

# Call for 'watchdog'

## Roundabout row mobilises locals

By CLIFF GREEN

A new resident action group is being formed to protect "the unique Warrandyte environment and character".

Community action that stalled the destruction of significant trees adjacent to the proposed roundabout (see story this page) has inspired a group of younger local residents to establish an environmental "watchdog" body within the Warrandyte community.

Following their involvement in this campaign and prompted by the winding-down of the Warrandyte Environment League, the new group hopes to work to "maintain and protect the Warrandyte environment and character".

As reported in the *Diary* last month, WEL decided it had "come to the end of its cycle" after 27 years of working to protect the local environment.

Leonie Ulbrich, a spokesperson for the new group, told the *Diary*: "We're looking for widespread local support. We believe there is an ongoing need for an organisation to co-ordinate community action in protecting the unique Warrandyte environment and character."

"We became alarmed when we discovered that significant trees were to be removed for the proposed roundabout. This led us to consider wider environmental and planning issues facing Warrandyte."

The group believes that the maintenance of the ban on dual occupancy in the township and the stopping of subdivision in the Green Wedge are the two major campaigns still facing this community. "Warrandyte enjoys a good record of holding the line on such developments," Leonie Ulbrich said. "We aim to carry on this good work."

"As well as helping to mobilise community action around such large, ongoing issues, we hope to be able to assume a 'watchdog' role on such day-to-day environmental concerns as the trees at the roundabout."

The group was impressed by the "spontaneous reaction" that resulted in the abandonment by Manningham council of the proposed new service station, 24-hour convenience store and carwash facility planned for the Riverview Mo-

tors site in Yarra Street.

"This showed how effective community action can be," said Peter Curry, another group member. "This was Warrandyte at its best."

Following this tradition of strong community involvement in local issues, the new group proposes "to focus this energy, so that when necessary we can mobilise the numbers and make the difference".

The group appreciates the work of a number of other community bodies, such as the Friends of Warrandyte State Park.

"The hands-on approach of the Friends is much appreciated in the area," Leonie Ulbrich said. "But issues outside the park cannot be addressed by them. This is where we plan to come in."

They also acknowledge the work of the Anti-Ring Road Organisation and the Community Fireguard groups, but see the new body as complementary to these.

CLYDE & OCKER

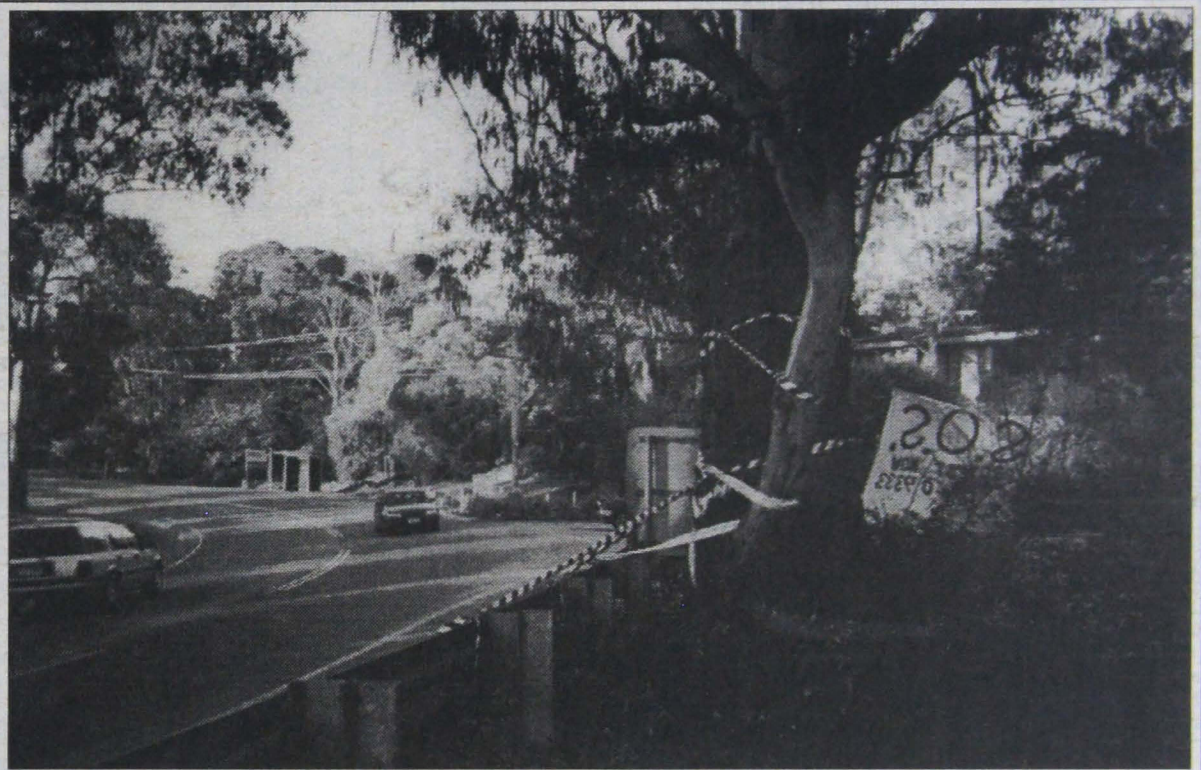


"The possums ought to start their own environmental action group, Ock!"

The proposed group is currently confirming a structure, finding a name and designing a logo. Most importantly, they are seeking members.

"We invite everyone in Warrandyte to join," Peter Curry said.

Peter is available on 9844 0958 or Louise Baker can be contacted by email: BakersVic@bigpond.com.au



Spontaneous combustion: residents stalled the removal of these significant trees last month. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

## Trees: 'stay of execution'

By DAVID WYMAN

Following strong protest from Warrandyte residents, Manningham council is having a "hard look" at the options available to make the Harris Gully and Warrandyte Roads intersection safer.

This follows the postponement of a \$400,000 roundabout for the intersection. The planned removal of significant trees angered many residents and environmentalists.

A meeting of the reference panel set up to review the roundabout project and a number of concerned residents was held on August 5. According to council's director of city development, Lyndon Webb, council "took note of their concerns and agreed to have a hard look at the options available and see how we may be able to adjust the project".

"It was clear that the residents were looking to save the large habitat tree and we outlined the difficulty in do-

ing that and the fact that our arborist considers the tree to be not very healthy," Mr Webb told the *Diary*.

"We acknowledge to the residents that our consultation process on the roundabout was not as good as it might have been. But I don't think we'll have too many more meetings. We've got a contractor on hold waiting to do the work."

"Council is anxious that we have a good construction process and that we deal with everyone's concerns," Lyndon Webb said. "I don't think we are going to put the project on the never-never—but I guess that's an option. I'm sure there are other parts of the municipality that would like to have those funds."

"We have an intersection where we are told people run off the road with great regularity and we feel there should be something done."

But one of the main objectors to the proposed roundabout, Peter Curry, of Blair Street,

said that roundabouts and traffic lights were "out of character for Warrandyte".

"I certainly would not like to see more of them. The mayor has even suggested that traffic lights could be installed at the intersection—well, that would be worse than a roundabout," he said. "I don't think the trees should suffer because of people's careless driving."

Peter Curry said the two bus stops near the intersection were positioned poorly and should be eliminated or moved further away to improve safety.

In a joint letter to the mayor and councillors, Peter Curry and Lynette Avenue residents, Leonie Ulbrich and Murray Baker, refer to the Warrandyte Road corner as "one of the most picturesque and lovely bends in the road. It is an unofficial and natural entrance into the town of Warrandyte," they said.

"While we realise that the corner may be considered by some as a dangerous site, we

believe there are preferable and possibly cheaper alternatives than the construction of a roundabout."

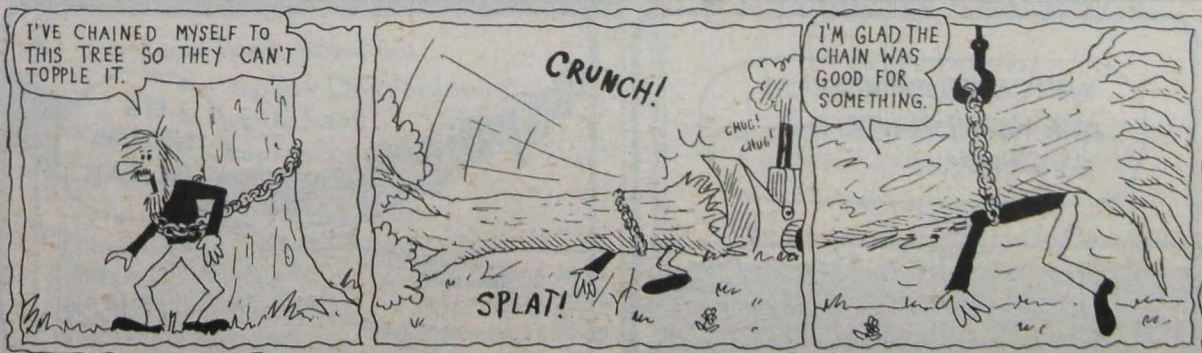
The group suggested that a non-slip road surface, a better camber on the road, multiple speed control bumps (ripple strips), better and wider turning lanes, "slow down" signs, a 30kph limit on the corner and reflective "cats eyes" at the intersection would reduce speed and danger, and preserve trees and wildlife.

Cr Patricia Young said in a fax to concerned residents that "accidents happen every weekend there" (the intersection). She said she did not want "someone's life being lost because of my lack of action".

"We have worked very hard over a long period to try and get this intersection right, and at last the engineers have designed the best possible traffic movement with the least amount of loss of vegetation," Cr Young said.

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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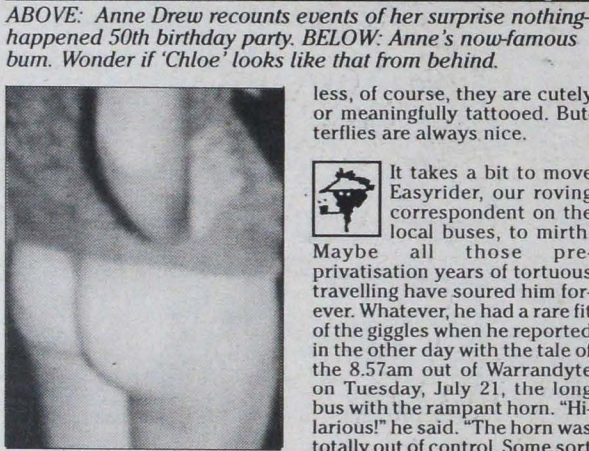
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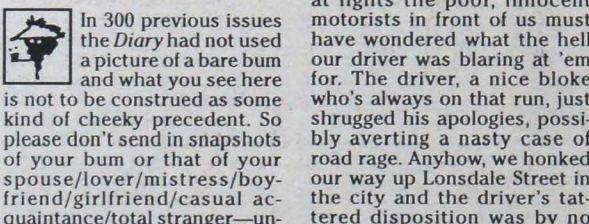
# You can run from Smokey, Anne, but you can't hide!

Asked to nominate his favourite lady in this town (spouse excluded for obvious reasons, including continuing life), Smokey would likely say Anne Drew. Anne's a bit of an angel whose contributions to Warrandyte are largely unknown to the community at large despite a nature to which the word "outgoing" does scant justice. She's a mate of ours, so it hurt us quite deeply at the local footy—where she spends inestimable time as committee-person, statistician and cook—a few weeks back when she did a Maxwell Smart and brought down the Cone of Silence as we approached her at the bar at half-time. *Shush!* she said to Bucky Rodgers, with whom she was in conversation. *Shush! We don't want him to know! Know what? Nothing. Nothing? Nothing! And anyway it's too late for you because it happened on June 30 so it's old news. What is? Nothing well actually my 50th birthday the Big Five-0 and nothing happened except they got me down here under false pretences by telling me there was a Man O Man night on you know where the girls embarrass the fellas and I didn't really want to go but I went anyway and I didn't even have a shower or clean my teeth and when I walked in there were about 120 people singing Happy Birthday and gee was I embarrassed but not half as embarrassed as I was going to be and why am I telling you all this but it doesn't matter because you'll have forgotten all about it before the next Diary. Yes, we said, the memory is fallible but the notes we've been taking here at a thousand miles an hour are less so. Oh no! Not the notebook! We pause here for breath. Anne's.*

Anyway, my kids, Sarah and Matthew, had arranged the surprise party in collaboration with Bucky and they did a *This Is Your Life* thing on me and produced this poster-size blow-up of a photo of my bum taken 14 years ago when I was skinny-dipping in our pool with a few very old and very close friends on a stinking hot day and if you think I was embarrassed before imagine how I felt now and I got home at some ungodly hour and if you want to use the picture of my bum in the Diary you might as well because just about the whole of the football club has seen it by now and Sarah was appalled when she saw it 14



ABOVE: Anne Drew recounts events of her surprise nothing-happened 50th birthday party. BELOW: Anne's now-famous bum. Wonder if 'Chloe' looks like that from behind.



means enhanced by the smartarse bloke who said, as he got off in Queen Street: 'Whaddya keep tooting your horn for? Didya just get it for your birthday?'. Man's inhumanity to man, mate. Hilarious! Thank you, Easyrider, but we worry about the direction your sense of humour is taking.

Joan MacMahon, keeper of the gardens at the community centre, has this bonser idea. Because the gardens are out back of the centre, not a lot of folk get to see the native plants she so lovingly tends. Out of sight, out of mind. "Wouldn't it be nice," she said, "if Smokey were to run a little piece each month telling people what natives are currently blooming there? For example, right now we have a mature gold-dust wattle (*Acacia acinacea*), whose weeping habit, delicate leaves and profusion of blossoms really grab your attention. You'll find it growing on many of Warrandyte's sunny hillsides and you'll see it en masse in the firebreak which runs beside Pound Bend Road." We're sold, Joan. Welcome to Page 2 permanency.

Former long-time Warrandyte footy club president Lawrie Sloan is already looking for new recruits for next year's flock of Bloodstained Angels, a crew he assembled this season to help the committee out at home games. And he has gone about it with a poetic touch we never suspected he possessed. "Be an Angel," he says in a notice in the clubrooms bar. "Heaven awaits you." So if you'd like to lend a hand next season, give Lawrie a call on 9876 4203. Harps will be provided.

And the heartiest of happy 70th birthdays to Jack Barr, our very favourite Irishman (with apologies to Irish Les, the car salesman of Yarra Street). A wicked rumour swept this village that Jack had actually celebrated the occasion, on August 7, with a pot of beer. But that couldn't be right, could it?



## OVER THE HILLS

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Jack.

By JOCK MACNEISH

# Pub needs club to bring back pokie profits

By CLINTON GRYPAS

The management of the Grand Hotel claims that the need to secure the long-term financial viability of the hotel was behind the creation of Club Warrandyte—a new social venue which is expected to open early next year.

As revealed in the June *Diary*, Club Warrandyte is a joint venture between the Grand Hotel and Warrandyte Football Club and will see poker machines return to the hotel.

The club will incorporate most of the hotel's existing facilities—such as the gaming lounge and function room—and will include a members' bar. The bottle shop and public bar will remain as part of the Grand Hotel.

Hotel partner Stephen Beaumont told the *Diary* he is delighted with the arrangement.

"I think the pub has improved over the years and what this venture does is enable the place to continue financially.

"What drove it, and it's no secret, is that Tattersalls took our machines out when our contract expired. We took the view that to make everything viable and for the place to continue with some sort of strength we needed them back.

"Gaming machines are a fact of life and apart from the financial considerations, people were voting with their feet. Since we haven't had them we are certainly quieter than we were before."

The hotel has received a planning permit from Manningham council to proceed with the change to a club. The next step is the signing of a formal lease agreement between the hotel and the football club. A liquor license and gaming license will then be sought.

"The lease agreement is where we will lease a substantial part of the premises to the football club," Mr Beaumont said.

"By law they are required to have a food area, members' bar and function facilities. Unless they have those basic facilities they won't get a liquor license.

"They don't have the expertise in running the place so they will hire us under a management contract to manage the place on their behalf. But ultimately, by law, they are responsible for what happens."

This means there will be no change for the 40 full and part-time employees who work at the hotel—the majority of whom are locals.

"What's in it for us is that they will pay us rent and a management fee. What's in it for them is that there will be income there that they have never had."

Mr Beaumont said the return of the gaming machines was imperative to the plan's success.

"It is our experience that, particularly in the suburbs, if you are a hotel without the gaming machines you are going to struggle to compete. This was a way in which we could get the machines back and some good comes out of it—the local football club gets income. I don't think they should have to struggle again."

He said the hotel considered going into partnership with all local sporting clubs but this proved too difficult.

"The answer came back to legal reasons. For us to have a joint club with them all would have required new rules, regulations and constitutions."

"The advice from our lawyers was that for that to be approved by the liquor commission and then the gaming commission would be a very difficult process. It could take years. So the obvious choice was to go with the biggest club in town and that is the football club."

Mr Beaumont is keen to dispel any fears that non-football club members can't go to the club.

"We hope there will be no change for the public. By law, if you want to enter the section of the pub that will be the



Our Grand Hotel, soon to be reincarnated as Club Warrandyte.

club you have to be a member or a visitor.

"If you live within the Warrandyte area, a five or so kilometre radius, you would really have to sign up as a member—either \$5 or \$10 a year. It's not meant to be a revenue raiser—it's the law.

"If you live outside the radius you can

sign in as a visitor, so we're hoping nothing will change—the management is still the same."

Club Warrandyte follows a precedent set by other football clubs taking control of social venues. Warrandyte Football Club is committing to a long-term lease of four five-year options.

Mr Beaumont says despite the part-

nership the hotel will not ignore other sporting clubs in the district, continuing to provide sponsorship.

"We've done that through the hotel over the years and we will continue to do that through the part of the pub that is left. And I'm sure the football club would feel some sort of obligation to look after the other sporting clubs."

## Local council is caught in the act

A new Australian play, telling a story highly topical in our area at the moment, is being presented by the Warrandyte Theatre Company, opening this month.

**Competitive Tenderness**, by Melbourne playwright Hannie Rayson, is set in the council offices of the city of Greater Burke, a council struggling to survive in a time of unprecedented conflict and upheaval. The new compulsory competitive tendering process, boundary re-structuring, financial pressures and community ethnic tensions all play their part in the complexities of modern council administration.

The mayor and councillors, while listening to the demands of their local electorate, must also find ways to work with the new chief executive officer, who has been appointed to sweep her modern management broom through the dusty corridors of traditional council practices.

Hannie Rayson's hilarious, carefully observed comedy, explores this 'new world' order of tendering and traffic fines, finding much to laugh at, and some unexpected, tender liaisons along the way.

Warrandyte Theatre Company is staging the first production of **Competitive Tenderness** since its professional premiere season at the Playbox 18 months ago.

It can be seen at the Warrandyte Mechanics Hall, Yarra Street, Warrandyte, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, August 13, 14 and 15; and 20, 21, 22, starting at 8pm. For individual and group bookings, phone Laurie Shaw on 9844 1376.



Raine Dinale (left), Sue Dyring and Alan Cornell star in *Competitive Tenderness*.

## MP appearing before panel

By CLIFF GREEN

Local MP Phil Honeywood is taking the unusual step of making a formal submission to the panel hearing on Manningham council's Green Wedge and dual occupancy special zones, to be held on September 7.

As previously reported in the *Diary*, this will be Warrandyte's last chance to argue its case against closer residential development.

The panel is the result of a state-wide review of all planning schemes by Mr Rob Maclellan, Minister for Planning.

Mr Honeywood says he will be providing strong support for Manningham's arguments "in favour of retaining the two special zones".

It is believed Mr Honeywood will point out that the majority of Warrandyte and Park Orchards residents are opposed to any change in the character and residential density of their

area. They live without an extensive public transport network and many other community amenities because they choose to retain the special environment of the area.

Mr Honeywood will argue that the Green Wedge provides a buffer zone between Warrandyte State Park and denser urban areas. He disputes the claim by some larger landowners that they should not have to provide this "bushland ambience" for those who live in the townships, pointing out that these township residents have willingly foregone potential financial gain through closer subdivision of their blocks by consistently opposing dual occupancy and unit development.

He has indicated that he will explain to the panel that closer residential development in the area is undesirable because it will place greater strain on the existing road network, limited



Phil Honeywood: "There comes a time when you have to take a stand."

town sewerage and other infrastructure.

It is believed that Minister Maclellan is not opposed to the local MP appearing before the panel.

"There comes a time when you have to take a stand as an elected parliamentarian on matters of principle, Phil Honeywood told the *Diary*. "As far as the Warrandyte and Park Orchards communities are concerned, our current lifestyle in a wonderful bushland setting is not only a matter of principle, but something worth standing up and being counted for."

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# Scoresby Freeway poses threat to Green Wedge

The recently released environment effects statement for the Scoresby Freeway has revealed the proposal as a loaded gun pointed at the Eltham-Warrandyte Green Wedge. More disturbing is the evidence that the state government already has its finger on the trigger. At the start of construction of the final section of the western ring road last September, the minister for roads and ports, Geoff Craig, said that the Eastern Freeway needed to be extended to Ringwood before the north-eastern section of the ring road could be considered.

Mr Craig wasn't simply identifying funding priorities. The extension will include the construction of a three-way interchange which will form, effectively, the first stage of the eastern ring road. The state government intends to proceed with the extension through Mullum Mullum Creek on the basis of an environment effects statement, prepared more than 10 years ago, which failed to consider the impacts of construction on the exceptional biological diversity of the creek valley. If the state government proceeds with the proposal, this vital habitat corridor for

koalas, platypus and kangaroos will become the point of convergence for the Eastern and Scoresby Freeways and an as yet undefined road link across the Yarra Valley. I suspect that the Green Wedge community won't be sitting back to wait for the bulldozers to arrive. But if this unique part of Melbourne is to be preserved, it is in the peaceful bushland of the Mullum Mullum Creek Valley that the line in the sand must be drawn. Iain Murray President Koonung Mullum Forestway Association

## DEAR DIARY

### Help in time of trouble

The Warrandyte bush telegraph helped us so much after Stewart died suddenly. I want to thank everyone who gave us sustenance of soup, bread, quiche, frittata, strudel, pies and cake in those first few days when we were too numb to think of food. A gift of wood has kept us going for long talks by the fire, remembering Stewart. I'm sure he would want to thank you, too, for your care. How wonderful to live in Warrandyte.

Louise Joy Brackenbury Street

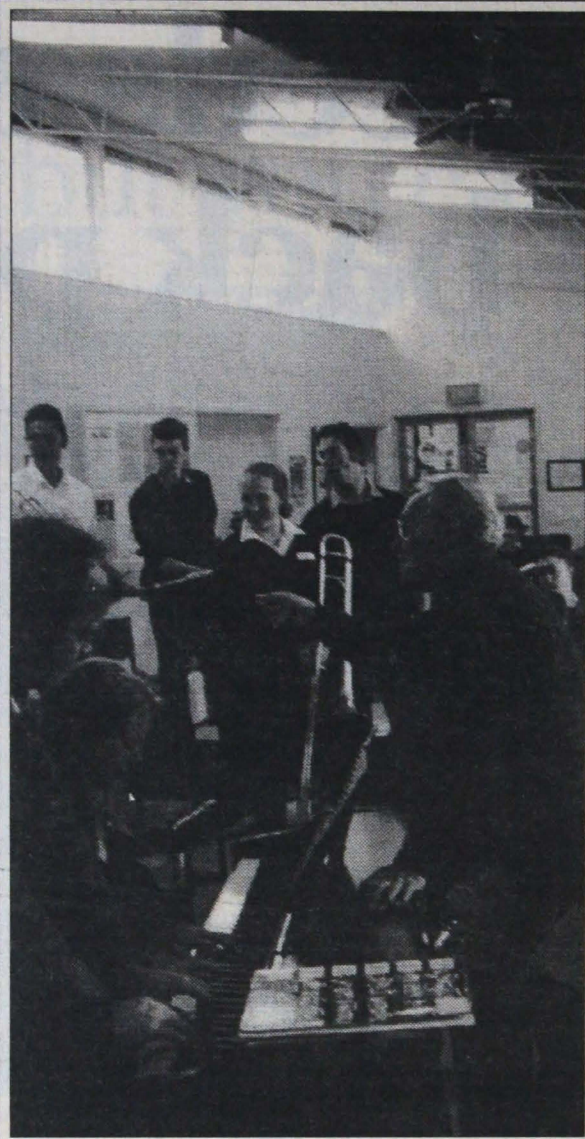
## Freeway = roundabout

There is a great concern about the damage being done to the environment by the proposed "development" at the intersection of Yarra Street and Harris Gully Road. It must also be taken into consideration the need for such a project in the first place. Mayor Goonan states "there is no question that traffic improvements such as a roundabout are needed at this intersection." The fact is that these improvements are needed because of the ever increasing volume of traffic that is using Warrandyte to reach other destinations. These volumes have been boosted by the extension of the Eastern Freeway to Springvale Road, and are bound

to increase as this freeway is extended to Ringwood and beyond. The further consultations with the community should include positive methods of reducing the traffic demands on Warrandyte so as to preserve the natural and social environment of Warrandyte so that residents and visitors alike can all enjoy the unique atmosphere of Warrandyte into the foreseeable future. Neal Tessier Second Street

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.

## Kids dig jazz legend



Warrandyte High School Big Band members were very fortunate to be invited to do a workshop with legendary musician Don Burrows last month. The day was organised by the Dandenong Ranges Music Council, who were able to entice Don Burrows, one of Australia's most respected musicians, and Kevin Hunt, a keyboard player from Don's band, to conduct four days of workshops with 150 students. Warrandyte High School Big Band was invited to join eight other bands in the workshops. The students spent all day on the Wednesday working with Don Burrows and Kevin Hunt where they learnt a great deal about music and performing. The weekend workshops involved skills for jazz bands and improvisation. All students worked hard and gained the confidence needed for performing. The day concluded with a concert. Warrandyte High performed with bands from Upwey High, Monbulk College and Ivanhoe Girls Grammar. Don Burrows and Kevin Hunt also performed, both as soloists and with the students. Don Burrows tutors students at music workshop.



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# Ring road: a threat to our lifestyle

By FIA CLENDINNEN

VicRoads' grand plan to build a ring road round the heart of Melbourne moved a stage closer last month, with the release of the Scoresby Environmental Effects Statement. The EES, a study commissioned by VicRoads, has recommended that an \$800 million freeway be built from Frankston to Ringwood.

The proposed freeway, 38 kilometres in length, would almost complete the whole sweep of the ring road. Many local residents are concerned that Warrandyte could be the site for the last piece of the six-lane freeway, connecting the

two ends at Greensborough and Ringwood.

Anti Ring Road Organisation (ARRO) spokesperson, Jeremy Loftus-Hills, told the *Diary* if the link from Ringwood to Frankston goes ahead, the eventual completion of the ring road was inevitable.

"Once the Scoresby freeway is built you can start putting up your 'For Sale' sign in Warrandyte," he said. "Warrandyte is just going to become like everywhere else. Ringwood will creep over from that side, and Thomastown will creep over from the over side."

The Scoresby EES has come under widespread criticism for

failing to consider the consequences completion of the ring road will have on the whole of Melbourne.

Mr Loftus-Hills described this deficiency as "shocking".

"One of the problems with the Scoresby EES is that Warrandyte isn't even considered," he said. "They've developed an EES for our neighbouring region which doesn't consider the impact on our region, which is really a crime against us. Against Warrandyte and against the Green Wedge."

Nicholas Low, associate professor with the faculty of planning at Melbourne University,



Will Corey, his friends and relations survive a ring road through the Green Wedge?



## Waiting for the last bus home

Everyone who lives in Warrandyte knows exactly how bad the local public transport services are. Most of us accept this as a small price to pay for living in such a beautiful and unspoilt area. But does it really have to be that bad?

Where I live the bus runs every two hours during the day and not at all on weekends. The bus arrives at Eltham station at seemingly random times, so you never know quite how long you'll have to wait for a train.

The Scoresby EES considered four "integrated landuse and transport strategies" for the link between Ringwood and Frankston. However public transport was not considered as an option.

Dr Paul Mees, president of the Public Transport Users Association (PTUA) is convinced that "environmentally friendly" public transport could solve the transport problems of Melbourne's eastern suburbs, including Warrandyte, at a fraction of the cost of the ring road freeway.

Dr Mees told the *Diary*, "people in Warrandyte I'm sure don't need any explanation of just how much room there is for improvement. Down to matters as simple as a reasonably direct bus service linking Ringwood and Warrandyte and Eltham. And if it connected with the train service and the train service was decent, and the fares weren't too high, that wouldn't be bad either!"

Dr Mees has long advocated the construction of the rail line to East Doncaster, along the median strip of the Eastern Freeway.

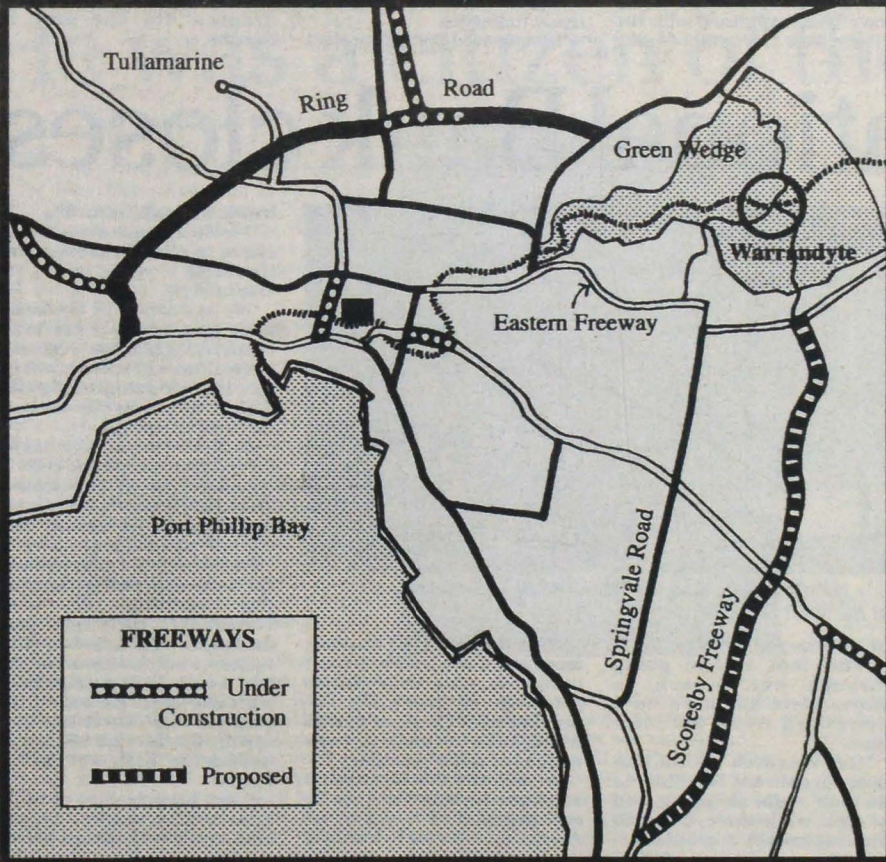
He said, "obviously if there was (a new rail line) you could put on a very high quality feeder bus service to connect Warrandyte up to it."

But a rail line to Warrandyte would be a mistake, from both an environmental and economic point of view, Dr Mees believes.

"You couldn't economically justify building a rail line all the way to Warrandyte, unless the area was filled in with suburbia and we don't want that because it's the Green Wedge."

FIA CLENDINNEN

### Warrandyte—the missing link



and a local resident, also warned the community of the dangers the proposed Scoresby freeway posed to Warrandyte.

"It's a colossal concern," he said, "It puts Warrandyte and some of the most valuable landscapes around Melbourne at risk. It makes the Green Wedge into the location for a missing link."

Mr Low attacked the Scoresby EES, describing its failure to analyse the Ringwood to Frankston link within "the wider implications" of a ring road as "appalling".

But MLA for Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood, defended the government's EES process.

"Warrandyte isn't mentioned because it doesn't need to be," he said. "There's all this shadow-boxing that constantly goes on this issue, and I appreciate the public's right to know. But at the end of the day this has absolutely nothing to do with Warrandyte. It's a project that should be seen in total, separate, isolation from anything else in our area."

Mr Honeywood said the community concern was unfounded.

"People in Warrandyte have been stirred up unnecessarily by people who seem to want to stir them up," he said. "I mean we can be worried about any number of things. We can worry about a comet hitting the earth."

Mr Honeywood pointed out that his opposition to Warrandyte being the route for the "missing link" section of the ring road was well known. "As a local member who wants to represent my constituents' interests," he said, "I will continue to ask that Warrandyte is a special environment and should not be subjected to any further road intrusion."

Earlier this year all five councillors at Nillumbik shire voted against the ring road, in a move that was applauded by ARRO. Shire president Robert Marshall

said that Nillumbik would continue to lobby against the ring road because in his opinion, "you can't have a Green Wedge and a ring road".

Mayor of Manningham Irene Goonan has stated that "council is not able to adopt any position in relation to a ring road on information presently available". The council has consistently supported construction of the Scoresby freeway.

ARRO spokesperson Jeremy Loftus Hills said he thought Manningham's position was disappointingly short-sighted.

"You are creating a ring road by stealth if you build this corridor from Ringwood to Frankston," he said. "Nillumbik is smart enough to realise that and take a position that represents the interests of the ratepayers. But it's unfortunate that Manningham hasn't thought it through to that extent. They are kidding themselves and kidding their ratepayers."

All councils along the route of the proposed Scoresby freeway support its construction but there is also some community opposition. A petition of 3000 signatures, calling for an alternative package of public transport improvements, was recently delivered to Knox City Council.

A similar petition is still circulating within the area.

Mick van de Vreede, president of the Knox Environment Society, said the local feeling was pro-public transport rather than anti-freeway.

"There are obviously people who think the freeway is of no benefit to them, and they've stated that at a lot of public meetings," he said. "They believe that the rail link from Glen Waverley to Rowville is the only way to address their transport woes."

Patricia Young, Mullum Mullum ward representative on Manningham council, was unavailable for comment.

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# Basketball stadium plans ready

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Plans for Warrandyte's new \$900,000 basketball stadium have gone on display with the venue scheduled to open in April next year.

Work on the stadium, to be built in a disused corner of Andersons Creek Primary School grounds near Goldfields Plaza, is set to begin in October. Warrandyte Basketball Club president Bruce Macdonald says that great care was taken with the drawing of the plans. "The design is extremely sympathetic to the environment, which was always one of the main things for everyone to consider.

"It includes large oval windows while the outside colouring will reflect the manna gums below."

He said the club was very happy with the final design.

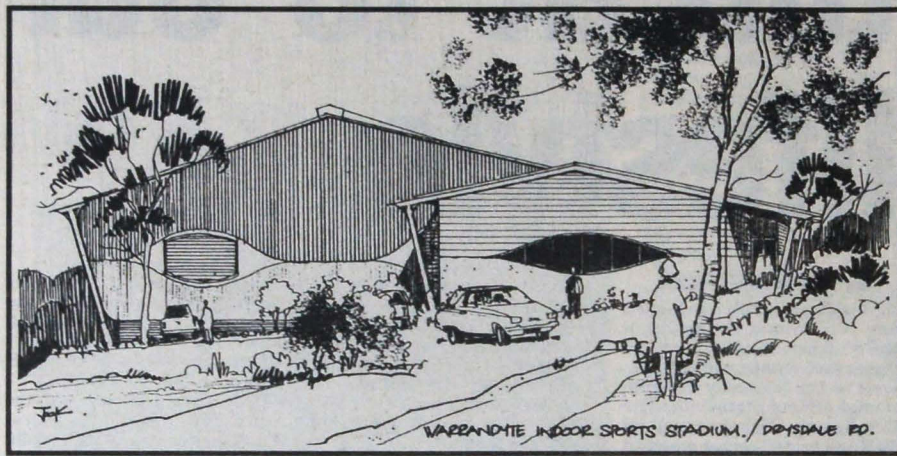
"It's a very exciting plan. It's fantastic that they have been able to fit in everything that both our club and the primary school wanted in a finite amount of space.

"The whole process has been one of consultation. They have taken on board ours and the school's comments and it has been a very smooth process."

Incorporated into the stadium will be a meeting room, office, kiosk, storerooms, property shop, foyer and toilets and change rooms. Spectator seating and off-street parking are also included.

At the request of the school, a stage will be built at one side, providing the opportunity for theatre performances.

School Principal Des



WARRANDYTE INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM, / DRYSDALE RD.

McKenzie also emphasised the need for the stadium to blend in with the environment. "We're very happy with the plans. It satisfies our requirements. The environment was an area of concern for us.

"We felt it was our responsibility to have something that we could still be proud of in five years time. Tin boxes usually give no great cause for excitement but this works well.

"Everyone who has inspected the site, including Phil Honeywood and Patricia Young, have been impressed with the views (from the proposed win-

dows) and we were keen to retain that aspect."

The stadium plans are on display at the school, West End shopping centre and the community centre.

Funding for the stadium has been provided by Manningham council (\$600,000), the state government's Community Support Fund (\$200,000) and the Department of Education (\$100,000).

Mullum Mullum Ward councillor Patricia Young said she was delighted that work was nearly ready to begin.

"I am pleased that this project

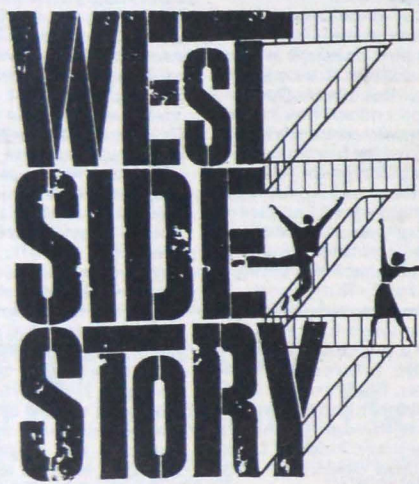
is coming to fruition, after a five year wait, for the benefit of Warrandyte and the wider community," she said.

"There is a need for this type of facility in the Warrandyte area to service the Wonga Park, North Warrandyte and Donvale communities. The Warrandyte Basketball Club, Andersons Creek Primary School and council have been heavily involved in negotiations."

Cr Young and Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood have jointly chaired a working party on the proposal for the past 18 months.

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By CLINTON GRYBAS

The National Australia Bank's Goldfields Plaza branch will close its doors for the final time on Friday, August 14.

After 10 years at the plaza the branch will merge with the bank's larger branch at The Pines Shopping Centre. It leaves just the Commonwealth Bank branch in Yarra Street to service locals who don't wish to travel.

Back in April, rumours were rife in Warrandyte that the Commonwealth Bank branch was closing.

"In our present planning, we have no intention to close Warrandyte," a Commonwealth senior official told the *Diary* at the time.

Hayden Park, the National's group manager, said the decision to close the branch was based on research conducted as part of the bank's restructuring of their suburban and city network.

"It must be remembered that we are undergoing a major change in how people shop and use their bank services,"



Say goodbye: Warrandyte's National Bank branch at the West End is closing.

he told the *Diary*.

"The foot traffic going through our branch in Warrandyte has been on a downward trend for some time.

"Our research shows that many people use The Pines to do their major shopping, and as such, while there, they will use that branch if needed.

"With the change in banking, more and more people are not using cash, while those that do get theirs electronically. Approximately 67 percent of cash withdrawals are made through automatic teller-machines."

He said that this increase in automated systems and the direct payment of wages to accounts contributes to less foot

traffic through branches.

"We do agonise over the decision to close branches, particularly the one at Warrandyte.

"We are aware of the imminent upgrade to Goldfields Plaza but again our research shows that while there will be more people going through the centre, they won't be there to do their banking."

While Mr Park said he has received just two phone calls of complaint about the closure, Warrandyte Football Club are furious that the branch they use will no longer be there.

President Jeff Evans wrote to the bank explaining that with the opening of Club Warrandyte early next year the bank would have been first in line to net thousands of dollars worth of fees associated with the club. He asked the bank to reconsider its position, saying that the club will not be making the "daily trek" to The Pines.

If the branch does close as expected on August 14, the club says it will change banks.

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MARIA MCGHEE

# A full life of love and service

By JENNY CHAPMAN

**W**ARRANDYTE is a town Maria McGhee always loved. The bush, the people and animals made growing up in this close-knit place an exciting adventure.

Many Warrandyte people attended Maria's funeral at St. Damien's Catholic Church, Bundoora, joining family and people from all walks of life to farewell the person who gave without expecting anything in return.

Maria died in Donvale Rehabilitation Hospital on the July 1, six weeks after her car collided with a lowloader on the Warrandyte-Heidelberg Road. After suffering extensive injuries, she fought to regain her health and was looking forward to going home on July 4. Laughing and joking with her many visitors, Maria's unflinching spirit always shone through, trying to make sure people would not worry about her too much.

Maria was born on the June 4, 1952, the second child of Fred and Georgi Prince. She attended Warrandyte Primary School and Norwood High School. Fred was Warrandyte's postmaster from 1957 to 1970 and with Maria's brother Anthony and sister Teresa, they lived in the old post office (now the Histori-

cal Society Museum).

Being a girl guide and attending ballet classes were a couple of the highlights of Maria's younger days.

On November 16, 1968, Maria married Gavin McGhee, son of Don and Cath and brother of Laurie and Andrew (deceased) who were also Warrandyte residents.

The couple had four children—Justin, Gavin, Elizabeth and Kathleen—and Maria's ability to organise the family, whilst being involved with such things as coaching the school netball team at South Warrandyte, always amazed everyone. Sporting organisations were a part of Maria's life with Warranwood and South Warrandyte Ladies' Netball Club and the Warrandyte Cricket Club.

As an inaugural member of

the Warrandyte Women's cricket team, Maria played in both premierships in 1975/76 and 1991/92 and became the first female Life Member of the club in 1990/91.

Some of the positions held by Maria were: Vice-president, Junior Manager, Captain, Delegate to the V.W.C.A., and with the Victorian Women's Cricket Association: Assistant Secretary.

She introduced daughters Elizabeth and Kathleen to cricket and the family were important to the club as players and participants in social functions. I will never forget how excited Maria used to be when the team was about to take a wicket, she would appeal before the catch was taken!

When the children were of school age, Maria studied for

and became a registered nurse—which seemed natural because of her caring nature. Maria was absolutely thrilled when daughter Elizabeth gave birth to Jacob on July 23, 1997. She was a very proud and loving grandmother.

At the time of her death, Maria was employed at Salford Nursing Home and 'Care at Home' where she had many friends—people she both worked with and cared for.

Community work was a passion of Maria's; she was always taking positions on committees. She didn't just talk about things, she did them. Some of her recent positions were: President of Information Warrandyte, President of Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, President of F.A.S.T. Financial Counselling, Vice-President of Western Region Financial Counselling and President of Reservoir High School C6-op. All of these positions were voluntary and she epitomised the spirit of volunteering.

If we can only remember just some of the things Maria taught us, the world will be a better place.

Maria did more in her 46 years than 50 people could have, and always had time to listen to people, smell the roses, feed the possums, admire the magpie families—love and give, and her spirit will live on.



STEWART JOY

# He was a citizen of the world

By LOUISE JOY

**S**TEWART Cameron Joy was born on New Year's Eve 1934 at 25 Jordan Street, Malvern, a younger brother for Max, Jack and Betty. He was a Depression baby, born into a poor family. The naval discipline of Arthur Joy and the devoted mothering of Clarice shaped his childhood.

Stewart told of his mother sitting with him while he watched trains as a young child. He recalled a trip to the city with his mother which he could date to 1938 because he could remember the cable tram they travelled on which was phased out that year.

His friends remember him as a clever boy giving information from his latest reading in Jordan's cake shop and as a big, sturdy boy who stood astride his Malvern Star bicycle. At Spring Road Central School he showed some promise, but at Wesley he did not flourish, leaving at 15 to join Elder Smith. He paid back his uncle for the school fees from his first job. After a short time he moved to the Victorian Railways as a supernumerary junior clerk.

Stewart's mentor at the railways, Mr Borthwick, recognised his talent, encouraging him to study transport at RMIT. At Glendearg Grove Methodist Church he met other young people studying and he decided to go to Melbourne University.

By this time he was at Trans Australia Airlines and a mentor there told him of a transport scholarship to London. Stewart and I met through friends and by the time we married in 1961 he had moved to Mayne Nickless. He was in the Naval Reserve and we danced together at the Naval Balls. He worked for Massey Ferguson and we thought of going to Toronto. He looked at the Bell Street Bus Company but in the end it was the London School of Economics.

We had a great time in London from 1962 to 1964. In the freezing winter of 1963 he had his showers at the LSE and I bathed at the Royal Marsden Hospital where I worked. We travelled around Europe on a



Lambretta scooter, stayed with my Swiss relatives and while I went to the art galleries, Stewart visited the war museums.

When the LSE married graduate flats were finished, we moved in and made great friends—who remember us today—from London, New Zealand and Canada. Stewart completed his PhD thesis on railway track costs, bringing him recognition. On the way back to Australia we visited my American relatives and my oldest school friend from India.

Then we were back and forth between Melbourne and London. Stewart taught marketing at Monash University, but was back consulting with the British Ministry of Transport. He was Chief Economist of British Railways for three years, and wrote The Train That Ran Away about the financial failures of the system.

Our children Heidi and Rosie came with us to London where Tim was born and a year after our return to Australia in 1972 David appeared. For nine years Stewart was at the National Bank and we were back in our Warrandyte house which Stewart had designed with Alistair Knox in 1965. Then came the great family expeditions around India by train, through California in a campervan and later to London. Stewart took the boys to Legoland and New York.

Subsequently his work as a consultant took him all over the world, always returning to the family with presents. His nieces and nephews loved to visit him and all our friends have stories of his great arguments, incredible knowledge, enormous good humour. A railway friend wrote of him as a perceptive commentator and huge fun.

Stewart got on well with my family; he discussed medical economics with my brother and visited my parents at the Christian Medical College at Vellore in South India. He immediately grasped the organisational issues and was for years Treasurer of the Friends of Vellore in Victoria. He delighted in preparing the newsletter and in administering the Edward Gault trust fund in memory of my father. He was familiar with the bus routes at Vellore which he used to advantage later when consulting for the World Bank on buses from Madras 80 miles away.

Stewart and I had many different worlds. We often disagreed on public issues. Stewart wanted to know the market price and I considered the emotional attachment. We both loved reading and shared biographies. He was so dependable, so comforting standing in the kitchen cooking for the family, bringing home loads of shopping and then like a meteor he was off again. Just two months ago we celebrated our 37th wedding anniversary with a quiet meal together. We were companionable and we talked of old friends and our life together.

We are all missing his energy and exuberance and his care for us all. Stewart leaves a big space.

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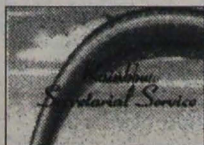
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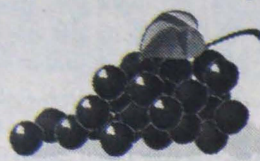
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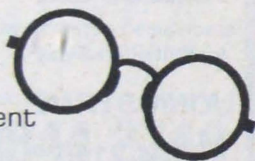
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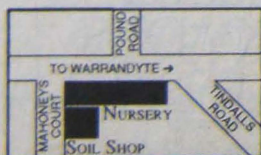
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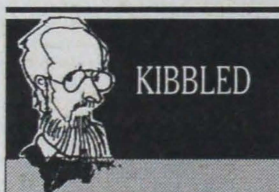
# Great garden war: black birds vs green fingers

I DO not like blackbirds! Until now—and that's only the last two months—they have cost us about \$400. Apart from the money, I haven't put a price on the hours of anguish, yelling, fuming, sweeping and digging that have accompanied their attacks. And, as avid gardeners, Herself and I are doing it tough!

Already I can hear snorts of derision and can feel the hackles rising. This is a nice paper and I certainly don't want to get into a heated garden debate. Invariably it boils down to a vitriolic exchange about botanical murder as opposed to an ideologically-sound, leaf-litter strewn railway siding. A sort of botanical argument between multiculturalism and apartheid.

It's not the plants we're talking about, it's the wildlife. What we have is a group of sitting tenant critters with their attendant benefits and problems. The ring-tail possums look cute but gum boot their way across our roof in the wee hours of the morning. The magpies and currawongs still do their coffee table cute stuff in between eating other birds' young. And the bloody blackbirds don't do anything except wreak havoc amongst the garden mulch.

Now, having a bird flick through the leaves, peastraw and surface loam in an effort to find gourmet grubs is, in itself, no big deal. If they kept it to the centre of the beds. But no, they insist on grazing the edges of the garden that abut the re-



**"The magpies and currawongs still do their cute stuff in between eating other birds' young."**

cently-swept path or brick paved courtyard.

True, if this were all we had to worry about in the world then our lives would be ideal. Fortunately, we have ample problems to satisfactorily occupy our time, but with the birds, it's the principle of the thing. It's like having a teenager back in the house again.

You know the sort of thing. The house has just been cleaned and in they slop, dropping adolescent rubbish as they go. By the time they've trav-

elled from back door to bedroom, the floor plan has been altered and your Richter scale has peaked.

We've long passed the human teenage stuff, yet our garden seems to be occupied by teenage birds.

Our early efforts at behaviour modification were laughably inadequate. At the first sight of the enemy, we would burst out the door, flapping our arms whilst making shoo-ing noises. The intention was to dent their equilibrium resulting in their flying off to more accommodating gardens. It was about as effective as lecturing a teenager about how hard you've worked and how they should be grateful and not leave everything lying around for you to clean up after them. It was that same vacant look in the blackbird's glazed eye!

The next effort was biological control. Cheap and reasonably acceptable. The cats have had a cushy life really. Regular food, warmth, affection; with only the occasional whisker cuffing, tail-pulling and full immersion bathing meted out by visiting "smalls". Surely it was not unreasonable to expect them to watch. Herself showed me a carton of eggs. Therein were eggs from chooks who lead a charmed life, protected by lolloping, kindly labrador-looking dogs. Evidently they form a sort of Cosa Nostra. Anyone who dares to encroach on their patch is given a good send-off. Surely, we argued, if dogs can

do it, our cats must be able to see off a few feral blackbirds. Well, you know how teenagers defeat you by procrastinating? We'd see the bird, we'd point the cat in the right direction, snarl something like "Go shoo them!" and watch as moggie sauntered towards the food bowl or the fire.

You could almost hear him saying "Ok, ok, I'll do it, don't nag. What's the big deal anyway? It's only a bird and it's not doing anything terrible. So who cares? Have we got anything to eat? I'll go out a bit later and see if it's around." By this time, he was curled up in front of the fire whilst outside the vandal was metaphorically poking his tongue out at us.

It was at this stage that the great Nurseryman's Spirit flew past and cooed in our ears that buying more edging plants was the solution. "If there are no bare sections along the edge, they'll have to go inside the garden." Armed with plastic, weekend after weekend we visited the plant nurseries. We planted and planted. Each week we'd man our lines of least resistance, determined to plant them out. And we've won!

Yesterday, two months and dollars later I was surveying our re-won territory. There was moggie stalking a blackbird. He leapt, snarled, then deliberately walked up to me.

"Well I did what you asked." If he'd done that two months ago. Bloody teenagers!

ROGER KIBELL

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# A creek reborn through love and perseverance

**T**HE day itself was cold. An obstinate layer of slate-grey cloud blanketed the sky and it had been drizzling on and off all morning. I roamed the house, unsettled. Occasionally I would pause to stand by the window, briefly mesmerized by the softly falling, slanting streaks of rain. Finally I recognised the need, although not the desire, to be outside and walk away these winter blues.

Just for somewhere different I decided to drive out to Pigeon Bank Lane in North Warrandyte. When I first knew this lane, over 20 years ago, it was no more than a rough track—far too steep for the EH Holden. So I would park the car and walk, dipping into the bush every now and then to try and find a way down to the creek that bears the same name as the lane. It was always a hand-scratching, clothes-tearing experience, for in those days the little creek was buried under a mountainous tangle of blackberries.

While the road has been made for many years, it is only recently the creek and surrounding bush has received any attention. Watercourses are not easy places in which to work miracles, yet the transformation of Pigeon Bank Creek from weedy wasteland to magical wonderland has been of Merlin-like proportions. Needless to say it has not been achieved with the swish of a magic sword, but by perseverance, pestering authorities and plenty of hands-on hard work by a small and dedicated local 'Friends' group.

Light needles of rain began to

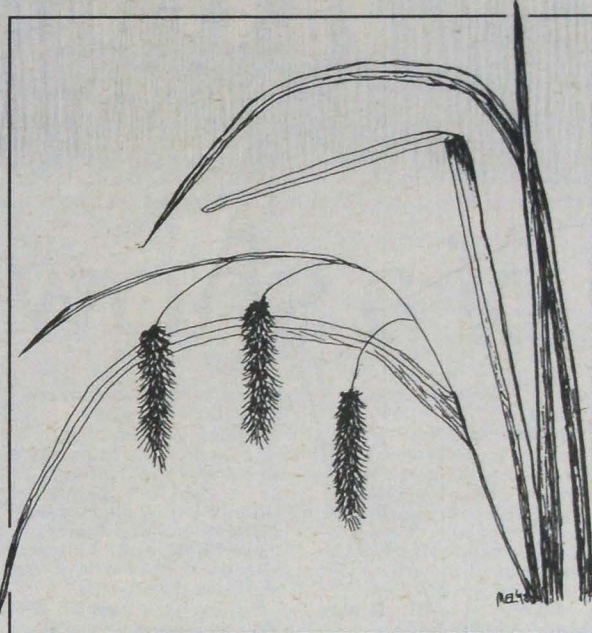
**NATURE**  
By **PAT COUPAR**  
Drawn by **MELANIE COUPAR**

fall as I crossed the short boardwalk—a new addition since my last visit. The narrow, winding, tastefully-constructed bush track was flanked on both sides by an eye-catching miniature jungle of grasses and sedges.

The grasses, some of which had been planted to enrich those already there, consisted mainly of two Poa species—tussock grass, if you are not into scientific terminology. And tussock accurately describes these knee-high fountains of shiny green leaves. So attractive are they in the natural landscape, the same species of grasses are now being used in their millions along steep embankment of freeways and in municipal plantings.

I stood for a moment under an old blackwood wattle and listened to the rhythmical tapping of light rain on leaves. By chance I had entered the domain of a sunny-breasted eastern yellow robin. Clinging sideways to the furrowed trunk of the wattle, the little bird watched me quizzically. It seemed unusually agitated. I found the reason only metres above my head in an upright fork of the tree. A nest.

If it had been made from clay on a potter's wheel, the symmetry of the cup-shaped structure could not have been more perfect. In fact it was made with beak and feet from bark, grass, lichen and dry leaves bound



together with silk from spiders' webs. A feature of these nests—and this one was no exception—is the long strands of bark which are left dangling from the outside, whether for decoration, camouflage or some other purpose or no purpose at all, I don't know.

It is now possible to reach Pigeon Bank Creek in several places. One plant that I am always eager to check out is the tassel sedge which grows along the banks of the creek, often with its roots in water. Commonly a plant of swamps and stream banks in cooler forests, its occurrence in Warrandyte is

unusual. Tufted like the tussock grass it is a more robust plant with sharp, deeply-channelled, verdant green leaves. The attraction of this sedge is its inflorescence—a pendulous tassel of catkin-like spiky green flowers that turn crisp brown over summer as the seeds ripen.

It is often the simplest things in life that bring the deepest contentment. A little creek uncovered. Reversal of a degradation trend. Restoration. Revegetation. It was all there and it was more than enough to warm the winter heart of this cold and restless soul.

## Dad's Day junk among the glossies

**B**EFORE we moved to Warrandyte, we lived in a corner of suburbia where we almost needed a wheelbarrow to download the weekly delivery of glossy garbage from our letter box. Hence, nearly 15 years ago, one of the most appreciated attributes of our new home was the total lack of junk mail.

Not any more. Warrandyte is now caught fast in the advertisers' web. At first, maybe 10 years ago, we received an occasional catalogue. Then soon, as one became two, two became five and five became 17, the time came to screw a No Junk Mail plate firmly to the box.

The odd brochure still sneaks in, often secreted within our newspaper. And I must say, as Fathers' Day approaches, it's tempting to throw principle out the window and browse for ideas.

It can be nearly impossible to buy presents for the men in our lives: their clothes rarely wear out, their tool sheds have a concentration of gadgets NASA would be proud of, and pastimes like reading papers and watching TV don't lend themselves readily to giftware.

Moreover, if men are devoted



By **MARILYN MOORE**

to a hobby, it's sure to be something like fishing, where nobody else could select a useful fly or a trustworthy line. Worse still, they could be a radio enthusiast, for whom relevant giftware defies imagination. (One of the last little presents my brother bought himself was a 50ft steel tower.)

Finally, it seems, there is an unprecedented range of nifty gifties for that hard-to-please bloke. After much agonising, I've narrowed the list of 'least likely to have already' items down to the following selection:

- Motorised tie rack, with viewing light and space for 72 ties. A most useful addition to the wardrobe of any man/household/entire community.
- Shower radio in the shape of an angel fish, complete with

suction cups and alarm button. Very handy for those singers-in-the-shower whose gargled solos definitely require substantial accompaniment. Ideally, the alarm could be triggered remotely by any other occupant of the house.

- Tow bar covers, in the shape of glossy painted marlin, duck or labrador retriever heads. Now there's a character-building idea! I wonder if they come with amplified woofers and quackers to ward off pesky tailgaters?

- Dog-walking machine, twin deck (separate compartments) with variable speed control. An absolute must for exercising the mutt on wintry nights. (I was obviously wrong when I said that TV-watching as a hobby didn't lend itself to giftware.)

- Electronic shaver complete with two bonus disposable cameras. An intriguing combo, but I'm sure that the penny will drop if I ponder on it long enough. Obviously only an average sort of dolt would think that spare blades or batteries would be a more useful bonus; this ad. must be aimed at the distinctly non-average buyer.

- Army-style signalling telescope. It's not clear whether

this device actually transmits signals or merely makes it easier to see signals displayed by others. If you feel you need one of these, it would definitely be advantageous to (a) reside in the vicinity of a trig point and (b) have a friend with a compatible device.

- A dog muscle-contractor. I am not making this up. Is it legal?

- A year's subscription to a digital network package which allows access to stock market information on a share price alert basis, amongst other things. Designed especially for the electronic-beeper-freak magnate in your life.

- Battery-operated eyeshade with massage option. Ideal accessory for those who already indulge in a foot spa.

- Fully electronic portable stress (lie) detector. Not sure who would actually want this, but with multiple rows of flashing lights, it would make a great fake burglar alarm.

Nothing appeals? Funny about that. Maybe if your dad is really unique you should check out the Trading Post. For example: Violin, German, full-size, warm sound, beautiful tone, suit emotional player over 200 years old.

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When I grow up



Treasure Island



The Tooth, The Whole Tooth And Nothing But The Tooth

# A treasure of a show

**N**OEL Coward's advice to Mrs Worthington went unheeded at Andersons Creek Primary School as daughters and sons took to the stage in the school's seventh musical production. And what an enchanting show it was.

First were the Preps, in *The Tooth, The Whole Tooth And Nothing But The Tooth*, demonstrating that five and six year-olds are unphased by spotlights, microphones, or a wall-to-wall audience.

A row of cute kids, dressed as molars, counted out steps in the simple, but effective, dance routines devised by Debbie Read, while a team of dentists, along with supporting chorus, illustrated the difficulty of saying 's' with a wobbly tooth.

Who among us could not believe in tooth fairies as the Fairy Queen and her helpers pirouetted at centre stage, deftly exchanging loose teeth for coins. And if an occasional arm emerged from a costume to wave to a parent, it only added to the show's charm. Well done, Preps, you

## KIDS' STUFF

By MARION WINTON

delighted us all.

The second item, *When I Grow Up*, dispelled any anxieties about our children's attitudes to work, as boys and girls from Grades 1 and 2 enthusiastically adopted character roles to assure us that, whatever careers they chose, the main thing was to be 'the best that you possibly can'.

Future Warrandyte bakers and plumbers sang in praise of their jobs, and while there may not be much local call for train drivers, sailors, movie stars or cowpersons, I'm sure the parents felt heartwarmed to hear our young people expressing such confidence in their futures.

With 40 to 60 children on stage, the input of the teachers, director Janita Martin and assistants, choral director Rosette Orchard and choreographer Cindy Verity

should not be underestimated.

Robert Louis Stevenson may not have recognised the Grades 3 to 6 version of *Treasure Island*, but he would still have concluded that "Never were people gayer or happier". Obviously, no-one had been press-ganged into service.

Make-up and costume were stretched to provide nine scar-faced pirates, one wooden leg, various ranks of naval uniform, as well as various villagers, wharfies and natives.

Scenic artists, led by Luanda Pianta (assisted by Andrea Brown), were challenged, as sets changed from the 'Admiral Benbow Inn' to action on board the 'Hispaniola' and finally to a desert island.

As each scene unfolded we were introduced to new and colourful characters who enthusiastically joined in the musical numbers, choreographed by Amanda Muller and Melissa Mitchell.

I was impressed by the sustained performances of Long John Silver (Jordan

Canham) and Jim Hawkins (Josh Cohen); by Mrs Hawkins' (Lauren Hogg) Cornish accent, the energy of the pirates and the stage presence of Nick Atkins (Blind Pew). While Madame Mullens' Can Can dancers caused quite a stir, undoubtedly the five Spice Boys were the hit of the evening.

However, the strength of *Treasure Island* was to be found in the work of the whole ensemble, including the choir led by Lise Moran. The enthusiastic backing of four parent musicians lifted the musical content.

I have only commented on Cast B, but I understand Cast A performed equally impressively. The success of all three productions depended on sound and lighting technicians, special effects people, publicity, and all those staff members, parents and children who prefer to assume an unobtrusive role. Their contribution, along with that of the children on stage, ensured the whole show was a triumph for Andersons Creek Primary School.

# Kids are going west this year

Warrandyte High School has long been famous for the quality of its musical productions. This year they are staging what is probably their most ambitious attempt yet—Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*—with a projected budget of \$25,000.

Director Chris White explains: "One of the excuses I would often use for not producing *West Side Story* at an amateur level was that there was no way I would compromise quality by using female dancers doubling in male parts."

Last year, Chris witnessed a welcome increase in talented boys at the school, "mature enough to realise the opportunity available to them, if they decided to work hard physically on stage. *West Side Story* became more than a possibility."

Chris told the *Diary* that, "with a little more than a month before we open, the big set number featuring the male and female gangs are looking great. Their level of energy and commitment promises our best show yet."

"This Broadway hit, made even more famous by the film, is really a musical of our generation. What parent cannot recall 'Maria', 'Tonight', 'The Jets Theme', 'America' and 'I Feel Pretty'? But I promise it won't just be a nostalgia trip—our new production will surprise you with talent as yet untapped.

Bookings are now being taken on 9844 2749.

The show opens on September 2, with eight performances through to September 12. Ticket prices are \$16 adult and \$10 student/concession.



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# Our Barry blows a great trumpet



**A** SHORT way down Bradleys Lane lives a composer who has written for internationally renowned musicians and for Warrandyte children. Barry McKimm's compositions, from ensemble to full orchestra, have been performed by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and heard on ABC radio.

If you saw the Light and Sound Show down on the Yarra at the Warrandyte Festival last year, you heard Barry's *Albedo Acoustica*. The notion behind this piece was to convey an impression of a river. The way it flows, its currents, its eddies, snags and billabongs. Barry explains: "I am now developing this music as an orchestral work for ballet, as it is very danceable. I have set this music for piano duet, for Taylor and Cook, who will perform this later this year."

Barry has lived in Warrandyte for 17 years in a house he built with his father-in-law. He lives with his wife, Jill, their two teenage children and two dogs. The house is warm, cosy and easy-going, looking out over a gum-treed vista. A Picasso print shares a wall with a world map.

"I began playing the trumpet as a teenager, having lessons from different teachers but mainly from Merv Simpson, principal trumpet player with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and an internationally respected musician."

Barry's father and uncle played the trumpet and "were brass band players. My father was a fireman and involved in the fire brigade band and the

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

Words by LORRAINE WARREN  
Picture by AUSTIN POLLEY

Footscray-Yarraville band, which is still functioning. At 14, I realised I wanted to be a musician. My father tried to discourage me, saying, 'You don't want to be a muso, do you? I know lots of musicians. Many drink too much, and their wives run.'

"As a child I didn't like brass bands and became a jazz player. I got a job at 17 at the Princess Theatre in 'Lock Up Your Daughters' and then in 'Sound of Music'. Once I got a job, I made my own choices in life."

At 26, Barry joined the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and stayed for 30 years. There he "worked with the best players and conductors and played the most wonderful music—every piece we played was a masterpiece".

His most popular composition—*Piccolo Concerto*—a Celtic piece, was first performed by the MSO, conducted by Vladimir Verbitsky, in 1990, at the Myer Music Bowl. An impressed Verbitsky returned to the USSR, performing the piece a year later with his orchestra, on the eve of the collapse of the Soviet Union. *Piccolo Concerto* is currently being set for piano and piccolo for an international flute convention in America this August.

Although as a child Barry rejected brass bands, they now form a large part of his commissioned repertoire.

He enjoys them because they often symbolise the spirit and history of their area.

"Brass bands are community-based and are sponsored by local councils, and are part of a locality in Australia. These days there is a vigorous and creative school of composition in these bands around the world. But these compositions and composers are not well known by the artistic community."

His recent work for Hunter Region Band Association is a good example of what goes into such pieces. "With composition, the role of the intellect may be rigorous, but this side of music is not really heard. It is the emotional side of music which communicates."

The brief was to write a piece that told the history of Newcastle. After months "up there researching, I wrote a piece that touched on the important milestones of the region."

"First up, I develop a narrative, then write music that is associated with that story. What I found was a lot of pain. The most rebellious and brutal convicts were shipped there to work in the lime pits. Tribes were broken and deposited of their land, and the new settlers were often transplants from British mining areas."

"I looked for an uplifting ending and I found—after the earthquake and rebuilding, the bust-up of BHP and closure of most mines—(that) Newcastle as a community had to change direction. They were moving away from their dependence on heavy industry. The community is expanding and diversifying—the kids are optimistic."

Children have played an important role in Barry's life. This year his house-

hold hosts two exchange students, a Bolivian and a Columbian. Warrandyte Primary School did exceptionally well when he directed their school band for 13 years. He describes it as a privilege to work with inexperienced players and to compose specifically for children.

Another local event—10 years ago—gave Barry tremendous satisfaction. It was the staging of 'The Sallow Wattle'. "I took the band at Warrandyte High for a year and worked with many high level professional artists in Warrandyte who, along with the school community, contributed their resources and talent to create a musical production."

'The Sallow Wattle' is a romantic story inspired by actual events. It is set around World War II and incorporates local history, Aboriginal legend, Australian forces in New Guinea and the bush fires.

"I composed the music, Cliff Green wrote the script, Lee Tindale the lyrics. Jock McNeish designed the sets and Terry and Carol-Anne Gill—theatrical people—directed it, and Warrandyte High School produced it. It would be terrific if it was restaged. It is a unique work. The plot has many local references, and it struck a brilliant note with many Warrandytians."

It was a year that saw Barry work within several communities. He took the year off from the MSO to take up Composer in Residence for the City of Dandenong. There he composed 'Dandenong', a piece which combined the resources of school bands, the city brass band and the choral society. "It brought together a great many people

from the community, giving inspiration to many young and inexperienced musicians."

The Sounds Australia Award was given to Barry for the Most Distinguished Contribution to the Presentation of Australian Music in Victoria for 1998. He contributed three test pieces for the Bicentennial National Band Championships: 'Ash Wednesday', 'A Song of Swans' and 'Tuba Concerto'. 'Ash Wednesday' went on to be performed by a British band and was broadcast on the BBC.

The Americans took to 'A Song of Swans' which has been published and marketed as part of the elite Composers Edition series.

"Since retiring from the MSO late last year, I can now focus on projects of my own choosing and can devote one day a week to publishing my music. I plan to make these publications available and to distribute them in a modest way, via the internet."

We can glimpse Barry's musical brilliance when he says, "I only play the trumpet but I know how all the others (instruments) work." His children began their musical education by learning the piano and went on to other instruments.

Like most drum players, Caitlin is in residence in the garage while Erin leans towards techno computer-generated music. He is now at Deakin University studying music as part of his Arts Media Degree.

"I can't guess how far they might go with their music," says Barry of his children. "But I'm pleased that they have a practical understanding and experience in music-making."



Andrew Wilson loses it at last year's crop-a-cop.

## Close shaves for cancer kids

By RACHEL BAKER

Volunteer firefighter, Shane Murphy, isn't afraid of having a cold head. Or of looking a bit of a goose. He thinks childhood cancer is a more important concern.

He must do, because, for the second year in a row, he has decided to go under the razor and lose his locks for Bluey Day.

As well as the satisfaction that comes with attracting donations for a worthy cause, Lieutenant Murphy enjoys the community spirit that is generated by Bluey Day. Although he took part through his workplace last year, in 1998 he is participating through Warrandyte CFA so he can offer "more of a local input".

Visiting local primary schools, where much of the fund-raising takes place, is also part of the thrill for Lieutenant Murphy. "The kids love seeing us with our hair, then without it, when we go back after the headshave. They get a real buzz out of it," he said.

The other reason primary schools feature so strongly in the fund-raising effort is that the children "may be the ones unfortunate enough to need the money we raise," Lieutenant Murphy said.

Money also comes from merchandise sales (badges can be purchased from the fire station for \$3), private donations (via the hotline: 9345 5143) and from

business.

This year the event has changed its name—it was formerly known as "Crop-a-Cop". The change in name signals the inclusion of all emergency services, not just police.

The new name is also part of the event's international image—with Bluey Day 98 seeing head-shavees in Canada and the USA as well as all over Australia.

Last year \$2.5 million was raised. This year, Barry Homewood, the state co-ordinator of Bluey Day, hopes "the same amount, if not more" will be raised.

But the nation will have to excel itself, and raise a mam-

moth \$5 million, if we are to see the Premier of Victoria, Mr Jeff Kennett, tackle the proverbial lawnmower. Even Barry Homewood agrees that Mr Kennett has made a pretty safe bet.

But you never know, there may be a potential corporate sponsor out there who is willing to fork out millions of dollars to see a shame-faced, bald-headed premier and score one of the greatest PR coups in living memory.

If anyone is keen to see Mr Kennett dubbed a chrome dome—and, of course, help a vital cause—they can make a donation at any Commonwealth Bank.



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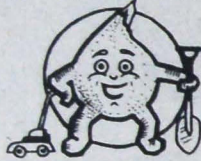
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Long-time Warrandyte residents, Ted and Shirley Rotherham of Tills Drive, received the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Award of Merit at the Warrandyte Historical Society's annual general meeting last month. Ted was the society's first president and with Shirley has been a mainstay of the organisation across 24 years. Pictured with Ted and Shirley is Dr Richard Morton of the RHS Council. Richard is also a long-time resident.



Warrandyte Rotary president John Provan (right) presents Rodney Richards with his Paul Harris Award certificate at the annual Change Over Night dinner held at Potters Cottage on 26 June.

This was John Provan's last official duty as president of the Rotary Club of Warrandyte before handing over to the incoming president, Graeme Redman.

Graeme reaffirmed the club's commitment to the Care-Net organisation and assistance to Warrandyte youth. The first donation this year was a \$500 gift to victims of the tidal wave in Papua New Guinea. This will help villagers re-establish themselves.

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**Paper price hike pushes ad rates**

Creeping costs have at last caught up with the *Diary's* advertising rates. The last time we increased them was in September, 1995. Since then, all our costs have continued to edge up.

The most recent was a 7 percent increase in our printer's bill, brought about by a substantial rise in the price of paper stock.

To protect the financial viability of our non-profit, community newspaper, we have reluctantly decided to increase our rates by approximately 10 percent, from and including the August issue. The new rates are set out on Page 2.

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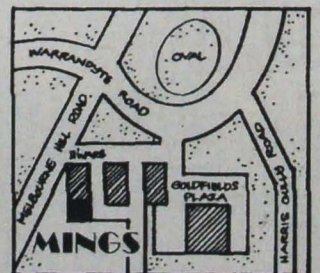
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# Night to remember

Warrandyte Tennis Club are holding a wine night with Peter Maher of Warrandyte Cellars at their clubhouse in Taroona Avenue, adjoining the Recreation Reserve, on Saturday, August 15. Profits will go to the Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund. Christie had been an active member of the club for a number of years, winning the girls junior championship two years running. Cost of the night is \$20, supper included and will commence at 8pm. Further information from Pauline Dusting on 9844 2596.

## Interchurch

The local churches are holding a dinner at Alfred's Homestead on Wednesday, August 26. Piers Crocker, an archeologist, will show slides and artefacts from digs around a number of countries, including Israel. Cost is \$17 per head and tickets are available from John Hanson on 9844 3906 or Trevor Williams on 9844 3727.

## Musical

Warrandyte High School's musical this year is West Side Story. The show opens on Wednesday, September 2 and closes on Saturday, September 12. Bookings can be made at the school on 9844 2749.

## Elvis

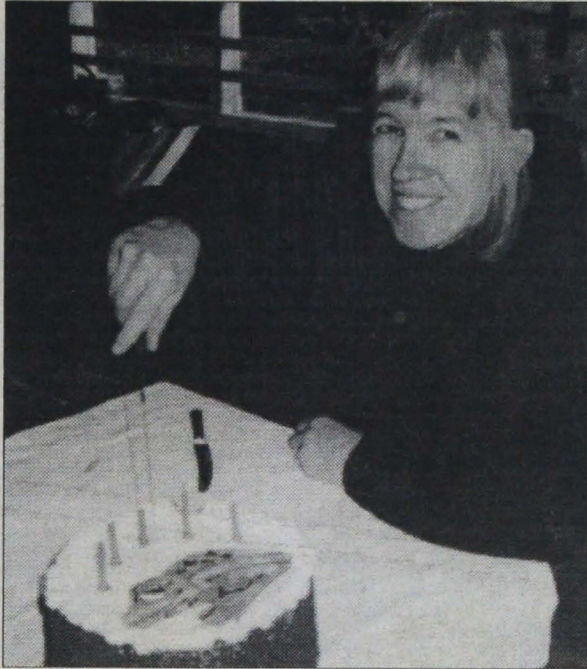
A Tribute To Elvis fundraiser, with Andrew Portelli, will be held at the Grand Hotel on Sunday, August 16. Arrive at 1.30pm for a 2pm start. Tickets are \$18, including snacks, and funds raised will assist the four local CFA brigades. Book at the hotel on 9844 3202

## Wedding

Leanne Sharp, who has lived in Warrandyte since she came here as a baby, married Peter Handoll of North Ringwood at St Stephens Anglican Church on Sunday, August 9. Leanne and Peter plan to honeymoon overseas before establishing their home in Gold Memorial Road. Both Leanne and Peter are active members of the Warrandyte Fire Brigade, as is Leanne's father Ken. The brigade provided a guard of honour for the wedding.

## Bridge

A bridge club meets on Mondays at 1pm and Thursdays at 7.30pm. The organisers guarantee a friendly environment. Lessons provided if needed and no partners are required. Enquiries to 9439 2270.



Our natural history writer Pat Coupar recently celebrated her 50th birthday with friends at The Folly at Warrandyte State Park. Happy (croak!) birthday, Pat. (Picture by Jan Tindale)



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

## Cooking

Warrandyte Youth Services are running communal cooking sessions. The aim is to assist young people gain skills in the preparation of healthy, economical food. Enquiries to Aaron or Cathy on 9844 2985.

## Mah jong

A friendly local group is now meeting to play mah jong. Call 9439 2270 for further information.

## Playgroup

Warrandyte West End Playgroup meets behind the Uniting Church hall in Taroona

Avenue. They are looking for new members. Parents can enjoy adult company while their children (0-5 years) play inside or in the big outdoor play area. Further information from Meredith Bubner on 9844 4533.

## Pottery

Potters School at Potters Cottage in Jumping Creek Road is introducing a preliminary course for those with some basic skills in pottery to prepare them for the diploma of ceramics at Swinburne TAFE, Wantirna. Topics covered will include wheel forming, hand building, glazes, kiln studies and drawing. Call Jane at Potters School on 9844 2333 or at home on 9870 3140 or Swinburne TAFE on 9210 1116.

## Photos

Photographic work by two North Warrandyte artists—Annie Keil-Taggart and John Fitzgerald—are featured in a current exhibition at the Eltham Library. Entitled To The Waters And The Wild, the exhibition is open Tuesday to Sunday, closing on August 17.

## Echidnas

The next Green Wedge Environment Seminar will be on Thursday, September 3 at the

Warrandyte Community Centre. Kath Hundasyde will talk on the distribution, habitat, breeding, diet and social conservation status of the echidna.

## Drama

warrandyte Theatre Company is staging Competitive Tenderness by Melbourne playwright Hannie Rayson on August 13, 14, 15 and 20, 21, 22 at the Mechanics Institute Hall. Booking to Laurie Shaw on 9844 1376.

## Gardening

Garden lovers are invited to an evening with Kevin Heinze, Jane Edmanson and Rob Pelletier at the Whitehorse Arts Centre, 379 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading on Friday, September 11 from 7.30pm. Cost is \$10 including supper and all proceeds go to the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre. Call 9848 3695 between 9.30am and 4pm for bookings.

## Wanted

Out And About Community Transport, now operating in the Nillumbik shire, provides a door-to-door transport service for frail and older adults, people with disabilities and their carers. They are seeking volunteers as drivers and assistants. Training is available. For further information contact Jennifer Norris on 9478 5511.

## Paper

Manningham council's next waste paper pick-ups will be on Fridays, September 4 and October 2. A new contractor will be appointed after that date and residents will be advised.

## Bands

Manny's The Push will be presenting Battle Of The Bands at the Doncaster Athenaeum Hall on Saturday, August 15. This is a drug and alcohol free event. Entry fee is \$6 with pass, \$8 without. Warrandyte's own bands—The King And I, Rasputin and Isheda—will be playing.

## Indigenous

Manningham Gallery is currently presenting a Celebration Of Indigenous Culture, an exhibition of paintings and artefacts from the central and western deserts. The exhibition closes on Sunday, August 16. On Saturday, August 22, commencing at 5.30pm, Guitar Masters will present Bernard Soler playing music from Latin America, Spain, Japan and the Phillipines. Enquiries to 9840 9367.

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## Cricket up and running



David Gee

Warrandyte Cricket Club have started training for the 1989-90 season.

Indoor training began on July 26 at Maddocks Sports, 11 Mary Street, Blabkurn, and will be held there each Sunday from 10.45am.

"As with previous seasons, the club welcome any new recruits to join us in what we anticipate will be a successful and enjoyable year," club president David Gee told the *Diary*.

"The off-season has seen some significant upgrades in the facilities at the club that will only enhance the enjoyment of its members.

"These include a major revamp of the training facilities and the installation of an evaporative cooling system in the social rooms which will cater for the viewing comfort of supporters and the attractiveness of the rooms for social events," he said.

"If you feel the urge to don the whites or become involved in this great club in any other role, please do not hesitate to contact coach Paul Montgomery or cricket manager Brett Kline."

Montgomery can be reached on 9801 5821 (H) or 9805 4441 (B) and Kline at home on 9870 2317.

# Gloom to boom. Redbacks are right back on track!

By DAMIAN ARSENIS

Warrandyte Basketball Club have finally established themselves a new home, at last getting the go-ahead for a new stadium at Andersons Creek Primary School.

Yet it had seemed that a new stadium alone would not be enough to secure the Redbacks' future.

Dwindling player stocks, particularly among the older-aged teams, had left the club with serious problems.

Its boys championship program was facing tough times and the girls program was barely existing. Referee numbers were dropping at an alarming rate and it seemed the club lacked general community support.

But with the announcement of the new Andersons Creek stadium, the clockwork within the club has begun to stir.

Renewed enthusiasm has seen the Redbacks head in a new, positive direction. Under president Bruce Macdonald, affiliation with the Victorian basketball Association (now known as Basketball Victoria) is imminent and the club are actively seeking to restore their former strength.

The rebuilding process began with basketball clinics at local primary schools. They were a huge success and saw the return, by popular demand, of the "Mosaquito Fleet" (clinics for those who have not played the game before).

The response was so great

that another round of clinics was recently launched. Director Karen Pearce has been delighted with the response from children and parents alike and the continued push into the primary schools has lifted the club's profile enormously.

Player registrations have soared. More than 80 new players have registered for the EDJBA competition played on Saturdays and more are expected. It bodes very well for the Redbacks.

The rebuilding of the girls championship program and the restructuring of the boys program has already begun. New players and coaches are being recruited and results are already beginning to shine through.

Individual coaching sessions as well as Level 1 coaching courses are now available, with the common goal of developing the Redbacks' most precious resources—the people within the club.

The resurgence has extended to the black-and-white brigade on the court, several new referees now patrolling the floor.

Confronted by a mediocre future, Warrandyte Basketball Club have found new strength.

The Redbacks are now looking to expand their horizons and push deeper into the Wonga Park and Croydon Hills communities to continue to grow.

With ongoing community support, their future looks extremely bright.

## Same story but new ball game for Myles



Myles Pearce: multi-talented young sportsman.

Eleven-year-old Myles Pearce, of Brackenbury Street, is just back home from representing Victoria in rugby league in Adelaide. Next month he'll be doing something similar—but on a basketball court in Alice Springs.

Myles, who played in this month's Australian primary schools rugby titles (Victoria ran fifth out of six), and Warrandyte Primary schoolmate Renee Buck have been selected from more than 7000 hopefuls to represent their state at the Schools Sports Australia Basketball Exchange, a national tournament in The Alice from September 5-12.

Myles began his basketball in Warrandyte and has developed into an exciting young talent. Currently a stand-out player in the Redbacks' Friday Night Victorian Championship team, his selection is fitting reward for his hard work, determination and commitment.

Renee's inclusion in the 10-player girls team is also richly deserved. Exceptionally talented, she is a newcomer to Warrandyte Basketball Club and a member of Wendi Hawley's U13 WR1 outfit.

Both players are eagerly anticipating their trip to Central Australia and determined to represent their state with pride.

Warrandyte had five other players trying out for the state teams and all did their club proud.

Renee's teammates Casey Hawley and Natasha Jovanovic and Danny King, who plays alongside Myles, showcased their considerable skills and were deemed to be among the 60 best basketballers for their ages in the state.

Rachael Lynch and Evan Pottenger also shone, making the last 130 at the zone trials.

To have all seven players named in the top 130 respectively at primary school level was a great effort for a club so small.

Redback players to have made past Victorian primary school state teams have included Joel Macdonald, Deane Kropp and Kirsty Dench.

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# Bloods in box seat



Local history was made on Friday, August 7, when the first night football match was played in Warrandyte. The Bloods' Under-18s met Fairpark at the recreation reserve, which became fully floodlit in late June. The night was crisp and clear and the crowd big, with Fairpark supporters turning up in droves. Bay 13 provided an unheralded highlight by turning on a fireworks show at half-time. Fairpark won by 34 points (12.9 to 7.5), but that wasn't really why their officials told Warrandyte Football Club president Jeff Evans after the game that they'd be happy to visit us any old night. Their players—and ours—thoroughly enjoyed the experience of performing before such a crowd and hopefully the event will set a precedent. Warrandyte's best were Glen Carle, Aiden Davey, Jason Platina, James Russell and Luke Wilson. The coin was tossed by Geelong senior player Tim Finocchiaro, a product of the Warrandyte juniors. (Pictures by Sandy Burgoyne)

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte's EFL Third Division premierships prospects took a huge turn for the better on August 8 as they sat out a bye.

Over at Springvale, the Southern Cobras did the Bloods an immense favour by beating Doncaster East, leaving us in second spot on the ladder.

Warrandyte, who cannot be displaced from the four, will cement second and give themselves the double chance in the finals if they defeat Knox at home on Saturday (August 15) in the last home-and-away round.

They beat Knox away by 51 points at their previous meeting this season.

Another scenario would see Warrandyte cling to second if beaten, but they would then rely on Wantirna South defeating Doncaster East.

Warrandyte have earned their up-ladder status by winning 11 of their 15 games after dropping their first two. It is in sharp contrast to last season's performance when they won only one for the season in Second Division.

They strengthened their claims to the double chance with huge wins over cellar dwellers Whitehorse Pioneers and Forest Hill at two outings before the bye.

The July 25 home game against the Pioneers was a big percentage booster, Warrandyte kicking their highest score in recent history—33.26 (224) to the visitors' 7.6 (48).

Coach Lex Munro had demanded four seven-goal quarters from his players, but

## SPORT



Jeff Evans: low-key approach to finals.

they gave him a little better than that: seven, nine, eight and nine goals respectively.

Full-forward Chris Quinlan, who has been a major asset since returning to the club this season, kicked 11 of those goals.

The game at Forest Hill on August 1 also lifted percentage, the Bloods running away after a rugged opening in heavy conditions to win by 88 points, 19.14 (128) to 5.10 (40).

If they retain second spot they will meet Upper Ferntree Gully in the second semi-final—a game they would approach with a deal of confidence after running the premierships favourites close in two encounters this season.

And can Warrandyte go all the way, as they did in this division in 1993?

"We certainly have the talent and commitment to do that," coach Munro told the *Diary*.

"We set out this season aiming for a top-four spot and

we've achieved that. Obviously, our next target is second spot, and I believe we will achieve that.

"And the premierships? As I said, we have the players and the commitment," he said.

"The enthusiasm is certainly there. These players really want the premierships, especially after such a disappointing last season.

"Upper Gully are a very good side, but when you look at it, they beat us by just 10 points in the first round—a game I still think we should have won—and by 13 points at their ground in round 12.

"There's very little between us.

"But we'll worry about Upper Gully when the time comes. Knox and second spot is the immediate assignment."

"Things are going along very nicely," said Warrandyte Football Club president Jeff Evans, "but we haven't yet finished the business we set out to do.

"We're adopting a low-key approach to the rest of the season," he said. "Morale is high, but we want to keep a lid on things.

"There is still a big job to be done."

● Warrandyte's annual Players' Talent Night will be held in the clubrooms after the game against Knox.

This is a not-to-be-missed night of comedy, much of it impromptu and living proof that vaudeville is by no means dead. The fun starts at 8pm. Tickets at door.

● Roger Dalli and John Prangley were joint winners of the club's \$1000 draw conducted after the Under-18s night game on August 7. The Reilly Bishop TV raffle was won by Matt Chapman.

## Crushed coral, phosphate suit young Luke just fine

Luke Naughtin has packed a lot of football into his 16 years—but he'd never played on crushed coral and phosphate before.

That was the surface on which an annual football carnival was conducted in Narau last month and Luke had no complaints at all about it. He was best on ground in one of two games played by Yarra Junior Football League sides against local teams.

Luke, a member of Warrandyte Junior Football Club's Under-17 Colts was one of a party of 26 players from 17 YJFL clubs who visited Narau from July 8-14. Yarra won both their matches and all games were televised on the South Pacific Sports network.

He was very impressed with endeavour of the Nauruan boys and their hard-at-the-ball approach to the game.

"They love their football and have eight local teams—Cats, Tigers et cetera," Luke said.

"The trip was an excellent experience and I thank the Warrandyte junior club and the Yarra league for making it possible."

In addition to playing football, the Yarra boys conducted coaching and skills clinics. They also met Nauruan heads of government.



Luke Naughtin ... best on ground in Narau.

Luke, an on-baller, has played all his junior football for Warrandyte, starting at VicKick level. At the moment he is juggling his passions for football and cricket with VCE studies (which appear to be winning).

WJFC have four teams in the Yarra league finals.

The Under-11s finished on top of the ladder and play their first final at noon on August 16 at McLeod Park. At 10.30am the same day the Under-12, who

made fourth by half a game after believing they had missed out, will be in action at Timber Ridge and at 2.45 that afternoon the Under-15s, who finished second, play at Banyule Reserve.

The Under-17 Colts (also second) will play at Bulleen Park on August 23 at a time to be announced.

"This has been our best season," said club president Terry Pieper. "To have four of seven teams playing off (the two Under-9 sides do not have a premierships competition) is an excellent result."

"We're the strongest we've ever been for numbers and we have so many kids coming up through Auskick."

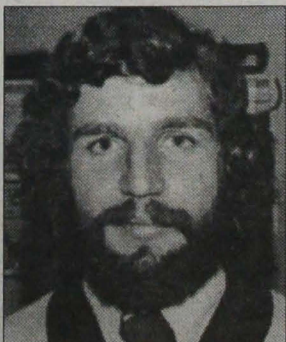
"Next year is going to be huge for us."

The junior club will hold their presentation day on September 13 and annual general meeting on October 12 at the clubrooms.

Pieper appealed to anyone who may be in possession of a club jumper and/or helmet. "Jumpers are our biggest single expense," he said, "and a lot are missing. Please don't be embarrassed—just return them."

He also expressed the club's sympathy and best wishes to Colts player Ben McKellar and his family. Ben was recently diagnosed with a serious illness.

## Not guilty, says Denis, who wasn't even on trial



Denis Clark back then. Photo courtesy of AFL.

By LEE TINDALE

Twenty-five years of reflection have failed to shake local identity Denis Clark's belief in the innocence of the St Kilda kid who was rubbed out for striking him in Victorian football's first trial-by-video case.

"He didn't deserve to be reported or suspended," says Clark, a 120-game Melbourne player and Warrandyte's coach of 1984-85.

"I've seen guys do things 50 times worse and not get booked."

The "St Kilda kid" was rover Ian George, who was suspended for two matches at an historic 1973 tribunal hearing at which the then VFL bowed to pressure and admitted video evidence for the first time.

The irony was that the evidence was presented not by the "prosecution" but by St Kilda Football Club in George's defence.

"It backfired," said Clark, who was 23 at the time.

The episode has resurfaced via a feature by much-respected football writer Greg Hobbs in the July 24 edition of the AFL Football Record.

Hobbs recalls how Saints president Graham Huggins and secretary Ian Drake carried their TV gear into the tribunal chamber on the night of June 25, 1973, how the tribunal chaired by John Winneke watched the George-Clark incident 10 times, deliberated for six minutes and found the St Kilda player guilty.

"I wasn't even called to give evidence," Clark told the *Diary*. "I sat in the waiting room. The tribunal went entirely on the video evidence."

"I think the VFL were trying to deter the

use of video evidence."

Of the incident itself, Clark said: "There was a bit of an altercation on the boundary. George rushed in with the intention of doing something and was stopped in his tracks."

"Then there was a blue involving several players, including myself."

Clark, of Lynette Avenue, was himself reported and suspended once in an illustrious VFL career. He was twice reported and twice cleared when he later played for Sandringham in the VFA.

Meanwhile, Denis and Cheryl Clark's son Michael, at 17 the youngest of their three offspring, is making his own name in football.

Michael's playing with the Eastern Ranges (top-level Under-18s) and is very promising," his father said.

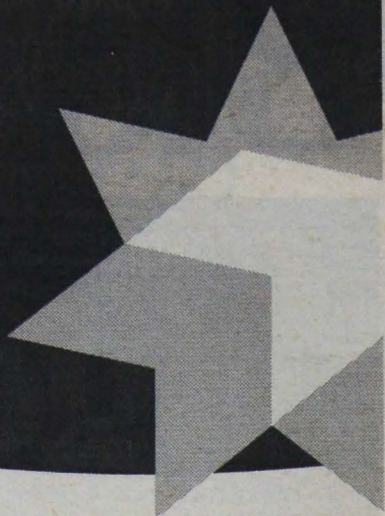


Denis Clark 25 years on. Opinion unchanged.



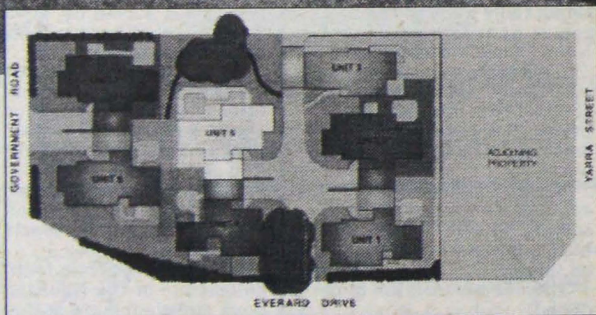
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