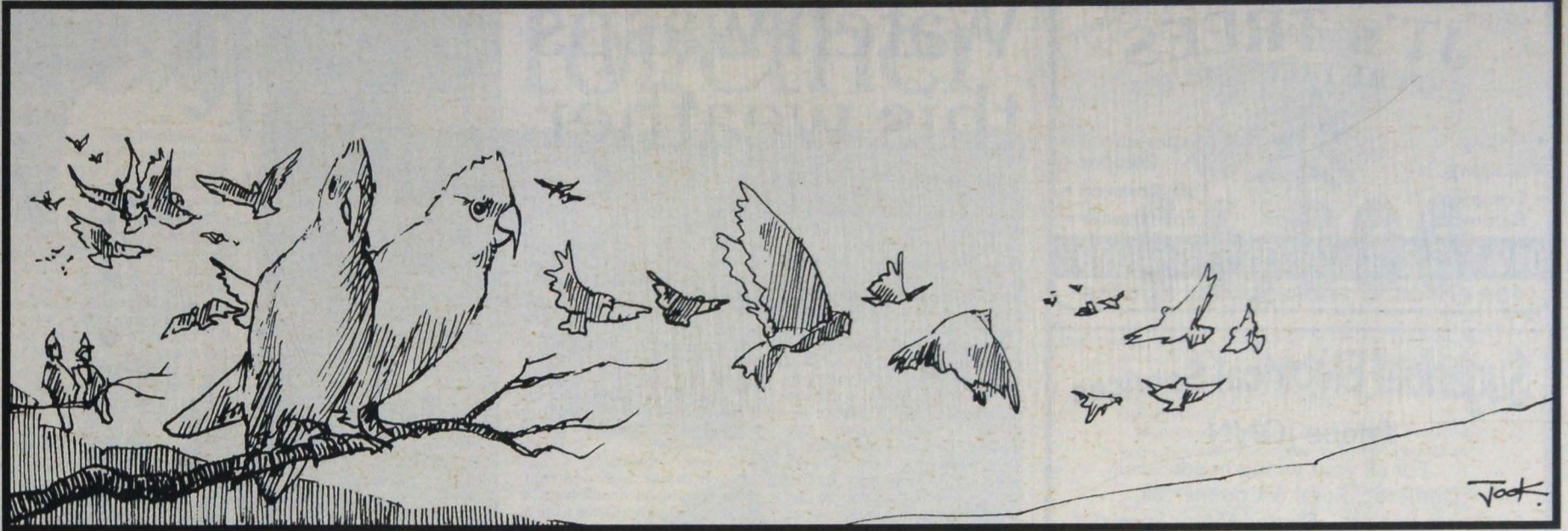
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When the corellas came

Story by GLEN JAMESON • Illustration by JOCK MACNEISH

OVER the long hot summer of 1996-97, long-billed corellas went from a flock of around 40 to a major mob of 150 birds roosting at the Glynn's property, part of Laughing Waters Park. The river valley was full of their strange cuckling talk as they took up residence in the sanctuary of this urban wilderness area.

The long-billed corella is a rare white bird, whose future was thought to be in jeopardy only 20 years ago. It has been suggested that at the time of European settlement, the bird may have been a relict species, retreating from the onset of aridity across central Australia, a feature of the climate since the break-up of the Gondwanan land mass 100 million years ago.

Over that time, many huge seas and lakes have washed across the Australian landform, then vanished, leaving their record in the geological heritage.

The abrupt decline of the long-billed corella to critically low levels across the century between the 1850s and the 1950s remains a telling illustration of the effects environmental change can have on the distribution and status of a species and the broader effects of a fractured ecology.

It is an historical telescope on a cuckling white flagship indicating the state of ecological conditions through the passage of time. The bird has limited distribution across Victoria, but within that range it is common or abundant and its range is expanding, giving the impression of an abundant and perhaps ecologically safe species in those places.

Early explorers reported that it was a plentiful bird at the time of European colonisation. However, the long-billed corella suddenly disappeared from around Melbourne by the 1860s. Its fate parallels that of the Aboriginals and some of the small, ground-dwelling, herbivorous marsupials who shared the same grassy woodland habitat.

European settlement and agriculture swept across the landscape like a swift destructive tidal wave. The changes to the natural fertility, the vegetation, stability of the ecological regime and all those species locked into the economic regime of the environment, were cataclysmic.

Such abrupt negative changes in environmental conditions can send thriving populations of species spiralling into extinction. The sedentary habit and specialised diet of the long-billed corella made it susceptible to such a bust.

The noble mountain range, the Grampians, provided an enclave of resistance and survival for the long-billed corella during its massive decline.

Western Victoria, in the centre of its distribution, has a system of lakes which may provide something of the type of habitat that perhaps the long-billed corella has evolved with.

Lakes that, when they had plenty of rain, teemed with an immeasurable wealth that provided boom conditions for all those lucky to participate.

Boom and bust, ebbing and flowing. The luck of the climatic gambler.

The long-billed corella was culturally and economically woven into the living fabric of the Aboriginals of Western Victoria. They named themselves after the bird, they ate its flesh, they sang its praises and decorated their brides with its brilliant red feathers.

It was a hard life, out on the basalt plains, for the Gunditchmari and the other tribes. Despite a brave defence of their land, they were rolled over and brushed aside and it was the missions at Framlingham and Lake Condah that provided Western district refuges for Aboriginal people.

The long-billed corella is culturally and economically woven into the living fabric of the farmers of Western Victoria. They named themselves after the bird, hence the term, "cockies". They imitate the corellas' ploughing of the land: "Scratching a living".

Across these areas, the long-billed corellas are again being held responsible for crop damage in those places where they have built up numbers into large flocks.

Care needs to be taken in the future management of the bird. The main long-term obstacle to its ensured survival is the lack of hollows in the aging river red gums, whose forest is slowly capitulating to the strains of time and conflicting land use. The majestic landscape goliaths of Heysen's paintings are going and the reconciliation process of revegetation will

take a long time to replace the stolen generations of forests.

There were also some little corellas in the Glynn's mob and the two corella species were often observed in wild flying flocks with sulphur-crested cockatoos.

They were probably aviary escapees, for the little corellas are inland specialists and can be found in vast flocks of up to 60,000 to 70,000 birds in the Kimberley region and elsewhere across the arid interior of the continent. The drying of the continent and onset of aridity has favoured the little corella over the long-billed corella.

The sulphur-crested cockatoos who usually ruled the roosts at Glynn's were outnumbered again as the new colonisers, moving from their dry western Victorian homes arrived in large numbers.

It had been an exceptionally dry year. Rabbits that had not fallen to the calici-virus were competing for food and flocks of immature and non-breeding corella adults were forced to find temporary accommodation until the dry spell passed. The ibis had taken over Glynn's in the previous dry year of 1994, but this year, perhaps with the more aggressive corellas keeping them away, the ibis had gone elsewhere.

Again the sanctuary that is Glynn's, in the cradle of the Warrandyte Gorge valley, has provided habitat for visiting birds during a period of environmental stress within their normal range.

The corellas explored their new territory with approving cuckle talk, whilst the cockatoos pestered them for news of when they were intending to move on.

A couple of loud raucous afternoons later, the corellas were in possession of the big manna gums in the south-west corner of Glynn's, the cocky's favourite roost.

The long-billed corellas look marvellous in flight. They are faster and more aerially skilled than the white cockies.

A big mob of 100 birds would sweep across the tops of the manna gums like a white, electric flying carpet; a restless net that embraced the sculptured shapes of the forest canopy in a careering caress.

Like the travelling patterns of light made in

the interplay of cloud, shadow and sunlight, they flowed like luminescence over the landscape.

Moving with mad, democratic freshness, the flying mob would simultaneously explore all directions with explosive energy as individuals skimmed tree boughs, air currents and space, yet still retained a singular mob cohesiveness and community of thought that many human collectives could wish to possess.

They were far more nervous at night than the white cockies however. They took longer to settle, often swirling above the roost site, roosting then swirling again until finally accepting the exact branch.

There were always several disturbances during the night, raising up the cuckling, shrieking calls of many birds. But it was the hunting visits of the powerful owl that wrenched from them full-throated, blood-curdling screams as fear rent the mob and caused feathers to stand up on the back of many necks.

Amidst the cuckling uproar, a few white cockies, sick and tired of their nervousness and energy, would give exasperated screeches of "Shut up, you bastards!"

The long-billed corellas finally departed in the early winter of 1997 when the weather broke. They had robustly explored many parts of the great Green Wedge. They had eked out a living in and about Warrandyte, often busy on the ground at Andersons Creek Primary School or Westerfolds Park at Templestowe where they dug out onion grass, carefully shelling the starchy corm of its brown skin, then placing the corm in their mouths with dainty, clawed etiquette.

Will we always be able to hear, across the forests of Melbourne, the enchanted bird whose querulous calls still rings with the loss of those fabled places and times of past millennia? Do we put up the explorer's telescope and, looking across the mysterious and fabled Lake Millennium, focus on a rare moment of luminosity and generosity of spirit and accept that our fate too lies in the life of the land?

(The author would like to acknowledge Ian Temby for his comments on the manuscript.)

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Watch wasps this weather

Nillumbik council is warning residents of the large number of European wasps still present in the area.

Since the beginning of the year, there have been 270 reported and destroyed wasp nests in the Shire of Nillumbik, compared to 47 in the same period last year.

Wasps have thrived in past years due to unseasonably warm weather, particularly in winter. Wasp numbers usually peak in March and start to decrease in April, once the weather becomes cooler.

Sean LaFontaine, Council's Senior Environmental Health Officer, warns that due to last year's dry, mild winter, not as many wasps have died.

"Wasps are continuing to multiply and increase their nest sizes. If this winter is dry, the problem could be worse next summer. Australia's mild climate and lack of any natural predators enable wasps to thrive.

"A wasp will travel up to one kilometre from a nest to a food source so you might not necessarily have a nest on your property."

"The only options to control the wasps are at present limited to locating nests and destroying them," he said.

To keep wasps away from your garden you can:

- cover all rubbish bins and compost heaps;
- remove all old, rotting and fallen fruit from fruit trees;
- clean up dog bones and any uneaten pet food;

- not use sprinklers or water the garden during the day;

- cover bird baths and fish ponds with fine mesh or shadecloth to keep wasps out or place them away from high activity areas such as paths and barbecues;

- cover swimming pools with plastic sheets;

- remove ivy from the garden as wasps frequently nest in stands of ivy;

- cover all windows with fly screens, use a screen door or hang plastic strips on all external doorways.

To avoid being stung:

- soft drinks, beer and fruit juice should be drunk from a glass or through a straw from a can or bottle;

- check any food consumed outdoors before each mouthful, especially meat, fish and confectionery;

- keep away from wasp nests, especially during the day;

- wear shoes around the garden, especially when watering;

- don't wear heavy perfumes outdoors during summer;

- don't give sandwiches with sweet fillings to school children for lunch.

Wasps are attracted to moving targets, so to avoid being stung, the best thing to do is sit still and ignore it.

If you find a wasp nest on your property you should not try and remove it yourself.

Contact council's pest controller, Melbourne Pest Control, on 9859 2522 or if you have any queries, please call council's health services on 9433 3301.



Joan McMahon, with the remains of the peppermint gum, recently wrecked in the community centre garden.

Vandals in garden

The recent school holidays were not a happy time for our community centre gardener, Joan MacMahon.

"In the four years I've taken care of the gardens I thought I'd become inured to plants being damaged, guards being removed, stakes pulled out and broken," she said. "Mind you, I did think it was a miracle so many of the original plantings had made it to maturity."

So what was the cause of her

recent dismay?

"It was the deliberate wrecking of a beautifully shaped narrowleaf peppermint—the only one left of four I'd placed as features in the lawn area two years ago."

Around the same time someone had been ripping out pieces of a delightful ground covering cushion plant, *Seleranthus biflorus*. "Bits of it were strewn over a wide area—some even making it on to the roof!"

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65 years together

Marnie and Jim Horkings, of Mitchell Avenue, celebrated 65 years of marriage on April 29. Jim, now 91, and Marnie, 86, were wed in the Glenferrie Presbyterian Church in 1933. They have lived in Warrandyte for many years. Jim will be best known to many locals as the RSL stalwart selling badges and poppies outside village shops around Anzac and Remembrance days each year. Their two children, Robin of Webb Street and Leonie of Mitchell Avenue, have raised families in the area.



They only have eyes for each other: Marnie and Jim Horkings, who recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, pictured with their son Robin.

Choir

An adult community choir is being formed in Warrandyte. The organisers are planning a practice session, at Andersons Creek Primary School, each Wednesday evening, 8-9.30. Anyone interested can call Lise Moran on 9844 2553.

Open

A Warrandyte High School open night is planned for Thursday, May 21. Tours of the school will be conducted at 6.30pm by Year 10 and 11 students. Parents and prospective students will be able to see the range of facilities on offer at the school and view students at work. An information session will run from 7.30 to 8.15 pm. Further information from Steve Cook on 9844 2749.

Poem

Beth Gallagher, of The Boulevard, recently had a poem published in *Cares of The Moon*, compiled by the International Library of Poetry. Two thousand poems were selected from 10,000 entries and 200, including Beth's, received editor's choice awards.

Parenting

A six weeks parenting program, entitled Parenting With Confidence, will be held at the East Doncaster Secondary College, commencing Thursday, May 21. Facilitators are Kaye Ward, parent resource and support worker, and Cathy Adamson, co-ordinator of Warrandyte Youth Services. Further information from Kaye on 9848 2977 or Cathy on 9844 2985.



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Dance

The next South Warrandyte Social Dance will be held in the South Warrandyte Hall on Saturday, May 9, followed by the winter dance on June 13. Enquiries to 9723 3892.

Fundraisers

The Elvis fundraiser night at Warrandyte Grand Hotel on Sunday, May 24, is booked out. A second matinee will now be held on Sunday, May 31. Sponsored by Radio Magic 693, this will be a big fundraiser for the local CFA brigades. Further fundraisers planned include 'Cosi', on Friday, June 12 and

Saturday, June 13 for the Mechanics Institute Hall, and a Blues Brothers night on Friday, June 19 for the Andersons Creek Primary School. For enquiries and bookings, contact the hotel on 9844 3202.

Tappers

Warrandyte Arts Association Tappers Group is welcoming new members. They meet on Wednesday nights at the Mechanics Institute Hall. Anyone interested can call Phyl Swindley on 9844 2418 for more information.

Paper

The next Manningham council wastepaper pick-ups will be on Friday, May 15 and Friday, June 12.

Bands

Warrandyte Youth Services is holding a band event on Friday, May 15 at the community centre commencing at 7.30pm. Bands include Rodent Blister, Rasputin, Monkey Spank, Simian, Gibbet and Ishedah. This will be a fully-supervised drug

and alcohol free event. Entrance fee is \$5. Further information on 9844 2985.

Playgroup

Warrandyte Westend Playgroup meets behind the Uniting Church in Taroona Avenue. New members are welcome. Further information from Meredith Bubner on 9844 4533.

Poets

A local poetry group is being formed for those who enjoy writing and reading traditional rhyming poetry. They intend to meet regularly to give writers an opportunity to share their poems in a friendly atmosphere. New members are most welcome. Call Robert Braby on 8439 9015 for more information.

Exhibition

The Eltham Library Community Gallery is currently hosting an exhibition of paintings and wallhangings by Eltham artist, Jill Forrest. The show is entitled *Dream, Memory and Meditation*. Information from Sarah McLeish on 9433 3131.

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A prize of \$6,000 is being offered every two years to enable the winner to further their career as an artist.

Applications close 30 June 1998 and the winner will be announced in March 1999, during the Warrandyte Festival.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from Information Warrandyte in the community centre or by writing to:

Warrandyte Youth Arts Award
PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113

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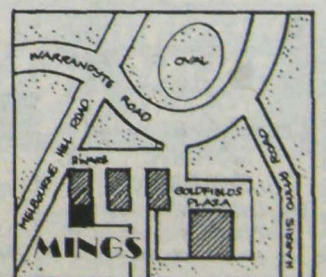
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No, you're not seeing things. These Year 10 students from Warrandyte High School are learning to surf on dry land!

**Ex-students gear
up as school
nears 20 years**

Plans for the celebration of Warrandyte High School's 20th anniversary are now well underway, and all former students and staff are urged to contact the past students association.

"We are still trying to compile a database and would like to make a plea to anyone who may know the whereabouts of any past students or staff," an association spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Any information would be greatly appreciated. Please contact executive officer, Barbara

Mills on 9844 4509 or database coordinator, Chris Van de Velt, on 9384 1374.

"To be invited, you need to be on the database," the spokesperson said, "so get your information in so you can join in the celebrations and catch up with old friends."

The name of the association has been modified to include past staff as members. Formerly known as WASA, it is now WASSA—Warrandyte High School Alumni Students and Staff Association.

**Rally
round
the red
shield!**

Warrandyte will be door-knocked for the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal this year, the first time in several years. This follows a strong response to last month's call for help from John Cox, district chairman of the appeal.

"What has been so encouraging is the awareness, by our community—both young and old—of the work done by the Salvos," Mr Cox told the *Diary*. Warrandyte groups taking part on appeal day—Sunday, May 24—include local Rotary and Lions clubs, Youth Services and the basketball club.

"The high school and South Warrandyte CFA have been approached to cover their immediate areas, with very encouraging results.

"Warrandyte CFA are managing the intersection at Shoppingtown, an annual effort. Also, volunteers will hold collection cans in the village so visitors can contribute."

Captain Eddy Holman said "money raised through the national Red Shield Appeal is vital to the continuation of Salvation Army services".

Local people not directly involved with any of the above organisations, and who would like to help, can call John Cox on 9844 2702.

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BLACK & WHITE NIGHT: SAT JUNE 6: "Two Past Midnight" cabaret.

JUNE 12 & 13: Comedy Play "Cosi" Warrandyte Theatre Company. Fundraiser for Mechanics Institute Hall. Bookings are heavy.

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STRICT DRESS STANDARDS APPLY

That's better, Bloods!

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte's sluggish start to the 1998 football season has stepped up several cogs, with consecutive wins squaring the ledger after four rounds.

The Bloods, back in EFL Third Division after just one win last year, dropped their first two games but have bounced back with convincing victories over South Croydon and league newcomers Whitehorse Pioneers.

New coach and former president Lex Munro is satisfied with the club's position. "I'd been looking at perhaps a 3-2 situation after five rounds," he told the *Diary* after Warrandyte had doubled the Pioneers' score in the away game on May 2, "although I thought we might have pinched one of our first two.

"Still, if we win next week (against Forest Hill at home) we'll have achieved 3-2."

A lot of Warrandyte supporters—including president Jeff Evans—believed the Bloods, kicking with the breeze and downhill on a sloping ground, should have "buried" Whitehorse Pioneers in the last quarter.

They led by 14 goals 17 minutes in, but the home side, who had played indirect football all afternoon and have a long way to go, outscored their guests by five goals to two thereafter.



SPORT

Final score was Warrandyte 20.18 (138), Whitehorse Pioneers 10.9 (69).

"I thought we should have won this game by about 25 goals," Evans said later. "We messed around. It was like the (bad) old days."

Munro, however, was less critical. "I suppose you could call it a disappointing finish," he said, "and I suppose we could have won by a lot more.

"But we haven't won two in a row for a long time and getting wins on the board is the important thing.

"We had two of our best players—Dale Vitiritti and Brendon Smith—off the field in the second half resting after knocks and a few of other players were down on form.

"But other players stepped up. Steve Mellor (the assistant coach who has not yet played a full game for Warrandyte) now has another run under his belt and he certainly knows where the goals are.

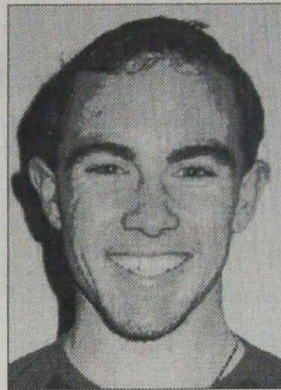
"And full-forward Steve Parnell kicked four goals after missing the last two games."

Munro said the small ground had not suited the Bloods' running game.

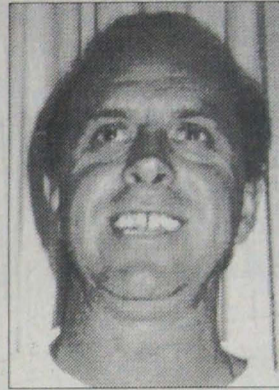
"Once we get the ball moving we have good hands all over the



John O'Brien: five goals against the Pioneers.



Justin Edwards: Bloods' smallest and one of the best.



Lex Munro: getting wins on the board the main thing.

Warrandyte's season so far

April 4: Warrandyte 14.12 (96) lost to Upper Ferntree Gully 15.16 (106).

April 18: Warrandyte 12.8 (80) lost to Doncaster East 19.13 (127).

April 25: Warrandyte 17.16 (118) d South Croydon 13.10 (88).

May 2: Warrandyte 20.18 (138) d Whitehorse Pioneers 10.9 (69)

ground," he said.

Only once did the Pioneers look threatening. That was late in the first quarter when they missed three sitters which, converted, would have had them a point in front at the break.

Instead, the Bloods led by 14 points, thanks to goals from Andrew Brown at four minutes, Vitiritti six minutes later, Parnell at 13 and rover Justin Edwards, the smallest man afield, at the 20-minute mark.

Already Warrandyte looked much the better side, teaming well and with captain John O'Brien in everything and directing traffic.

In the quarter-time huddle, Munro demanded an eight-goal second term—and his men delivered.

Edwards to O'Brien four minutes in was answered by a Pioneers goal kicked up the slope two minutes later.

O'Brien marked in front at 11 minutes and when Brad Valentine booted two in two minutes the floodgates had opened. Valentine's second goal was a little gem, judging the flight of the ball beautifully to take a

chest mark behind a big pack.

Whitehorse Pioneers persisted in playing wide, as if regarding the centre corridor as a no-go zone.

Parnell goaled after a great mark 22 minutes in, Chris Sharp steered through a huge one from the boundary, Mellor fol-

lowed up a minute later and when Parnell made the most of a push in the back seconds before the siren, the game had developed into a Warrandyte picnic, 12.10 (82) to 2.6 (18).

To their credit, the Pioneers were not about to allow a picnic to degenerate into a debacle.

O'Brien extended the lead with a goal—his third—after four minutes, but Whitehouse pulled that back three minutes later, their first major score in a little more than a quarter of football. The silence from the home crowd was near deafening.

But it was to be a meagre

quarter for both sides, just two goals apiece. Warrandyte's second came from a classical pass from Mellor to Parnell at 12 minutes, the Pioneers' five minutes later.

Having asked for and been given an eight-goal second quarter, Munro demanded a 10-goal final stanza. But six was all Warrandyte could muster against an opposition which still refused to go away.

The Pioneers goaled within a minute, but the Bloods were lining up to get on the scoreboard. Goals to Chris Quinlan, Brett Yarwood, Mellor and O'Brien blew the margin out to 84 points before Whitehorse were able to get into the act again.

O'Brien weighed in with his fifth, Whitehorse replied from a relayed free, Mellor responded immediately with a clever snap, but the Pioneers came again and again and again to kick the last three of the match.

It had been an eight-goal second half for each side, a remarkable statistic considering the disparity in skill levels.

Warrandyte's best were Mack Clarkson, who picked up a multitude of possessions, O'Brien, Edwards, Kimberley O'Connor, Eddie Marin and Terry Ryan.

The Reserves also won their second game of the season, defeating the Pioneers 17.15 (117) to 10.9 (69). The Under-18s went down 13.14 (78) to 7.2 (44) to Norwood.

Excuse me, Mr Wooller, but what went wrong?

Fred Wooller, Geelong's last premierships captain, will be guest speaker at a Warrandyte Football Club luncheon hosted by the past players at the clubrooms on May 30.

Wooller led the Cats to the 1963 premierships and his presence at the luncheon—before the home game against Kilsyth—presents local Geelong fans with an ideal opportunity to ask him what has gone wrong in the many intervening years.

Bookings can be made with Jeff Evans or Noddy Ireland at the clubrooms.

Next Saturday (May 9) is Ladies' Day—a "re-enactment" of last year's highly-successful and very giggly ladies' chicken-and-champagne luncheon, so successful that they demanded one at every home game thereafter.

This one precedes the very important home match against Forest Hill. Tickets are available at the door.

Juniors promise a big '98

Warrandyte Junior Football Club are on track for a big season, with wins outnumbering losses by a healthy margin in the four grading rounds played so far in the Yarra league.

The one major setback has been the abandonment, for want of numbers, of the Under-14 side.

"Numbers in all other age groups, from Under-9s through to the Under-17 Colts, are very good and enthusiasm among the players and their parents is high," club president Terry Pieper told the *Diary*.

"The games, particularly Under-10s to 13s, are attracting excellent support.

"We have a very strong committee and sub-committees and our Happy Hours at the clubrooms on Sunday evenings are bringing everyone together as a club."

The two Under-9 teams have each won two and lost two and the two Under-10s are each 3-1. The

top-rated Under-10s suffered their first defeat of the season last Sunday (May 3) after holding their opposition scoreless in two of the first three games.

Both the Under-12s and 13s are at 2-2 and the Under-15s and Colts have impressed by winning three of their first four.

The club are delighted with the success of former junior star Tim Finocchiaro, who debuted with Geelong in the AFL this season.

"Tim is a product of the WJFC and went to Geelong via the Eastern Rangers without playing senior football for Warrandyte," Pieper said.

"His family have been strong supporters of the junior club and we wish him every success."

The club will hold a cocktail and karaoke night at Andersons Creek Primary School on Saturday, May 30. It's \$20 a head and the first four drinks are on the house.

Rampant Redbacks take no prisoners

By DAMIEN ARSENIS

Warrandyte Basketball Club have snared 10 premierships out of a possible 13 in the Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association grand finals.

And on a day when the Redbacks reigned supreme, no victory was greater or sweeter than that of the U16 A girls.

Coached by Maree Vincent, who is off to play college basketball in the United States later this year, the girls put in a stunning performance to down Bulleen-Templestow's previously-undefeated first team.

Warrandyte were warned by the opposition before the game that there were in for a hiding—and that prediction looked like coming horribly true when they were swamped early and trailed 16-0.

Slowly but surely the Redbacks began to edge back and were within 10 at the break. Then they showed their true colours.

With some stifling full court pressure and accurate shooting from the perimeter, Warrandyte pulled back what had appeared to be an impossible lead to win by five points in a boilover and take home the perpetual trophy.

Callum Anderson's U16 AR boys also came through in a dramatic grand final. Forced by the referees to wear clash singlets that were two sizes too small, the boys overcame all obstacles to snatch a memorable victory.

Warrandyte grabbed the lead with 15 seconds remaining. Eltham blew opportunities to steal the game, but the Redback defence was too strong.

Undisciplined play by the Wildcats saw Warrandyte record a seven-point win, with Rick Templeton named Most Determined Player.

After storming into the grand final, Damien Arsenis' U14 A2 girls played their best basketball of the season to win a thriller against Doncaster. The Redbacks stuck to their game plan and, led by MDP Kelly Pollard, went on to win by the narrowest of margins.

Entering their grand final as favourites, the U12 B1 girls of Gavin Whitmore lived up to expectations, winning comfortably. They led early and never looked back in an all-round team performance which delighted the coach.

Graham Drake's U18 BS boys kept the Redback bandwagon rolling on. Down to just six players (and as few as four in some games during the season), the boys put in an outstanding effort, Leigh Evans scoring up one end and pulling in boards at the other.

In a game not for the faint of heart, the U14 DM boys of Terry Whittington held off a spirited Eltham challenge to win 29-26. Down early, the Redbacks pegged them back to take a two-point lead into the second half.

Led brilliantly by the combination of MDP

Justin Walls and Jeremy Wiggs, they prevailed in the frantic dying seconds.

The Lorraine Parfitt-coached U10 DD boys were not going to miss out on their share of the grand final glory either. They turned on an outstanding display of skill and determination to cap off a season of continual improvement and indicate that the future of the Redbacks is in very good hands.

The blue flags just kept coming for Warrandyte, Warwick Armstrong guiding his U12 C2/1 girls to victory over Koonung in a fine team performance by the young Redbacks.

Neither were Anne Mulcahy's U12 D1/1 girls going to miss out on a premiership trophy. Following the example set by the other U12 girls teams, they made it three from three for that age bracket, downing the Nunawading Vikings in a very exciting game.

Lizzy Jenès inspired her U14 D2 girls to yet another Redback victory. Working well as a team, they outplayed Eltham when it mattered most.

Warrandyte's three losing grand finalists included Gerry Pearce's U12 AR boys, who could not conjure up a win against a very strong Eltham side.

Perennial grand final coach Ian Hodgson could only look on as his U18 C girls were beaten by a better team on the day and the U12 CS boys Paul Haskings had nurtured into the supplementary grand final were outplayed.

Lions swing a deal for Warrandyte charities

Teeing off on a bright Sunday morning is reward enough for many golf enthusiasts, but a recent event at the Dorset Community Golf Course carried an added bonus. The green fees went, in part, to Warrandyte charities.

The golf day, conducted by the Lions Club of Warrandyte, attracted 107 starters—from the accomplished to the "scrubbers"—vying for a gold-plated putter which was donated as the main trophy. Tro-

phies were awarded to each section winner and runner-up and for longest drive and nearest the pin.

Winners included M. Luckins, J. Clancy, M. Pratt, D. Clarke, L. McEnaney, L. Prentice, J. Paul and D. Waddell.

The full facilities of the Dorset Golf Club were made available. The end result, including the sale of raffle tickets, was \$1840, which the Warrandyte Lions will distribute among local charities.



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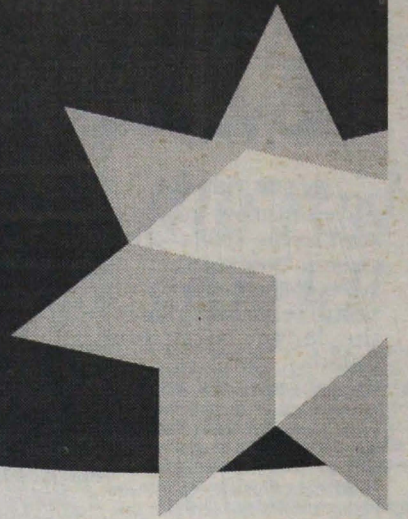
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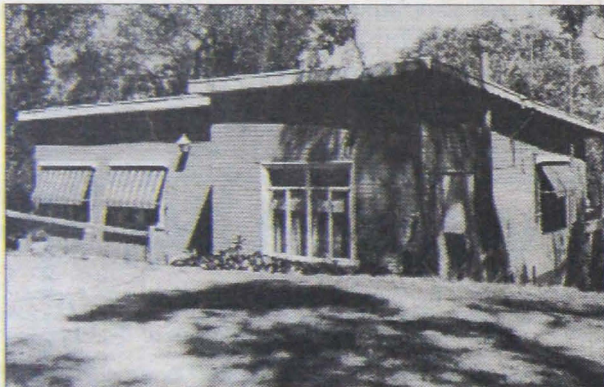


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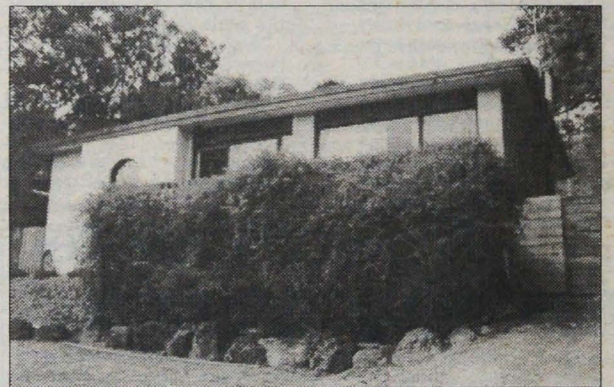
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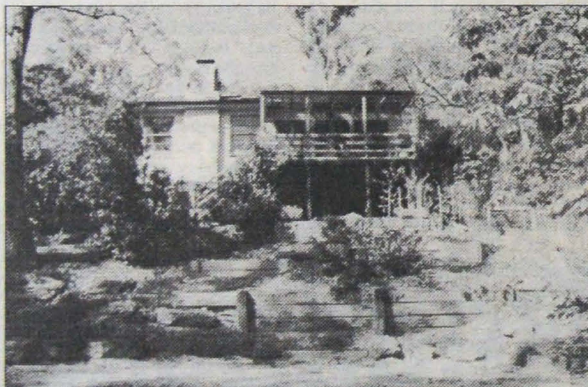
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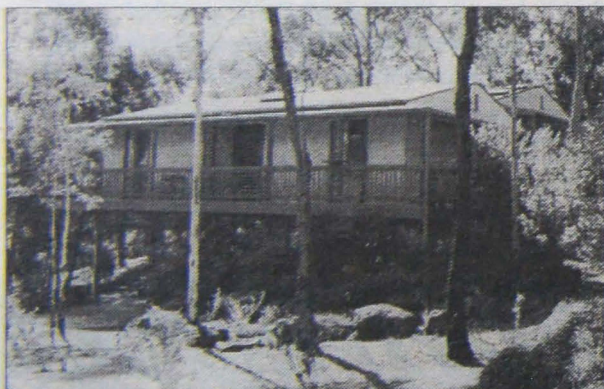
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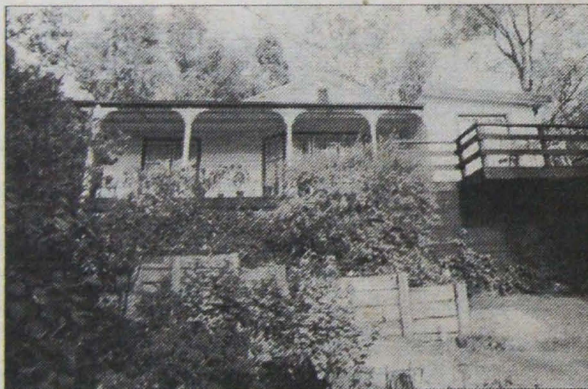
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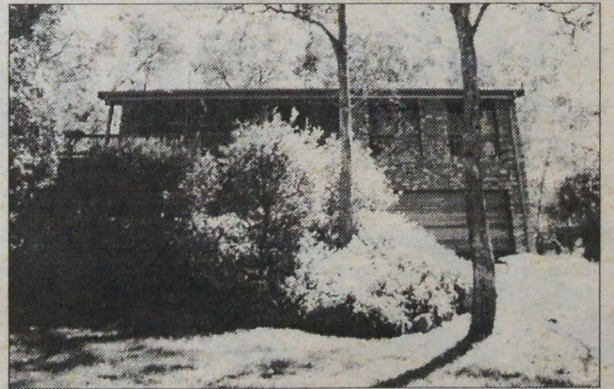
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