

Major arts project

'Meeting Place': mixed media work for our centre

By CLIFF GREEN

A mixed media artwork on silk, 40 metres long, is being planned for the foyer of the Warrandyte Community Centre.

A spokesperson for the project described the proposed work as "a unique installation, dramatically complementing the ceiling void" at the centre, and as "a celebratory and interactive piece for the Warrandyte Festival and other significant events".

The work will be titled Meeting Place, or "Yarra-me willum" in Woiwurrung, language of the local Wurundjeri people.

The title symbolises Warrandyte as a place where the Yarra River and its tributary creeks have joined and where the various social histories of this place—aboriginal, pastoral, mining, orcharding, artistic and urban residential—have flowed together. Also the centre itself is—quite literally—a meeting place within the community.

"Meeting Place is to be made from mixed media on silk fabric," the spokesperson told the *Diary*. "The entire work will be dyed, painted, quilted, hand-embroidered and sculpted."

When finished, it will measure 40 metres long. The work will be "comet-shaped" with five strands coming together at one end—the meeting place. Laid out, it will be approximately six metres wide.

- The first strand will represent "place"—geological events and stratas, natural features, sky and natural cycles.

- The second strand will tell of the Wurundjeri traditions and culture.

- Strand three (central and widest strand) will represent the Yarra as it flows through Warrandyte and will be a metaphor for all the strands.

- Strand five will tell the story since European settlement—pastoral, gold, orchards, tourism, artistic and urban development.

- The final strand will represent stories, histories, poems and songs with reference to current issues and visions for the future. Opportunities for music—including wind strings, bells and castanets—will be included.

The strands will come together at the Meeting Place—head of the comet—a three-dimensional rounded shape approximately three metres wide. It will be heavily quilted and sculpted.

But the work will also have a life outside the centre.

"As an interactive work," the spokes-

person said, "up to a thousand people can participate in the celebratory procession of Meeting Place at public events. Musicians, storytellers, dancers and so on would join in at any presentation of Meeting Place at festivals and other events."

It is anticipated that Meeting Place will receive its first public showing as the centrepiece of the grand parade at the Warrandyte Festival in March, 2000. Yarra-me willum will be the theme for the festival that year.

The 150th anniversary of the founding of Warrandyte township—the discovery of gold on July 1, 1851—will be celebrated in 2001.

Three local artists—Elizabeth Savage Kooroonya, Robina Summers and Edward Car—will design and co-ordinate the project. They will be seeking the assistance of other artists in the community and local children, groups and individuals will all participate.

"The design and concepts enables many people to be involved in the making of Meeting Place," the spokesperson said. People "will be able to work alone or in groups, in consultation with the artworkers."

"The structure provides opportunities for every member of the community, even those isolated through language, age or disability to participate. The potential for tapping into the imagination, hidden talents and less-well known skills (of the community) is exciting and enormous."

The overall design and a model representing the finished work has been completed and submissions for funding and sponsorship are underway. The organisers anticipate that the end of this year will see the completion of research and basic preparation, with major work underway through 1999, to be completed by February 2000.

Application is being made to the Australia Council, state arts bodies and Manningham and Nillumbik councils for funding.

"When used as an installation," the spokesperson said, "Meeting Place will dramatically fill the void at the Warrandyte Community Centre, bonding community with building and providing an icon for local identity and pride."

Model of 'Yarra-me willum' as it will appear in the community centre foyer. (Picture by Tony Summers)



CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS

WOW! I'VE BEEN ASKED TO CREATE A LOCAL ICON FOR THE YARRA-ME WILLUM ARTWORK.



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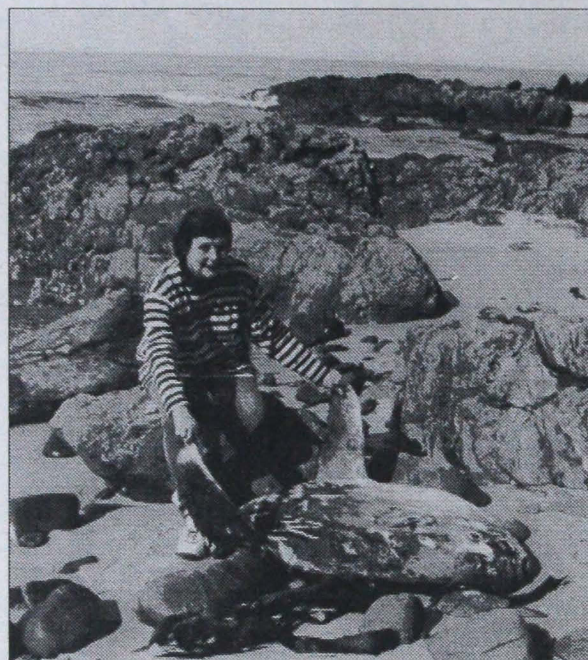
7 DAYS A WEEK

How Gus dishes up this town's whitest choppers

The legend has always had it that Sir Isaac Newton discovered gravity when an apple fell on his head as he napped under a tree. Equally by accident, our very own Gus McLaren has centuries later made another major discovery, one that may revolutionise dental hygiene. In one of his less diligent moments, Gus, of Bradleys Lane, managed to put the glass containing his dentures into the dishwasher—and his choppers came out so brilliantly white and gleaming he reckons this is the way to go. You'd better stand back next time Gus smiles at you lest you be temporarily blinded. We've heard no reports so far of panic among the manufacturers of denture tablets.

Being a child of the universe, *Diary* chief-of-staff/photographer Jan Tindale had to be coerced by hubby Lee (who takes pictures about as well as he takes a Warrandyte football defeat) into smiling as she posed with a sunfish she found washed up at Cape Conran during a holiday late last month at Marlo. The sight of such a rare and beautiful creature dead on a beach was certainly nothing to smile about, she said. Mystified by the absence of the piscatorial curiosity when they returned to the scene next day, silly, sentimental old Jan said perhaps it had come back to life during the night and swum back out to sea to live happily ever after. Fat chance. On the only evidence available, a couple of husky park rangers had carted it away before it started to go rotten.

But wait. There's more. A couple of days later, Jan put her fishing rod in a holder on the bank of the Tambo at Swan Reach and went, head bowed, for a bit of a walk in the sand a few seconds before a giant, razor-backed, man-eating black bream attempted suicide. Bang, bang, bang went the rod and by the time it was suggested (coolly and calmly, of course) that something might be having a nibble there, the fish had discovered a new reason for living and scurped. Asked (coolly and calmly, of course) why she had left her rod unattended and gone walkabout, thereby missing a good fish, Jan



And will there be fries with that, madam? Jan Tindale and the sunfish that (eventually) got away.

explained that she'd been studying pelicans' footprints. Oh. Okay then. Sometimes children of the universe take a little more understanding than most.

Your reaction to the piece on and picture of Anne Drew's bum in the previous issue was all good, further illustrating what a lucky columnist Smokey is to have such lovely broad-minded readers. We're glad you liked the picture—because it took a bit of producing, we can tell you! Being poster-sized, it was too big for the *Diary's* picture scanner to handle, so it had to go into a city publishing house. It went by bus, creating enormous interest among the passengers, and was scanned on to a disk which, with deadline approaching apace, was found to have corrupted. What

to do? Someone suggested asking Anne to come in and sit on our scanner, but we didn't want to over-expose her so we settled for a rush trip into the city a couple of hours before we went to press for a new scan and a new disk. Bingo!

You could read the tourist bloke's mind outside the Lions Club Op Shop a couple of Sundays ago as he examined a Canon electric typewriter ("As new. \$59") on display. Yes, he was definitely going to road-test it. He looked furtively and sheepishly over his shoulder a couple of times, squatted and ran his hands over the keyboard a la a concert pianist. Damn thing didn't work, did it? Then again, it wasn't plugged in, was it? Funny how electric typewriters need electricity.

You know you're really old when everyday stuff you grew up with draws blank stares from the kids. Two really old local musicians, John Byrne and Ray Haynes (along with their mate Ted White), have a band called Triple Play and were invited to play live in the studio recently for an episode of ABC TV's Saturday morning Recovery program for the younger set. They noticed the young bands and singers on the show had brought along copies of their own CDs, which they tossed to the audience as give-aways and during the show, presenter Dylan Lewis asked Ray if Triple Play had produced any CDs. "Well, no," Ray replied, "but we have cut some 78 rpm records." Deathly hush on the set. "Er, what's a 78 rpm record?" asked Lewis.

As promised, we'll be running each month a bit on what's currently blooming in Joan MacMahon's native garden out back of the community centre and we sincerely hope you'll come in and commute with her little bit of nature. This month, Joan says that if you rest your wearies on the bench seat by the Mitchell Avenue path you'll be just about surrounded by spring grevilleas, astarteas and three colour forms (pink, white and red) of epacris. Her favourite is the tall grevillea from Western Australia (*Grevillea thelemanniana*), with its fine grey divided foliage and hanging bunches of delicate pinkish-yellow flowers. We like it, too.

And there are two bumper stickers now tooting through town recently that we just have to have. One suggested that "When all else fails, hug your teddy". The other described the sinister-looking station wagon bearing it as a "Mobile breast testing unit". God, this column's getting smutty.

Smokey Joe



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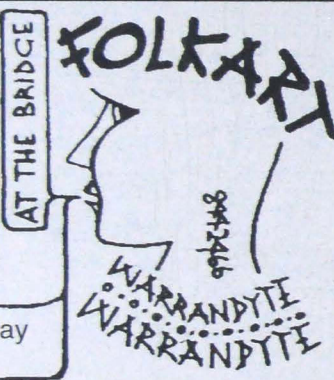
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WARRANDYTE DIARY

EDITORS: Cliff Green and Lee Tindale

PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd, (A.C.N. 006 886 826) as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.

EDITORIAL: Chief of staff Jan Tindale, 9844 3719.

ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Rae Danks, 9844 3819 or 0414 745 212.

CIRCULATION: Peter Norman, 9844 3268.

FAX: Editorial and Advertising, 9844 4168.

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EMAIL ADDRESS: thediary@vicnet.net.au

INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/

PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder, 9725 6699.

PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, 9417 2766.

Published on the second Friday of each month (except January).

ADVERTISING RATES

\$4.50 a column centimetre (casual), \$4.25 (permanent), \$500 full page, \$300 half page, \$165 quarter page, \$50 front page "ears". Preferred positions: page one 100%, page two 30%, page three and back page 20%, other nominated pages 10%. Mini-ads: \$3.50 for four lines, then \$1 each additional line. Mini-ads pre-paid unless by prior arrangement.

Copy closes last Friday of each month

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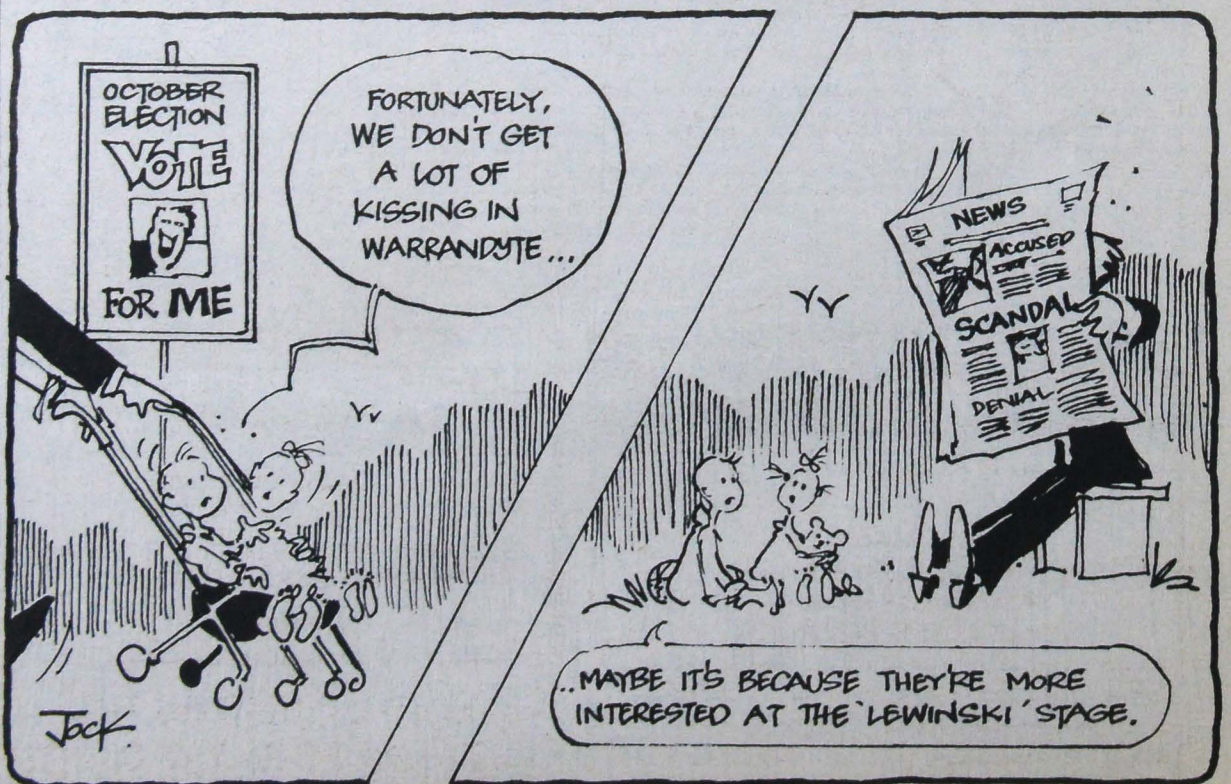
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OVER THE HILLS



By JOCK MACNEISH

Nillumbik council accepts CEO's resignation



Cr Robert Marshall

By FIA CLENDINEN

The Chief Executive Officer at Nillumbik, Mr Barry Rochford, has resigned, a move approved by the Minister for Local Government, Robert Maclellan.

Mr Rochford gave no reason for his resignation which will become effective on September 16.

A majority of Nillumbik councillors voted to accept Mr Rochford's resignation. Shire President Robert Marshall said in a prepared statement, "the Council was satisfied with the terms of the CEO's resignation and wished him well for the future".

Barry Rochford, who described his

three and a half years at Nillumbik as "the most exciting and challenging of my career to date", was the municipality's first CEO.

In December 1994, elected councillors were replaced with state government appointed commissioners, as part of the Victoria-wide council amalgamation process.

The Shire of Nillumbik was created and the three commissioners who were installed as administrators chose Barry Rochford as the new CEO. In his resignation statement Mr Rochford referred to the positive professional relationship he enjoyed from the start with the commission-

ers. He said, "I would like to pay tribute to all the commissioners I worked with".

Elected councillors were returned to Nillumbik in March 1997. Robert Marshall, who served as a councillor for 19 years in the old Eltham shire, was elected as the representative for Sugarloaf ward. He is now serving his second term as shire president.

Cr Marshall has asked the Office of Local Government to provide a list of at least four names from which the council can select an interim CEO.

Cr Marshall stressed his aim was the "security and good health of this municipality".

He said that over the next few months the five councillors would engage in a process of community consultation to determine "the most appropriate ward structure and the most appropriate number of councillors".

He added, "I believe that in March 2000, at the end of our current term, a greater number of councillors will be elected to Nillumbik".

Cr Marshall said that although the situation occasionally had been "rocky" at Nillumbik he was confident the council would survive. "May we all wish Nillumbik better and happier times ahead," he said.

Round table talks on roundabout

By DAVID WYMAN

The future of the proposed roundabout at Harris Gully and Warrandyte roads and the fate of "significant" trees will not be known until after Manningham council meets on September 22.

Council's "hard look" at making the intersection safer for traffic will now involve the opinions of senior engineers from VicRoads and environment planning officers of Melbourne Water.

Their opinions are in addition to those of several Warrandyte community and environment groups, and Manningham council, which has "put on hold" plans for a \$400,000 roundabout for the intersection.

Council's postponement of the roundabout followed vigorous protests by residents on the proposed removal of large

trees on the roadside to make way for the roundabout.

Manningham council then enlarged its consultative panel to include representatives of protesting groups and at its last meeting with the panel asked the community and environment groups to prepare a "position paper" about the intersection.

This paper calls for integration of the intersection improvements with the proposed changes to traffic facilities in the West End shopping centre and for council to consider existing intersection treatments such as those at Stintons and Tindals Roads.

However, the groups' main process of solving the intersection problem appears to be a

"round table" meeting which will include VicRoads and Melbourne Water representatives for the first time, on Wednesday, September 9.

The position paper, signed by Carmel McPhee on behalf of the groups, says that "a round table process would allow all parties—whether environmental or engineering—to take a healthy step back from the process, thus allowing a broader and better view for the entire community".

"We would accept the outcome provided by such a meeting and are confident the Warrandyte community will see this as a commitment to quality decision making by Manningham City Council," the paper says.

Council's director of city development, Lyndon Webb, told the *Diary* that the September 9 meeting would "bring together a group of people who haven't been involved to date, and who should be able to assist us to advance the project".

"I would hope we would reach an outcome and then take it to the council," he said.

The newly formed Warrandyte Awareness Group has suggested to council that it treat the Harris Gully and Warrandyte roads intersection in a similar way to existing "T" intersections in the district.

Group chairman, Peter Curry, said the future of the old manna gum tree next to Warrandyte Road was very important.

"Council seems to have con-

demned that tree yet the arborists' report on the tree's condition has never been tabled at the meetings," he said.

"It seems that no one will say that the tree will not fall over. It's an old tree and we agree that it could be cleaned up, but I don't think it should be condemned as it has been," he said.

Meanwhile, the Warrandyte Awareness Group has received a fax from a student which reads, "I'm in a new environmental group at Warrandyte High School—EG. We all brainstormed things in Warrandyte that we were concerned about, and apart from the usual tree planting and making possum boxes, the most frequently commented-on issue—as I'm sure you can guess—was that roundabout."

"We'd be willing to help you out with any tasks you are doing, to help stop the roundabout going forward."

PERMIT SOUGHT

Olives vs gum trees

Owners of a property in Brumby's Road, South Warrandyte, are seeking a council permit to clear native trees to enable establishment of an olive plantation and strawberry plantation.

The permit notice also says the permit application is for "earthworks associated with construction of a dam and alterations to an existing dam".

The property, believed to be eight hectares, backs onto Johansons Road adjacent to the Warrandyte State Park area known as The Common.

Local residents have contacted the *Diary* expressing concern about the possibility of removing native trees on the property, which they say represent remnant vegetation important to wildlife survival.

Residents' group gearing for action

CLYDE & OCKER



"We'll soon see Warrandyte WAG the tail of the council dog, Ock!"

By DAVID WYMAN

Warrandyte's new environment protection group—tentatively called Warrandyte Awareness Group—has established a strong core of supporters and nominated its objectives.

Chairman, Peter Curry, said that while it was early days for the group, "we have received and are encouraged by the enthusiastic support and interest from a wide range of people within our town".

He said the objectives of the Warrandyte Awareness Group were:

- Actively protect the Green Wedge; prevent subdivision in Warrandyte and the Green Wedge;
- Protect and maintain the current Warrandyte environment and character;
- Promote Warrandyte for our residents;
- Provide support to other community groups as appropriate and as required.

"Our main activity has been going through a learning curve with the roundabout issue (Harris Gully Road intersection with Warrandyte Road), understanding the council processes, and meeting councillors and people from other groups," Peter Curry said.

"The roundabout issue has distracted us from formalising the group but at our next meeting we should establish the processes for formally setting up the group to become incorporated."

The group has held two meetings and two members—Peter Curry and Leonie Ulbrich—are on council's consultative panel reviewing options for the roundabout. Warrandyte Awareness Group welcomes input from the community on local issues. Peter Curry can be contacted on 9844 0958.



Fired by love

Warrandyte Fire Brigade provided a guard of honour when two of their members—Leanne Sharp and Peter Handoll—married at St Stephens Anglican Church on Sunday, August 9. Earlier, Leanne made a dramatic arrival on the

back of a fire truck, with lights and sirens operating.

The happy couple honeymooned in Thailand on their way to England. They plan to return to Warrandyte and live in Gold Memorial Road.

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Business folk mourn passing of bank branch

DEAR DIARY

maintaining bank in town by shifting our bank accounts to them. Which bank?

John James
President
Warrandyte Business Association

It is most disappointing that the powers-that-be at the National Australia Bank have closed the Warrandyte branch. With the imminent upgrade of the Goldfields Shopping Centre, which will substantially increase business in this area, it seems a short-sighted decision, especially as I am informed the bank's lease continues until April 1999.

The obsession of the banks with the bottom line is well known, but little regard seems to be given to their corporate responsibilities.

The Warrandyte business community is made up of many small businesses, and to redirect them to the overcrowded branch at The Pines is just not good enough. Many of these businesses cannot afford to close for an extra half-hour per banking day to travel to East Doncaster.

We need full banking facilities in Warrandyte, and the Warrandyte Business Association has adopted the policy that we must support the one re-

CLYDE & OCKER



"Warrandyte's a real country town, now, Ock. They've closed a bank!"



Warrandyte High School students tutoring primary students in a Science in Action project.

Retirees active in club

A Probus Club has operated in Warrandyte and Park Orchards since 1989. The club "aims to provide fellowship for retired men and women where friendship is the aim," club president Francis Jameson told the *Diary*. "The organisation is simple and activities are low cost."

Each new Probus Club is sponsored by Rotary, but is otherwise autonomous. Clubs must be "non-sectarian, non-political" and are "barred from making collections on behalf of the community".

The club meets at 10.30am on the second Monday of each month (excepting public holidays) at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens clubrooms in Tarouna Avenue.

"At each meeting, a guest speaker is invited to talk to us about interesting and important matters. Once a month an outing is organised. As the club grows, so will its range of activities, and we look forward to creating specialised groups, such as golf, theatre, walking and so on."

"Don't just sit on your verandah contemplating the difficulties in making the adjustment from an active, busy life; wondering what to do with yourself—join your local Probus Club," Mr Jameson said.

Probus can be contacted on 9844 3638 or 9844 2434.

Water life studied

Warrandyte High School science teachers, together with twelve Year 9 and 10 students, worked with the teachers and students at Anderson's Creek Primary School on an innovative science project.

The project, which ran over six weeks, looked at water life in local ponds and creeks.

The high school students acted as tutors and more than 100 primary pupils in years 5 and 6 were able to benefit from the program. The primary pupils learnt to use a microscope and make wet water slides.

Some of the classes took place at the primary school and some at the high school. The high school was able to provide the specialist science teachers and technical equipment.

But it wasn't just the primary pupils who gained from participating in the project. The high school students learned such important communication skills as dealing with others and how to relate to younger students.

The project was such a success that a joint project on electricity and magnetism is scheduled for term four.



HERITAGE RESTORATION FUND 1998/99

The Manningham Heritage Restoration Fund recognises the value of assisting property owners to maintain buildings, places and sites of significance to the cultural heritage of the municipality. There will be one funding round in 1998/99.

Generally, all owners of properties listed or proposed to be listed in the heritage provisions of the Planning Scheme are eligible to apply for funds.

Applications for funding close 15 October 1998. Works must be able to be undertaken and moneys claimed by 30 June 1999.

Policy Guidelines and Application forms for funding may be obtained by telephoning Pam Papigitis on 9840 9362. Specific enquiries may be directed to Sonia Rappell, Strategic Planner on 9840 9434.

LEAF PROGRAM PROVIDES HELP FOR 'NON-URBAN' LANDOWNERS Local Environment Assistance Fund (LEAF 1998/99)

The LEAF program aims to provide assistance which funds individuals or groups in their endeavours to maintain and improve the environmental quality of their land for the benefit of present and future generations.

Two categories of assistance are available:

Category 1: Property Management Planning Course

The course will involve landowners preparing a five year action plan for their property with the assistance of a consultant.

The cost to attend the course is \$50 per landowner.

Category 2: Land Protection Works

This category provides for grants up to the value of \$800, on a \$1:\$1 basis, for actions which actively seek to improve the environmental quality of the land.

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from Council's Economic & Environmental Planning Unit by contacting Donna Stoddart (Environmental Planner) on 9840 9338 or Maria Rico (Strategic Planner) on 9840 9467 or email: donna.stoddart@manningham.vic.gov.au

Application forms must be received by 9 October, 1998.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM 1998/99 & COMMUNITY FESTIVALS AND EVENTS GRANT PROGRAM 1998/99

Applications are invited for funds from the Community Development Grant Program 1998/99 and Community Festivals and Events Grant Program in 1998/99.

The purpose of the Community Development Grant Program is to facilitate and support non-profit community organisations in Manningham to develop projects and programs which benefit and meet the needs of the community.

The purpose of the Community Festivals and Events Grant Program is to facilitate and support non-profit community organisations in Manningham, to develop and conduct festivals and events which benefit and meet the needs of the community, and enhance community and cultural development.

Applicants should obtain a copy of the funding guidelines and application forms prior to applying for funds. Guidelines are available in community languages on request.

An Information Session will be held between 6.30pm and 7.30pm, Wednesday 16 September 1998, in the Koonung/Heide Rooms at the Council Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

Applications close at 5.00pm Friday 2 October, 1998.

Guidelines and application forms are available from the Customer Service Officer, Cultural and Leisure Services Unit, Manningham City Council Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, by telephoning 9840 9393 or 9840 9238, or at the Information Session.

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Council stonewalls on court lighting

By CLINTON GRYPAS

A plan by some young local basketballers to turn the lights back on at one of the outdoor courts at Warrandyte Reserve has met resistance at Manningham council.

The group, headed by David Thwaites, had been trying to get council to restore power to the two lights atop a pole at the Tarroona Avenue end of the courts.

But they have been told they must meet all costs associated with the idea, including taking out public liability insurance.

"Initially, I think they thought that all they had to do was hook it up and I would pay an annual fee," David Thwaites told the *Diary*.

"But then they sent me all these documents—30 pages of red tape—asking me if I was a team or a club. I said I would become that if necessary and they said you will have to take

out public liability for anyone who is on the court."

The original pole and lights were paid for by the basketball and netball clubs in 1975. The pole was superceded by a new model a few years ago and still carries the lights on top.

Teams from both clubs trained at the reserve after dark until the late 1980s, when the lights blew and were never replaced and the basketball teams went to train indoors at the high school.

A few years ago the court surface and backboards were upgraded for the benefit of the netball club and social basketballers who continue to train there until nightfall.

Warrandyte Netball Club's 12 teams and 100 or so players train at both the reserve and the outdoor courts at Andersons Creek Primary School. According to Wendy George, they would be grateful if the lights were switched back on.

"It would certainly be of great

benefit to us, no question. We have to limit our training time around the light factor, which doesn't help when it is dark at 5.15pm," she said.

"It would also help if the girls wanted to stay back after training or couldn't leave straight away—they could at least keep practising."

David Thwaites said he was willing to foot the bill alone when originally told by council that it would cost \$150 to have the lights turned back on.

"There were no dramas about that."

"It even got to the point where I was seriously considering taking out the public liability to get it going because we were getting 15 people down a night to play."

The clear message that I got from council was that they wanted the onus to be all put on the public rather than on them."

He says he is disillusioned with the failed process for getting the lights turned back on.

"I got to the stage where they said they were going to charge me \$10 for the lock (to a switch box) and \$10 for the bond, and if anything happened to the lock I would lose my bond. That's how pedantic they were getting."

When the lights operated in the past, the switch box—located out of the way of small children about two metres up the pole—was unlocked, meaning whoever wanted to play there could.

"There were never any problems then and I'm sure no one would mistreat it. They would be surprised how many more people would come down and use the courts after work or school."

"We don't mind paying, but for public liability insurance for one person or for a group of people who just want to come down and play basketball at night, it seems a tad extreme."

No council spokesperson was available when the *Diary* went to press.

"BASICALLY NO SERVICES" Traders hit at rubbish

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte businesses have criticized Manningham council for failing to provide adequate recycling services.

Businesses want to reduce their waste and increase recycling levels, but the current services provided by the council are hampering their efforts, a Deakin University report has found.

Commissioned last month by the Warrandyte Business Association, the report claims that businesses pay an average of \$26 each per annum for recycling services, mainly the collection of recyclable materials. But there are "basically no services" provided by the council, Mr Trevor Thornton, lecturer at Deakin University and author of the report, told the *Diary*.

Manningham Council has admitted they do not offer recyclables collection to businesses; this deficiency is due to "the diversity of waste generated by commercial properties," a spokesperson said.

The council is currently developing a strategy to collect recyclable materials from businesses, and the service should be available by early next year, Judy Denham, Manningham spokesperson said.

"It is up to the council to take over responsibility," Mr Thornton, lecturer of Ecology and Environment at Deakin University, said.

The report, which also studied litter problems in Warrandyte, made many recommendations about how Warrandyte can improve its environmental sensitivity, including better placement of bins, increased council litter patrols, and education programs.

Students should be educated about the importance of responsible litter disposal, and businesses should train their staff to minimize waste creation in the first place, Mr Thornton said.

Such other approaches as agreements with bus companies to deal with litter from bus commuters, and schemes similar to "adopt-a-highway" in which groups or individuals claim responsibility for litter control in particular areas, were also suggested in the report.

This could represent a collective effort by all businesses, residents, and tourists to "keep Warrandyte litter free", and could be promoted by a logo, which would be displayed in public areas, Mr Thornton said.



Olympian Ann-Marie Roberts presents Amanda Stoyan with her Lions Club award.

Amanda is tops

Amanda Stoyan of Warrandyte High School was the successful contestant in the Warrandyte Lions 5th Annual Youth Award. Other finalists were Ameer George, also of Warrandyte High School, who was second, and Jennifer Willis, of Eltham College, who was third.

The three finalists were selected after an initial interview on July 26, and were required to give a five minute speech on a subject of their own choosing, to members of the Lions Club and guests at Kellybrook Winery on August 27.

Their speech carried 20 percent of the overall marks for the award. Amanda spoke on "What Warrandyte means to me".

Amanda received a plaque commemorating her achievement, together with a cheque for \$600.

The presentation was made

on behalf of the club by another young person, Anne Marie Roberts, an Olympian and World Games trap shooter, formerly of Warrandyte.

As Amanda was nominated by her school, the school also received a cheque for \$600. Ameer received \$400 with \$400 also going to her school, and Jennifer \$200 and her school \$200.

Terry Moodie, on behalf of the judges, Meredith Thornton, Richard Forde and himself, congratulated the contestants on their efforts and thanked them and the other contestants for their participation.

During the evening members and guests were entertained by the voices of Megan Fitzgerald, Giselle Manoli and Richard England from the cast of *Westside Story*, to be performed by students of Warrandyte High School at the school during September.

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Out of this world

ANOTHER opening, another show, another set of anxieties and expectations. Will I remember my lines? Will I be teased for wearing lipstick? Will anyone notice me in the back row? The curtain's gone up and the space looks much bigger than I thought; the lights are so bright I can't see where Gran's sitting.

I still wish I could have been a pig. Well folks, it's over for another year and, for all those children appearing in Kids In Space, along with their teachers and helpers, and irector, Fiona Wells, it's time to take a bow. The first item of Warrandyte Primary's annual production involved Preps and Grades 1 and 2 in the timeless fable, The

KIDS' STUFF

By MARION WINTON

Little Red Hen. I liked it for its simplicity. The costumes were delightful and the children particularly well disciplined, remaining still between 'tracks' and proving that it is possible to have effective quiet moments on stage.

The Warrandyte Bushband, of more than 60 children, chose a new work by Rob Fairbairn as its first item, 'Keepers of the Land'. This was the first time this moving piece has been performed and I hope it will be repeated at the Warrandyte Festival. I caught a glimpse of Kevin O'Mara providing guitar backing, his presence lifting the overall standard and complementing the work of Dee Anderson, the band's music teacher. The lighting effects, particularly with the children silhouetted against a red sky, helped establish a sense of place. The band's second item, 'Dandenong Ranges' had a 'western' feel—a lighthearted, idiosyncratic number.

Grade 2 choir was obviously starry-eyed in its choice of items. I particularly liked their version of 'Raindrops' and 'Catch a Falling Star' and their sweet singing of 'Would you like to swing on a star?' went a long way in overcoming my aversion to this song.

I was impressed by the enthusiasm of the children and the high standard of the perfor-

mance, especially the two-part harmony of this Grade 2 choir, under the guiding baton of parent-conductor, Ros Chandler.

The final item, and the one which gave the production its name, Kids In Space, was first performed by the school in 1987. Written by Lynne Bartlett and Mark Leehy, with music by Leehy, Fairbairn and O'Mara, it is obviously one which provides a great deal of scope for dramatic effects. Colourful staging, imaginative costumes and flamboyant characterisations ensured this production realised the dramatic possibilities, but the strength of the show is the music itself. From the rousing opening number, through the quieter passages, building to the exciting 'Space Boogie' finale, the music both fused with, and drove, the action on stage, which gave a professional quality to the whole production. Narrator Emma Clark led us beyond the black hole to the 'destination of all lost things', introducing us to a heterogeneous collection of robots, space pirates, a Professor suffering from moon deafness, K9, Chewgum and time travellers from the ubiquitous Tardis.

Paul O'Mara, playing a dropout, Cumulo Nimbus, showed that he was not daunted by his inaugural acting experience and I specifically liked his presentation of the poignant, 'That Eye The Sky'. Courtney Camm had her introduction to the stage via the role of Mammatus Nimbus and I hope Courtney achieves her ambition to continue her acting career.

For Breanna Leone too, this



was a first time. Breanna has a strong stage presence and I would like to see her in future productions. Shamus, Paul, Ben and Sam added much to the show with their synchronised robotic movements. Poor 'Horse Head', Lisa Williams, playing an incontinent space pirate, spent as much time off-stage as on. This was a good, dare I say, running gag, and Lisa was well suited to this comedy role.

I thoroughly enjoyed Jerome

Harmsworth's performance as the Professor in 'Perpetual Motion'. He has a natural feeling for comedy and kept in character right to the end of the show, even managing to get a laugh on his final bow. Congratulations to director Fiona Wells, the musicians, actors, production committees, and all connected with the show.

(Unfortunately Grades 3 and 4 and the Gymnastics Team were not performing the night I attended.)



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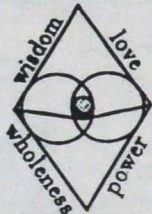
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Breakfast for the soul

By JOAN GOLDING

IT'S half past six and only the birds and a few rabbits are here to enjoy with me the glorious extravagance of the sunrise reflected in the river—but, no, I can hear the sound of Alan coming behind me, running, running, always running.

Alan is not a young man, but he runs with the spring of a young man in his step, nothing like the shuffling gait of Cliff Young whom I see in the Otways when we visit our son. Alan has probably been running all his life and thinks nothing of running from his home near mine, along the river path and back and then up steep Pound Hill again, whereas I lazily drive my car down to the carpark at the beginning of the flat river walk.

As I cross the little bridge over Anderson's Creek, I look down to see if there are any platypuses wallowing in the mud. They have been living in the creek for over 50 years and my children never knew that I could tell from their muddy shoes if they had been visiting them on their way home from school. A strictly forbidden activity!

I have been away for some time and am delighted to find that in my absence the large cherry plum, immediately over the bridge, has burst into blossom, and is looking lacey and mystical in the early morning light. I am ready to believe the legend that Warrandyte's cherry plums grew from the pips dropped by the miners long ago, but how did the quince trees further along the bank come to be there?

Below the end of Stiggat Street I meet Paul with his two labradors—one cream and one black. Paul is the soul of patience and has been training these two dogs for at least two years with-



out any appreciable improvement in their behaviour that an outside observer can see.

Next, two women pass me, walking briskly. Did I ever have such energy? Like everyone else on the riverbank, they wish me a Good Morning and go on their way. I see David and Taylor over nearer the river—Taylor on the lead, but David being led.

Now here comes the couple with the two bassett hounds and a cream dog of less determinate breed. The hounds are always hunting, searching behind every tussock for prey they are sure to find one day. All five in this group are friendly and brighten my morning.

Ding, ding! "On your right", calls Mary-May as she comes up swifly and silently on her bike. She is the only early morning rider on our path, and rides in all weathers, sometimes swaddled in scarves and wet weather gear. In spring she wears goggles in fear of the swooping magpies.

Here we are at Hussey's pool with fond memories of my childhood and sunny summers spent swinging from a rope on the big oak tree, and splashing into the river. Already I can smell the fresh bread from the bakery, still a good half kilometre away. The only way to resist this temptation is to bring no money on the walk.

Now I am at the end of Webb Street, where I often meet my walking companion, Tony. He has with him Patch, a border collie who has a passionate interest in possums, and is obedient to Tony's slightest command. Also with Tony is Tiger, a nice black dog, getting old now, and with a tendency not to notice when he is walking in front of people. Tony used to bring Millie, his mother-in-law's dog, but

both Millie and Tony's mother-in-law were elderly and have left us now.

Racing past us now are Luke and Ned. Luke has the longest legs I have ever seen and Ned is a brown dog, so alert and intelligent that he probably could run the country. Ned always greets Tony with great enthusiasm. Sometimes we see Luke's mother, another fast walker. In fact, she seems never to move slowly and can be seen most days dashing about the fruit shop where she works.

Down from the carpark comes Andree, the power walker. Andree has lived here for years and is still as beautiful and as youthful looking as when I first met her. Perhaps power walking is the answer!

Time to turn back now, and as we

pass the baker's, we see his donkey. My great granddaughter, whose parents imagine she has been shielded from Christian influence, told me that the donkey wears a cross on his back because it was his forbear who carried Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Near the end of the walk now, and the last of the early morning walkers approach. They are Misty, with her companions Jo and Peter. Misty is small, grey and eager and she is most certainly going to catch a rabbit one day! The last person I meet before I reach the car is the lady with the german shepherd on an extendable lead. This lady and I have had a nodding acquaintance for 20 years but I do not know her name.

My morning walk is over but the cheerful greetings of my fellow walkers and the grace of God's bounty will stay with me all day.



Martin Wright: "The desire of the people here is to serve the community."

Community radio is alive

By FIA CLENDINEN

AS an air traffic controller Martin Wright spent much of his working life sitting behind a console decorated with a vast array of blinking lights and dials; in response to voices listened to through headphones he twiddled and turned those dials.

Martin has recently "retired," now he puts in a 40 hour week as unpaid station manager at Plenty Valley FM, a community radio station run entirely by volunteers. He attends to much of the administration of the station and presents several weekly programs, so for a part of every day Martin can be found listening through headphones and twiddling the dials of a complicated console.

Plenty Valley FM (88.6 on your dial), located in the old school building at Yarrambat Primary School, has been in operation for nine years. It serves a potential audience of around 250,000 listeners, broadcasting throughout the municipalities of Nillumbik, Banyule, Whittlesea, as well as parts of Murrindindi and Manningham.

But on a good day, depending on the wind, Plenty Valley FM can be picked up as far away as Penguin, on the north coast of Tasmania. A local in Penguin is a regular listener to one of the jazz programs.

A central function of Plenty Valley FM is providing official information during a local emergency. If there is a bushfire in the listening area; if a car accident blocks a main road, the station

immediately interrupts its schedule to broadcast up-to-the-minute reports from the Country Fire Authority or the police.

But Plenty Valley FM also offers a range of programs, covering topics as diverse as local news and events, blues music and film reviews. It provides a venue for local bands who bring their instruments into the station and play live to air. Several ethnic groups have their own programs. And during the winter months Plenty Valley FM broadcasts the Diamond Valley Football League's match of the day.

It's an impressive schedule and it doesn't happen magically. To keep Plenty Valley FM alive on the air waves 18 hours a day, seven days a week, takes the commitment of a huge team. The station has a volunteer staff of 148 licensed presenters, nine administrators and seven technicians. These are people who come from all walks of life, varying in age from school children to retirees.

So what drives people to become involved in a community radio station? Some do it as a way of breaking into the world of commercial radio and a handful of people who cut their teeth at Plenty Valley FM have gone on to successful careers in the mainstream media.

But according to station manager Martin Wright, most of the staff at the station are there for purely altruistic reasons. "The desire of the people who work here is to serve the community," he told the *Diary*.

He also thinks that the commercial radio sta-

tions, by their very nature, cannot give listeners everything they want. "The big radio stations are there to make a dollar," he said. "They won't provide the coverage for the community that the community deserves."

What commercial radio station, for example, would run a daily program called *Wishing You Well*? This is a "request program for those who aren't feeling the best" and can be heard on Plenty Valley FM every week day between 1 and 2pm.

Before working at Plenty Valley FM, Martin spent many thousands of hours working at several community newspapers. He believes there are parallels between a community radio station and a newspaper such as the *Diary*. Both provide coverage of local news and events, information that despite its importance is rarely picked up by the commercial media. Martin described this similarity of functions as, "an access to localism".

Like any organisation run by volunteers, Plenty Valley FM has the occasional hiccup. Sometimes presenters don't turn up for their time slots. A desperate phone call is made to the assistant station manager, who has been known to arrive at the station within 15 minutes, ready to take over and go on air.

But Plenty Valley FM is a testimony to community spirit. On the thinnest of shoe strings and thanks to the hard work of a dedicated team, voice is given to a range of groups who wouldn't otherwise be heard.

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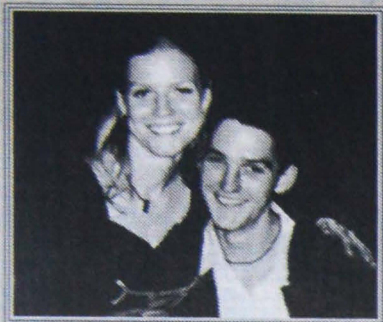
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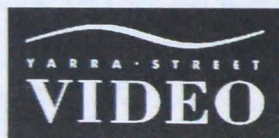
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I HAVE to be honest. It's taken me days to decide whether I can continue to write for the *Diary*. I mean, there is such a thing as pride and position.

I've never been one to flaunt my advantages in life. I've taken all my talents for granted without believing it necessary to parade them before an admiring public. For example, I made a conscious decision not to become an international male model, mainly because I like my privacy and didn't want to create any family tensions—you know what envious siblings can be like. Anyway, international plane travel can be so tiring.

For similar reasons I made a deliberate choice not to do hair shampoo commercials. I also chose to leave the drama group because of the fear of becoming typecast as the young romantic male lead in all their productions.

With all of the above I decided that if I were to retain the common touch, I needed to be like my reading audience—ordinary. I didn't want to have to deal with experiences outside their narrow and limited lifestyles. So, it was with some trepidation that I sat down to write this article, now that I'm an international land baron.

Before joining the landowning elite, I never fully appreciated the difficulties they have to endure. And it was in the process of coming to terms with all my new responsibilities and status that I began to wonder whether

KIBBLED

"My modest ordinariness allows my enormous readership to identify with my daily routine."

I may have lost the very thing that made me adored by my millions of readers—my modest ordinariness that allows my enormous readership to identify with my daily routine.

In my articles I have become a comfortable cardigan, a friendly neighbour in Home And Away, a Seinfeld character capable of making the same idiotic decisions as my audience.

But oh! The weight of ownership and its attendant problems. I was driving past the Melbourne Club last night and

got to wondering about how I was going to reply to the inevitable avalanche of nomination offers I'm sure to be plagued by.

It wasn't until I was halfway home that the solution struck me. Educate my readers! Take them out of themselves and their hum-drum little lives. Let them enter into my world. Show them what life has to offer on the glittering catwalks of the fast set.

I turned to Herself and told her about my decision. She was overwhelmed, dumbstruck—in awe, I suppose. She didn't need to say anything. She looked at me and just raised her eyes to heaven—no doubt amazed by how quickly my new found importance had improved my ability to make executive decisions.

"Should I run it past Cliff?" I asked. I was aware that with my new lifestyle I didn't want the editor to feel left out of the decision-making process. "You don't think he'll feel a bit diminished, now do you?" I added this in the hope that a negative answer from Herself would dispel any lingering doubts I might have had.

"I'm sure Cliff will be able to cope with the new Roger. It'd take a lot more than your new landholding to faze that old warhorse." That's what I love about Herself. She's able to say the right thing at the right time. Just as I was feeling sympathetic, she manages to defuse the situation so that I can go on feeling better about the problem even though nothing has

really altered the enormous chasm that has developed between the rest of the world and me.

"I do think, however, that before you get too many articles written, you should share your enormous good fortune with your adoring public. It wouldn't be fair to leave them in the dark. After all, you've shared so much of your life with them that it would be churlish to keep this significant event to yourself."

So, how could I disagree. There and then I decided that in this article I would lay bare my good fortune and the cause of my new status.

I like Laphroaig Whisky. I bought a bottle at the airport and, inside the cylinder, was an application (only for select people I understand). I filled it in and sent it off and by return post, all the way from Scotland, I received my "birthright", a lifetime lease on a property on the Isle of Islay.

Whenever I go, I'll be greeted and given a yearly ground rent of one dram of Laphroaig but I'm not to cut peat, farm sheep or extract minerals from my holding. As a landholder this doesn't worry me. I feel I have a responsibility to posterity to look after my lifetime leasehold on one square foot of Scottish bog.

It may not be a central Australian sheep farm, but, as we all know, size doesn't always matter.

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These tiny little creatures have sure got a lot of gall!

THE oak tree is an enduring symbol of my birthland. In a country that for thousands of years suffered almost total deforestation at the hands of the Celts, Romans and Vikings, the oak has somehow managed to retain its rightful place in the deciduous woods of southern England.

With its sturdy trunk, spreading branches and ornate tiers of large-lobed leaves, the oak is a classic among trees. As a child I took great delight in seeking out the freshly fallen fruit of the oak—its acorns, silky smooth, shiny green and still nestled in their rough-textured caps. That they quickly lost their lustre and faded to fawn didn't matter, the fun was in the collecting not the keeping.

Sometimes I would come across other woody growths beneath the oaks, these were not egg-shaped like the acorns, but round like marbles. I knew them as oak apples.

They were galls, a term that meant little to me at the time. I didn't know that these ochre-coloured spheres filled with spongy pith were in fact the by-product of an invasion of the oak's soft tissues by a tiny wasp.

Galls remained somewhat of a mystery to me until a couple of years ago. Enlightenment came when I attended a talk given by the eminent entomologist, Tim New. Only then did I begin to understand the devious complexities of this extraordinary, highly specialised way of life.

Galls are incredibly common. They can occur on the roots, stems, flowerbuds or fruit of most plants, but they are particularly noticeable on leaves,

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

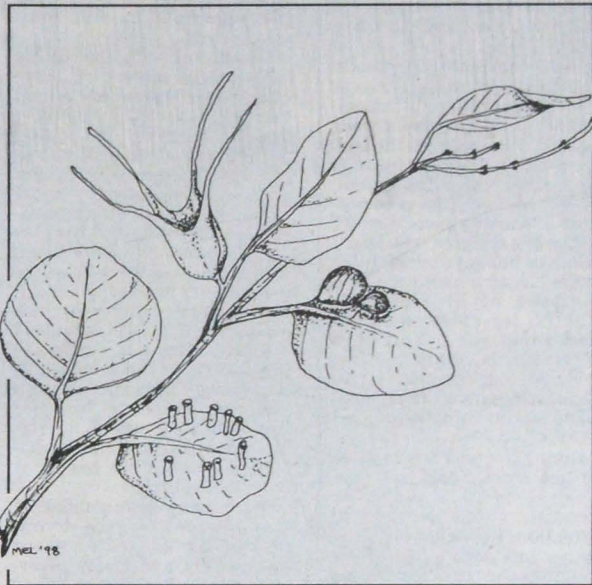
especially those of eucalypts. Children are fascinated by the surrealist, sometimes brightly coloured shapes, but how many parents, or teachers for that matter, can answer the questions that inevitably flow from inquisitive young minds? What's a gall? What makes it? How? Why?

In simple terms a gall is a proliferation of plant tissue, an overgrowth of cells—a sort of callus. They are formed in response to an irritation caused by an invader, usually an insect, although other agents such as bacteria, fungi and nematodes—microscopic thread-like worms—can also be involved in gall formation.

The most elaborate and most commonly encountered galls can be attributed to insects such as small wasps, flies, scale and mealy bugs. A chemical in the insect's saliva stimulates the plant to produce extra growth hormones which result in more cells and tissues being laid down and the formation of a gall.

The process is rather similar to what happens when an athlete takes illegal hormones to enhance strength and performance.

The female insect generally spends all her life inside the woody growth which provides her with food and shelter as she matures. It is the winged males that make their escape by drilling an exit through the gall wall. Once free, the males fly off to



tunnel into another gall to mate with a housebound female of the same species.

The shape of each gall is consistent in appearance for each species of insect which stimulates its formation. In other words it is quite possible to identify the gall-forming insect from the structure of its gall.

However, sometimes females and males of the same species can produce galls of an entirely different appearance. This is the case with a certain coccid—an insect closely related to scale and mealy bugs. The female coccid makes a single, large, four-sided gall with four slender horns arising from each corner. In comparison, the male gall is a collection of tiny cylin-

ders attached to the surface of a leaf.

The biology of galls is not well-studied and there are many questions as yet unanswered. For instance, how does the plant differentiate between species and between the sexes of the same species?

There are many vacancies to be filled in scientific research, but soft fur and brightly coloured feathers have more appeal and therefore take precedence over creepy crawlies that hide in distorted, woody growths. Still, if you are into breaking new ground and making fascinating discoveries you can do no better than indulge in a little gallology—a branch of entomology that is still to be born.

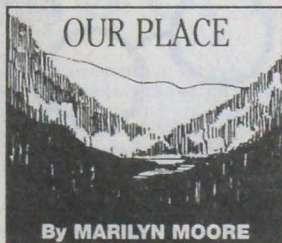
Wombat abuse heralds election row

IT could only happen in Warrandyte. Well, almost. And only in springtime.

The night was mild, moonless and tranquil. The hour barely past midnight. Homework and dishes were finished, the littlest heads snoozed warmly on thick pillows, the washing machine purred quietly, and a glass of shiraz glowed purple-washed ruby in the rustic late-night ambience of timber and brick. The end was nearly in sight of the document I was working on. But one ingredient was missing, something to soften the brittle silence of the night. Music.

But which? For much of the evening we had been treated to simultaneous performances of home-grown vibrant trumpet and enthusiastically chromatic piano playing, overprinted cacophonously with somebody's favourite recording of full-blooded African a capella. The vivacity and chaos seemed appropriate at the time. But definitely not at this hour. Time for something gentle, in keeping with the witching hour and the silent blanket of fog seeping up the hill from the river.

So, firmly relegating the lungs of Africa back to its box, I hovered undecided between the



heartrending purity of Brahms' Lullaby in one hand and the seductive blue rhythms of Keith Jarrett in the other.

Meanwhile, through the speakers, came a low growling noise. Softly at first but menacing, it hoarsened, then crescendoed into a sort of curdled roar. The hairs stood up on the back of my neck as a succession of murderous snorts and deep-chested bellows rent the stillness. I stared in disbelief at the empty CD-holder. The bellowing intensified alarmingly as I shifted my stupefied gaze to the speakers.

This simply could not be happening. The radio was switched off (it hasn't worked for years), tape deck ditto, and the CD-holder still gleamed naked in the semi-darkness.

Another wave of grunt-laden and guttural bellowing filled the room, vibrating the speakers and shivering the very timbers. It sounded like a cow stuck in labour, or a donkey caught in a noose. Or even a trio of bull-elephant seals engaged in a territorial showdown. How primeval!

Strangely enough, we do own a CD with a similar soundtrack. I get rather annoyed if a glitch in the power supply causes it to turn itself on at 3am. Uninvited performances of Vivaldi and Mozart I can sleep through, but not this murderous territorial grandstanding full of bel-lowed insults and distressed yelping. But the offending CD was safely stowed in its cover. Nowhere near the CD player. Yet the full fury of whatever it was rounded loudly around the room.

THUMP! Speakers and wall trembled. I dashed to the window, and the mystery was solved. Of course the sound was not coming from the speakers, but from the wall behind them. Outside, in fact, where a large wombat spat final hairy insults into the shadows before stalking off. By the time I'd found the doorkey and crept outside for a closer view, the

only sounds to be heard were those of loud chomping emanating from the grassy gully either side of the carport. Two wombats? Or a wombat and a koala?

This skirmish was a landmark from my point of view, because I can't recall having heard a wombat even grunt before. Following pre-ordained Wombat Law, they generally keep silently to the shadows. Roaming comfortably from one grassy nook to another, they fulfill their business in an orderly fashion and their comments on the issues of the day are rarely proffered or sought.

Something like Canberra's backbenchers. However it looks as though springtime 1998 will bring these hibernators out of their lairs, too, to join their vocal currawong-and-maggie-like frontbench friends in a full-scale territorial battle.

Their pre-election warbling and flapping will be wasted at our place. The October 3 election date is heaven-sent for those of us who've heard enough already. School holidays from mid-September will mean that we can switch off radio and TV for the final fortnight of the campaign. I'd rather listen to the wombat.

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JOY ESME HOOK

A hard, good life

By PETER HOOK

JOY Esme Hook died recently, aged 81 years. She spent the last 40 of those years in Warrandyte.

In an era when distant travel from home was something attempted by very few people, Joy and her close friend, Joan Pymm, set out on a journey from Fremantle to Melbourne by ship, complete with blacked-out portholes because Australia was at war. It was in Melbourne that she met John Hook, married and started a family.

I mention this because it is an early insight into the great strength of character and independence that was so typical of Joy.

Although her new home was Melbourne, she often spoke fondly of growing up in Fremantle and spending balmy summer nights with her family on the banks of the Swan River with containers of boiling water on an open fire, and catching and cooking great quantities of fresh prawns. It sounded idyllic.

The late 40s and early 50s were an extremely tough time for Joy, raising a young family, nursing John through a number of serious illnesses, and with very few resources. Throughout this time Mum was a tower of strength in keeping the family together and providing us with so much love and attention in spite of all the difficulties.

In the early 60s we moved into a new architect-designed



home—glorious but lacking fly-wire screens. After suffering two heatwaves and mosquitoes the size of DC3s and, much to Dad's horror and opposition, Joy enrolled herself in a wood-working class, with the supreme intent of making flywire screens—which she accomplished, fitted, and they are still there today. She looked after us in every way.

Joy's support for others in the community went well beyond the normal call of duty.

She worked for the Warrandyte Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of St Lawrence for a total of 33 years, and was treasurer for 29 years. Truly remarkable community service.

Joy was a member of the healing ministry at St Paul's Cathedral, and travelled to the cathedral each Tuesday for many years as part of the ministering team.

She was a volunteer worker at the Lions Club of Warrandyte Opportunity Shop where thou-

sands of dollars were generated by the shop for community projects. Joy was known for her sliding scale pricing policy—those in need paid what they could afford, and those with money paid top dollar.

Joy worked with other mothers to establish the canteen at Warrandyte Primary School, initially on a one day a week basis. The funds from the canteen were used to build a swimming pool at the school. The primary need was to provide a "learn to swim" facility for young children who spent summer holidays by the river.

She has also been an active member of St Stephen's Church for most of the 40 years that she has lived in Warrandyte. She loved her friends from the senior citizens and enjoyed their companionship and the social events.

During the past few months of her illness, Joy was confined to bed and in need of constant care and love and attention. The devotion to Joy in her last days by all of her family and in particular Helen, Kathy, Ian, her grandchildren, other family members and the nurses from the Diamond Valley District Nursing Centre was inspirational.

Joy drew solace from the golden sunlight streaming in her bedroom window, illuminating the beautiful flowers, interwoven with Handel's glorious arias.

She will be deeply missed by all her family, her friends and the community.

Fact, fiction or farce?

WHEN we read that Port Philip council staff are allegedly conducting secret video surveillance of defecating dogs, we realise what a thin line there is between fact and farce in local government.

This is pointed up by Hannie Rayson, who centres her play Competitive Tenderness around the barely fictitious City of Greater Burke, exposing absurdities perpetrated as a local council comes to terms with economic rationalism.

Brian Laurence's stated intention, in directing the Warrandyte Theatre Company's version of the play, was to explore the humour through the dialogue, shifting the emphasis away from the obvious farcical elements. This is a worthy approach, since the strength of the play lies in Hannie Rayson's keen ear for dialogue, however this is no easy task as Rayson has not relied on clever dialogue alone but has backed it up with sight gags.

Short scenes punctuated by opening and closing doors, desktop disrobing of the Mayor by the CEO, a standoff involving a dissatisfied customer and a supermarket trolley; this is the stuff of farce.

Much of the humour relied on audience recognition. Most of us have experience of the manipulative receptionist who knows more about what is going on than the CEO, and too much about too many people for the company to retrench. I enjoyed Sue Dyring's performance as the all-too-familiar receptionist, Delia, very much. In a sense she became the



THEATRE

By MARION WINTON

play's facilitator, linking the action and scenes between officers and departments.

I felt that some of the male council employees in particular had a tendency to self-parody. We need only think of John Cleese's Ministry Of Silly Walks to realise how important it is to play satire straight in order to milk lines. I think Ken Virtue is extremely good at this; in knowing how far he can go to convince an audience that the absurd is credible. Ken quickly had the audience onside as they recognised that under the protective mayoral robes of office lay an insecure man, worried about losing his job, his wife and his reputation.

From the moment she arrived on stage in a power-red suit, Raine Dinale, playing Dawn Snow, the new CEO of the City of Greater Burke, was totally in charge of her role and her staff. Raine is a very experienced and poised actress, and was perfectly cast in this key role, handling the unrelenting dialogue extremely well.

It was her job to oversee the introduction of compulsory competitive tendering. Drawing on her experience of running a weight loss clinic, she justified her cost cutting as "not just belt tightening, but stomach stapling".

Long-term staff, like the Senior Traffic Officer, played by Alan Cornell, resisted the CEO's changes. I always enjoy Alan Cornell's appearance on stage.

He is particularly good at playing the part of someone with a hidden agenda and in this instance his role as a council officer might well be regarded as type casting.

However, Snow did have a supporter, in the misguided but ardent feminist, Amelia Stitch, played by Carol Keating, who welcomed the new CEO's appointment as breaking the "continuum of phallic control".

David Howell brought a great deal of experience to his role as Minister for Local Government, as he tried to reconcile local government concerns with the Premier's obsession with privatisation. Sound familiar? Indeed, throughout the play, lines like "It's perfectly possible to have an employment program without involving youth" left the audience unsure whether to wince or laugh.

As the Minister's advisor, Mark Maddocks proved that he is more comfortable with a straight role. I would like to have seen this character developed (by Rayson) to the point where he challenges the CEO more forcibly.

Rayson's play is undoubtedly a drama for our time; she is a perceptive playwright who encourages us to laugh at our own neuroses. While I agree with Brian that the dialogue is a major strength of the play, there is just too much of it.

I believe the play could be improved with strong editing, elimination of some short scenes which add little to the plot, and a more convincing ending. I felt Brian Laurence's direction, given the complexities of the play, was forceful and effective and I hope he will consider doing a return season.

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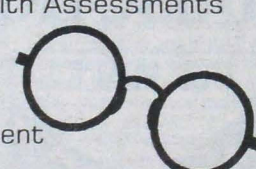
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Of pots and gardens

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Words by LORRAINE WARREN
Picture by AUSTIN POLLEY

LIFE has been kind to Marjorie Beecham. She has achieved a melding of her two great loves—pottery and gardening—by producing garden ceramics. Throughout her life she has been in the right place at the right time. Yet it is her optimism, self-confidence and willingness to give things a go that have made these opportunities happen.

Although a traditional potter by profession, Marjorie moved into garden ceramics many years ago. Today she runs two workshops, one at her home and the other at the old fire station behind the Mechanics Institute in Mitchell Avenue.

This is home for the Warrandyte Arts Association, of which pottery is one of the group's six art facets. Marjorie has been on the central committee of WAA for more than 26 years and has run the pottery studio throughout this time.

In the village on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Marjorie conducts the pottery workshops. "People have fun, work at their own pace and follow their own instincts," she said. Within weeks she can "tell people's own touch" and "enjoys seeing this developed. We mostly make garden ceramics such as birdbaths, bird houses and planters."

Pottery to Marjorie is "taking a basic material which has such great diversity and creating something beautiful." Her pottery is natural, rustic and functional. Ceramic birds not only decorate gardens but are designed to hide snail pellets from everyone but the snail.

"I love natural textures and because clay is of the earth, I believe the colours should be of the earth. I use minerals which give a natural look—earthy browns and greens."

At home, Marjorie works in her mud brick studio, situated in idyllic surroundings at Landfall, the Beechams' three and a half acre property in Castle Road. The house and property was originally owned by Mr Wynn, a newspaper man, who headed Australian Associated Press.

Later it became her husband Henry's family home. Then it passed on to Ernest Buckmaster, an oil painter, whose landscapes can be seen in the foyer of the Windsor Hotel. After Ernest died, the property was once more on the market and in 1971 Marjorie and Henry brought it back



into the Beecham family.

The delightful garden occupies two and a half acres running down to the river, and was opened as part of the Victorian Garden Scheme. "It is a garden with rooms," Marjorie said. Each one has a name and a story. Each has its own distinctive plants, colour schemes and heady scent.

The water garden, complete with bridge, which is just past the fairy garden, was originally an air shaft to an old gold mine. Naturally, the garden is sprinkled with ceramics, and each statue has a name.

There are two types of kilns on the property—a pit and a Japanese Raku. "The pit is a primitive firing kiln and produces beautiful flame-licked pots."

Marjorie says she left the Victorian Garden Scheme a couple of years ago because "I found that it was a lot of work and that I was gardening for others." She began thinking, "What would other people like to see?"

Marjorie describes herself as "lazy by nature". Having exhibitions "gets me going, gives me a purpose and a target". With one of her daughters, Amanda, she sits and plans exhibitions. "It is a work of art in the setting up. We draw a floor plan and then create the pots. We exhibit six times a year."

When an exhibition is set up "and it jells—I get a real buzz—a high". This feeling, plus the sense of achievement and the stimulation, are what keeps

Marjorie producing. "Often my hands can't go fast enough, other days there is nothing." As she creates works for one exhibition, her mind is busy devising a theme for the next.

Exhibition themes have varied and include: fairy, herb, Mediterranean, medieval, farmyard, and colour theme gardens. Currently she is working on a bird theme for Bulleen Nursery. Another exhibition at Caulfield Grammar features a garden arbour, and for Christmas, in Mount Eliza, she is planning a Christmas theme.

After 50 years of pottery, Marjorie remembers "always creating and making a mess as a child. I was always sewing and fiddling. I set up my father's workshop as a studio. As a teenager, I

worked with leather".

Despite coming from a strict family who wanted her to remain at home like many women of her era, Marjorie had other plans. "I had a great desire to create." And so she did. She studied occupational therapy at RMIT, taught art at Ormiston—a private school—and did volunteer work at Rockingham, an after-care hospital for returned soldiers—all concurrently. Later, she went on to run the pottery department at the Occupational Therapy Unit at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

"For two years I did a segment with Channel O. It was a Good Morning Australia type show." Marjorie experienced no nerves or camera jitters. "I was doing something I knew about. Every three weeks I taught people how to make pots. The amount of work for seven minutes was ridiculous. I made one object in different stages in the preceding week at home."

Marjorie admits that many things, like the television show, landed in her lap. "I have been incredibly lucky. I haven't needed to seek work. I have always been in the right place at the right time. I enjoy challenges and I'm prepared to give anything a go."

Marjorie remains high-spirited. Her eyes light up when talking about her work, her grandchildren, the joys of a grandchild and, of course, Warrandyte. In fact she seems to find life an adventure and everything is fun. "I was always like this," she explains.

Then, on reflections, she recalls a painful period when her world fell apart; she was three years old when her mother died quite suddenly.

Marjorie loves Warrandyte for its rural feel and its people. "I like the village atmosphere—going to the supermarket is like a cocktail party—I chat away. The area is also tied up with history. The Beechams have owned property here since the early 1920s."

The beginning of December is a good time to see Marjorie's work in Warrandyte. The event is the annual exhibition of the Warrandyte Arts Association. Alternatively, if you feel inspired to take up pottery, drop in on the village workshop and you will be warmly welcomed. Just to keep you on your toes, Marjorie inscribes her work with the name, 'Pizzey.' This was her maiden name, a name associated with leather merchants.

Forty years of Potters Cottage

By RACHEL BAKER

Back in 1958, five Warrandyte potters gathered in a small cottage by the Yarra River to make pottery. They were Phyl Dunn, Arthur Halpern, Gus McLaren, Reg Preston, and Charles Wilton, with president John Hipwell they formed a potters' co-operative.

They worked in 'Moonlight Cottage'—a small house near the bridge that had been built at night by a miner who spent each day working in the mines.

To say that Potters Cottage has changed since then is an understatement. What began in a cottage on the riverbank has become a Warrandyte institu-

tion, with a restaurant that features wine makers' dinners and jazz nights, a pottery school that has been the starting point for many professional potters, and a gallery that carries the work of more than 50 artists.

But as Potters Cottage celebrates the landmark of its 40th anniversary (which will culminate in an exhibition of the work of the current elite from late October to November) the present staff are reminded of what they have in common with the first generation of operators. They still feel the need for Warrandytians, and Australians in general, to open their eyes to local art and be proud of the

creativity that surrounds them.

"There's so much imported rubbish around," says Mrs Jo Laurence, gallery assistant at Potters Cottage, "and when we can get quality, locally made articles, we should," she says.

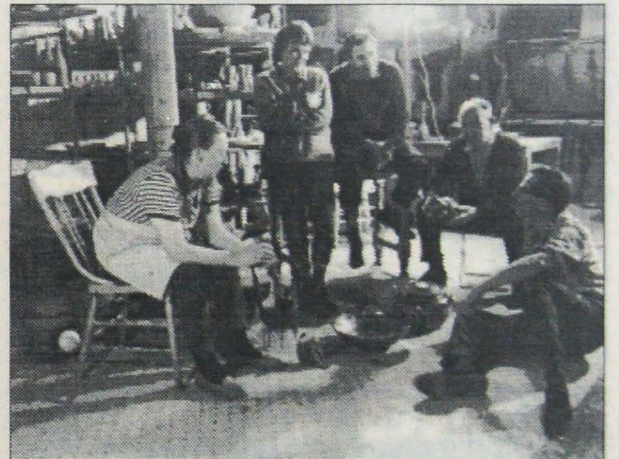
It also makes sense to support local art for economic reasons, Mrs Laurence says, with profits and employment being encouraged here. This sentiment is expressed by the Potters Cottage of today. It is thriving, operating seven days a week and employing some 30 staff.

"It is a very alive establishment," Mrs Laurence says. There is little doubt, she says, that Potters Cottage has ex-

ceeded the expectations of its founders. The fact that the business is still in place—and going well—40 years after it began, is a testament to their foresight.

In the fickle art world, the success of any gallery depends on an ability to change with trends and consumer demands, Mrs Laurence says, and the evolution of Potters Cottage over the years is a key to its prosperity.

As well as the school and restaurant, Potters Cottage initiatives include the establishment of the Potters Prize in 1965, and more recently, 'Stone Paper Scissors', an exhibition of young local talent that took place this year.



Pioneer potters: Phyl Dunn, Sylvia Halpern, Gus McLaren, Charles Wilton, Reg Preston.

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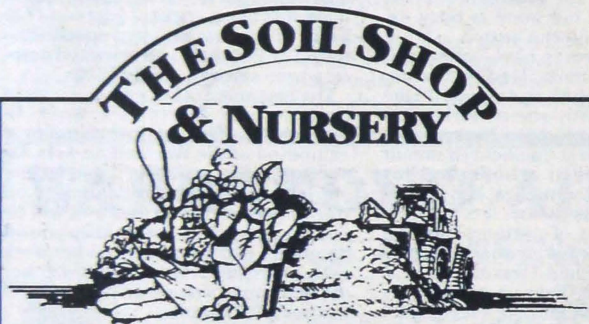
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When greed for gold ruled the river

By RICHARD WARWICK

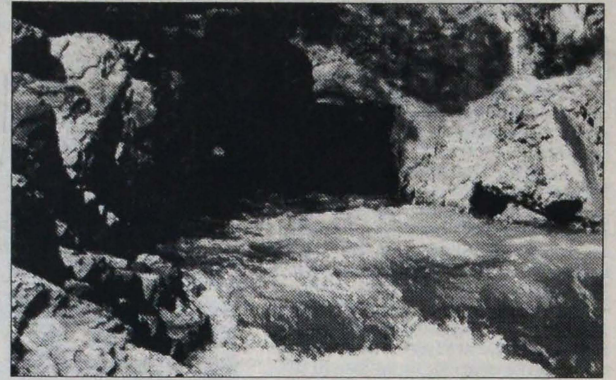
THE tunnel in the Yarra River at Pound Bend is one of Warrandyte's famous landmarks.

During the Gold Rush of the 1850s and 60s, the river through the township had been extensively dredged in an attempt to find gold. The Yarra at Pound Bend was somewhat deeper and faster-flowing and therefore more difficult to dredge. Thomas Mitchell, one of Melbourne's early engineers and entrepreneurs (and, incidentally, father of Nellie Melba) saw an opportunity. If he dug a diversion tunnel at the narrow isthmus and diverted the river through it, the subsequently dry river bed could be dredged with greater ease.

The Evelyn Tunnel Gold Mining Company was formed in 1870 to finance the cost of construction. It was estimated the task would cost \$20,000 and take 12 months. Work began in April 1870 and was completed that same July—for an all-up cost of \$4,200—well ahead of schedule and well below cost.

When you look at the tunnel now, consider the difficulties the workers would have faced: the full length of the tunnel is solid rock. The digging would have been by hand, with the assistance of explosives. The tunnel is 95 metres long and 4.3 metres high and has a discharge rate of 68,000 litres per second.

To divert water through the tunnel, a dam wall was constructed across the river, downstream of the tunnel entrance.



The wall was constructed of timber, supported by sandbags.

Although some gold was found, the yield was below expectations and the company was wound up in 1872. A big problem was the cost of recovering the gold with equipment available at the time.

Between 1884 and 1888 the Evelyn Observer newspaper reported several schemes designed to utilise water flowing through the tunnel to generate electricity. Again, the technology was not available, and electricity could not be produced economically.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, a further attempt was made to divert water through the tunnel and prospect the river for gold. This is thought to have been associated with a government scheme to create employment.

When the disastrous bushfires in 1939 caused mass destruction in the town of Warrandyte, several local resi-

dents took shelter in the tunnel. The heat was so intense that some wildlife—a wallaby and a couple of possums—also took refuge there.

In the late 1960s, the tunnel was used in a television commercial to introduce a new range of cars. An artificial waterfall was created above the tunnel outlet and the new cars were placed on a raft and came out of the tunnel and through the waterfall.

If you haven't taken the opportunity to see the tunnel, it can be easily accessed from either Pound Road or Everard Drive, or you can observe the tunnel entrance from the opposite side of the river at the end of Bradleys Lane.

(Based on research by the late Bruce Bence.)

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

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Celebrate a memory

A benefit concert entitled A Celebration On Stage has been organised to raise funds for the Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund. The evening will be held at the Warrandyte High School Theatre on Saturday, October 10 at 7.30pm. It is a black tie occasion and a champagne supper will be served. Tickets are \$40 and bookings are being taken by Vanessa on 9844 1176 after 6pm weekdays. Anyone wishing to sponsor or support this evening is asked to contact Phyl Swindley on 0418 338 193.



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.



Rotarian Pam Holmes (right) presented a miniature gold panning dish and a Rotary Club of Warrandyte banner to Cathy Adamson, Coordinator of Warrandyte Youth Services.

"We rely heavily on volunteers to manage the service and staff programs", said Cathy. She invited Rotarians to visit the community centre and see the service in operation.

"We also rely on local community groups for donations to maintain and develop programs", she added at the end of her address to the Club. President Graeme Redman undertook to raise this matter at the next meeting of the club board.

In thanking Cathy, Pam suggested that they "keep in touch". That shouldn't be too difficult as their offices are opposite each other at the bottom of Webb Street.

Garden

To raise money for the Anti-cancer Council, the Van der Haar family are opening their lovely garden to the public on Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4 between 10am and 4pm. The garden is at Albatross Pools and Spas, 226 Warrandyte Road. Admission is \$5 and light refreshments will be available.

Night, featuring Riley's Boot with Lou and Christie, on Friday, October 2. Fundraiser is the Wonga Park Primary School. Cost is \$13, including supper. On Saturday, October 24, a Tribute To Elvis will be held in aid of the Phantoms Basketball Team. Bookings for both nights on 9844 3202.

Neighbours

At the recent annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, Jenny Chapman was elected president, with Lynne Kennedy secretary and Raewyn O'Shea treasurer. Posthumous life membership was awarded to the late Maria McGhee. Maria's family accepted the award.

Prize

The Rotary Club of Doncaster has an unclaimed prize from their community raffle. The winning number of this third prize ticket is 004952 and it was drawn on June 20, 1998 at Doncaster Shoppingtown. Ring Bert Brendel on 9898 2856 to stake your claim.

Alumni

Warrandyte High School Alumni Student and Staff Association invites past students, parents and staff to join. Association members will receive information about current events at the school, reunions and news of past students, teachers and parents. To have your name entered on the data base, please call Barbara Mills on 9844 4509.

Garbage

Nillumbik council has announced that collections for hard rubbish will be carried out between November 16 and December 4. Household holders will be notified and given a minimum of two weeks notice. Brochures describing what will be collected will be distributed. The council's annual chemical collection day will be on Saturday, September 12 at the shire depot, 290-304 Yan Yean Road, Plenty, between 8am and 5pm.

History

Warrandyte Historical Society's 1999 calendar will be available

Seniors

Warrandyte Senior Citizens are celebrating their 36th birthday and the Year Of The Older Person on Thursday, October 1 at 1pm at their clubrooms in Tarooma Avenue.

Readings

Celebrated Warrandyte resident Joan Golding will be marking the launching of her book Coming Out Coming Home at the Eltham Bookshop on Tuesday, September 15 at 7pm. The bookshop is at 953 Main Road, Eltham. On Tuesday, September 22, at 7pm, veteran author and Diary contributor Don Charwood will read from his book No Moon Tonight. Bookings for both functions are essential and can be made by telephone or fax to 9439 8700. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$7.

Anniversary

Warrandyte High School will be celebrating their 20th anniversary with a reunion dinner and auction at the school on Saturday, November 28. Highlights from past musical productions will be performed and a giant auction of goods and services will be conducted during dinner and between dances. Table bookings and donations to Barbara Mills on 9844 4509.

Babies

The Warrandyte Baby Sitting Club, which has been running for more than eight years, is seeking new members. There are no joining fees or charges and a limit of 20 members has been set. Anyone interested may contact Kerry Humpris on 9844 0724.

Irish

The next fundraiser at the Grand Hotel will be an Irish

shortly. The calendar features past and present photos of various locations around Warrandyte. Orders can be placed with Gina Bevan-Jones on 9844 3662. At the society's recent annual general meeting, Gina was re-elected secretary with Andy Bevan-Jones president and Alan Alder treasurer.

Wombats

The next Green Wedge Environment Seminar will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Thursday, October 1 at 7.30pm. Roger Martin will discuss the distribution, habitat, breeding, social organisation, diet and conservation status of the wombat.

Studios

Seven Eltham artists will open their studios on Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20 as part of an ongoing open studios program sponsored by Nillumbik council. Catalogues and maps will be available at each of the studios. Further information from Sarah McLeish on 9433 3131.

Gallery

Currently showing at Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, is The City And Its People, selected works from council's own collection. The exhibition runs from September 11 to October 11. On Saturday, September 19, at 5.30pm, students of well-known piano teacher Sergie Suetin, formerly of St Petersburg, will present a Musical Soiree. Admission is free.

Portraits

Eleven artists who contributed significantly to the arts and to cultural life in Nillumbik shire are showing self-portraits in the Eltham Library Community Gallery from September 15. Further information from 9433 3131.

Suburbs

Save Our Suburbs have organised a public meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 16 at 8pm at the Ivanhoe Centre, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe. The focus will be the north-east of Melbourne, covering Manningham, Nillumbik, Darebin and Banyule. The purpose is to provide residents with information as to what they can do about inappropriate development in their area.

Bereavement

Melbourne Eastern Palliative Care Association are conducting a new training program to support children experiencing grief through the death of a parent. The program will run from September 22 to 25 and a kit has also been developed. Information from Dorothy Hodge on 9887 7033.

Biology

VCE Biology CAT 3 revision lectures will be held at the Box Hill Institute of TAFE, Building 4 Auditorium, Elgar Road, Box Hill, on Sunday, October 4 from 9.30am to 3.30pm and will be repeated on October 25. For application forms and details call 9873 1984.



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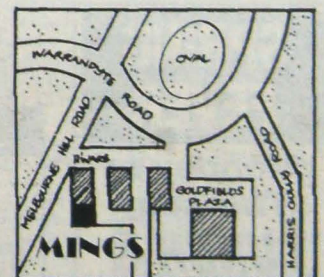
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High five for Little Ath Amy

By MARILYN MOORE

Warrandyte Little Athlete Amy McLean finished the 1997-98 track and field season in a celebratory mood when she carried off a medal in each of her five events at this year's Ringwood Centre Games.

Competing in the Under-8 age group, Amy won one gold medal (800 metres walk), two silver medals (high jump and long jump) and two bronze (70 metres sprint and 60 metres hurdles). She has been a member of the Maroondah Little Athletics Club for two seasons, and is understandably very keen to get back on the track after the winter break.

The new track and field season begins at Proclamation Park, Ringwood, with a Registration Day on Saturday, September 12, from 9-11.30am.

Competition is usually on a Saturday morning from 8.15 to noon and includes sprints, middle distance, triple jump, shot put, hurdles, discus, high jump, javelin and relays.

Boys and girls aged five-and-a-half to 14 (as of September 30 1998) who are keen to give athletics a try will be made most welcome.

All standards are catered for, from budding champs to those who just want a bit of fun and fitness.

Enquiries to MLAC president Julie Stewart (9722 1163) or team manager Loris McLean (9844 1246).



Amy McLean: five events, five medals at the Ringwood Centre Games.

Redbacks line up the flags

By DAMIAN ARSENIS

Warrandyte Basketball Club have begun their latest finals campaign in fine style, with a number of teams already through to the grand finals of the Saturday EDJBA competition.

Teams to have taken the easy path to grand final day on September 12 include the highly-successful U17A girls. Coached by US college aspirant Maree Vincent, they secured a berth by defeating minor premiers Eltham.

Malcolm Anderson's talented U17AR boys have also earned a place. After lacking team com-



mitment during the season, a new-found desire emerged at just the right time, resulting in a huge win over Heidelberg and favouritism for the blue flag.

Playing in the highest grade, Lorraine Parfitt's U15A girls have experienced an up-and-down season, missing the top

four. Because of the strength of the competition the next four teams play off for the A2 Section, so the Redback girls have a good chance of snaring a title.

They defeated Balwyn in a bruising qualifying semi-final, earning a badly-needed week's rest.

The U11B girls of Damian Arsenis are another team to advance straight through to the grand final.

Facing Doncaster—a team they had yet to beat—in their semi-final, they started slowly but produced some terrific basketball to run to a commanding lead.

● The boys will be shooting for places in the Redbacks' Victorian Junior Championship teams in special trials at Warrandyte High School stadium on Sunday, September 13.

All A, B and C-grade players are invited to try out.

The Under-11s and 12s will be on the court from 11am to noon, and the Under-14s, 16s and 18s from noon to 1pm.

Further information: Con Arsenis, 9846 7640.

The Redbacks would also like to hear from any girls keen to play championship basketball. The contact is Lorraine Parfitt, 9712 0596.

Tennis coach Aaron leads by example

By JUDY GREEN

Warrandyte Tennis Club coach Aaron Nolan was a member of the winning team in Tennis Victoria's Men's State Grade grand final last month.

Nolan plays for Grace Park Tennis Club and his team were victorious over Essendon.

Warrandyte had two teams in pennant finals. The men's Grade 10 team were narrowly defeated in the first of the finals series, while the men's Grade 5 team reached the second round of finals before losing in

a rain-delayed match.

The two Warrandyte women's teams finished outside the top four in the Lilydale and District Night Tennis Association finals, while the Mixed Section 11 team of Grayson Milner and Elise, Sharon and Rowan Berry were victorious.

The Tuesday midweek women were well represented in finals, with four of the five teams finishing in the top four. Only Section C6 went on to their grand final and brought home the runners-up flag.

The club had 12 of their 13 junior teams

playing finals in the Eastern Region Tennis winter season, four progressing to the grand finals and two, the Boys 16 and Boys 20, going all the way.

Boys 16 (Steven Parke, Will Rogers, Johnny Drew, Brandan Dawson and Trumble Dewe) came from fourth position on the ladder to defeat Montrose in a close match.

Boys 20 (Michael Simpson, Justin Cleaves, Nathan Parke, David Wildsmith and David Trotter) defeated Blackburn by just one game.

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Bloods blow final

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte's 1998 football season ended on September 5 one game short of "the big one" when they went down by seven points to the Southern Cobras in the EFL Third Division Preliminary Final at Mitcham.

The Bloods had their chances to advance to a Grand Final showdown with premiers hot favourites Upper Ferntree Gully—their 43-point conquerors in the Second Semi-final—but kicked points when goals were so desperately needed in a frantic last quarter.

They kicked 2.5 to 2.1 for the term after trailing by 11 points at the last change to bow out 9.13 (67) to 8.12 (60).

The sombre silence in the rooms after the game belied the fact that it had been a very productive season for Warrandyte after their relegation from Second Division.

They had won 12 of their 18 games (compared with just one in 1997), but what bothered coach Lex Munro was that those six defeats had come in sets of two—the first two matches, rounds

SPORT



11 and 12 and, very crucially, both finals.

"That sequence had been on my mind and it's something we have to get over," Munro said after the Cobras game.

"Hopefully we have learnt from today and what we must do now is stick together and stick with it."

Without directly blaming the defeat on injuries, Munro said they had certainly played a part. The Bloods went into the game without outstanding on-baller Mack Clarkson, who broke a hand in the previous Saturday's encounter with Upper Gully, and lost valuable small man Steve Carroll early in the third quarter, stretched off with an ankle injury.

"You just can't afford to lose a player like Clarkson during a finals campaign," Munro said.

Warrandyte president Jeff Evans agreed. "The loss of Clarkson was a huge blow," he said, "and there were four or five other guys out there to-

day who, although fit on the day, were still feeling some effects of the game against Upper Gully, which was a very tough affair.

"I think that counted in the end."

The Bloods had every reason to feel pleased with themselves after the first quarter against the Cobras. Kicking against a strong breeze, Warrandyte took a three-point lead—3.1 to 2.4—into the first change.

Their goals had come from skipper John O'Brien, who threaded one from an acute angle seven minutes in, and full-forward Bernie Quinlan, from a free and a penalty at 11 minutes and a precise kick from the boundary right on the siren.

But the wind that the Bloods had more or less at their backs in the second quarter was not all that it seemed.

It was very possible to kick goals into it, as Warrandyte had demonstrated and as the Cobras emphasised by grabbing their third—and the lead—in the first minute of the second term.

Obviously fired up by their coach in the huddle, the Cobras came out blazing, winning the ball out of the centre and putting the Warrandyte defence under enormous pressure.

A terrible mistake in that defence let

Southern in for another goal at seven minutes, at which stage the Bloods had not managed to cross the centre.

When they did, however, it produced the goal of the match, a miraculous snap from Sean Dixon 10 minutes in. Brad Valentine to O'Brien for another five minutes later had us right back in business and when Chris Snaidero somehow found the opening from deep in the forward pocket, the Bloods had run to an eight-point lead, 6.4 (40) to 4.8 (32).

Munro told his players at half-time that the third quarter was going to be big one—"the one that wins us the match". Unfortunately, it wasn't and it didn't. In fact, very little happened for Warrandyte.

It had never been a pretty game. It was typical finals football, close-checking, furious tackling and fanatical smothering replacing finesse and flashiness.

The Bloods managed just three points for the term to the Cobras' 3.4, the enemy's goals coming at six, 18 and 20 minutes as we struggled for recognition on the scoreboard. What had been a very tough slog from the outset became even tougher.

Munro appealed to his players at the

last change to run the ball at all costs and Warrandyte's 11-point three-quarter time deficit became just four when Liam Riley goaled from a free in front after six minutes—but what happened next was quite shameful.

The Warrandyte defence allowed a Cobra to fly uncontested against the flow of play and the resultant goal restored a 10-point buffer in a low-scoring game.

When another Cobra converted the mark of the game at the 19-minute mark it was goodnight Bloods ... or was it?

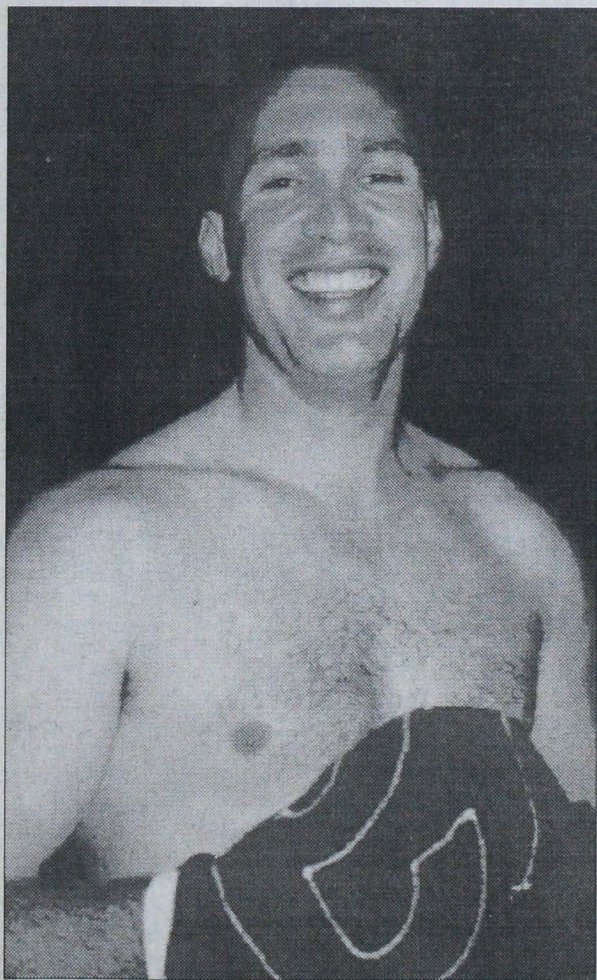
O'Brien responded almost immediately from a free and the next 10 minutes were virtually a last-man-standing affair, the Bloods locking the ball in their forward line but unable to release it for a major score.

Time became the major enemy. Eventually it ran out.

Warrandyte's goalkickers were O'Brien (3), Quinlan (2), Dixon, Snaidero and Riley.

Our best were Trent Ferguson, who picked up the Cobras' captain and did a very fine job on him, Tony King, Andrew Brown and Kimberly O'Connor. But each and every teammate was a dead-set dedicated trier.

Kimberly's quadrella



Two of the best: Kimberly O'Connor and Andrew Brown, winner and runner-up in the Bloods' best and fairest award.

Kimberly O'Connor went along to Warrandyte Football Club's vote count on August 29 fully expecting to be congratulating teammate Mack Clarkson when the contents of the last envelope had been read.

Instead, Clarkson and the rest of the Bloods players, officials and supporters were applauding O'Connor at count's end.

He won the club best and fairest award for a record fourth time and for the second year in a row.

O'Connor, a 28-year-old ruckman who first wore the red and white as an Under-9, polled 27 votes to score by one from rising young star Andrew Brown, with Clarkson a vote away third.

"I was very surprised to win it," O'Connor, who played his 150th senior game for Warrandyte in July, told the *Diary*.

"I thought Mack was a stand-out player in one of the few seasons in my career when we've had a stand-out."

The Bloods run their best and fairest under Collingwood's Copeland Trophy system, which rewards consistency—and there was no doubting O'Connor's consistency this season.

Coach Lex Munro had this to say of his champion: "I think that in the last two years KC has taken that extra step.

"He's a leader both on and off

the field and a great inspiration to the younger players.

"Even when he's having one of his rare mediocre days on the field, his talking, his experience, his leadership lift the side."

Said WFC president Jeff Evans: "Kimberly is a role model. People see what he does on the field but they don't realise how much he does off it.

"He's a great player and a great clubman."

While the senior vote count produced a blanket finish, the reserves award turned up a

triple dead-heat, Danny Weatherly, Adam Borthwick and James Logan inseparable on 16.

Just one vote adrift and tied for second were Craig Evans and Matt Chapman, with Daniel Makris breathing down their necks.

By contrast, the Under-18s count was a runaway for outstanding prospect Greg Carle, who polled 42 votes to score by 17 from Luke Wilson. Liam Mulcahy was third on 22.

Voting details
SENIORS: Kimberley O'Connor 27; Andrew Brown 26; Mack Clarkson 25; Brendon Smith 21; John O'Brien 20.

RESERVES: Danny Weatherly, Adam Borthwick, James Logan 16; Craig Evans, Matt Chapman 15; Daniel Makris 14.

UNDER-18: Glen Carle 42; Luke Wilson 25; Liam Mulcahy 22, Chris Stats, Craig Lincoln 20.

Big night at the Grand

Warrandyte Football Club's 1998 Presentation Night will be held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, October 16.

Tickets are \$25 and the night includes a three-course meal

and a big-screen video replay of the season's highlights.

Bookings are essential and can be made with Jeff Evans (9722 1111) or Buck Rodgers (0411 519671).

Colts take the flag in a canter!

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte's Under-17s covered themselves in glory on September 6 by winning the Yarra Junior Football League Colts premiership.

In a remarkable turnaround, the team which had finished bottom of the ladder as Under-16s last season brought home the flag by beating minor premiers Park Orchards by 51 points at Bulleen Park.

A big and enthusiastic contingent of parents, Warrandyte Junior Football Club officials, senior players and other supporters saw the Colts set up the big win by kicking 6.6 in the first half while holding Park Orchards scoreless.

The final score was 11.11 (77) to 4.2 (26).

It was the second young Bloods premiership in the space of a week, the Under-11s having already won their grand final by 56 points (12.8 to 4.0) against Beverley Hills at McLeod Park.

Warrandyte had seen four of their seven eligible teams (the two Under-9 sides do not play for premiership points) into the finals, an achievement underlining the strength on and off the field of the junior club.

The Colts' success was a personal triumph and fitting reward for coach Greg Alchin and his assistant Eric Houghton, two stalwarts with a long history of close involvement with junior football in this town.

It was the first time Warrandyte had fielded a Colts side, the club having crossed from the Eastern Districts Football League to the Yarra competition last year.

The premierships bodes well indeed for the future of the senior club, ensuring a stock of outstanding young talent for the Under-18s next season and for the senior ranks thereafter.

The Colts replaced the Under-16 side this season at a level at which the club had not tasted success since the 1986 Under-16 premiership.

"It was a mighty team effort today," Alchin, who coached

virtually the same boys last year as Under-16s, told the *Diary*.

"These boys showed great heart all season, winning several of their games by coming from behind and a few with the last kick of the day.

"The hardest part today was keeping them level-headed after that great first half."

"It has been a tremendous year for the club all round," said WJFC president Terry Pieper. "Success breeds success and we are continuing to grow.

"Next season will be even bigger and better."

"The important thing is that every team played football in the real spirit of the game. Both Under-9 sides won more games than they lost and the competitiveness went all the way up through the age groups.

"We have a great bunch of people here and we regard ourselves as a community service—that's what we're all about."

Liam Mulcahy won the league award for best on ground in the Colts grand final.

Warrandyte's other very good players (in no particular order) were Aidan Davey, James Brougham, Harvey Brown, Jason Palatania, Shaun Irvine, Luke Naughtin, Craig Dick, Brad Greer, Rick Templeton and Ben McLean.

The goalkickers were McLean (3), Greer (3), Mulcahy (2), Palatania (2) and Adam Schafer.

● Alchin will nominate to coach Warrandyte's Under-18s next season to further develop the talents of the players he steered to the premiership this year.

If he gets the job he will be inviting the Park Orchards players his team beat for the Colts premiership to join his squad.

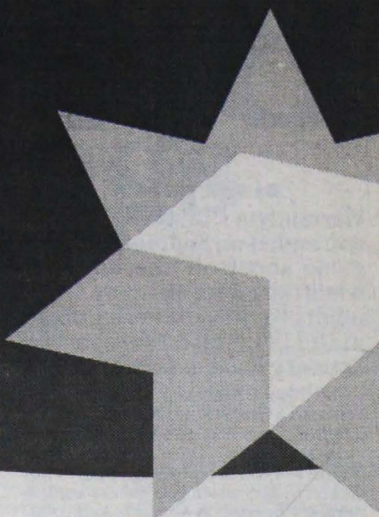
Park Orchards are strictly a junior club and their players have no ready-made place to go once they have outgrown the Under-17s.

Alchin welcomes inquiries on 9437 1248.

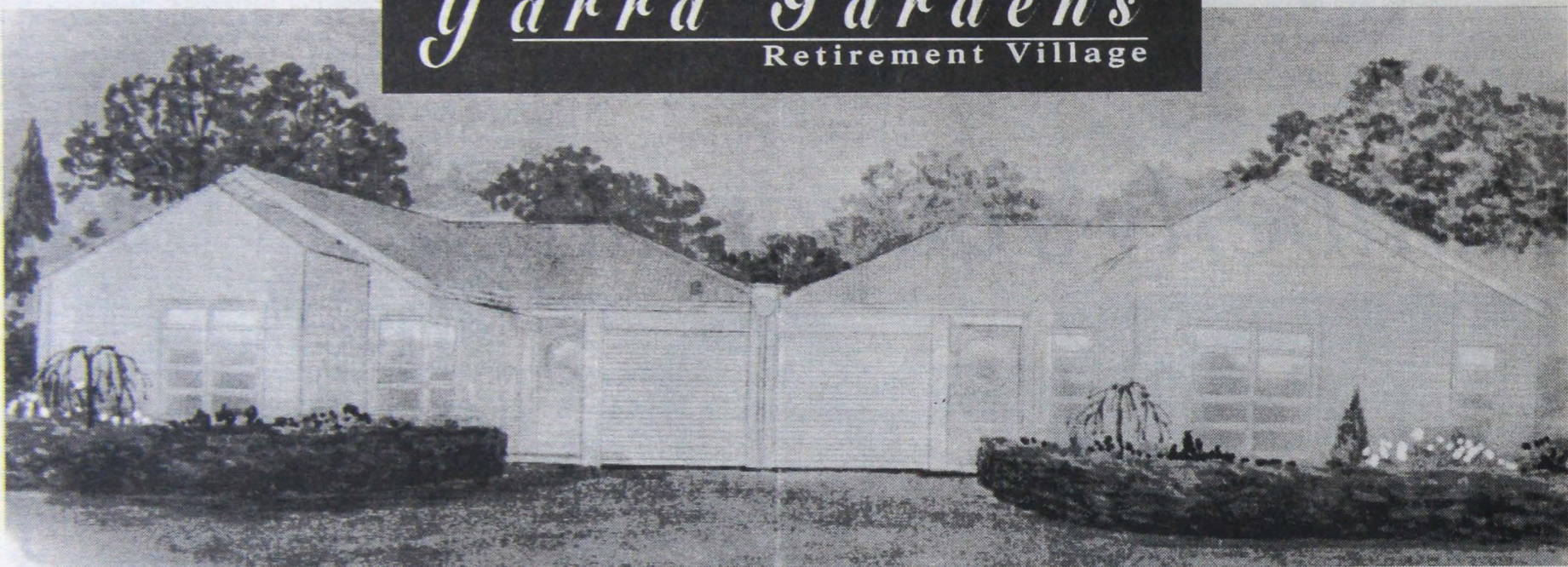


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