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WARRANDYTE

DIARY

WARRANDYTE HARDWARE

9844 2622

PRICELESS 28th year For the community, by the community Advertising: 9844 3819 Editorial: 9844 3719 Fax: 9844 4168

Big plan at West End

By DAVID WYMAN
Improvements to the Warrandyte West End shopping centre—mainly in access and parking—are set to go ahead in a \$450,000 joint venture by Manningham council and property owners.

New road, entrance to shopping centre

The owners and council have been discussing and reviewing the project for more than three years but now the project is in the detailed design and cost estimates stage.

Final plans and costs, and details of a special rates and charges scheme, are expected to go before council in late July.

Main features of the current concept plan are a new vehicular access entrance to the Goldfields Plaza parking areas 15m east of the existing entrance and a new roadway linking the plaza area to Colin Avenue.

The new access entrance from Warrandyte Road will have two out-bound lanes and one inbound lane.

The Colin Avenue access roadway is now possible after purchase of land at the rear of the vacant milk bar.

Revised parking layout in the plaza area and changed semi-trailer access to the supermarket's loading dock are planned.

New shops are planned at the rear of the existing shops on the west side of Colin Avenue.

The intersection of the shopping roadway and Melbourne Hill Road is to be changed to improve loading at the hardware store.

Improvements at the West End have been a long time coming. In March, 1994, the *Diary* announced a series of



Warrandyte's West End shopping centre: Seeking a \$450,000 solution to a planning nightmare. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

options proposed by the then Doncaster council, following six months effort by the Warrandyte West End Working Party. This body comprised community and trader representatives and a strategic planner, an urban designer and a design engineer

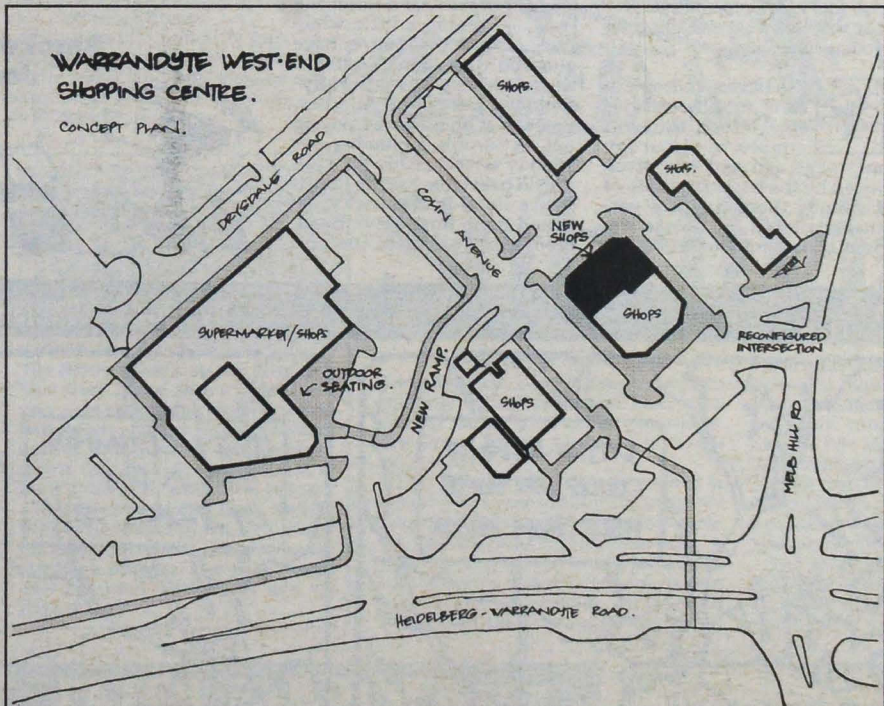
from council.

Included among the proposals was the provision of a "village green" on the small area of land between the shopping centre and the main road, adjacent to the bus stop. The placing of a fake poppet head was a suggested feature of the proposed green.

A local architect described the poppet head as "being in the grand tradition of the big pineapple, the big banana and the big mallee bull. It seems designed more to catch attention than serve the public or improve the appearance of the area. I would have thought one fake poppet head per centre was enough."

There is no mention of a poppet head in the current plans, but the *Diary* believes it could still be "on the agenda".

A council spokesman said the improvements were part of council's Local Centre Enhancement Scheme. "The project in the West End is driven by the owners and traders and is designed to lift the standard of the shopping centre," he said.



SPECIAL 300th ISSUE
—see centre pages

Remembering Christie and Luke

A memorial fund has been established to honour the memory of Christie Lawrence of Warrandyte and Luke Mayall of Park Orchards. Christie and Luke were tragically killed early last month in a freak accident, when a tree fell on their utility on the Melba Highway, between Glenburn and Yea.

Organised by the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association and supported by the Lawrence and Mayall families, income from this fund will enable an annual grant to be given to a selected student who shows promise in either the performing arts or the hospitality industry.

A fund organiser told the *Diary*: "A great deal of thought has been given to finding a way in which this tragedy can be turned into something positive so that Christie and Luke's names live on in people's hearts and memories well into the future."

Application has been made to the Australian Tax Office for donations



Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall

to be tax deductible. They can be forwarded to PO Box 150, Warrandyte 3113. For further information call Ken Virtue on 9844 2795, Alan Cornell on 9844 4995 or Tim Sherwood on 9439 9161.

● TRIBUTES: Page 7

CYRIL

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AT THE BRIDGE

WARRANDYTE DIARY

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It's 300 big thank-yous to our Magnificent Seven



So it's 300 up for the *Diary*. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since that historic maiden issue in December 1970 and we can name a few staffers in the interim who haven't drunk a lot of it. We can also name the seven advertisers who supported us in that first edition who are still with us today. Those originals are Peter McDougall, Ron Day, Tom Kerkhof, The Grand Hotel, Potters Cottage, the Clay Pot and Mechanics Institute Hall. Many thanks for your extreme loyalty, people—and may you still be with us 300 issues on.



About this time last year, we reported how Neil Pearson and Peter Norman, then Warrandyte RSL Club president and treasurer respectively, had set off with respective wives Bub and Joyce a few days apart and in different directions on extended touring holidays. The Pearsons headed west and the Normans north and, by a chance in a million or maybe a zillion, bumped into each other weeks later at Kurumba, a dot on the Gulf of Carpentaria. Well, they're at it again on their 1998 odysseys! Another local couple, Len and Judith Woods, who are on their way in very round-about fashion to the Darwin Cup, pulled in at a caravan park at Yorkeys Knob, north of Cairns, the other day—and found the Normans camped next door. And when the Woods went to the local pub next night for a counter meal they found themselves sharing a table with the Pearsons! Sometimes Warrandyte folk are quite inescapable.



We think it would be nice if Neil Dusting, the nonentity we have turned into a local folk hero, asked us along one day to see his beloved Western Bulldogs play. It would be a cheap afternoon at the footy for us because we know Neil's the perfect host. He takes along his own tuckshop! His good mate Kevin Close was among a bunch of Warrandyte folk who went along with Neil on June 27 to see the Bulldogs play St Kilda at Waverley—and he was mightily impressed with the catering. From a large bag Neil produced a dozen bread rolls and a dozen cylindrical thermal things that keep saveloys pip-

IN RED & WHITE



Footy club stalwarts don't come much more stalwart than our own Roger Drew. Roger, of North Warrandyte, has been vice-president of the Bloods, treasurer, committeeman and what-have-you over a lot of years, but heavy business commitments unfortunately now preclude him from executive involvement. Instead, he's cooking—serving up steaks just the way you order them at Thursday training nights and also dispensing fast tucker from the canteen at home games. It's a shame we don't print in full colour but we can tell you the apron he's wearing here is a stunning red.

ing hot. Instant hot dogs! And with there be tomato sauce or mustard with that, sir? He dipped into the bag again and came up with a vacuum flask of chilli soup—his own creation and just the thing for such a cold day. Being a thorough gentleman, Neil served his guests first and was left with the dregs of the soup, where the chilli pieces had massed. Kevin swears he saw traces of smoke escape from his host's ears. So we're open to an invitation to the footy any old time. Neil—but we think we'll give the chilli soup a miss.



Sue Davies, of Bradley's Lane, took herself into the Victoria Market a couple of Saturday mornings ago and was fascinated by the passing parade of humanity there. She was particularly taken by a bloke she saw browsing the fruit and

vegies. About 30, she reckons, long hair, beard, wearing a run-of-the-mill jumper and jacket. Nothing unusual about that—but below the waist was a different story. A women's skirt, possibly a Fletcher Jones creation, set off a pair of bandy, hairy, white legs, anklets and fashionable high heel shoes. "Sometimes," says Sue, "you feel very ordinary living in Warrandyte."



If you'd been in the bar of the Grand Hotel one evening a little while back you'd never have guessed that Alan "Coatsey" Koetsveld and Alan "Scruffy" Edhouse were good buddies. Coatsey, a builder, was paying out on Scruffy, a plumber, for shoddy workmanship on a job they'd been doing at the Courthouse Hotel in Brunswick for Grand mine host Steve Beaumont. At the root of the out-

burst was a wobbly toilet bowl (or pan, as they still rather quaintly call them) which Coatsey had found to be anchored by three brass screws of inadequate length and one roofing screw, which had no right to be there at all. Boy, did he pay out! And boy, did he back-pedal and gush apologies at the Grand next night after learning that the loose loo had been put in place not by Scruffy—who is a purist among plumbers—but by a hotel cleaner!



Sports editor Lee Tindale was having a chat after training the other night with local footy star Kimberley O'Connor about his upcoming 150th game (see Page 15) and KC mentioned in passing that the *Diary* had managed to misspell his Christian name at every reference since he made his senior debut way back in 1987. It's Kimberly, not Kimberley, he said. Lee managed to have his wits about at this particular time (which some might regard as a novelty) and said he'd always gone by the Warrandyte team lists in the EFL Record, lists submitted by the footy club itself. He also said that at least we'd been consistent. Anyhow, we're sorry about that, Kimberley. Oh gawd, here we go again!



Next time you see a dead or injured kangaroo, wallaby, wombat or koala on a roadside north of the river, don't just feel sorry—call Nilumbik council. You might be saving a young life. Municipal laws coordinator Phil Lovelace reminds us that marsupial young can survive up to 24 hours in a dead or injured mum's pouch, so phone the council on 9433 3110 during office hours or 9483 8895 thereafter and a ranger will be dispatched to investigate. You're warned not to do your own investigating because injured wildlife can be quite aggressive.

Smokey Joe



OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



Dual occupancy hearing to be held in August

By DAVID WYMAN

Manningham council and Warrandyte residents will join forces in a bid to retain the ban on dual occupancy in Warrandyte township at a public hearing beginning on August 31.

It will be Warrandyte's last chance to argue its case against closer residential development.

The public hearing will be before an advisory panel appointed by the Minister for Planning and Local Government, Mr Robert Maclellan, to hear public submissions on Manningham council's planning scheme which proposes a new zone to protect Warrandyte township.

The public hearing will be held at the council chambers, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, from August 31 to September 11.

Residents who made a submission to council and the minister in support of banning dual occupancy will have received a letter from the Department of Infrastructure giving details of the public hearing. They would have also received a "request to be heard" form which allows them to speak to the panel and to provide information on their submission.

The hearing is open to the public and it is understood that the advisory panel will particularly study the transition from the old planning scheme to the new planning scheme.

Manningham council is currently preparing its case to put to the panel and will also be required to assist the panel in its deliberations.

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

Warrandyte Diary
June 1988

The battle for Warrandyte township is very much to be won because the new urban zones in the Victoria Planning Provisions do not allow prohibition of dual occupancy housing.

Manningham council in its Municipal Strategic Statement adopted a Special Use Zone to replace the outgoing Environmental Residential Zone which now protects Warrandyte from dual occupancy.

The Minister for Planning has made it known to council that he does not support the new zone.

Acceptance of the Special Use Zone for Warrandyte would appear to depend heavily on the panel's interpretation of its terms of reference, and the quality of submissions made to it by council and residents.

And—the *Diary* repeats—the public hearing from August 31 to September 11 is Warrandyte's last chance to preserve the ban on

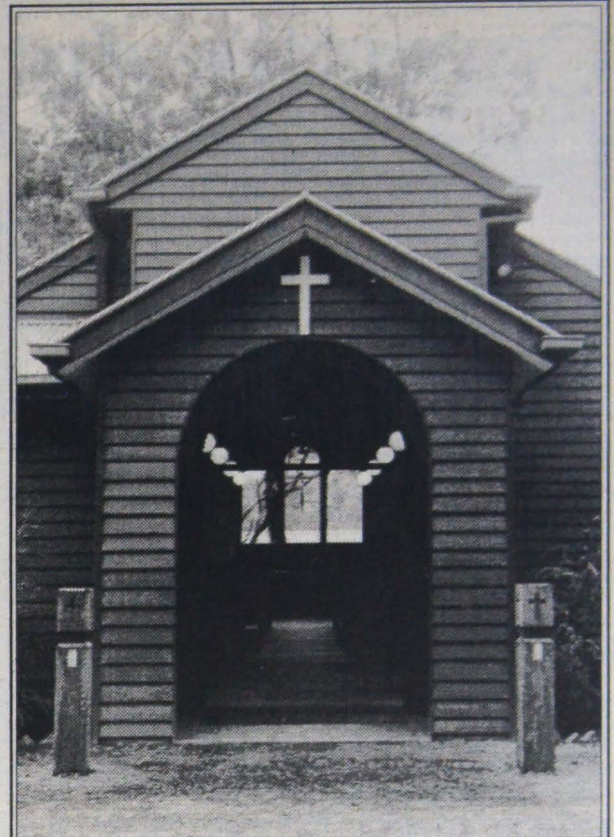
dual occupancy.

Members of the advisory panel are:

- Ms Janet Horak (chairperson) who has been a panel member since 1989, and has a bachelor of town and regional planning.

- Mr Lester Townsend who is a town planner with extensive experience in strategic urban planning. He has a graduate diploma of sociology and a bachelor of town and regional planning. Mr Townsend is undertaking research for a masters degree in integrated local area planning.

- Ms Anne Murphy, who has broad experience in strategic and statutory planning.



St Stephens: The doors are still open.

St Stephens church survives closure threat

Warrandyte's St Stephens Anglican Church in Stiggant Street appears to have survived persistent threats of imminent closure.

"Following a couple of years during which the church has had to contend with all sorts of threats and rumours," church spokesperson Ann Riley told the *Diary*, "we are finally seeing the results of our cohesiveness and faith, of our positive outlook."

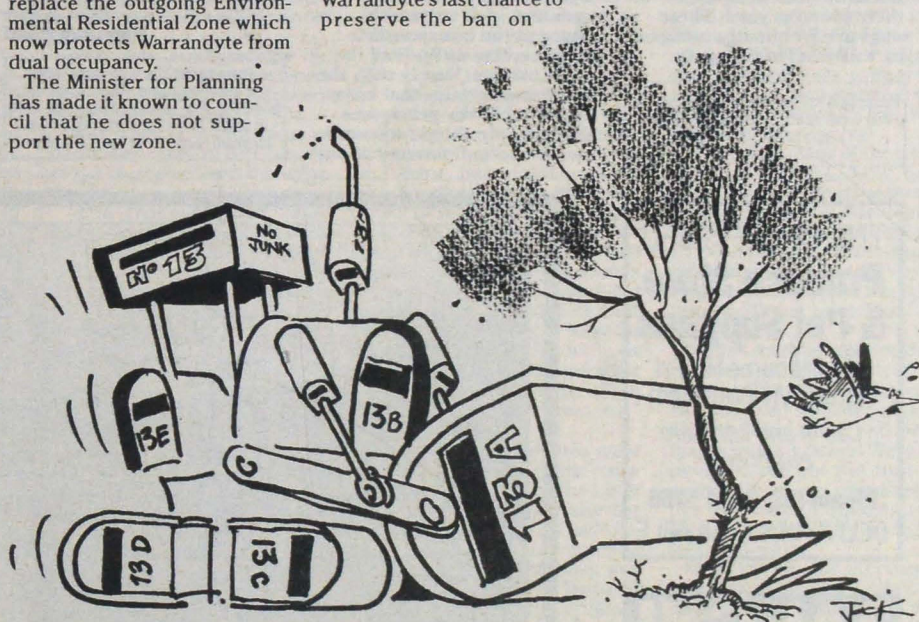
"We are rebuilding our congregation by welcoming back those who have left over the years, plus any newcomers."

At the moment, services include Holy Communion at 8 and 9am on Sundays, Sunday school at 9 and 10am and a special healing

service each Thursday at 7.30pm.

"As part of our rethinking and positive outlook within the church, we are now reaching out into the community," Ann Riley said. "One of the needs we see is somewhere for the unemployed, young mums, older people—those who feel the need for somewhere to meet people—to have a chat, a cuppa, a shoulder to cry on, to break down the isolation and desperation we all feel from time to time." Professional help will be available.

The first meeting of this group will be held on Wednesday, July 15 at 11am. Contact Ann Riley (9844 4151) for further information.



Your paper is back on the net

The *Diary* is back on the Internet. Our first foray into cyberspace was most successful, but when Eric Sandblom shifted to Queensland earlier this year we had to close down our link. Disappointed e-mail followed, and now we are pleased to report that Sandy Burgoyne, well known as a *Diary* photographer, has offered to re-establish our site. Our new e-mail and Internet addresses are on Page 2.

Subdivision displayed

By DAVID WYMAN

Manningham council has decided to publicly exhibit a revised plan for a one-lot subdivision on an eight-hectare Green Wedge property in South Warrandyte.

This follows a decision by council in January this year to allow the property owner to submit a proposal for a one-lot, one-dwelling subdivision after it had rejected a submission for a four-lot subdivision. A subsequent one-lot proposal from owner Mr Vorach Brodsky of 456 Warrandyte-Ringwood

Road was rejected as it did not meet council's requirements.

Now, council has agreed to exhibit for public comment a new plan which creates two lots on the property—lot 1 containing the existing house on 5700 square metres of land, and lot 2 as an irregular area of the balance of the land adjacent to Andersons Creek and Warrandyte-Ringwood Road.

The existing driveway would be located on "common property" and a "building envelope" for lot 2 is located north of the existing house.

The proposal to allow Mr Brodsky to make a subdivision proposal was made "on compassionate grounds" because he is blind.

Council's notice of amendment states: "As a result of the owner's medical and financial hardships, the sale of the excised lot created will enable the owners to remain in their existing dwelling.... The existing dwelling contains a number of facilities required for the owner's medical therapy."

This proposal has angered Green Wedge supporters and environmental-

ists who have labelled it "weak and creating an obvious precedent".

In particular, the two Mullum Mullum Ward councillors, Cr Patricia Young and Cr Lionel Allemand, have been criticised for not fully supporting council policy and their own election commitments.

State MP for Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood, told the *Diary* in February that he was very concerned about council's decision to allow a Green Wedge subdivision proposal to be put forward.

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Council's duties delegated

The new regime has been spelled out in detail by Commissioner David Abraham in his interim report on the Nillumbik council.

Once councillors worked very hard for no pay, but didn't always comply with the rules in common practice for others. If one were driving along a bad road and suddenly came across a small stretch of road which had been bitumenised and was leading to a respectable dwelling, the question might arise: "Does a councillor live here?" Gone are the days of pot hole councillors!

Currently councillors are paid to do a specific task laid down by the local government act, and supervised by those other elected leaders—the state government. The council's first

task is to make policy. This means to make plans or regulations in sufficient detail and clarity, so that the chief executive officer (CEO) and his staff can carry them out. The main difference in the new regime is this distinct separation of powers between the councillors and the executive team. Commissioner Abraham has directed that the Nillumbik council appoint a consultant qualified to put in place processes which aid in the area of planning.

The councillors' other task is that of delegation—they delegate their authority to carry out the plans to the CEO and his staff.

If citizens become customers by applying to an appropriate member of the executive team for a service or permit, and they

DEAR DIARY



are not satisfied with the result they can complain to their elected representative on council, whose task is also to see their plans are carried out according to the rules they have laid down.

If councillors also become customers, as elected community leaders they should be happy to comply with the same rules they have laid down for others.

Ratepayers could be compared to the shareholders of a corporate business. Ideally the relationships of all the staff should accord with best busi-

ness practice to the ultimate welfare of ratepayers.

To this end Commissioner Abraham has directed the Nillumbik council to appoint a facilitator to help in this important area of relationships between the councillors and the CEO, and the councillors and the executive staff. The facilitator and the consultant have to submit a brief monthly report for the 12 months preceding the commissioner's final report. To quote from the interim report, he said he "does not want the enquiry to be treated as a 'whitewash', and the councillors slip back into their old ways", but to go forward and meet the challenge of the new regime.

Alma Shanahan
Hurstbridge

CLYDE & OCKER



"I'd stand for council meself, Ock. Only The Footy Show's back on telly!"

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Trust for Nature buys land, protects it with a covenant then resells it. The dollars generated are continually re-used to save more land many times over. Other properties are transferred to the government for inclusion in national parks.

Trust for Nature was established in 1972 and has bought and received donations of 120 properties covering 7000 hectares and valued at \$10 million. They have also worked with landowners to permanently protect another 9000 hectares with 240 conservation covenants.

To enquire how to join, make donations, volunteer or ask about your land, ring 9670 9933, fax 9670 9977.

John Hanson
Webb Street

Words not music was the problem

I respect the fact that W. Scott Wallace felt sufficiently moved to challenge my review of the Republican Follies (*Warrandyte Diary*, June 1998), however I think that if he rereads this review (*Warrandyte Diary*, April 1998) he will see that it was not the credibility of the performances which was in question but the standard of the material.

I continue to hold the view that many of the sketches lacked relevance and satirical punch in the context of a contemporary revue format (which is the Follies chosen genre). It

is precisely because we have such a strong acting and production base in Warrandyte that I believe the group is deserving of more innovative material.

On a positive note, perhaps consideration could be given to the development of a theatre writing school, within the drama group, drawing on the expertise of its more experienced writers to act as mentors in encouraging and promoting new talent and ideas.

Marion Winton
Trezise Street

Roaming dogs a menace

I am writing to express my concern regarding the numerous unrestrained dogs encountered in the Koornong area in North Warrandyte.

Some residents feel that their dogs cannot be confined all day and need some freedom, justifying the use of our very unique state park area—inhabited by wombats, koalas, swamp wallabies and kangaroos—as their exercise yard. These dogs are frequently released to 'exercise' in the early

morning or late evening, with the misguided idea that their dogs are "only chasing rabbits".

On one such evening, the heart-wrenching sound of frenzied barking could be heard. A few days later a dead juvenile wombat was found in the area, showing large chunks of fur missing from its back. The sorrowful sight brought tears to my eyes and I felt extremely angry at the irresponsible and heedless attitude of the dog's owners. Surely with the numerous articles that have appeared in the press over time, people should be more aware and enlightened about

the dreadful injuries their pets can wreak on wildlife? They should realise that wildlife die not only from injuries, but also from the stress and trauma associated with being chased.

I therefore appeal to all pet owners in the area, that they adopt a more caring and responsible attitude to living in, and sharing, this very special region.

Elise Berry
Hamilton Road

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

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.

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NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO THE DONCASTER AND TEMPLESTOWE PLANNING SCHEME
Amendment L135

Manningham City Council has prepared Amendment L135 to the Doncaster and Templestowe Planning Scheme.

The amendment affects land at 456-466 Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, South Warrandyte.

The amendment introduces a site specific control into the Planning Scheme which enables the owners of the land to apply for a planning permit to subdivide the land into no more than two lots.

The subject land is currently within the Landscape Interest Zone under the Doncaster and Templestowe Planning Scheme. A permit is required to subdivide land in this zone and each lot must be at least 8 hectares. As the subject land has an area of 7.56 hectares, subdivision of the subject land is prohibited.

The amendment introduces a site specific control to allow subdivision of the subject property on compassionate grounds. As a result of the owner's medical and financial hardships, the sale of the excised lot created will enable the owners to remain in their existing dwelling to be contained on one of the two lots created by the subdivision. The existing dwelling contains a number of facilities required for the owner's medical therapy.

The amendment can be inspected at:
Manningham City Council Municipal Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.
Department of Infrastructure, Level 3 Plaza, Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne.

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

Attention: Manager Economic and Environmental Planning
Before: 6 August 1998
Signed: BOB SEIFFERT
Chief Executive
Date: 1 July 1998

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WEL winds down

BY FIA CLENDINEN

In Warrandyte we have our very own State Park, our own festival and our own community centre. And there's a lot of bush left in Warrandyte, despite being so close to the city. Many of the local roads are narrow and winding and generously blessed with trees. Even the main street through the township, Yarra Street, still has the feel of a country town.

It's features like this that make us proud to live here; Warrandyte is a special place and we know it

In these aspects of our local community one group has played a key part. In August, 1971, the Warrandyte Environment League was formed. It grew directly out of the pages of this newspaper. In July of that year, four letters appeared in the *Diary*, each one protesting against the threat of major residential development in Warrandyte. In the following issue an open letter signed by 56 residents was published, calling for support for a public meeting in the Mechanics Institute Hall. WEL was formed at this meeting.

The founding office bearers were Don Ingersole (president), Bruce Day (chairman), Richard Morton (vice-chairman), J.Stevens (secretary) and Tom Jilek (treasurer).

For 27 years the Warrandyte Environment League has kept a close eye on the township, fighting inappropriate developments as well as initiating projects for everyone's benefit.

Over 20 years ago Howard Geldard, who was then WEL president, came up with the idea of the Warrandyte Festival. He took two weeks off work to organise the first one.

Rosemary Tovey and Jan McDonald, joint presidents of WEL a few years later, initiated the idea of buying the Getsons site where the community centre now stands.

WEL fought long and hard with the Post Office Preserva-



Heyday of WEL: Protest picnic to protect Koornong bushland.

tion Group against a council proposal to widen Yarra Street and demolish the 120 year-old post office.

WEL also successfully defeated plans for intensive development at Koornong Crescent and Professor's Hill.

Now, after so many years of dedicated service, WEL has decided to scale down its activities.

"The group is tired," said Doug Seymour, current WEL president. He told the *Diary* WEL had decided to unincorporate and, "would not necessarily be there for any particular resident or resident group".

But he stressed that members had decided to keep in contact

with each other, "because of our concern for what we think is an ongoing need for such an organisation in Warrandyte".

WEL's charter, during its prime, was very broad. As well as acting as a "watch-dog with regard to development," it also organised fire prevention seminars, informed residents on local flora, fauna and noxious weeds, and tried to find solutions to sewerage problems.

And WEL's interests were not limited to local issues. They also worked to save the forests of East Gippsland, lobbying and letter writing. "We felt that Warrandyte could not have an environmental focus without understanding and operating within the larger context of the environmental movement," said Mr Seymour.

Not all WEL's activities were so serious. During the early 1980s WEL organised the Little Buggas' Club, especially for children of primary school age. Co-ordinated by entomologist Dick Davies, the objective was for "kids to have fun learning bush nature," and the program included insect collecting, an adventure trail and spotlighting in the State Park.

When WEL went to register the club, the relevant authorities would not allow the name, dismissing it as ridiculously vulgar. WEL had to come up with a politer title: Still, to everyone in Warrandyte it was known as the Little Buggas Club.

And in retrospect some of WEL's battles were mistakes. One famous example was WEL's campaign against the cherry-plum trees growing along the river banks. These trees are not

indigenous but their spring time blossom and scarlet fruit in autumn symbolise the very character of Warrandyte for many residents. WEL's suggestion that the trees were pests and should be removed outraged the township and WEL backed down.

These days many of the issues covered by WEL have been taken up by single issue groups such as Friends of Warrandyte State Park, the Anti Ring Road Organisation, Community Fireguard, the Green Wedge Protection Group and the newly formed Eltham branch of Save Our Suburbs.

"I think that the modern trend is towards special interest groups. They're the ones that survive," said Mr Seymour, and he blamed the pattern of longer working hours. "Very few people have got the time required to run an organisation like the WEL. It used to take about 1000 hours a year to run it, in its heyday."

Mr Seymour said all community groups have a limited life span and he understood that WEL had come to the end of its cycle. But he said the process saddened him. He was disappointed new members hadn't come forward who agreed with the principles of WEL and were willing to contribute.

Over the years many different people have been part of WEL, they worked terribly hard and their list of achievements is long and impressive. "You always need to value a group in terms of what would it have been like if it hadn't been there," said Mr Seymour.

That's a good way to remember WEL.

WARRANDYTE NEWSAGENCY

Goldfields Plaza, Shop 8, 402-406 Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte Telephone 9844 3463

NEWS FLASH: \$623,000 Tattsлото Win Stuns Warrandyte Woman

"I am a bit stunned," a Warrandyte woman said today when told that she had won more than \$623,000 in Tattsлото on Saturday. "Yesterday I realised that I had the six winning numbers, but I did not think the prize would be this big." The woman, who is a community worker, said

"This is really a lot of money. It means that I can help some friends who really need it and do some house renovations." "The lucky numbers were family birthdays," she said. The winning entry was submitted at the Tattersall's outlet in Goldfields Plaza, Warrandyte.

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A new group for kids in grades 4, 5 and 6 each Friday, 3.30-5.30pm at 57 Yarra Street. Commencing July 17th.

Kids Club continues to operate on Thursdays, 3.30-5.30pm for children in Prep-grade 4.

Contemporary services for all the family including creche and Sunday school. Sundays at 10am.

ENQUIRIES: 9844 4148
or call in at 57 Yarra Street

Maria, Stewart suddenly gone

Two well-known Warrandyte residents passed away suddenly during the past few weeks.

Maria McGhee died on Wednesday, July 1, in a Donvale rehabilitation hospital.

She was to have come home this weekend.

Her death came six weeks after she was badly injured in a road accident on the corner of Warrandyte-Heidelberg Road and Batskos Drive,

when her car ran into a low-loader.

Ms McGhee suffered a bruised heart, seven broken ribs, broken nose and kneecap.

Stewart Joy, husband of former Warrandyte Ward councillor Louise Joy, died of a heart attack at his Brackenbury Street home on Wednesday, June 24. He was 63.

• Full tributes will be published in our next issue.



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Rabbits at risk in Nillumbik reserves

A Nillumbik council program—underway since late May—to protect important bush reserves from the ravages of the rabbit is already having an impact on this pest's numbers.

Specially designed rabbit control programs were implemented in the following reserves last month:

- Hohnes Hill Reserve in Eltham—an important site for the Eltham Copper Butterfly
- Professors Hill Reserve in Warrandyte which supports several significant flora species, and
- Pigeon Bank Reserve in North Warrandyte—important habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.

Council's Rebecca Millar said, "Rabbits do phenomenal damage to our flora and fauna and directly impact on the bio-diversity of the shire."

"Council's rabbit control works involve a combination of rabbit proof fencing, warren destruction, baiting and ferretting."

For further information on rabbit control works occurring within public reserves, please contact Rebecca Millar on 9433 3195.

For information regarding controlling rabbits on private property, please contact Damien Closs on 9433 3216.

WRONG!

In the June issue, in an article entitled "Gayip: time to say sorry", we stated that all five Nillumbik councillors, plus the chief executive officer, had signed a document of apology to the Wurundjeri people. We now understand that Cr Natalie Woodley has not signed this document.

One Nation goes last

Federal MP for Menzies, Kevin Andrews, reiterated recently that any One Nation candidate would be placed last on his How to Vote card for the next federal election.

Mr Andrews said that he deplored the giving of preferences to any party which discriminates against any section of the population on racial grounds, or which promotes ill-feeling against any racial group.

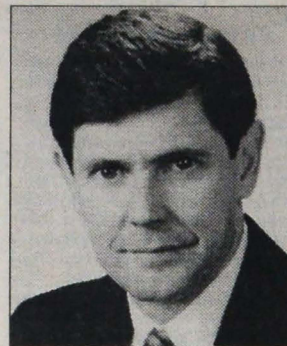
"I firmly believe that it is in the interests of the entire nation that we honour the very many people who

make Australia's culture so rich and diverse, and that we do all in our power to promote tolerance and understanding.

"My electorate contains a strong representation of people from different parts of the world."

Mr Andrews said One Nation's proposals would involve economic suicide for Australia.

"At a time when we are feeling the impact of the Asian crisis, the Hanson policies would drive more business away and lead to greater unemployment."



Kevin Andrews

Lions' youth award open

Nominations are now being accepted for the 1998 Lions Club of Warrandyte Youth of the Year Awards. This award is being made to a young person aged 16 to 18 years as of January 1, 1998.

The basis of the award is outstanding talent within one or more areas of personal endeavour including leadership, community interest and service, academic training and employment achievement and sporting achievement.

The successful young person will receive \$600 as Youth of the Year together with another \$600 to the supporting or nominated non-commercial organisation or body. Second and third awards are also being offered.

Candidates may be representatives of Warrandyte High School, Warrandyte Youth Services or any other Warrandyte sporting, social group or service club excluding Lions. Furthermore, a friend, relative or employer may make a nomination. Eligible young people must live within 5 kilometres of the Warrandyte Post Office or

attend Warrandyte High School.

Written applications are now sought, referring to the above areas of personal endeavour, not exceeding 600 words. Selected applicants will be interviewed on Sunday, July 26 at the Warrandyte Community Centre from 1 to 5pm. The interview may include applicants' views on such issues as the future generation, the environment, the world at large, the role of youth in society and their own personal goals and aspirations.

Presentation of the Youth of the Year Awards will take place on Thursday, August 27 at a Lions dinner meeting. Finalists will be asked to make a presentation speech of five minutes' duration on a subject of their own choosing.

Applications close Thursday, July 16. Further information from Warrandyte Youth Services, the Lions Club Opportunity Shop or by writing to the Lions Club, PO Box 18, Warrandyte 3113. Phone enquiries to Graeme Doig on 9876 1304 or John Penwill on 9722 1755 (H) or 9724 9222 (W).



Peter Allan

ALP names federal candidate

Mr Peter Allan, 42, has been endorsed by the Australian Labor Party as its candidate for the Federal seat of Menzies at the next election.

Mr Allan is currently employed as a senior trust officer with a major trustee company. He is also councillor with Whitehorse city council, having won election in March 1997. He was a councillor and deputy mayor with the former Nunawading city council for over seven years. He was appointed a justice of the peace in 1996.

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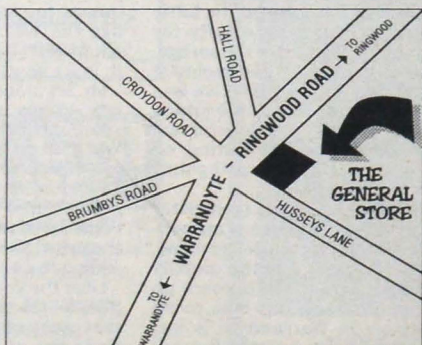
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- ★★★★ Heritage-Semillon 1996 \$12.95 (\$140 per doz)
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Loved where she lived

MARION VISSER

By DOUG SEYMOUR

MORE than 300 local and hospitality industry friends and colleagues joined the Visser and Ho families last month to remember and celebrate the life of Marion, daughter of Dirk and Mary Visser of North Warrandyte.

Marion passed away on 31 May after suffering from an acute form of leukemia. She was just 34 and had been fit and active until the last week.

The service followed a private internment at the Warrandyte cemetery. Marion lived all her life in Warrandyte and has passed on her love of the natural beauty of the district to her partner of 16 years, Norman Ho.

The couple made their home in Leber Street from where Marion pursued a busy and promising career in catering and hospitality interspersed with frequent overseas travel. Marion's life was characterised by a simple cheerfulness, great concern for others, legendary hard work and great determination.

This determination became evident at an early age as Marion put in a truly gritty effort to overcome dyslexia.

This was a time to share strengths—everyone is still in awe at the way Norman was so accomplished with sensitive words at such a time. Marion's brother Derek, sister Rosemarie and Norman's sisters Linda and Angela helped us understand more about Marion and the

families feel very supported by the large and caring attendance.

Derek related how Marion had been a special link to the Holland-based relations, having often stayed and travelled with her uncles Gerrit and John. Among old "local" friends were Jack and Gwen Stringer, now of Mansfield, and Bob Dunnett, now of Barnawartha.

The service had a young and uplifting theme. Jim Irwin, head of the Box Hill Institute school of hospitality, needed no notes to help him tell us about the strengths Marion brought to the academic and social life of the school.

Marion held senior positions with the Rathdowne and Hyatt on Collins hotels and with O'Briens/Spotless catering in

her early career. In her spare time, she played a key role in the industry's charity organisation, Kids with Cancer, which has raised over \$1million. Its work goes on with the help of her partner Norman.

Jerome Pelletier rushed from Switzerland to make a video of still images set to music which touched everyone's hearts. The smile is in every image and we all understood one of her colleagues when he spoke to Marion, saying "I shall remember you every day".

Marion's family and friends gathered afterwards at Fountains Restaurant where TAFE teaches hospitality skills through the provision of a commercial service. A memorial herb garden is planned by the school.



They lived for each other

CHRISTIE LAWRENCE

By CLIFF GREEN

WARRANDYTE and Park Orchards are special places. Special communities lived in by special people. So when more than a thousand of them gathered to mourn the passing and celebrate the lives of two very special young people, it seemed only fitting that the local police should stop the traffic and a thousand walking mourners should fill the road from St Stephens Anglican Church to Andersons Creek Cemetery.

Those two special young people were Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall.

Christie Hunter Lawrence died in a freak accident on the Melba Highway, between Glenburn and Yea, on Sunday, June 7. She was 21.

Christie was born on January 14, 1977 at Frances Perry House in Carlton. The second daughter of Gloria and Greg Lawrence of Leber Street, she lived in Warrandyte all her life, attending the kindergarten in Taroon Avenue, Andersons Creek Primary School and Warrandyte High School.

She showed an early talent for sport, playing in her primary school softball team, featuring in athletics at high school, at basketball with the local club and emerging as an outstanding young player with the Warrandyte Tennis Club, where she was junior club champion in 1992 and 1993.

Her other great loves were music and theatre. She acted, sang and danced in numerous high school productions. Of her performance in 'Grease' in 1994, the *Diary* critic wrote: "But my favourite on the night was undoubtedly Christie Lawrence as Rizzo, the bad girl. Christie dug deep and discovered an abrasive, smart, ironic and ultimately tragic figure. She found the cold, silent centre of the script, underplaying the moment to moving effect".

The Warrandyte Theatre Company soon discovered Christie's special talents. She sang and performed in a number of Festival Follies. In a tribute in the current WAA&MI newsletter, Gail Macrae writes: "'Open Season' needed a strong female chorus singer. Robyn Bonthorne answered our prayers by bringing along a lovely young girl called Christie Lawrence.

"Christie didn't stay in the chorus for long. Her strong talents for singing, acting and dancing, and the hard work she put into developing these talents, soon put her centre stage." Christie was on her way to a rehearsal of the WAA production *Cosi* when she and Luke were killed.

A trained singer with a fine mezzo-soprano voice, she performed in Brigadoon for the Williamstown Light Opera Company and sang on stage at the Warrandyte Festival with Rob Melville. They wrote a song together, and were planning others. She also showed promise as a painter. Christie Lawrence



packed a great deal into her short life.

She graduated as Bachelor of Arts (Social Sciences) at Latrobe University earlier this year. Her great ambition was to work with handicapped children, but she had not yet had an opportunity to commence this career. She was working in a restaurant in Eastland, where she had a recent promotion.

Christie enjoyed camping in the bush with her family and friends. She and her high school sweetheart Luke Mayall were returning from a camping holiday when a tree fell on their utility and they died together. At their funeral, Christie's sister Melanie said:

"Christie was a beautiful, inspiring, talented and caring young lady. We will miss her very much. May there be comfort in the thought that she had a wonderful family and life for 21 years and she has left this world, happy with her young man Luke.

"I would be lying if I told you I hadn't pondered what could have been, the thought of not having Christie beside me at my wedding, or sharing stories of our first-born children, or the brother-in-law we all thought would be.

"What does bring me great happiness is knowing that my sister was truly in love, and at peace not only with herself, but her life when she died. Christie and Luke's partnership had intensified so much recently that I found it hard to believe they would ever break apart. And so it seems only fitting that they left this world—together, in love and happy."

Gloria, Greg and Melanie Lawrence have asked the *Diary* to pass on their heartfelt thanks to all their family and friends and to the people of Warrandyte and beyond for their prayers and their messages of sympathy and their many kind deeds of practical support. Greg said: "We especially want to acknowledge the friendship and support of Luke's family. Their mutual sharing of our grief has brought our two families even closer together".

By JASON CAMERON

TINY Park Orchards, with its tall trees and big blocks on the outskirts of Melbourne, is a place where families can still keep some of the pressures of the city at arm's length. There's a sense of belonging and common purpose that's particularly strong amongst those who've brought up children there and watched them grow into young adults.

After 20 or more years helping out at kindergarten, supporting the local primary school, sizzling countless sausages at sports events or just popping down to the local shops and bumping into the same faces, you get to know just about everyone. Just as they all know you—and yours.

So on Sunday night June 7, when many Park Orchards residents turned on the television news, they felt a sudden chill that had nothing to do with the recent cold, wet weather. A freak accident had occurred: a random act of nature. A ten metre gum tree had collapsed across the Melba Highway crushing the cabin of a passing car. Two young people died instantly. Police said they came from Warrandyte and Park Orchards. No names had been released.

But in Park Orchards that night, there were many who either knew, or suspected the worst. The crumpled wreck of a bright yellow utility covered with emergency service tarpaulins was the giveaway. Luke had a ute just like the one on the news. Luke Mayall: John and Marlene Mayall's youngest boy.

Brad, Matt and Benn Mayall's little brother. Everyone knew Luke.

He'd had the ute for just one year. It was a restored Kingswood that cost him seven thousand dollars. Maybe it was the bright yellow colour that appealed.

It seemed a perfect match for Luke's taste in shirts which also tended towards the brighter end of the spectrum, preferably covered with masses of flowers. No inner city grunge for this Park Orchards kid. The brighter the better.

For the past twelve months, Luke, wearing his tropical shirts, driving his yellow ute, was a familiar sight as he went about his daily life in Park Orchards. Rounding the corner by the tennis courts, he'd always have a wave and a toot of the horn for the family who looked after the key.

The owners of the local service station looked forward to Luke's visits too. They gave him one of his first jobs when he was younger. They knew him, trusted him, welcomed him. Years later, he'd still pitch in and work without pay if he saw they were busy.

Luke's schooling was all local: Park Orchards Primary; Oxley College at Chirnside Park; and Warrandyte High where he met Christie Lawrence when they were both in Year 10.

Christie and Luke were well known at Warrandyte High through their roles in the school's popular drama productions, *Pirates of Penzance* and *Oklahoma*. They were part of a group of friends who always stuck together, but

it was only in the past 18 months they realised they had so much in common they wanted to be together as a couple.

Luke's mum Marlene is convinced that a shared love of the theatre gradually led to their mutual attraction. Through her role as director of Parkwood Dance Academy, theatre was always part of Luke's life. He danced in his early years, but thought better about discussing it with his mates as he grew older. Marlene's academy ran annual productions in which every student played a role and every parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, neighbour and sibling came to watch. Audiences often swelled to a couple of thousand.

Luke was always there as part of the stage crew—building and shifting scenery, pulling the curtain, making sure troupes of ten year-olds in tutus were ready for their stage calling and keeping over-anxious stage mums in line.

A career in the performing arts was seriously considered, but Luke also had a passion for cooking. He'd studied home economics at school and set foot inside a five star hotel for the first time in his life the day he delivered his job application to the Sheraton Towers Hotel at Southbank.

He began work in the hotel kitchen as a pot scrubber, but knowing he already had both feet through the door of one of the biggest and most successful hotel chains in the world, he was determined to be the best pot scrubber they'd ever had.

Luke's determination and potential was recognised by management and before long he was accepted as an apprentice chef. In 1997, a culinary creation based on Atlantic salmon earned him the title of runner-up in the hotel's apprentice chef competition. His reward was the satisfaction of seeing his very own dish featured on the menu of one of the hotel's restaurants for one month.

Luke had been with Sheraton Towers for two and a half years until shortly before he died. He planned to resume his apprenticeship at the end of this year, more determined than ever to become a top chef and cook his way around the world.

As an indication of his popularity, 120 of Luke's hotel colleagues applied for leave to attend his funeral, but being a service industry, only 30 could be granted the time off together. Those who came brought with them a chef's hat. It was signed by Luke's former workmates and is now one of his parents' most prized possessions.

It's worthy of note that not long ago, Luke told his mum Marlene that he and Christie, both just 21, had decided they wanted to be together forever.

Fate had a different interpretation of that youthful expression of undying love. As it came to pass, Luke, the kind-hearted, softly spoken boy with the impish grin, was laid to rest with his beloved Christie in a Warrandyte grave overflowing with flowers. He would have loved all those blooms, they were so bright. What a great shirt they would have made.



The birth of a newspaper

By CLIFF GREEN

WELCOME to the 300th issue of the *Warrandyte Diary*. To those of us who write the stories, take the photographs, draw the graphics, make up the pages, send out the advertising accounts and deliver the papers across our 40 distribution points, it sometimes seems more like 300 years!

The *Diary* was born because it was needed.

Judy and I came to Warrandyte early in 1969. Soon after, I read a notice in a shop window calling for people interested in forming a youth club. As a young parent, I was decidedly interested, was immediately dubbed "publicity officer" and attempted to publicise. The local throwaway weeklies didn't want to know. They received no advertising from Warrandyte, so why should they bother?

We knew other groups were having the same trouble, and the initial idea of a youth club newspaper quickly grew into a volunteer community newspaper.

The club had no money at all, so the paper had to be self-supporting. My first task was to secure advertising. I had never sold anything before and the very thought of canvassing for such an abstract commodity filled me with dread.

The paper's "dummy" almost filled itself. The only knockback came from a restaurant owner (since left the district) who refused to buy space in a local paper because he had never had any support from local patrons. The logic of his argument still eludes me.

Within a few issues neighbour Peter Lovett, a professional journalist, had joined me as co-editor, and before long we had an experienced advertising manager, although Judy still sent out the accounts each month.

Peter convinced me that the paper should be something more than just a community bulletin board. We began a campaign on local issues, thundering against subdivisions and

the destruction of the environment and for new schools, sports grounds, kindergartens, the creation of the state park and—ultimately—the community centre.

If it's happened in Warrandyte over the past 28 years, then the *Diary* has fought for it. And if it hasn't happened, then the *Diary* has almost certainly fought against it!

Artist Jock Macneish was with us from the first issue, and when Peter Lovett stepped back a little, Lee Tindale—another working journalist—picked up the typegauge.

I took a back seat for a number of years and the paper was edited by Lee, then Judy Macdonald and Janette Vagg, Ken Virtue and Lee Scott Virtue, Bob Millington and Mark Davis, then Bob alone. Lee Tindale and I returned as co-editors in 1990.

A core of dedicated volunteers—some of them professional journalists, writers, artists and photographers, most of them talented amateurs—have produced the paper for almost three decades. Their names have graced our pages across the years.

Less well-known will be the advertising, accounts and distribution people who perform those duties essential to our survival. And then there's our faithful advertisers. Without their support, none of it would have been possible.

Who actually owns the *Diary*? When the *Diary*'s original proprietor, the Warrandyte Community Youth Club, voted to wind-up, sometime around our 10th birthday, it was decided that the newspaper should be passed on to the small group of enthusiasts who had kept it going across the years. The youth club committee named them as trustees, and ultimately the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust was formed, and Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd was set up as a trust company, with the original trustees as directors.

And so it has continued to this day. A true community newspaper, its only reason for existing being the protection, enhancement and promotion of this special place and its unique community.

THE WARRANDYTE *Diary*

NUMBER 1

DECEMBER 1 1970

PRICE 4 CENTS

A NEWSPAPER JUST FOR WARRANDYTE

... part of its community

Today marks the publication of the first issue of Warrandyte's first newspaper.

(At least we believe it to be the first. So far we have not discovered traces of a predecessor!)

Warrandyte Diary will be published monthly as a combined community service and fund-raising venture by the General Committee of the Warrandyte Community Youth Club.

All work on the paper is being undertaken on a voluntary basis; all profits from the project will be used to assist the operation of our long-needed Youth Club.

Warrandyte is a special place. That is why we live here. There are easier places in which to live. Places served by better transport, places without the annual threat of bushfires. But we have chosen Warrandyte.

A sense of belonging to a different type of community may be one of the many reasons why we made the choice.

But this community is growing larger day-by-day. Too large for news to pass by word of mouth. Even the "bush telegraph" is not reaching everyone.

Hence the need for a local newspaper, a focal point, tying together the many varied activities and interests of the "village". If Warrandyte is a special place, then it has need for a special kind of paper. A paper that is close to, and part of, its community.

All we ask for is your assistance, your support—and your patience.

Only Two Fire Calls

Warrandyte Rural Fire Brigade reports only two fire calls in the recent period.

These were:

Cooking fat caught fire on a stove in a house in Pound Road on Friday, October 9th.

A call was received on the following day to a fire in the open in Tindalls Road. This was found to be someone burning off a windrow and the fire was permitted to continue burning.

See fire precaution details on page 8.

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Village Calendar

Turn to inside pages for further details of these coming events.

DECEMBER

- 2nd—Youth Club General Committee.
- 3rd—Elderly Citizens' General Meeting; Potters Cottage Xmas Show preview.
- 8th—Warrandyte Fire Brigade Meeting.
- 9th—St. John's Ladies' Guild Break-up Party.
- 10th—Elderly Citizens' Club Afternoon.
- 11th—Youth Club Senior Break-up Night.
- 12th—R.S.L. Dinner
- 13th—Youth Club Jundance.
- 16th—Elderly Citizens' Christmas Luncheon.
- 19th—W.A.A. Children's Creative Dance & Music Recitals & Exhibition by Junior Painting Classes.
- 20th—Children's Recital & Exhibition continues.
- 24th—Christmas Eve Church Services.
- 25th—Christmas Day Services.

JANUARY

- 12th—Warrandyte Fire Brigade Meeting.
- 18th—Summer Potters School commences.
- 21st—Elderly Citizens' Club Afternoon.
- 22nd—Youth Club activities resume.
- 26th—Youth Club Holiday Play Group commences.
- 28th—Elderly Citizens' Club Afternoon.
- 29th—Youth Club Holiday Play Group concludes.

Smokey Joe: reporting the bare facts

Slowest stalker in Warrandyte. The bloke in the moccasins and tropical pyjamas who ran out of petrol on Pig-tail Hill midnight last Saturday. Quizzed by sympathetic crime squad car. Released. Survived death by exposure. (June, 1974)

The little lady of Leber Street learned the hard way that if he says that's HIS side of the bed, she'd better believe it. Territorial rights to the communal couch were debated—calmly at first, then emotionally—before hubby took direct action. He picked up his stark-naked wife, deposited her outside the front door, switched on the external light, locked her out and went back to bed. The lady warded off frostbite by beating furiously on the door. We're not sure how long her ordeal lasted. But it was long enough to produce a "yes dear" next time he nominated his share of the cot. Gee, we'd love to identify the bloke involved. But that wouldn't be fair on Peter, who's headmaster of an out-of-town private school. (June, 1980)

And spare a thought for the elderly who couldn't get her corsets off during her talent-quest act. If compere Terry Gill hadn't lent a hand, she might never have finished her strip-tease! (April, 1981)

Warrandyte's own Flesh Gordon has streaked again. The heads are still turning after he flashed past a recent meeting of the North Warrandyte Pre-School Social Committee. Obviously a masochist in this weather but also a shy type—he pulled his tee-shirt over

his head. Smokey hears that someone with a similar outdoors streak has been sighted dashing through the pines near Warrandyte Primary School. This nocturnal nudist of the needles had better watch his step. Despite his tee-shirt he has already been positively identified by at least eleven women with binoculars. (September, 1982)

The things you see on the way to golf! It was six o'clock on the morning of Saturday, December 6, and there was something most unusual about the lady jogger the Warrandyte RSL blokes passed on the way to their annual trophy event at the Healesville Country Club. She was heading east in Yarra Street and she was naked. Not a stitch on, mate. Starkers. The first carload of golfers spotted her near Blair Street, the second as she trotted past the police station, the third near the Jumping Creek Road turn-off. Jim Girvan, who's been able to distinguish between the sexes longer than most of us, was at the wheel of the third car and damned near ran through the gates of Warran Glen Nursery. The shots from the first tee at Healesville that day were quite sub-standard. Perhaps it was big-match nerves. More likely, though, the chaps had their minds on things other than golf. (December, 1986)

When the young lady said she wanted her cappuccino hot, she really meant it. The first wasn't to her liking; neither was the second. So by way of rather bizarre protest action, she took her clothes off—all the way down to the undies she wasn't wearing at the

time—in the post office milk bar. George, the proprietor, evicted her from his crowded shop and she drove away, still starkers. The tourists of the day were left with the impression that some funny things happen in Warrandyte. But don't blame us. She's from Eltham and we have the registration number (car or dog, you ask?) to prove it. (July, 1989)

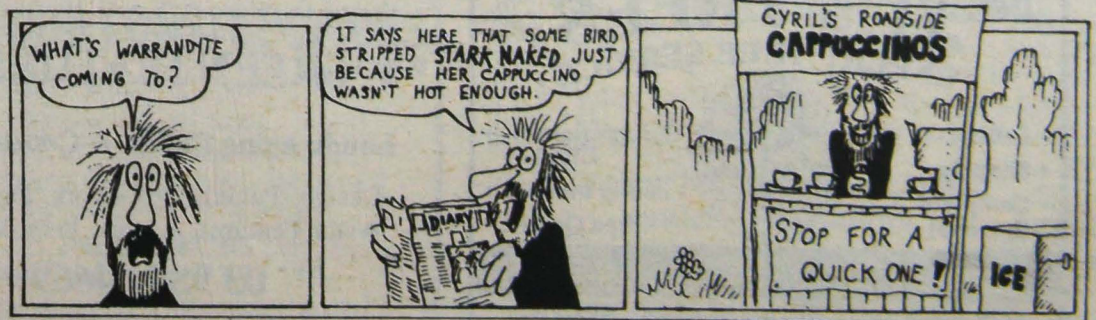
Our photographs may have improved out of sight, but not so the diligence of our sports editor, Lee Tindale, who managed to report that the footy match against Croymdon was on May 3 when obviously it was June 3. As punishment, we cut his pay from nothing to minus and demanded that he write out 1000 times: "June is just after May and just before July and aren't I a silly sausage?" Punishment along similar lines has been meted out to Lee's wife Jan, our chief-of-staff, who lent the footy club ladies the *Diary* camera with which to take shocking, candid shots

of their outrageous Man O Man night last month—but forgot to load it with film. Hence the absence of shocking, candid Man O Man pictures from this issue. Still, the next one's less than 12 months off. (July, 1995)

We wonder if Michael Greve, of Webb Street, has suddenly taken to wearing pyjamas. He wishes he'd been wearing them when he and wife Juniper were woken in the early hours recently by a neighbour reporting that Juniper's horse had escaped from its paddock and at that very moment was making a hearty meal of the precious flowers in another neighbour's garden. Being in the habit of sleeping au naturel, David wrapped a towel around his waist and off he went into the night to round up the naughty nag. He found it after searching a number of gardens and returned it to its paddock. Mission accomplished. But as he walked home down Webb Street he was bailed up by a couple of cars with flashing blue

lights. Someone had reported a stalker in their garden. The law listened to David's explanation and, impressed by his sincerity and extreme embarrassment, let him go. But not even the pitch darkness of the hour could hide the smirks. (May, 1996)

Next time Gail MacRae goes out in the middle of the night to investigate a car accident she'll slip something on over the longish T-shirt she wears to bed. Woken by the commotion, Gail snuck outside to find all manner of emergency service vehicles and personnel in attendance. As she watched proceedings from the deep black shadows of her garden she badly underestimated the night vision of North Warrandyte Fire Brigade captain Paul Buck and fireman John Swindley. "Hi, Gail!" they hollered. "Howyergoin'?" Doing her best to pull the hem of her T-shirt down to her ankles, Gail beat a hasty but awkward retreat. (March, 1998)



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I 'VE never really geared my holidays around plumbing. Some people go on golfing holidays. They book into a resort and gradually work their way around all the local courses. I assume this is similar to those who head for the bright lights where they can see all the current shows and eat at restaurants until they explode. Then there are the surfers who tour the coasts looking for the best waves, between the naked rituals they perform behind Holden Kingswood station wagons. Their holidays seem to be a combination of dressing, undressing, bathing, balancing and Chiko Roll eating.

All of the above holidays you can find advertised in reputable travel agencies but, as yet, I have not seen one advertising something like "You'll be flushed with excitement—a 21 day tour of the toilets of Provence!" Or, "Visit the cesspits of Europe!"

Now these might have some appeal for the tourist who's been there and done that, no pun intended, but for most of us, plumbing is something we pay a lot of money to have fixed during normal working time. Why would we want to pay even more during our holidays?

So it was with a mixture of amusement and intrigue that we decided to visit The Big Culvert.

Allison has been living in the Basque region of Spain for 25 years. She had married Carlos as many years ago and in the course of their marriage they

KIBBLED

"Their holidays seem to be a combination of dressing, undressing, bathing, balancing and Chiko Roll eating."

had not visited Australia. Until this year. They were out here for six weeks staying with various members of the family; apart from side trips to Tasmania, Alice Springs and Queensland.

The inner regions of Melbourne were being covered by Ron and Glenise, the Great Ocean Road by their son, so we had the north eastern regions of Melbourne. In a day!

The four of us held a strategic planning meeting at which it was decided that time spent sitting in a restaurant was time wasted. Aimless shopping was out as was visiting quaint locals. What Carlos really wanted to see was scenery. Different

stuff. He'd seen farmland and your average dry sclerophyll woodland so the logical decision was to show him some big trees and treeferns. Hence the trip across the Black Spur.

It's an education to see your own country through the eyes of a visitor.

"I can't get over the variety of scenery!" Carlos had not expected the range of landscapes our country offers. We smiled smugly and pointed out wonders we knew nothing about. We pontificated on the weather, farming practices and, in general, did a travelling Coupar, without any of the expertise.

We arrived at the Black Spur to the accompaniment of appreciative oohs and aahs.

It was just after a shower of rain and it was beautiful. Drop-lets of rain hung, chandelier-like, from the gracefully arching fronds of tree fern. The mountain ash soared above the ferns. Their graceful stands of trunks lined the road, their canopies meeting in a grey-green vault, creating the impression that we were walking into a Gothic cathedral.

Each bend of the road provided us with a different view of a side chapel.

"These must have been planted," Carlos offered. "They're so regular and similar in age and size."

"Oh no. It's quite natural," I replied with all the confidence of the local expert. Soon we passed a sign indicating that what we had driven through was the result of extensive

planting after the original natural forest had been destroyed in the infamous Black Friday bushfires. I thought silence was the best solution.

In Marysville, after the obligatory cup of something hot with muffins, we visited the Tourist Information Centre. It was here that we discovered The Big Culvert, ironically just near The Big Tree.

As we discovered long ago, there are advantages in being a tourist during winter—crowds are down and there is a freshness and vitality, especially in our Australian forest. We were alone in a beautiful part of Victoria with, before us, the prospect of a big drain!

We stopped at the sign, at a parking area designed for the odd busload of overseas plumbers.

We rugged up and walked down a leaf litter-strewn path. Herself suggested that the turn-off a few metres from the road was where we should go. I led on.

When we returned and went down Herself's path, we saw it. It runs underneath the road. A bluestone barrel vault, about one and a half human height high and one wide. Historically, it's interesting and it's also great for arty photographs.

We went on to The Big Tree but somehow it didn't have the same excitement factor as The Big Culvert.

Imagine it will feature prominently in Allison and Carlos's memories of Australia.

ROGER KIBELL

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Rabbits' brave new world

SHE stands on the hillside. Alone. Nobody bothers to come here any more, only the rabbits—hordes and herds of them. It is not a pretty place. The land is hideously degraded and these hunch-backed herbivores are the cause. Like an acne-scarred face, the ground is pitted with thousands of their fist-sized scrapings. Grass is reduced to stubble, but they still come. The rabbits.

It wasn't always like this. Sometimes, in moments of intense yearning for a past she has never known, she reaches for her great-grandmother's photograph album. But it is hard to connect those images, frozen in time on glossy emulsion, with the Warrandyte she is familiar with. The wild-flower-decked hills are long gone—in their place naked, eroded slopes stand as testament to the rabbits' supremacy. Kangaroos, wallabies and wombats are gone too, remorselessly disposed by the alien trespassers.

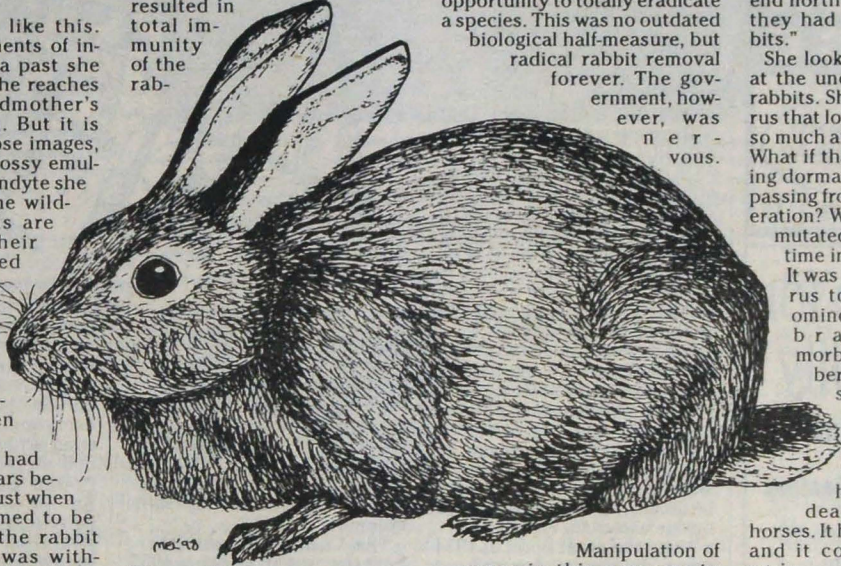
Efforts at control had been abandoned years before she was born. Just when land managers seemed to be getting on top of the rabbit problem, funding was withdrawn—reallocated to some more politically advantageous project. Freeways, tollways and casinos had taken priority.

The virus that had offered hope as a biological control in her great-grandmother's day had gone terribly wrong. Its release pre-empted, by accident or design, when the virus escaped from the South Australian island which was its research headquarters. Land owners, frustrated by lack of action, had taken matters into their own hands, mincing livers of infected rabbits, injecting the



NATURE
By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

potion into carrots and using them as bait. This disastrous move, born of ignorance and impatience, only served to weaken the strain of the virus which, over time, resulted in total immunity of the rabbit population.



Her great-grandmother had been an environmental scientist, she studied the ecological problems associated with pest plants and pest animals. In those days biological control was seen as a useful tool to control introduced flora and fauna. Despite past disasters with cane toads in particular, authorities had persisted with this method that at best could only ever reduce numbers, but never totally eliminate a species.

She is a molecular biologist,

she studies chromosomes—the thread-like structures of nucleic acids which carry the genes that contain the chemical codes of all living organisms. In a laboratory, she and her fellow scientists have discovered a lethal gene that, if introduced into rabbits, would spread through the population inducing congenital deformities so severe that death was inevitable.

This was a breakthrough as it offered, for the first time, the opportunity to totally eradicate a species. This was no outdated biological half-measure, but radical rabbit removal forever. The government, however, was nervous.

Manipulation of genes in this way was to tinker around with the building blocks of life—its raw material. It was anticipated that most people would find this solution unacceptable. After all, if scientists could exterminate rabbits, it would only take some dangerously misguided, extremist crank to abuse the technology with catastrophic results far worse than any holocaust.

She stands on the hillside. Alone. She pulls from her pocket the snippet she had torn from the daily paper that morning and read again the now fa-

miliar words.

"Yesterday two men in their early 20s were admitted to hospital suffering from a mysterious debilitating illness. Their condition is said to be serious. Doctors think they may have contracted a virus similar to that which only last month caused the death of a 16 year-old boy from a small farming community in Western Victoria. The two men had recently returned from a camping weekend north of Melbourne where they had been shooting rabbits."

She looks across the hillside at the uncountable throng of rabbits. She ponders on the virus that long ago had promised so much and delivered so little. What if that virus had been lying dormant for all these years passing from generation to generation? What if that virus had mutated and resurfaced, this time in a different species? It was not unknown for a virus to cross species. An ominous bell rang in her brain—Equine morbillivirus. She remembered reading in an old scientific journal about the case, many years ago, when a trainer working in a racing stable had contracted the deadly virus from his horses. It had happened before and it could be happening again.

Has the past finally come back to haunt them? Not for the first time, she wishes with almost unbearable longing that she had known her great-grandmother. She needed the comfort and wisdom of kinship. Despondently she reflects on the deterioration of the land that has taken place because of missed opportunities and inactivity. The means to put a stop to the rabbit rampage was in her hands, or at least in her test tube. The burning question was—should she use it?

A washing machine drops its load

CAMOUFLAGED by the gathering gloom of the winter solstice, fortune's bleak cloud cast dark shadows during June. So many people were stricken with rotten luck: car accidents, drastic cancers, depression, tragic deaths, critical illnesses, redundancies, and suffering setback after setback during the never-ending struggle for justice. Each day brought depressing news, and even seemingly good news managed to transform itself into bad news within a day or two.

Perversely, it's at times like this that little household dramas have a habit of descending in droves. During June our phone, washing machine and hot water service packed up. Not to be outdone, the car kept stalling, the driver's window jammed (halfway), and one tyre developed a slow leak. The mobile phone battery broke, and those first frosty mornings rendered the piano distinctly untuneful.

Adding insult to injury, phone calls to service providers often give plenty of opportunity to ponder the meanings of 'service' and 'provide'. Don't you just love being connected to annoying messages, claptrap ra-



OUR PLACE
By MARILYN MOORE

dio, and interminable phone queues? And, finally connected to an operator, Warrandytians can feel like Martians: "Never do morning calls", or "Can't get to your area this week." And what if the serviceman arrives while I'm out for ten minutes? "You'd break the agreement, madam. Your name would return to the waiting list."

None of this is surprising, given our previous attempt at getting the washing machine repaired. Events unfolded thus:

Monday. Phone WMCo first thing. It's a busy week: they will try to come Friday. Morning or afternoon? "No idea, madam." Well, we'll manage somehow.

Tuesday. Phone call from WMCo. It would now suit the serviceman to come tomorrow. OK, we'll reschedule a few things. At least the washing

machine will be fixed. Morning or afternoon? Stupid question. **Wednesday.** Nobody turned up.

Thursday. Phone call to WMCo. What hails? Nobody knows. Would madam like to go on the waiting list for next week? Well no, madam would not, as it happens. Madam would prefer a definite arrangement. After much muffled whispering, it transpired that someone would come that very afternoon. (Hasty rescheduling of various commitments followed by joyful excavation of washing machine from beneath mound of dead clothes.) Alas, nobody arrived.

Friday. Phone call to WMCo. What the #\$@**! is going on? They really wouldn't know, but would madam like to go on the waiting list for next week? By now, I didn't care when they booked me in, as long as somebody actually came. Somebody who would hopefully be a cut above the ding-a-lings employed to answer the phone. We settled for Tuesday morning.

Monday. Crawled out from under a mound of dirty washing to answer the phone. It's the WMCo service department. "Would I like my washing machine repaired?" At last! "Your name's on a list for tomorrow

morning." Yes, I'm quite looking forward to it. "Sorry madam. We don't do repairs on Tuesday mornings." No, they are not joking. We arrange that I will wait home on Wednesday.

Wednesday. Waited at home. Still waiting at midnight.

And on it went. Unsurprisingly, the manager of WMCo received a lengthy epistle. A brief volley of phone calls ensued, then lo! From yonder black hole a serviceman did materialise.

I never discovered the precise nature of WMCo's problem. Although nobody ever admitted that Warrandyte was a black-listed destination, I couldn't help wondering.

No such bafflement this year. Our excellent local plumber had the hot water service up and running in no time (or he would have, if we hadn't inadvertently buried the outlet pipe). Items saturated during the consequent flood dried out pretty well. The washing machine had its drive-belt replaced within 24 hours, and, barely a month after it first went dead, the phone now works perfectly. The prognosis for the car is favourable, the smell of snow is in the air, the sun is shining, and school holidays have arrived. Hurray for July!

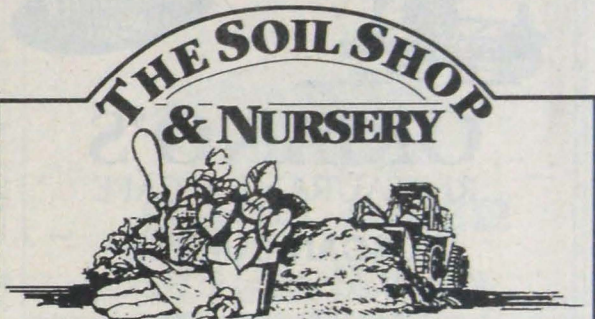
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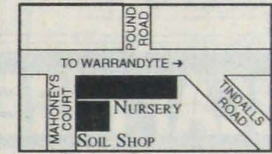
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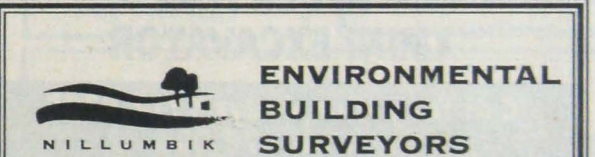


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River crossings

By RICHARD WARWICK

THE bridge across the Yarra is almost as much a part of every day life in Warrandyte as is the river that flows beneath it.

A bridge has existed since the early days of gold mining in the town.

During the 1850s, a punt crossed the river behind the old post office, carrying passengers and carts. In 1861, because of the volume of traffic, it was decided a bridge would be built at this location. It was constructed at a relatively low level, and in December 1863 was completely washed away in a flood.

On the basis of this experience, and the difficulties of access on the northern side, a new high level bridge was built at the current location in 1875. This bridge was constructed of timber, was one lane wide, and was at roughly the same height as the present bridge.

The decking consisted of timber planks which were originally laid parallel and then later changed to transverse, and the railing was also built of timber. It must be remembered that at this time none of the roads in Warrandyte were sealed with bitumen, so a timber decked bridge was quite common.

When the great flood of 1934 came, the new bridge was not high enough and the floodwaters went over the top. A contemporary photo shows only the handrails exposed above water. When you consider that the timber bridge was only a little lower than the current one, you can imagine how high these floods were.

In 1939 the Black Friday bushfires caused great destruction to the town of Warrandyte



Drawing by the late Harry Hudson

with more than 160 houses (probably mostly timber) destroyed. However, the timber bridge survived unscathed.

By the 1950s the timber bridge was showing its age and the cost of maintaining the structure was high. Also, as it was only one lane wide it failed to cater for increasing traffic volumes.

The Country Roads Board built the present bridge in 1955. It consists of steel beams and a concrete deck. During its construction there was an industrial accident when the large crane used as part of the work collapsed. There were no serious injuries, but work was delayed and the old timber bridge had to last a little longer.

In 1971 the Yarra River again flooded. However, dams upstream meant that the river was

better controlled and the water level did not rise to the deck of the new bridge.

Whilst the bridge in the middle of the town is known to everyone, a little known pedestrian bridge was located about 500 metres upstream of the Pound Bend tunnel outlet. Known as Pearsons Bridge, it provided access across the river from Pound Bend reserve to Glynn's Paddock on the north side. This bridge was washed away in the 1934 floods and never replaced.

(Based on research by the late Bruce Bence.)

● 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.

Fire displays at centres

Warrandyte Fire Brigade is extremely concerned with the increase in the number of house fires occurring in the area.

"We have witnessed a dramatic rise in the number of house fires over the past two years," brigade spokesman Jeff Adair told the *Diary*. "These fires represent property losses in excess of \$1 million. Fortunately there has been no loss of life, however at this rate our concern is that there is every likelihood that this will happen."

Causes of these fires have ranged from motor mowers in garages, television sets overheating, faulty electrical appliances, children playing with matches and chimney fires.

"With this number of fires occurring it is imperative that residents are fully aware of how to reduce the risks of fires starting as well as ensuring they have adequate early warning devices—smoke alarms," Mr Adair said.

From February 1, 1999 new legislation requires every Victorian household to have at least one working smoke alarm installed.

To assist residents to prepare for the introduction of this legislation the Warrandyte brigade, in conjunction with the Warrandyte IGA supermarket and The Pines Shopping Centre, is holding a series of exhibitions and fire safety awareness displays.

On July 16-18, at The Pines, a winter safety exhibition will be held providing information and

displays to residents and their families on recognising the risks of house fires.

On July 24-25, at the Warrandyte IGA supermarket, two days will be dedicated to the importance of having smoke alarms, smoke blankets and fire extinguishers installed in the home.

Warrandyte brigade captain Rob Kilkenny said that these items will be available for sale at each event and will do a lot to help residents prepare as they did over the summer period.

"Now that we are in the depths of winter, the message from the brigade is very much the same," Captain Kilkenny said. "Be aware of the risks and take adequate steps to protect yourself and your family from the risks of housefires."

"Statistically, residents are at greater risk of facing a house fire than a bushfire. People should be aware of the most likely causes of house fires and take the necessary precautions.

"Although 80 percent of homes already have smoke alarms installed there are still 20 percent that do not." Even fewer people have smoke blankets and fire extinguishers. "These items generally do not cost much and can make the difference in saving lives and losing property," Mr Kilkenny said.

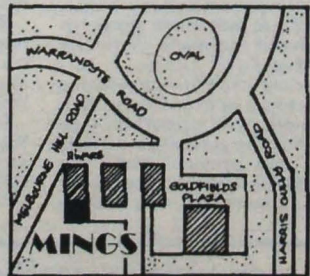
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Good neighbours

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is running a variety of classes during third term, including a level 2 workplace first aid course and relaxation sessions. Craft classes include folkart, wooden doll painting, decoupage, Russian punch embroidery and general crafts. Fitness and health classes include Walking Warrandyte, yoga and ADASS (Adult Day Activity Support Service). There will be cooking classes—Thai and Indian—and computer classes in Word, Desktop Publisher and the Internet. Enrolments close on Thursday, July 9. For information call 9844 1839. The Neighbourhood House also runs a men's health group, a sole parents' support group and their occasional child care centre.

Dance

The next South Warrandyte social dance will be held at the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road on Saturday, July 11. Cost is \$5 and the theme for the night will be footy. The August dance will be on Saturday, August 8.

Annual

The 1997-98 annual general meeting of Warrandyte Neighbourhood House Inc will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre, 168 Yarra Street, on Monday, August 10 at 7.30pm. A light supper will be provided. Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 5 on 9844 1839.

Probus

Warrandyte and Park Orchards Probus Club is now meeting at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club in Tarroona Avenue, Warrandyte on the second Monday of each month. For further information please call 9844 2434 or 9844 3638.

Information

Information Warrandyte invites you to attend their 1997-98 annual general meeting at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Saturday, August 29 at 2pm. Afternoon tea will be provided. Please RSVP by Saturday, August 22 on 9844 3082.



Andersons Creek Primary School student, Tom Reynolds, was awarded first prize by VicRoads for his road safety poster, featuring a message about mobile phones. Warrandyte policewoman Kim Dixon said the competition began after she visited the school for a road safety program and saw the artworks. "I thought the posters were outstanding, and arranged for VicRoads to come and see them," she said. VicRoads awarded honourable mentions to three other pupils, with nine runners-up.



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.

Winter

The Lions Club opportunity shop at the community centre urgently requires winter clothing to re-stock their shelves. Can you help?

Sculpture

An exhibition of work by metal sculptor Malcolm Laurence, winner of the 1996-97 Warrandyte Youth Arts Award, will be held at the Artist's Garden, 390 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, from Friday, July 3 (6-8pm) until Wednesday, August 5. Gallery hours are 9am to 5pm, seven days a week.

Disco

Silverwater will be performing at the Country and Western Blue Light Disco for adults only in the South Warrandyte Hall, Hall Road, on Saturday, July 18. BYO drinks and supper. Cost \$10. Further information from Jane Link (9844 2014), Keith Walker (9844 3231) or Andrew Wilson (9844 3085).

Seniors

The Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club will hold their 36th annual general meeting on Thursday, August 6 at 1pm at their clubrooms in Tarroona Avenue.

Cosi

Warrandyte Theatre Company are presenting two performances of Cosi, dedicated to the memory of Christie Lawrence. They will be at the Grand Hotel on Saturday, July 18 (7.30 for 8pm) and Sunday, July 19 (1.30 for 2pm). Tickets are \$13, including supper. Please book at the hotel—9844 3202—and collect tickets a week in advance. Proceeds from these performances will go to the Christie Lawrence-Luke Mayall Memorial Fund.

Artwork

Manningham Gallery will present The Artist As Teacher, featuring artwork by Joseph Zbukvic, Herman Pekel, Nikki Hassold, Lorraine Wigrift, Maree Holt and Merrill Corney—in ceramics, oils, pastels and watercolours—from July 11 to 26.

Paper

The next Manningham wastepaper collection in Warrandyte will be on Friday, July 10.

Tell us

The *Diary* is your newspaper and we love to print news of your group's activities. Jot down all the details, including date, time, venue and contact number and drop it through our letter slot at the community centre, fax it to 9844 4168 or by post to PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113. We close copy on the last Friday of each month.

Playgroup

Warrandyte Westend Playgroup meets behind the Uniting Church Hall in Tarroona Avenue. The groups cater for children from 0 to 5 years. Further information from Meredith Bubner on 9844 4533.

Inspirations

Local artist Denise Keele-Bedford extends an invitation to her first solo exhibition at the Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham. Inspiration for her works has been derived from religious cultures in various countries. The exhibition runs from July 14 to 26 and is sponsored by Nillumbik council.

Birthday

Congratulations to Hans Pecher, who celebrated his 90th birthday at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club on Thursday, June 11.

Festival

Warrandyte Festival Committee is holding their annual general meeting on Tuesday, July 21 at 8pm at the Warrandyte Community Centre. All ideas, large and small, will be very welcome.



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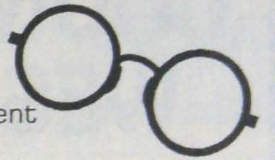
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Editorial and Ad copy
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Seniors' housing

By CLINTON GRYBAS
 Retirement housing in Warrandyte could consist of a series of smaller clusters if suitable flat land cannot be found for a larger village to house 30 to 40 units.

This is the opinion of one local, Trevor Parker, who like many of Warrandyte's senior residents does not want to leave town but may be forced to as he struggles to manage a sprawling property.

"Warrandyte is really beautiful. We don't want to be forced to leave and go to Croydon or Templestowe just because there is retirement housing there," he told the *Diary*.

"We feel it is about time that council looked at a series of smaller clusters, of three, four or five units each, if they are unable to find land for a village monstrosity of 30 to 40 units."

"Why couldn't they find flat land here and there that's suitable for smaller projects to be tucked away, out of the way, yet just a walk to the shops, bus, recreation reserve and the river."

"A lot of older people would love to have something like that."

He says the number of local seniors leaving Warrandyte has increased recently, with many of them resigned to the fact that Warrandyte has apparently turned its back on them.

"A lot of people think 'what's the use', that's for sure," Mr Parker said. "No one seems to care."

Mr Parker, who moved to Warrandyte in 1956 and has lived here ever since, says he has put his ideas in writing in a submission to council's Community Hostel and Associated Housing Project committee. The committee will meet to discuss the issue of retirement housing across the municipality once a large new hostel on

Manningham Road opens later this year.

Unfortunately this will come too late for many locals. Betty Lavender, a Warrandyte resident for 49 years, left the town she loves recently. "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," she wrote in a letter to the *Diary*.

"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."

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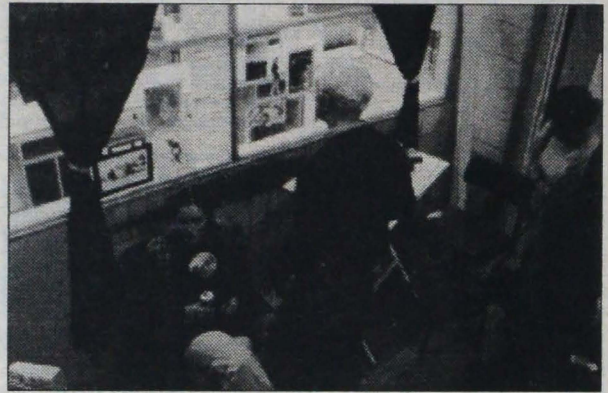
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School photo show

Warrandyte High School photography students exhibited their work recently in a display at the school. Students built installations which displayed their own interests and exhibited their photography. Parents and friends were able to visit the school and view the work. Photography teacher, Ms

Rebekah Stuart, organised the exhibition as a culmination to an excellent semester's work by the young photographers. Students taking photography as an elective are expected to learn how to use a camera to take excellent photographs, develop their film and finally print their own photographs.

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Bloods put the season on line!

By LEE TINDALE

If a week can be a long time in football, it can also be a fearfully fleeting thing.

In the space of a week, consecutive defeats—after seven wins on the trot—have Warrandyte in a perilous fifth spot on the EFL Third Division ladder and the Bloods will struggle to make the finals of a very tight competition.

It could come right down to the last home-and-away game on August 15, when Warrandyte are at home to fellow finalists aspirants Knox.

"Mathematically, it will be difficult for us to make the finals," Warrandyte Football Club president Jeff Evans told the *Diary* after a 13-point away loss to ladder leaders Upper Ferntree Gully on July 4.

"We cannot afford to drop another game," said coach Lex Munro.

Warrandyte's position has been compounded by the expansion of Third Division to 11 teams, which has introduced a curious system whereby some clubs have two byes during the season and others just one.

Warrandyte's second bye—which means no premiership points—falls in the penultimate home-and-away round, on August 8, so they will play only five of the six remaining rounds.

Some of the other teams (including Knox) fighting for a place in the finals will play six games. The permutations are many, but the August 8 bye puts the Bloods at a distinct disadvantage.

Warrandyte's seven-win streak, which put the club briefly in third spot, ended with a hiding from much-improved Wantirna South on June 27, an away game the Bloods had pencilled in as a win. The magnitude of the defeat—67 points—also dealt a severe blow to percentage.

It made the Upper Gully game a "must win" affair, but Warrandyte fell well short of producing four convincing quarters.

"We've proved we can run with any side," said Munro. "It's just a matter of doing it for four quarters."

"Today we played the equivalent of one good quarter—15 minutes in the second and 15 minutes in the last—and we could have stolen it."

Coach Munro reappointed

Warrandyte Football Club have broken with tradition by reappointing their senior coach before the end of the current season.

In what amounts to a total vote of confidence, the committee has unanimously appointed Lex Munro, who took over the reins late last year, for 1999.

"I don't know how long it's been since we've done this, but it will bring long-term stability to the club," president Jeff Evans told the *Diary*.

"Lex has the full respect and support of all the players."

"If the breaks go our way and we win the premiership it will put us in an excellent position for a return to Second Division. Either way, it will stand us in good stead for 1999."

"The stability Lex has provided will also help us in recruiting on and off-field personnel."

Munro said he was delighted to have been given another year at this early stage.

"When I took on the job I wanted to coach for a

couple of years," he said. "It gives us the stability which can only help our recruiting efforts."

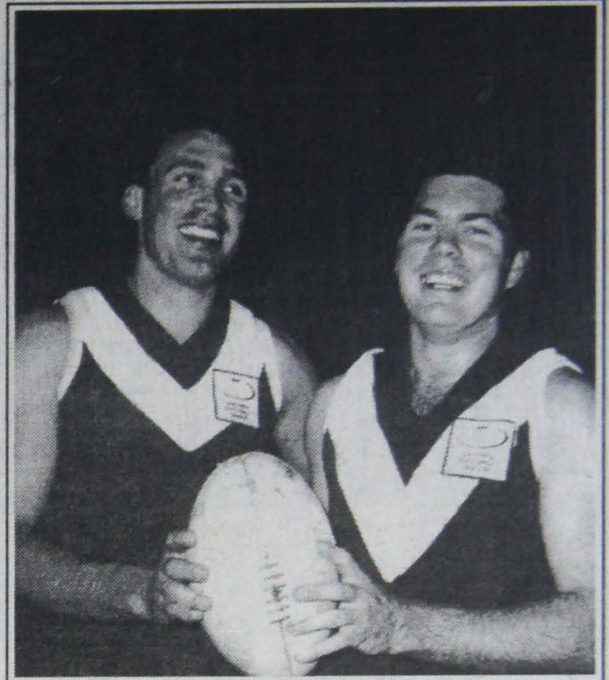
"I've already spoken with two or three players who said they'd be interested in joining us next year."

Meanwhile, the Bloods are now training on a fully floodlit Warrandyte Recreation Reserve. The new lights on the outer side of the ground were switched on late last month by 1983 premiership captain John Majoore.

They will allow training under match conditions and minimise wear and tear to the playing surface on the pavilion side.

● WFL will hold a special general meeting on Wednesday, July 15, starting at 7.30pm, to discuss changes to its constitution to facilitate its proposed involvement with the Grand Hotel in Club Warrandyte.

Socially, the next big event is a trots night at Moonee Valley on Saturday, July 18. James Logan is handling bookings.



Kimberly O'Connor (left) and Dale Vitiritti... 150 up.

It's 150 up for two of a kind!

Two of Warrandyte's favourite footballing sons — Kimberly O'Connor and Dale Vitiritti — play their 150th senior games on Saturday (July 11), a remarkable coincidence in remarkably parallel careers.

The nicknames "KC" and "Vitters" have been shouted from the Warrandyte terraces for a lot of years now. Great mates both on and off the field, they are an era in itself.

It is an era which started at Under-9 level and only a nit-picker would dare to say that these are not "born and bred" Warrandyte talents.

Wingman Vitiritti, now 27 and an accountant, came to town when he was four. O'Connor, 28 and a civil engineer, arrived when he was just 11 months old.

Vitiritti first wore the red and white as an Under-9 in 1977 but was lost to the local junior competition for three years when the family moved to Brisbane.

He returned as an Under-13 and rose through the ranks to make his senior debut in 1989.

While teammate O'Connor has won three club senior best and fairest awards, that prize has eluded Vitiritti, although he has been consistently among the top vote-getters and has finished in the first three five times. He was leading in one vote count to the point of the season at which he went overseas.

Like O'Connor, he rates the 1993 Third Division premiership as the stand-out highlight of his football career and he is enjoying being a part of the the

Bloods' improved performances this season after a very lean 1997 in Second Division.

"The club are looking good," he said. "We have a lot of young guys who haven't come here for the money and we're knitting together very well."

O'Connor debuted with Warrandyte as an Under-9 in 1979 and played Under-10s the same season. He made his first senior appearance in 1987, the year after he and Vitiritti had played side by side in the Under-16 premiership team.

He captained the 1993 senior premiership side and, despite consecutive defeats after a seven-game winning streak in a tight competition, believes the Bloods can make the finals and perhaps go all the way again in 1998. "We just have to play consistently," he said.

O'Connor likes to describe himself as a "goalkicking forward turned into a ruckman" and it is a tribute to his great heart and skills that he has consistently conceded height to opposition rucks and beaten them.

The 150-game milestones for Vitiritti and O'Connor, who as youngsters had both attracted the interest of former AFL club Fitzroy, will be recognised at Saturday's home game with a run-through banner in their honour and a big-screen video replay of the game in the clubrooms that night.

It is a very special day for two local role models and nothing would be sweeter for them than a win over Doncaster East.

SPORT

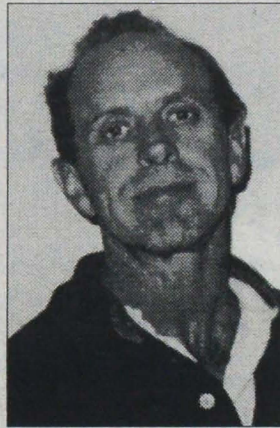
Warrandyte drew first blood in a game ruined as a spectacle by a strong crosswind after Christian Renfrey took a diving mark in the goal square, but it was to be our only score of the quarter, Upper Gully consistently in attack and the Bloods rarely able to cross the centreline.

A 3.2 to 1.0 quarter-time scoreline seemed scant reward for the home side's share of possession.

Munro demanded a play-in-front, attack-the ball, kick-it-long approach to the second term, but Warrandyte continued to make heavy weather of it up forward.

In contrast, Upper Gully whipped the ball up the corridor at seven minutes to increase their lead, but Liam Riley to John O'Brien for our second goal five minutes later, followed by a couple of near-misses, indicated that the initiative might be about to change hands.

It did, O'Brien answering an Upper Gully goal, Brad Valentine threading one through from the boundary into the teeth of the gale and Dale Vitiritti taking full advantage of a series of downfield penalties to close the gap to just five points at half-time.



Lex Munro

Upper Gully, however, came out firing after the interval, creating loose men up forward and making it look too easy too often. Six goals to one in this quarter was a fair indication of their superiority.

The Bloods' only response came from Valentine close to the siren, although an O'Brien snap seven minutes in that looked very much a goal had been adjudged a behind.

Munro called for a last quarter reminiscent of the second—only more so. It took a while to happen, Upper Gully extending their lead to 42 points after two minutes and responding almost

immediately to a soccered O'Brien goal five minutes in.

The rest of the game belonged to the Bloods. O'Brien again at 14 minutes, young Andrew Brown a minute later and Valentine again—and the deficit was 25 points.

Upper Gully steadied with one at 21 minutes, but when O'Brien kicked his fifth, Eddie Marin his first and Valentine his fourth, the home crowd, cock-a-hoop earlier in the quarter, were suddenly asking questions of the timekeepers.

They liked what they heard. The end of the ball game was nigh. Final score: Upper Ferntree Gully 14.15 (99), Warrandyte 13.8 (86).

The Bloods' goalkickers were O'Brien (5), Valentine (4), Renfrey, Brown, Marin and Vitiritti. Their best were Kimberly O'Connor, Tony King, Willie Bell, O'Brien and Valentine.

The reserves were embarrassed, Billy Hose kicking their lone goal in a 120-point thrashing, 19.16 (130) to 1.4 (10). Their best were Adrian Evans, Chris Tomlinson, Craig Evans, James Logan and Adam Borwick.

The Under-18s had set an unfulfilled example by beating Ferntree Gully (as distinct from Upper) 9.10 (64) to 3.9 (27). Glen Carle and Liam Mulcahy the best of the very team-committed young bunch.

Hitmen hit the spot again

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Two perennial winners and one first-timer took the honours in local basketball's senior grand finals on June 24.

In the men's open section the Hitmen won back-to-back Greyburn Cups while in the over-30s the Ballistyx saluted for the first time.

The PP Champs won the women's Grand Hotel Cup for the sixth time in the competition's nine seasons.

The Hitmen got their act together just in time to add another chapter to their storied past, beating Kramers Crew 70-37. While the margin was a grand final record the scores were 24-all at half-time before the Hitmen unleashed a withering 46-13 second stanza.

The Crew were undermanned with Craig Dick and Simon Arsenis absent—they were on school camp at Kakadu. Both had played a role in getting the Crew into the final, after a one-point preliminary final win over the Gotham City All-Stars when Callum Anderson nailed a three-pointer on the siren.

In the final, Jarrod Dick (20 points) gave them the impetus in the first half, although he was aided by some undisciplined

behaviour from the Hitmen who gave up a series of unsportsmanlike fouls as they became their own worst enemies.

But the half-time break provided the Hitmen with a chance to refocus, Drew Tice scoring 19 points with Jon Moore and Robert Johnston adding 16 each to seal a 33-point win.

The over-30 section saw the Ballistyx beat last year's champs the River Rats 27-19 to record their first Cup success. Little could split the sides in the first half as John Kenner (11) played a lone hand offensively to give the Ballistyx an 11-8 half-time lead.

The River Rats, led by Horrie Aldenhoven (7) and Max Summers (4), put their noses in front 13-11 and with 10 minutes to play the season finale was proving to be a fitting showcase.

But David Termorshuizen (8) helped spark an 8-0 Ballistyx run before Mark Bensch responded to bring the Rats back within two with a couple of minutes left.

Eventually the Ballistyx steadied to win by eight and prompt a major celebration.

The PP Champs have long dominated the Grand Hotel Cup and their 28-12 win over the Sneakers ensured back-to-back titles and a sixth Cup.

After a slogging opening nine minutes yielded just a basket each, Cathy Lynch (12) potted a couple of important hoops to give the Champs a 10-4 half-time lead.

The first three minutes of the second half decided the issue, Amanda McLellan (10) and Lynch both rolling home three-pointers to make it 16-4.

While the large crowd (200 turned out across the cold evening) hoped for a comeback, the Sneakers could get no closer and lost by 16.

Meanwhile, the competition's stars were honoured at an awards dinner on July 1 with the announcement of the Most Valuable Players.

In the mens open section Jez Bader from the Gotham City All-Stars polled 21 votes to edge out Jarrod Dick and David Thwaites (17 each).

In the over-30s, the Rangers' Aldo Sinni (23) beat Warrandyte's Graham Pollock (22) while Terri Slabon (21) from the Warrans won her first MVP award, out-polling Suzie Edwards (20).

The new season starts on July 15. For entry details contact Jo Morison on 014 949 117 or Naomi Grosdanis on 9268 3263.

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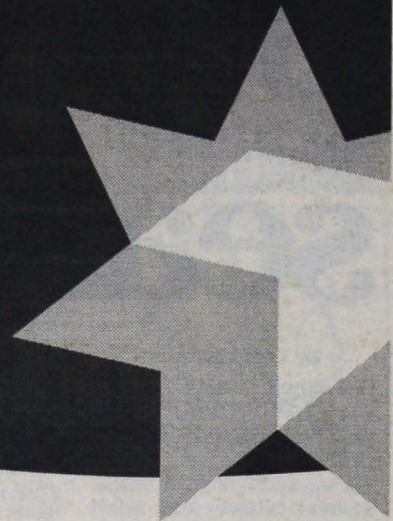
RESERVATIONS — 9712 0266

Pitmans Corner, Eltham/Yarra Glen Rd, Kangaroo Ground



The Professionals

Wilson McDougall



SOLD

IT'S YOUR CHOICE

We believe every home for sale should have one of these.



2 acres with creek

\$129,000



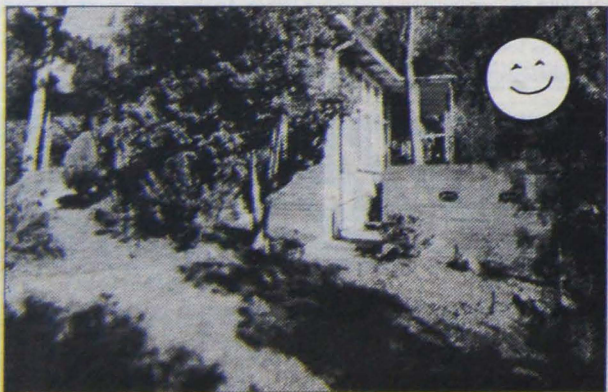
3 bedrooms, huge garage

\$188,000



2 1/2 acres, river frontage

\$199,000



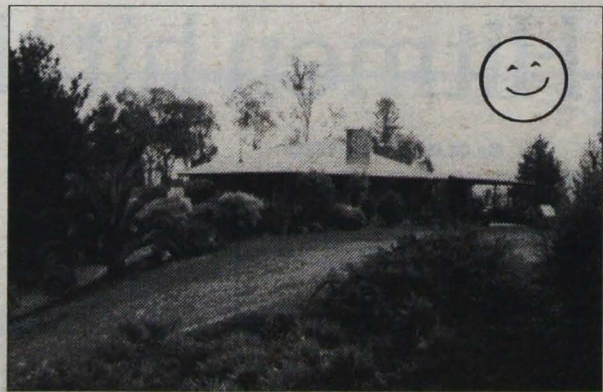
3 bedrooms close to village

\$178,000



Robin Boyd classic

\$189,000



Large homestead, 13 acres

AUCTION \$400,000+



Andrew Wilson
Managing Director



Peter McDougall
Sworn Valuer



Russell McInnes
Sales Consultant



Catherine Selby
Sales Consultant



Vicki Gardiner
Sales Consultant



Leanne Highmore
Office Manager



Meaghan Butcher
Property Manager



Mandy George
Receptionist

9844 3085

183 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

Together we'll make it happen