

# Nursing home veto

By DAVID WYMAN

Manningham council has refused a permit application for a 60-bed aged care nursing home at 54 Harris Gully Road on a 7-hectare Green Wedge property.

It has now directed council staff to prepare a report on the needs and suitable sites for aged accommodation in the Warrandyte area.

The nursing home proposal surfaced in January last year when Hillington Valley Pty Ltd, operator of a number of nursing homes in Melbourne, applied for a planning permit.

Council received 37 objections which, together with its own investigations, indicated that the proposal was unsuitable for the site.

But the decision by council at its October 13 meeting to call for a "report identifying the needs and those

sites suitable for aged accommodation in the Warrandyte area in six months" is both surprising and welcome to residents.

Council refused the Harris Gully Road nursing home application on the grounds that:

- The proposed development would be contrary to the purpose of the zone in that the development would undermine the integrity of the area's recognised landscape values and rural-residential character.

- The proposed development would generate a significant loss of amenity due to the visual impact of the building and carpark areas.

- The proposed development is not site responsive and would necessitate excessive reshaping of the land form.

- From an orderly and proper planning perspective, the proposed location of the facility is inappropriate having regard to the needs of residents and visitors, and to the lack of infra-

structure, distance from community facilities, lack of public transport, absence of footpaths and topography of the locality.

- Access arrangements are unsatisfactory and would tend to generate traffic hazards.

The proposal involved a two-level development with 15 two-bedded rooms on the lower level and 30 single bedrooms on the upper level, with carparking and other facilities on site.

The council officer's report on the proposed development said that while there may be a need for such a facility, the impact of the development far outweighed any social benefits.

The report said that there was little doubt that the landscape qualities of the area would offer a pleasant setting for future residents of the facility. "However, the attractive low density semi-rural character of the area would be significantly compromised given the scale of the development and its

resulting visual impacts as well as having operational amenity impacts upon properties nearby.

"The isolated nature of the site will also limit the opportunities for a range of social experiences which would otherwise be reasonably expected," the report noted.

"Council has opposed a range of aged care facilities in the past which are in isolated locations. This approach relates to basic social concerns that elderly persons accommodation should be placed to allow capable residents to conveniently engage in social interaction in areas other than within the confines of the site.

"Long distances to facilities mean that residents may have to rely on taxi services, as few, if any, would still drive. Thus, sites in isolated locations limit the potential variety for experiences by residents.

"Although the submitted landscape concept plan shows a dense band of

native trees across the site's frontage, a degree of artistic licence appears to have been adopted. The site is well exposed when viewed from Harris Gully Road," the report says. "The exposed nature of the site will enable clear views of the building and carpark from Harris Gully Road and from the abutting elevated properties which adjoin the site.

"Concerns that the development in the form proposed could undermine the integrity of the Green Wedge by setting an undesirable precedent is generally supported. Approval may result in an increase for similar proposals in the area given that this type of facility requires a large parcel of land to achieve the type of yield and layout necessary for a viable operation."

Attempts by the *Diary* to interview a Hillington Valley spokesperson were unsuccessful and it is unknown if the proponents will appeal to the Victorian Civil and Administration Tribunal.

## At home with Grandma in Wonga Park

*There was a time,  
the locals say,  
When emus came  
to dine,  
And stood about  
all evening,  
Drinking Eucalyptus  
wine.*

Young Stephanie Rudderham likes to visit the emus at Grandma's Home at the Wonga Park Play Space. Based on Graeme Base's famous children's book, this highly original concept in municipal playgrounds was built by Manningham council to a design by architect Rich Bzowy.

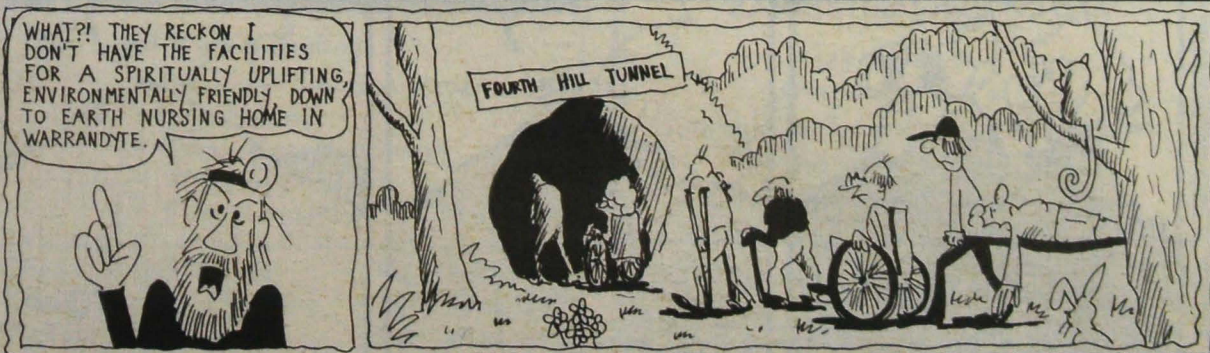
It was opened last August and has proved a great success with local and visiting children.

● SANDY BURGOYNE visited Grandma's Home for the *Diary* and more of her charming pictures are on Page 7.



## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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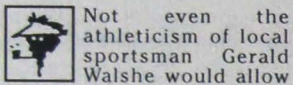
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# That's no car thief, mate, that's only Puppy's love!



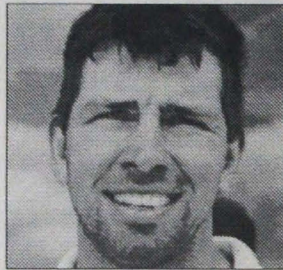
Not even the athleticism of local sportsman Gerald Walshe would allow him to run down the car thief he saw making off with his van from the recreation reserve clubrooms on the afternoon of Saturday, October 31. It was during the tea adjournment of the senior cricket match and as "Puppy"—a nickname he acquired when he was just a kid playing senior footy for Warrandyte—was resting from his fast-bowling labours, he glanced out a clubroom window just in time to see his van disappearing. He ran outside, shook his fist, yelled "Stop, thief!" at the driver (of whom he caught a fleeting glimpse), ran back inside and grabbed Joe Scicluna. "Hey," he said. "Someone's just pinched my van. Ugly dark bloke. Let's chase him in your car!" Indeed, cricket was forgotten as several cars took off in pursuit of this darstady dark and ugly bloke and the length, length and length of Warrandyte was scoured without a trace of the stolen vehicle or its hideous, grotesquely ugly, dark driver. It was quite some time later in the day that the crime was solved. The thief was none other than Gerald's wife Jenny who, yes, has dark hair but sure as hell ain't ugly. By arrangement which Puppy had either misunderstood or forgotten completely, Jenny had dropped the kids off at the ground for him to keep an eye on, left the car there for him and taken the van to work at Alfred's Homestead. Oh dear. After stumps were drawn that evening, Puppy copped a fearful ribbing from his teammates. He said he could cop that but for God's sake don't tell Smokey Joe about any of this. Which is probably why Smokey's phone rang hot that night.

can" and made it, Pauline said "I think I can make it to the top and coast down into town" and didn't. As they hoofed it down Melbourne Hill, one of the girls suggested Mum phone Dad on the mobile and get him to pick them up. "No way!" said Pauline. "The last thing I'm going to do is phone your father and tell him I've run out of petrol!" A strange attitude you might think, but not when you consider that Neil had, in fact, recommended the night before that she fill up in the morning. "Ah yes," Pauline retorts. "He said that when I was half asleep!" Anyhow, the Dustings' good mate Terry Booth just happened along to pick up Pauline and her crew and the warring parties later declared it a truce, dead-heat, a tie and a draw. All of those.

Sue Davies, of North Warrandyte, had car troubles of her own—a bung radiator—and was busing it to and from work in the city while the infernal machine was off the road. And the strangest thing happened to her one morning on the run in. An ageing Oriental gentleman got on in Andersons Creek Road, sat next to her, fidgeted in his seat for a while then took off his shoes and massaged his feet with a golf ball he produced from his pocket. You meet the most interesting people on the Warrandyte buses.

It was a day fraught with domestic bliss-threatening car troubles. Pauline Dusting, of Osborne Road, long-suffering but adoring wife of resident Page 2 cult figure Neil, had been having problems with the clutch of her four-wheel drive and it was agreed she would run the girls to and from netball in Neil's van. And on the way home she ran out of fuel, didn't she, just short of the brow of the hill past Pound Bend Road. Unlike the Little Red Engine who said "I think I can, I think I

## IN RED & WHITE



Gerald Walshe. For God's sake don't tell Smokey!

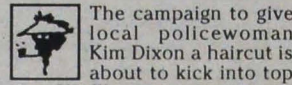


Jean Claude Van Damme. Invitation declined.

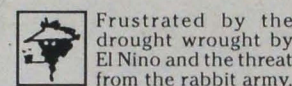
Kate was flying back from Sydney last month and became quite chummy with the bloke sitting next to her. Gee, he was an impressive guy—suave, European accent, good looking and built like a Greek god. They chatted about this and that and as they neared Melbourne he invited her to Crown Casino and Planet Hollywood. She said thanks but no thanks, she didn't think her boyfriend would approve. Then, as the plane taxied to a halt at Tulla, a flight attendant approached and said to Kate's new friend: "Jean Claude, we'll take you out this way" Yes, Jean Claude Van Damme, the Belgian action-movie hero, "The Muscles from Brussels". Just as well she didn't challenge him to an in-flight arm wrestle!

The Warrandyte RSL Sub-branch used to roster people to sell Remembrance Day poppies and Anzac Day badges on the street, but that became unnecessary when Jim Horking and Ben Jones simply "took over". They've been part of that local scene now for what seems forever, Jim selling outside Warrandyte Cellars, Ben at the Golden Gate. "They're totally committed," said sub-branch president Ennio Torresan, "and I can't tell you how much we appreciate their hard work and dedication. Jim even chases us for his poppies and badges if he thinks we're running a bit late." So if you didn't buy a poppy this time from either of these two grand old stalwarts, make a point of a badge for next Anzac Day, eh?

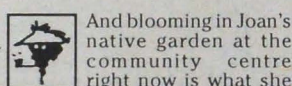
Let us tell you about a local lovely's brush with fame. The girl we shall identify only as



The campaign to give local policewoman Kim Dixon a haircut is about to kick into top gear. You'll soon see posters up around town and there'll be collection points nominated to raise the \$10,000 needed by next August to have Senior Constable Dixon shorn for the cancer kids. If the target is reached, she'll be by far the cutest cop we've seen cropped. So when you're approached for a donation, please dig deep.



Frustrated by the drought wrought by El Nino and the threat from the rabbit army, Friends of Warrandyte State Park had been waiting more than two years to plant out the roundabout at the end of Bradley's Lane with native flora. The opportunity presented itself early last month, with the rabbit-proof fence in place and a bit of moisture in the ground, and in less than two hours, six friends led by Joan MacMahon put in 100 of the best and stood back to admire their work. When Joan checked the site on October 30, she found someone had pulled out every *Branchycome diversifolias* (common name tall daisy), a showy plant with big yellow and white flowers and long hairy stems, and left them in a neat pile inside the fence. "Who?" she asks. "Why?" Perhaps the culprit was a well-meaning but ill-informed conservationist who mistook the tall daisy for a noxious weed. But we don't think so.



And blooming in Joan's native garden at the community centre right now is what she describes as a "delightful combination: the blueish mauve of the cut-leaf daisy sprawling gently around and through the table-top form of *Melaleuca violacea*. This lovely little shrub from Western Australia always stays small and always grows with a flat top (no human interference needed). At the base of the oval leaves are clusters of deep mauve flowers." Worth a look, folks.



Smokey Joe

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# WARRANDYTE DIARY

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## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH

# Government bundles out Nillumbik council

## Rob Maclellan describes sacking a 'mercy killing'

By FIA CLENDINEN

Premier Jeff Kennett told Nillumbik residents there was a possibility they could re-elect councillors before Christmas.

But Mr Kennett's surprising offer of early local government elections came with a condition: the five suspended councillors would have to agree not to stand as candidates.

Mr Kennett was speaking at a public meeting in Greensborough late last month when he detailed a number of possible options for the shire.

Nillumbik has been without elected councillors since October 13, when the Minister for Planning and Local Government suspended the councillors and installed in their place a commissioner, Mr Merv Whelan.

The premier said other scenarios for Nillumbik's future under consideration were council elections with an unspecified number of extra councillors in March—either 1999 or 2000—or the scrapping of Nillumbik as a shire and its division three ways amongst neighbouring councils.

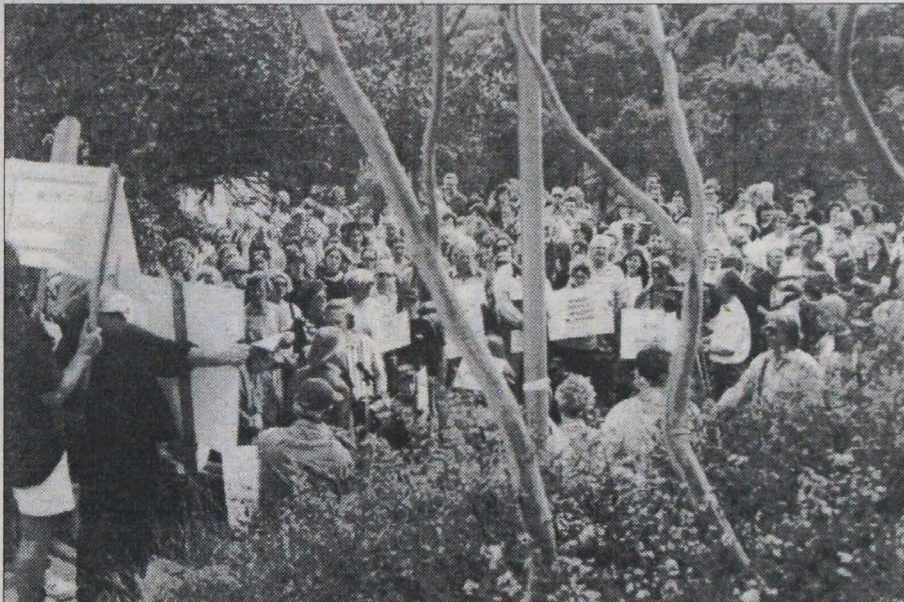
Mr Kennett said there was a lot for support for this last option because, "people fear a re-elected council will repeat the mistakes of the past".

However he indicated his preferred option was, "to try once more to get a decent council in this area".

Community groups from within Nillumbik and across Melbourne have reacted with outrage to the council's suspension. But the premier and the minister continue to strongly defend their action. Mr Maclellan described the suspension as a "mercy killing".

Mr Kennett told approximately 1000 residents at the Greensborough public meeting, "local government is a creature of state government. You might wish it to be otherwise but that is the law. Our responsibility is to make sure councils deliver benefits to the community. (Nillumbik) council was not working in the public interest."

Three of the suspended councillors—Robert Marshall, John Graves and Margaret Jennings—have issued a writ, to be heard in the Supreme Court on November 5. The suspended councillors are attempting to stay their suspension, as well as arguing the Abraham reports



Above: Nillumbik residents rallied in support of local democracy on October 17 in Eltham. Right: Sacked shire president, Robert Marshall addressed the crowd. (Pictures by Fia Clendinnen)

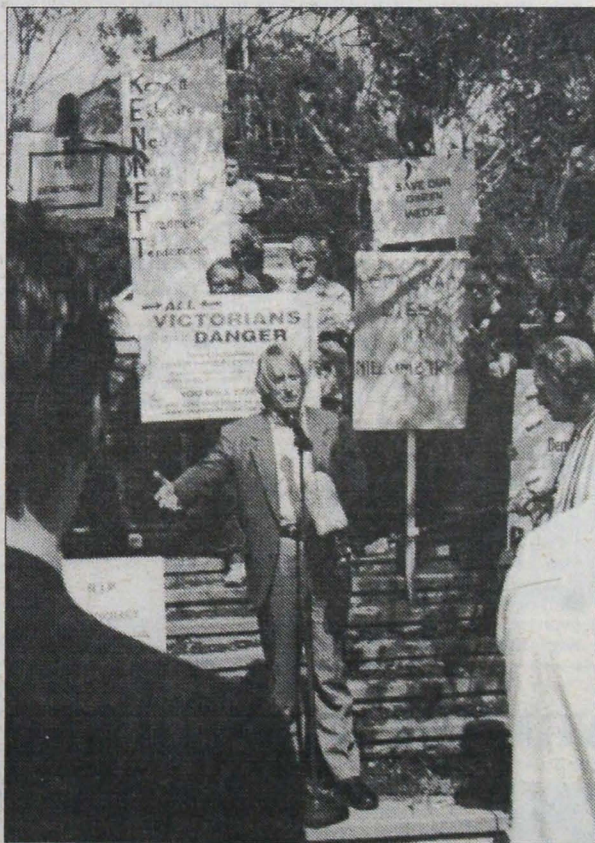
are a denial of natural justice and highly inaccurate.

Ex-shire president Robert Marshall has also rejected the premier's claim that Nillumbik councillors were "squabbling amongst themselves".

Cr Marshall told the *Diary*, "We've had quite a dignified chamber in my view, infinitely more dignified than the houses of state parliament. So this bickering they talk about is just simply nonsense. What we've had is vigorous debate on an issue of major importance to the area, which is whether or not we have urban expansion."

He agreed tension between developers and environmentalists in the Green Wedge was inevitable. "Absolutely," he said, "Because it's on the urban fringe, there will always be this debate. The only thing that will stop the debate is subdividing the area."

Cr Marshall said he rejected the premier's suggestion that suspended councillors should not seek re-election. He said he will definitely be standing as a candidate at the next council elections.



## What future for the Green Wedge shire?

By FIA CLENDINEN

The Shire of Nillumbik, created late in 1994 as part of the Victoria-wide council amalgamation process, was designated by the state government as an "environmental shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus." Three commissioners were appointed by the state government and Barry Rochford was selected as CEO.

During their two-year rule the commissioners made many controversial decisions and as a result large sections of the local community welcomed the chance to re-elect councillors in March 1993.

Robert Marshall, an ex-councillor with almost 20 years experience as an Eltham councillor, was elected representative for Sugarloaf ward which includes North Warrandyte, Research and Kangaroo Ground. He was unanimously elected first shire president by the four other new councillors, John Graves, Margaret Jennings, Lex de Man and Natalie Woodley.

The five councillors publicly pledged their willingness to work together for the good of Nillumbik. On most issues the councillors voted as a united bloc.

But major policy differences quickly became apparent. At critical times the councillors divided along predictable lines, with Crs Marshall, Graves and Jennings voting one way and Crs Woodley and de Man casting opposing votes.

Suspended shire president Robert Marshall told the *Diary*, "It was on the hard-core philosophical issues that there was a division. The split is simply described by saying on one side you had business interests and those wanting inappropriate development and on the other side you have community values and environmental issues."

Late last year the state government appointed a commissioner, David Abraham, to investigate the council.

Mr Abraham's final report was completed on 19 August but was not publicly released until mid-October, fuelling speculation that the timing of its release had been delayed until after the federal election.

The report recommended to the minister that, "all of the councillors of the Nillumbik Shire Council be suspended on the grounds that the council has failed in a serious and ongoing respect to provide good government of its municipal

district."

Cr Marshall said he was "extremely surprised" by the suspension.

"I had been working with the Office of Local Government and the minister all the way through. I was assured repeatedly we wouldn't be sacked, suspended or anything else, that they were very pleased with what we were doing, pleased with the way we had negotiated Rochford's resignation and the way we had appointed the new interim CEO."

Cr Marshall also said he has repeatedly asked the premier and the minister to give one substantiated reason why the council was dismissed, and they have failed to do so.

He said he is forced to conclude that the real reasons for the council's suspension are to do with a concerted campaign for large scale property development in the area from Diamond Creek across to Doreen.

"It's interesting that most of the people calling for the dismissal of the council—not all, but most—appear to be people connected with that push for subdivision," he said.

"And some of those people are genuine family people who simply want a two-lot subdivision for their daughter or parents or whatever. There's nothing malicious with them. But there are others who are rampant developers who just want to make a lot of money, wreck the place and move on somewhere else. The current council is voting against that area being re-zoned. It's massive rezoning; it's thousands of acres."

• Letters: Page 4

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"That's the trouble with democracy, Ock. People argue!"

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# Real issues at Nillumbik shire

Nillumbik council's cloudy issues have been widely circulated since their dismissal, whereas I believe ratepayers would prefer to know what is going on than waste their time on red herrings.

Has democracy been sacrificed, or due process observed? On the ABC, 7.30 Report, Mr Marshall said that a personal vendetta by Mr Maclellan against himself due to an unrelated matter was responsible. On the same day, October 16, The Age pointed to differences of opinions about conservation versus development issues, but on the following day on State Line, Mr Marshall gave details of the outgoing CEO's payout package as a reason.

It is very difficult for people to determine for themselves if democracy has been sacrificed if all they hear is trivia which clouds rather than clarifies the event. An undeniable cause of the dismissal is connected with the law, namely the Local Government Act of 1989.

Recent amendments to the act have divided the duties of the council staff into two distinct parts which do not overlap if both sides do their jobs effectively. Herein lies the rub. Councillors must make plans (policies) for the development of the shire, and the benefits

and responsibilities of the residents. Councillors have the legal right to employ one person, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and then he appoints the rest of the staff to form the executive team who help him carry out the plans made by the councillors, and thus deal directly with the public.

Some councillors may find it difficult to adjust to this change in local government procedure, and therefore do not approve, but one does not disobey laws because one does not approve of them without having to take the consequences. Councillors are not the only public servants who are elected. The state government has a duty to supervise local government and see that the laws relating to it are carried out.

Earlier in the year, 14 senior staff of the executive team sent an official complaint to the Minister for Local Government, Mr Maclellan, because they said that the relationship between the councillors and the CEO was such that they were unable to do their work effectively in terms of fulfilling their contracts. This led to an extensive inquiry, followed by the comprehensive interim report.

The interim report clearly sets out the considered flaws in the council's performance as

## DEAR DIARY



defined by the Local Government Act. It also details clear and precise directives, including the employment of more staff to help and monitor the remedial process.

There were only 200 copies of the report given out at the shire office, but anyone who read it with an open mind could not agree with Mr Marshall's statements given at the shire council chamber following on his dismissal that the report was "illegal" and "impossible to carry out". Did he try? No, he replied by passing a motion in council with two others, rejecting it.

A lot of alternative legal advice was and is being purchased at ratepayers' expense, but I think they have a right to know that the council's elected staff were not dismissed arbitrarily.

The interim report to be followed by final report a year later gave plenty of advice and warnings to follow procedures required by law.

Present day local council is no place for those who cast themselves in princely or parental

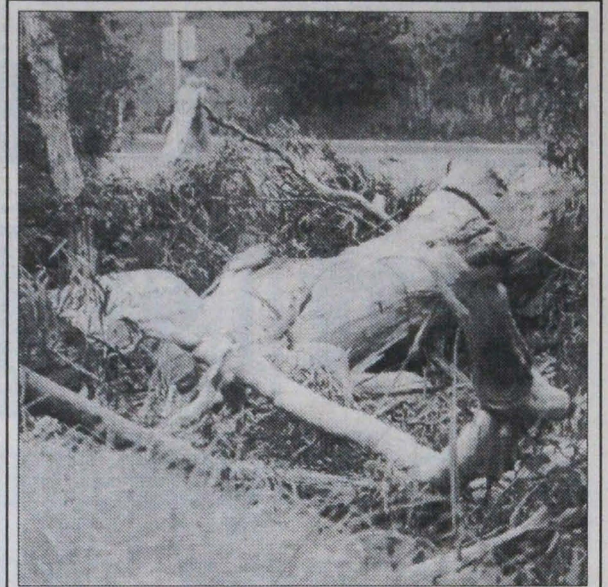
roles in relation to the community, or wish to use the shire as a forum for their own agendas or vendettas.

Democracy is about majority rule and equal rights under the law. But we are all individuals so there will be minorities. What about their rights? Fortunately, one is not in a minority all the time, so without equally basic concepts of compromise and community service, no democracy can work.

Councillors should be able to tackle controversial issues when they arise by rational negotiation for the good of all. The executive team should be able to activate the councillor's agenda faithfully, without being called on to do, or to omit to do, anything which may jeopardise the terms of their contracts.

Distinction between the two main functions of government should allow each of them to relate like good gears without overlapping. When overlapping occurs, so does conflict. This is when different ideologies are seen as separate issues which can't be resolved. This is a pointer to the fact that proper procedures and best practise as laid down in the Local Government Act, are wanting.

Alma Shanahan  
Hurstbridge



Gone forever: making way for our new roundabout.

## Mourning from afar

From my temporary home in Malaysia I can 'see' those beautiful gum trees as you approach Warrandyte. I feel very sad to know that I will not be seeing them on my return. Yes, I am sure it will be re-greened but how will

Manningham Council replace those trees that were part of the Warrandyte I remember? A more creative approach to the problem surely would have been possible.

Irene Mitchell  
(by email)

## Minority voice plea

There are many notices throughout Nillumbik shire shouting about democracy. What kind of democracy are they talking about? Councillors voting many times in a bloc of three—always the same three—voting against the remaining two councillors, thereby denying nearly half the people of a say in the running of the shire. This happens particularly when motions are passed that would not be acceptable to many people in the shire. This is how council are able to use shire funds to finance their legal claims—ratepayers' money—regardless of whether we agree or disagree with the legal action being taken.

It seems this very vocal group shouting for democracy are really using it as a smoke screen to cover up some very undemocratic decisions that have been made. I think it is imperative that Nillumbik should start afresh with more councillors so that the present system cannot be repeated and councillors with more open minds and without an agenda fashioned on the Eltham model of 10 years ago can be elected. This amalgamation of shires that make up Nillumbik may have very different points of view and they should be given better representation than they now have.

Gwen Shipsides  
Diamond Creek

## Premier 'tiring' of elected shire and city councillors

The Minister for Planning and Local Government, Mr Maclellan, states that he suspended the Nillumbik shire for political infighting and failure to behave "as a team". Although this rationale is truly incredible, what is really incredible is that he can make this statement without bursting out laughing at the same time.

Surely, this explanation couldn't even fool a Grade 3 civics student.

Suspending a democratically elected body for political infighting is like taking an AFL player before the tribunal for kicking a goal. "Political infighting" is part and parcel of the democratic process. When you have free elections, people with a variety of viewpoints and beliefs are elected, resulting in differences of opinion being expressed in government chambers. By Mr Maclellan's stated standards of conduct, every local, state and federal government body in Australia should get the sack.

Mr Maclellan seemed concerned that some matters before the Nillumbik council resulted in votes of 3-2. What is so unusual about this? Only in countries with the most ruthless dictators can all legislation be counted on to pass with no dissenting votes.

The residents of North Warrandyte will shortly be finding out how this kind of system works, as there will be no dissenting votes, now that an administrator has taken over. What's more, since he does not have to concern himself with ever being elected, he can ignore the opinions of everyone in Nillumbik shire.

Since the aptly nicknamed Minister Against Local Government's explanation of recent events is obviously ludicrous on its face, what could be the real reasons that caused the state government to strike this blow against democracy?

The first reason is probably that there is plenty of prime, undeveloped real estate in Nillumbik shire and the developers were being frustrated by the majority of the Nillumbik shire council's refusal to allow Warrandyte and the rest of the shire to be turned into Doncaster North East.

With an administrator in place, all these developments could be approved with no worries and even after a new council is elected, they will be powerless to rescind the completed developmental approvals.

The second likely reason was also rather obvious from the start. But, just in case you didn't get it, the premier hit you over the head with it only two days after the Nillumbik shire

was suspended, Mr Kennett accused the Melbourne City Council on Radio 3AW of internal bickering and infighting with respect to who should manage the Docklands project. This was clearly a not-so-veiled threat to the MCC—let the state government have complete control over the Docklands or you'll go the way of Nillumbik shire council.

Clearly, the premier is tiring of these democratically elected city and shire councils interfering with his plans for their communities and he wants to bully them all into toeing his line—or else face the sack.

The Nillumbik shire council committed the unpardonable sin of passing a resolution against one of Jeff's pet projects, The Great Kennett Ring Road. Clearly, acts of disobedience like these from local councils could not be allowed to continue unpunished.

The premier is willing, and apparently able, to dismiss popularly elected local democratic governments just because he disagrees with them—replacing them with administrators of his own choosing.

Jonathon Upson  
Brogil Road

## Fond memories of Potter's Cottage

I preface my note to you with a few lines from a poem I knew as a boy:

"Forty years oft in the far and asunder

When you look back and forgetfully wonder

What you were like in your work and your play

My, how the time does fly!"

It was with extreme pleasure that I read the article in the Warrandyte Diary September issue by Rachel Baker, "Forty Years of Potters Cottage".

If my memory serves me correctly, I sold the property originally from Mr Maurie Zoch to Mr Dinny Raftopoulos, who owned two popular Melbourne restaurants, Elizabeth Collins and Russell Collins. In 1958 one of my most rewarding (not financial) and satisfying sales was the transaction from Mr Raftopoulos to the potters (I had the pleasure and privilege of knowing them all), and remember how the property was in those days, as to see how it presents today.

I had to take the sale note in to Mr Raftopoulos one lunch hour, which was so busy they suggested I dine there and complete the transaction later.

During negotiations of the sale I well remember Charles

Wilton as a most popular potter, and the main business negotiator for the Potters Group.

I have two old chairs from the original cottage that were given to me, and which were faithfully restored. When I sit in one of these chairs, many happy memories of days of yore keep flooding back.

I wish the Warrandyte Diary and all involved continuing success.

Peter McDougall  
Yarra Street

## Thanks

On behalf of Doug and the Barr family I want to thank John Byrne, Jenny and Alison for the eulogies delivered at Fiona's funeral.

My thanks also to Barbara, Alan, Aunty Bet and Aunty Ede, Helen, Ingrid and the Warrandyte Football Club and to the many friends who sent cards, made phone calls and donations to the Anti Cancer Fund. Thank you all.

Jack Barr  
Blooms Road

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

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

## Tourist centre thwarted by locals' planning objections



The controversial cottage at 95 Yarra Street. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Melbourne's Valley of the Arts Tourism Association committee is disappointed to find two objections to their application for a permit to operate a visitor information centre in Warrandyte, at 95 Yarra Street.

The committee has been working on this proposed centre for nearly six months now and had secured the support of Melbourne Water and Manningham council.

Within the local community of Warrandyte, encouragement and enthusiasm for the initiative had been expressed by members of the Warrandyte Business Association, Warrandyte Historical Society and Information Warrandyte. Supporting phone calls and random discussions around town with local individuals, including a neighbour who opposed the proposed centre, have given MVATA the heart to carry on.

The objections appear to be levelled towards the owner/developer and Manningham council. This leaves the tourism association without premises for what could be up to 10 months

while the appeal process runs its course.

To give some background to the achievements by Melbourne's Valley of the Arts in relation to this Visitor Information Centre, the following organisations have committed the following:

Swinburne University in Lilydale and NMIT in Preston have approached the committee asking if the venue can be used as a learning place for their tourism students.

This will surely help some students in their quest for employment in the future.

Bundoora Park, who have just opened an information centre, wish to do a staff exchange program so that cross-regional product familiarization will occur. Parks Victoria are keen to have a "shop front" to the State Park and neighbouring Parks Victoria venues, and initial discussions are looking worthwhile for both MVATA and Parks.

It is frustrating, to say the least, that two individuals can stop a community

based initiative that aims to broaden and enhance the visitor experience to this region, as well as giving some local people work to do. Already a list of 20 volunteers exists, to staff the centre—these are people from across Manningham and beyond who want to give freely of their time, meet new people and join in with a like-minded group of people.

Today's society is becoming increasingly bereft of a community social life, older people are isolated, younger people struggle to find a purpose. The tourism experience is not just one of visiting places, more importantly it is valued according to who you meet. Hence the face-to-face contact at a visitor centre is so important.

MVATA committee wish to thank everyone who have encouraged us to take this initiative as well as those organizations who have already agreed to provide financial and in-kind support.

Jenny Grinlington  
Regional Tourism Co-ordinator  
Yarra Plenty Riverlands RTA

# Stadium delayed

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Work is expected to start this month on Warrandyte's new basketball stadium—one month later than expected.

The delay has been attributed to the "checking of fine print on the design plans" by the four main stakeholders involved in the project—the Department of Education, Manningham Council, Warrandyte Basketball Club and Andersons Creek Primary School.

Despite this the stadium, to be built in an unused corner of the primary school near Goldfields Plaza, should be close to completion by its forecast opening date of April next year.

"They are one month behind but that's not too bad," said Bruce Macdonald, former basketball club president and now a member of the Stadium Reference Group.

"All of the interested parties will have another meeting soon to look at the fine details."

Tenders for the building of the stadium opened on September 19. They closed on October 22 and according to primary

school principal Des McKenzie several were received.

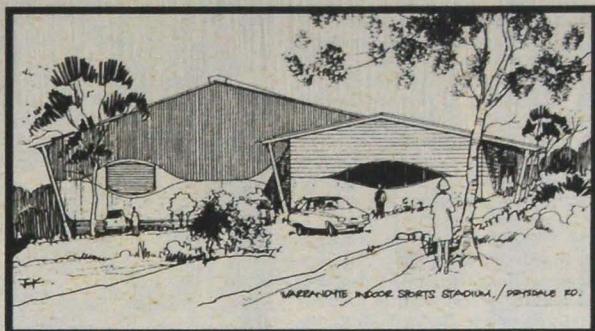
"Several builders submitted tenders to build the stadium. Manningham Council has them now. There are still some negotiations to be done with the builders but an appointment would be expected soon," he said. "When the successful tender is announced they will be straight into it."

He says that many school parents have asked about the reason for the delay.

"The parents are saying what's happening, why is there no movement? While it is okay for myself and Bruce Macdonald to speak with council, as far as the parents are concerned if there are no building works and the stadium isn't going up it means nothing is happening."

Mr McKenzie said the delay has failed to dampen enthusiasm for the project.

"The parents are all very excited about this. The stadium plans have been on display in the school foyer and virtually all of the parents have made a



point of coming through to check them and comment on them.

"It has also been raised at various forums, including the parents club. It's very exciting."

Mr Macdonald said the plans, also displayed at the community centre and council offices, had met nothing but positive response from those at the basketball club.

"Everyone is quite happy. We have to be realistic in regards to budgetary constraints but

when the builder is announced we will meet and talk about what extras we can afford. It will be full steam ahead after that happens."

Meanwhile, Mr Macdonald stepped down as basketball club president at the club's annual general meeting last month, having held the position for two years. He will remain a member of the Stadium Reference Group, along with two members of the club's committee.

# Private school plan rejected

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Manningham Council has refused a planning application for the establishment of a private school at Warrandyte Community Centre.

Universal Learning College was hoping to open a primary school at the centre next year. It was to have catered for 20 to 25 children in 1999 and a maximum of 45 to 50 students in the year 2000.

School co-ordinator Margaret Harley said she felt the reasons council gave for rejecting her plan could have been overcome.

"I am very disappointed, it would have brought a lot to the local community," she said. "I felt positive that we could have overcome the hurdles that they placed in front of us."

She said four reasons were given for the refusal of the application. These were the increase in traffic that would result from the school, the damage to community centre gardens and maintenance concerns, the problems associated with sharing facilities and the fact that the community centre was not designed to host a school.

Mrs Harley countered those claims by saying that the centre was only ever intended to be a temporary home. "These are only little things which I felt sure we could overcome."

She said that objections from centre tenants Information Warrandyte and the

Neighbourhood House had an influence in the plan's rejection.

"I have the option of appealing the decision but I won't. I am still looking to go ahead with the concept of the school but I will have to go elsewhere for temporary accommodation. The problem is that there are so few places in the area. The community centre was ideal because it is hardly used during the day."

Centre manager Norm Tillack was hopeful that the centre could accommodate the school. "We were surprised and disappointed for the community centre," he said. "It was an opportunity for us to generate some daytime revenue and an opportunity to use the facility to a greater extent. It is empty during the week for four days which is what Margaret planned to use it for."

"One of the grounds for its rejection was that it was not compatible with community use. We knew that there would be difficulties associated with it but we could have worked through them."

"Other hirers use the room but Margaret understood that it would have to be packed away each day. The advantages of having the school here far outweighed the negatives."

Mr Tillack said the centre would now have to try and find different tenants to use the centre during the day, aiming to attract businesses for conventions or seminars.

He agreed the objections from Information Warrandyte and the Neighbourhood House "had quite a significant effect on council refusing the request".

As reported in the *Diary* last month the two groups shared concerns about toilet facilities, noise levels and garden damage.

But local primary school principals were not surprised that the plan was rejected. "I wasn't surprised, not at all," said Ken Wing Jan, principal of Warrandyte Primary School. "There were a few members of the community against it."

"I feel that with us and Andersons Creek we adequately cover the area and the needs of the community. The community response was clear that it was not a suitable place for a school."

He said that smaller schools such as the one planned failed to provide the "comprehensive curriculum that the students need".

His counterpart at Andersons Creek, Des McKenzie, agreed. "It is not my role to oppose it but the facilities is an issue for parents who enrol."

"Parents want a certain level of sophistication, by way of a broad range of teachers, computers and library facilities. They are all important," he said.

Despite the setback Margaret Harley will persist with her hopes of establishing the school—but elsewhere.

# Facilitator for South CFA

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

South Warrandyte CFA is to have its own community support facilitator early next year as part of a state-wide drive to prevent fires. The position follows the extremely good results obtained by a similar facilitator at Warrandyte.

Captain of the South Warrandyte brigade, Mr Ron Symons, said the number of fireguard groups in Warrandyte had gone from one to more than 20 with the advice and encouragement of the Warrandyte facilitator.

"The new officer will be fulltime at South Warrandyte, covering South Warrandyte, Warranwood, Park Orchards and Donvale, with duties encompassing communication, fire safety and education. The position is initially for 12 months but possibly longer."

"Seven new brigade members have been recruited in the local area, all with a degree of daytime availability, and they have started training," Mr Symons said. "The new members will help residents with fire safety tasks during the course of the whole year, not only in the bushfire season."

This takes membership at South Warrandyte to about 45 operational and non-operational members, with more



Warrandyte brigade fights a fire on Fourth Hill last summer.

working in administration, community education and communication than in firefighting.

Mr Symons said householders should be preparing for the summer, when Warrandyte, South Warrandyte and Park Orchards are always at risk because of the topography. A com-

munity fire survival expo and brigade open day will be held at Warrandyte fire station on November 21.

Manningham City Council is offering free tip passes for removal of green waste during December, a project especially aimed at fire-prone areas.

# Fire expo on again

People in fire-risk Warrandyte and surrounding areas can start their preparation for the bushfire season by visiting the Warrandyte Fire Brigade's fire survival expo and brigade open day, to be held at the Warrandyte Fire Station on Sunday, November 29 from 10am to 4.30pm.

A brigade spokesman told the *Diary* that the expo, which has been held over the past two years, "is aimed at providing residents with the knowledge of fire behaviour and contact with equipment suppliers in order to increase people's readiness for the summer".

There will be demonstrations of pumps and firefighting equipment, simulated kitchen fires, rooftop sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers, safety clothing, smoke alarms and home safety items will be on display and available for purchase.

Features will include information sessions at 11am, 1pm and 3pm, "offering the latest updates on ways of protecting your home and family."

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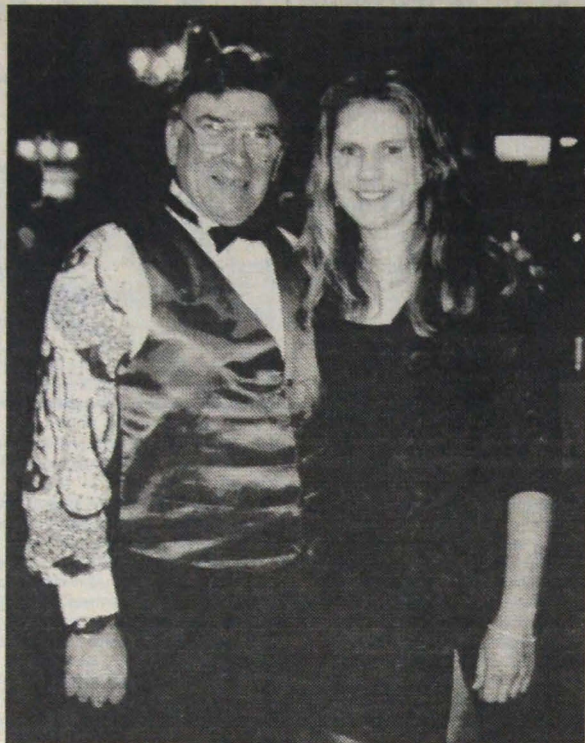
Warrandyte High School's valedictory night for Year 12 students was held on Monday October 26 at Alfred's Homestead, with parents, friends, students and teachers coming together for one last time before the VCE examinations.

Raymond J. Bartholomeu from Hey, Hey It's Saturday was the guest speaker and two stars from the school's acclaimed West Side Story production added to the night's success.

Elise Hodgson and Christiaan Hart were very popular winners of the all-rounder and sportsperson awards respectively while Nadia Spiliotacopoulos winning of the artistic excellence award was greeted with enthusiasm.

The most moving moment of the evening came when Nick Arnott presented Nadia Cole with the Juliette Arnott Endeavour Award while Amee George's fine contribution to the Warrandyte High School was recognised in her winning the coveted citizenship award.

The various subject awards were shared by many students and consequently the winner of the coveted scholastic excellence award will not be known until December when ENTER scores are received.



Elise Hodgson, winner of Warrandyte High School's all-rounder award with Ray Haynes, her former percussion teacher.

## Local jobs for local people

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House has announced the revival of a local jobs placement scheme. Known as the Warrandyte Job Exchange, it operated between 1981 and 1993. The new project is called Local Jobs for Local People.

"This project will be an important stepping stone for the unemployed in our community, providing much needed self-esteem through satisfying employment in chosen fields," a spokesperson for Neighbourhood House told the *Diary*.

Local people of all ages will be given the opportunity to obtain work in a project which is "not based on pressure to take every job offered, but on each person's right to decide which job is appropriate to their needs," the spokesperson said.

The Neighbourhood House is eager to hear from both prospective employers and jobseekers.

"Local Jobs for Local People is an opportunity for unemployed, retired and self-employed people to promote themselves in their local community," the spokesperson said.

A register of details of people looking for work and their skills will be consulted when an employer rings, requesting someone for a particular job. Potential employees will then be given the employer's phone number.

There will be no charge for people wishing to register for employment. A minimal fee will be charged to employers each time a position is filled. Phone 9844 1839 for more information.

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## Youth clubs combine

Warrandyte and Manningham youth services are being combined into a single organisation.

The new organisation will seek to expand the services available to young people in the municipality.

"We will also have greater opportunity to seek federal and state government funding for programs," a spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Particular opportunities are seen for expanding services to the semi-rural areas of the municipality and in particular to

Warrandyte and Wonga Park through the integration of the two services. The long term focus is to provide an equitable distribution of services to all the young people of Manningham."

For an interim period, two members from WYS will join the board of the combined service. "Our expectation is that on January 1, 1999, the new organisation will take responsibility for the service obligations currently being undertaken by WYS," the spokesperson said.

The committee of Warrandyte Youth Services feel that this is a great opportunity for the local community to focus on service delivery to the young people of Warrandyte, without "the burden of being a small employer."

"The drop-in centre will remain the focus of services in Warrandyte and will be augmented by the skills and talents of the combined organisation. The committee will now play a role in a larger organisation with responsibilities across the municipality."

WARRANDYTE  
BUSINESS  
ASSOCIATION

# It's Christmas! The lights are on in Warrandyte

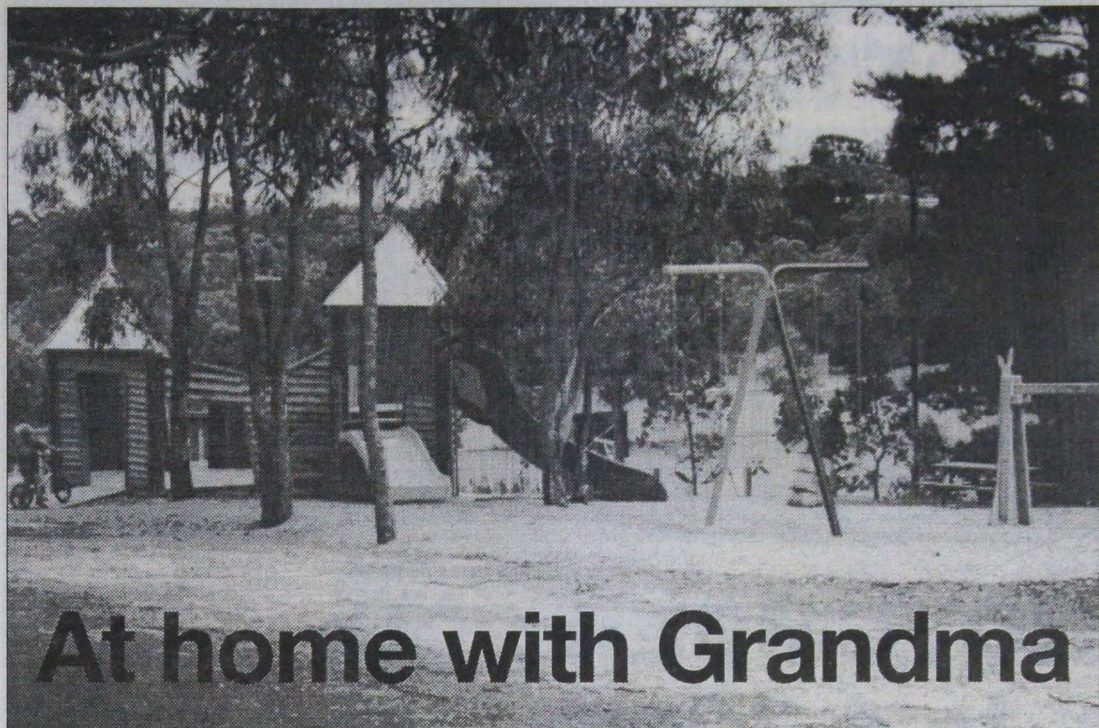
WARRANDYTE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
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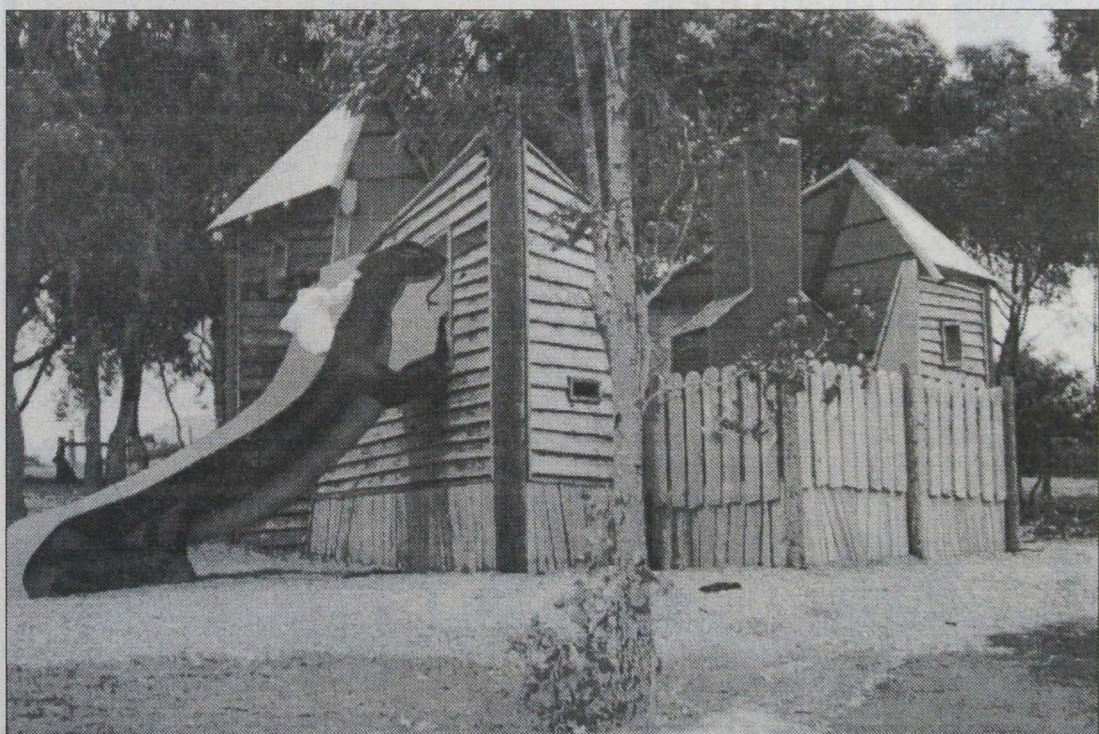
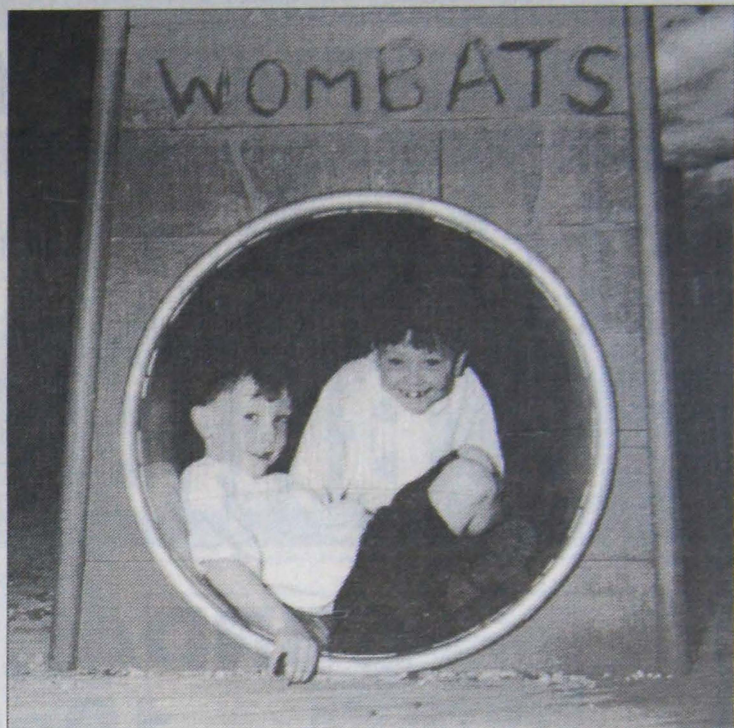
Thursday 10 and Thursday 17 December til late

Warrandyte shops will be open to help you buy your unique Christmas gifts—shops will be lit by fairy lights. Father Christmas will be arriving on the fire truck. Warrandyte will be open from Beasleys to Potters Cottage—all the way—over 3kms of shops.





# At home with Grandma



Diary photographer SANDY BURGOYNE followed Stephanie (7), Mitchell (4) and Georgia (1) Ruddersham around the Wonga Park Play Space, based on Graeme Base's children's book, My Grandma Lived In Gooligulch.



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**COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY**



# Working to restore an island in the sun

By RACHEL BAKER

SEVERE degradation of Warrandyte's Yarra River "island" has prompted local residents to form a new group aimed at improving and protecting the area's habitat.

"Friends of the Island", which officially called for members at a tree-planting day on October 4, hopes to restore the island (located behind Warrell's Country Store) to its natural state, including species diversity and unhindered water flow.

More than 30 willow trees were cut down because they had choked up the river, virtually stopping the water's flow and harming the river's wildlife—including platypus—local environmentalist Margaret Burke said.

The removal of most of the willows—a few were left to prevent erosion—created a need for new vegetation: 3000 native sedges and grasses, 400 semi-aquatic plants, and 240 shrubs and trees were planted.

The replacement of willows with native species should free up water flow and encourage indigenous fauna, making the island a "wildlife refuge", a sanctuary in the



Friends of the Island plant new trees, following removal of river-choking willows.

river from such foreign invaders as rabbits, cats, and dogs, group member Julie Bishop said. The willows were poisoned and should now break down, restoring the river's flow. Removal by machinery would have been too disruptive to the

wilderness and the side-effects of dredging would be unacceptable.

"The weather has been really good, with lots of rain, and the river's already starting to flow again. It's a really pretty area that's well-worth protecting," Julie said.

The Friends of the Island group will hold regular meetings and hope to arrange more tree-planting days. They are accepting new members, and can be contacted on 9844 4661 (Julie Bishop) or 9844 1060 (Margaret Burke).

## Artistic harmony

By LEE O'MAHONEY

THE melodic tinkle of an eastern rosella calling competes with the sound of hammering. "We're finally building a kitchen in the studio. Syd's connecting the water to a tank we've just installed," a woman explains.

The woman is Ona Henderson, referring to her husband, Syd Tunn.

They have worked as full-time artists for 20 years. Sporting a thick blonde ponytail, it is hard to believe she will be 50 next year. She possesses an unusual mix of child-like playfulness and the serenity of someone older, content with the life she is living.

Sitting in the 20 square timber studio she built with Syd, she describes the first time she enjoyed being an exhibiting artist.

"I was 10. My painting was put up in the big general assembly hall at school. I remember thinking how delightful it was to watch people's responses to what I was putting down on a piece of paper. It stuck in my mind very, very strongly."

Today, she is surrounded by her works and those of her husband.

Between them, they have sold approximately 2000 paintings. Her work is in public and private collections worldwide, including the Coles-Myer corporate boardroom and Queen's Hall in Victoria's Parliament House. She has won many awards and has held a number of exhibitions around Australia.

Ona (pronounced 'honour') frequently derives inspiration for her work from nature. Living on a five-acre bush block in the Environmental Living Zone in Kangaroo Ground, inspiration is never too far away. She describes the area as "a permanent place for people wanting to live in harmony with the bush". A winding creek flows along one boundary of their property, a pair of

wedge-tailed eagles nest in the area each year and are regularly seen soaring on thermals high above the trees. Artefacts of nature—feathers, leaves, nests, shells—are strewn throughout the studio.

Her work could best be described as ethereal, full of feeling and mood, frequently complemented by the appearance of butterflies and birds.

"The winged being is so symbolic of human potential. I'm very interested in how our different mythologies, like Greek, use winged beings to say so much about the human soul and the human spirit."

Ona believes that everyone is an artist and, together with Syd, devotes considerable time helping others tap into their innate talents.

"It's almost a weekly thing, encouraging young artists. So many people have been put off the visual arts because somewhere, in school, some teacher has said, 'That doesn't look like a cup,' or whatever. So a piece of them shrunk and they thought, 'I'm no good at that'."

"We've worked with a lot of people to help them through the destruction and judgement that stopped them from expressing themselves visually."

Although she completed formal art training at Swinburne Institute, she feels passionately that artists shouldn't be too influenced by others.

"Follow your dreams. Follow your heart. Don't let too many other people influence you, because it will come out in your work, and people will feel it. Even though they may not be able to consciously pin-point it, your work won't speak to them in the same way as if you're really, truly, passionately painting art from your heart."

If comments about Ona's paintings are anything to go by, her work is speaking to many people.



## Tiniest tawny right at home

The two big black eyes you see in this picture belong to the newest generation of a tawny frogmouth clan which claimed a dead stringybark off Browns Road, North Warrandyte, as its home more than a decade ago.

This chick was hatched a few weeks ago and *Diary* staffers Jan and Lee Tindale, whose kitchen and bathroom look out over the tree, have been enjoying a living nature show ever since.

The first pair of tawnies landed 11 years ago and with the exception of just one breeding season, the tree "nursery" has been occupied annually.

Mum sits on the nest by day, with Dad keeping camouflaged vigil in a tree nearby. By night, the hunting duties are shared—and there is, after all, an extra mouth to feed now.

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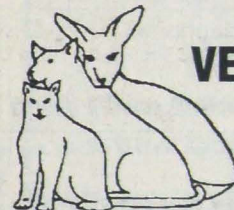
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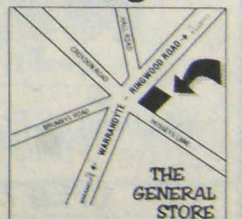
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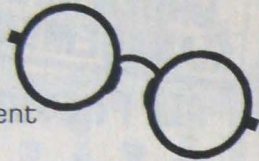


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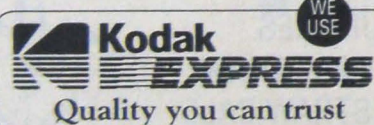
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# Arsonist From Hell rears his smoked-stained head

**T**HERE'S something very therapeutic about trips to the tip and burning off, except there aren't any more tips to use and you're not allowed to burn off without a CIA clearance and a photo dossier of all the neighbours' clothes before and after the event.

There was something very elemental about the process of "clearance". You used to wake up determined that this was going to be the day that all the rubbish of your life would be despatched; a metaphorical colonic irrigation of the soul.

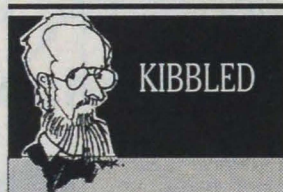
A quick recce around the house produced a trailer full of unhappy purchases, discarded decades of your life and the unused and outdated hand-me-downs from well-meaning but tasteless relatives.

It was a family affair. We were brought together by fights about what was rubbish and what were priceless reminders of days long gone. Herself's tears and my petulance were the equivalent of one or two sessions with a shrink.

The tip collection provided Boy Wonder and Gorgeous Creature with role models of marriage and adult behaviour. They experienced first-hand what unity of purpose and shared goals and aspirations were all about.

The afterglow of a trip to the tip needed neither a cigarette nor a deep and meaningful discussion. A good shower plus the release of adrenalin from the experience was enough to keep you going for days.

Burning off was almost the same in terms of its therapy but



**"A good shower plus the release of adrenalin was enough to keep you going for days."**

not in scale—sometimes.

The major difference between the tip trip and the bonfire was preservation. Whereas the trailer journey was fundamentally selfish—you know, a sort of blokey mucking around with stuff whilst, at the same time, doing something useful around the place—the serious burn-off had a more immediate intent—the prevention of annihilation.

Annually, at the first sight of the CFA logo in the letter box, you made an involuntary lunge into your matches pocket. You knew that lurking inside the envelope was the equivalent of the householder's school report card. And in yours was a lot of advice to your conscience that you had been a bad boy last year.

As you read the information about "dry years," "build up of

leaf litter" and "menacing fuel-filled spaces under the house" your future flashes before your very eyes.

You have set off in the morning; a still, hot morning, the sort that suggests a brooding malevolence. As the day progresses, the wind picks up from the north, intensifies and you just know that the Arsonist From Hell is, at that moment, eyeing off the pile of tinder-dry vegetation you have failed to dispose of during the past months.

It's no use rationalising that you had more important things to do, AFH has checked for prying eyes and has already stuffed a crumpled copy of the *Diary* under the pile. A flick of the lighter and Smokey Joe lives up to his name.

Just as the *Diary* becomes even more inflammatory, the wind gusts and a spark leaps to a dying grevillea. The dead, needle-like leaves fizz and splutter. They may have died a natural death, starved of fuel because of all the dry detritus of last year has been collected and safely burnt off but no, the dry grass, yellowing advertising junk mail and the dessicated fronds of a removed pampas grass clump provide all that's needed for the spluttering flames to gain confidence and intensity.

By now the AFH is having an almost orgasmic time, watching from a distance, hoping that the fire will have well and truly taken hold before someone spots the smoke and calls the brigade. He is torn between staying around to watch or heading off to find another property where some slack

householder has failed to take appropriate precautions during the winter and spring.

This day-time nightmare is broken by a phone ringing. After the call, you ring a local tradesman friend for a reality check, to determine that there are no wisps of smoke rising above your house. Panic sets in when the phone just keeps ringing. He's always within earshot of either his mobile or fixed phone!

By this time the AFH's face begins to float before your eyes. His eyes are a mixture of mockery and warning. Mockery because you know what his leer represents and a warning because you can feel the heat of the day intensify and the wind strengthen.

You manage to get through the day and drive home, relieved to turn the corner to find your life's work still intact. However, there are the piles of twigs, the combustible rubbish and the inadequately short hose.

In the olden days we used to burn off, but like the tip, this therapy has been understandably curtailed. And some of us know why, feel distressed and confused about the difficulties of living in an environmentally fragile area.

Unable to resolve all the conflicting demands, some of us shift. Now, when the bureau threatens hot northerlies, I don't break out in a sweat. But I must admit that I don't find a Sulo and a once-yearly hard rubbish collection nearly as soul-reviving as a used tip ticket and an extinguished black patch of charcoal once were.

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# A home for the swallows —in mud, glorious mud

66 **S**OFT wet soil, sand, dirt or other earthy material." That is the dictionary definition of mud, and what a useful, universal product it is. Mud is adaptable, pliable, gooey, squishy, neither totally solid, nor totally liquid, but somewhere in between. When dried, depending on its chemical constituents, it will turn to dust or set hard as rock.

Mud can be moulded into bricks, bowls, plates, cups and ornaments; heated mud can be used in a medicinal bath to relieve rheumatism or plastered over the body to improve skin condition. Some female members of our species even wrestle in mud for sport.

Birds have also discovered mud's versatile properties. They use it for nest building, either sparingly to bind together other materials or as a major component. Magpie larks and white-winged choughs are noted mud nesters. The latter constructs its pudding basin-sized nest in stages by first wrapping a solid base plate of damp mud around the horizontal branch of a tree, allowing it to harden, before assembling the walls of the bowl. Although a bird of eucalypt forest, choughs make use of farm dams on adjacent cleared land for their supply of mud.

While choughs' nests generally go unnoticed high in the trees, the cup and bottle shaped nests, respectively, of welcome swallows and fairy martins are often encountered under bridges, overhangs, eaves, culverts and in caves. Composed of compacted mud pellets and plastered to vertical surfaces the nests are surpris-

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

ingly secure.

These birds have a preference for open areas, often close to water where mud is always available from river and creek banks.

Swallows and martins are like-minded, like-bodied little birds which associate closely with each other. Both are small-framed, lightweight, energetic acrobats. Both are gregarious and habitually congregate—sometimes in their hundreds—on telegraph wires. Both feed on insects. Both twitter.

Physical differences between the two are mainly confined to their tails: swallows long and deeply forked, martins shorter and square. In addition, martins have a white rump and swallows a rusty red breast. Behavioural differences are minimal.

Both birds are nomadic, following the flush of insects, however, martins do seem to have a more migratory pattern to their roaming, arriving in southern areas in spring and departing in April.

If only it were possible to fly with the swallows. To be up there on streamlined wings cutting the air like scissors through silk. Gliding, swooping, banking and diving, catching insects on the wing with precision timing. Seeing the world from another perspective. But it cannot be, our species is denied the exhilaration of unaided flight.

Certainly we can hang-glide,



parachute and free-fall, but in the end we are shackled to this earth by gravity. Our human frame was not designed for flight. Our brains though, have an unlimited capacity for imagination.

Soon it will be summer. The young swallowings in their mud-pellet nests grow with the lengthening days, their demand for food places a heavy burden on their parents.

If you venture down to the river in the late afternoon, when gnats and midges are swarming,

you will see the swallows. With immense aerial dexterity they pluck the tiny insects from the air millimetres from the water. It is difficult to follow their erratic flight with the eye, even harder through binoculars. Best to close your eyes. Release the spirit within.

Freedom of spirit is to join in the rhythm of the flowing river; to meld with the melody of rippling water, whispering wind and the humming of insect wings. Freedom of spirit is to fly with the swallows.

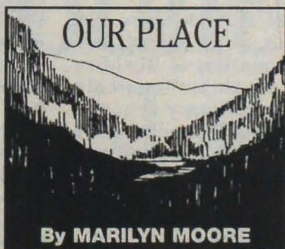
# The great southern bike survival

**W**ELL, my inquisitive friends, it is not usual to write a follow-up article, but on this occasion it seems an exception is warranted. It is therefore my solemn duty to inform you that the Great South Australian Bike Ride was absolutely fantastic.

It was also seriously hard work. Our pre-ride thoughts had varied from optimism ("we'll romp it in, South Australia's pretty flat") to realism ("90 kilometres a day is going to be tough!") and panic ("Aaaargghh!") to fatalism ("Too late now for a refund, we may as well give it a go"). All turned out to be justified.

We left Adelaide by bus at dawn, heading northeast through verdant and picturesque hills to our starting point at the dusty little settlement of Sedan. The scenery en route was riveting, particularly in view of the fact that we would soon be riding back through parts of it. This panic-inducing prospect notably included a 12-kilometre ascent up the escarpment separating the Mt Lofty Ranges from the Murray plains.

The other occupants of the bus, dressed in the snazziest cycling gear imaginable, did not



OUR PLACE

By **MARILYN MOORE**

seem concerned; they comfortably snoozed or reminisced noisily about past exploits. But they must have noticed the terrain. Why weren't they panicking? Surely they didn't expect to ride up hills like that? Our first campsite, 90 kilometres away at Eudunda, might be a hellishly long ride, but it'd be an even longer walk. We'd never make it by nightfall.

At Sedan there was little time for panic. The football ground had been converted into a sort of soup-kitchen of military efficiency, and we soon found ourselves in a production line, tagged, bar-coded, laden with all sorts of introductory paraphernalia, including a very large cooked breakfast, and headed irrevocably towards the start. Any minute now we

would have to confront that escarpment.

Our bikes had followed in a cattle truck which bore plentiful evidence of recent occupation by its traditional passengers, so unloading the bikes was a rather slippery business. The minimum requirement to transport a bike is to remove the pedals and rotate the handlebars. I don't think our bikes were especially designed for this, because other people seemed to have 'snap-lock' fittings all over the place. By the time we'd laboured over restoring four sets of pedals to an operational position, other riders had literally rebuilt whole bikes from the jigsaw of high-tech bits they'd brought stowed in nifty little duffel bags.

Thus the Great Ride got underway, looking ominously like an 'us' and 'them' job. Our bikes were conspicuously heavier, low-tech, over-laden affairs. Everybody else was vastly leaner and fitter than us, and, surprisingly, there were very few other children (less than a dozen under-15s out of nearly 500 riders). On the other hand, it was a gorgeous sunny morning, breakfast had been most satisfactory, and, after all, we were actually there, riding

amongst a crowd of very friendly people, and ready for anything.

What an adventure it turned out to be. We enjoyed every minute. The elation of rising to challenge after challenge, fabulous countryside and cheerful company kept our spirits soaring despite crippling sore muscles and gale-force headwinds. On the first two nights, exhausted, we could barely stay awake long enough to eat dinner, and none of us could walk straight (nothing to do with wineries!). However the stiffness eventually wore off, and the amazing restorative powers of some of the local produce sustained us through the subsequent evenings of country-town entertainments. We breezed up hill and down dale until the eighth and final day, when the sustained effort finally took its toll. Torrens Gorge completely finished everybody.

We arrived home considerably fitter. The very next weekend we were back on our trusty wheels for a quick pre-breakfast dash around the course in the Melbourne Marathon Bike Ride. How one's perception of 42 kilometres can change in two weeks!

So just do it, folks. Have a go.

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# Bringing music to everyone

**F**OLLOWING your heart and what inspires it will lead you to where you should be. This is the approach to life taken by Kevin O'Mara and Mark Leehy.

As a result, both have interesting, fulfilling and varied lives. Today, their musical, teaching and theatrical aspects have evolved into an arts education publishing company called Bushfire Press.

In Warrandyte, they are best known as musicians in Paradiddle, an Irish-Australian traditional acoustic band. Formed in 1978, this band has been the closing act at the Warrandyte Festival for 17 of the past 20 years. This year's festival was the band's last concert.

Mark and Kevin met at teachers college where they majored in drama. "We started to come together through folk music—a whole bunch of us used to sit around in the cafe playing Irish music," says Mark. "We were also involved in college revues," adds Kevin. Here Kevin directed the skits while Mark was the compere. Rob Fairbairn, another founding member of Paradiddle, joined the two in a post-graduate course in music.

Paradiddle was formed "at a time when this country was discovering it had a history outside Hollywood," explains Mark. Paradiddle and other bands were getting away from the folk songs of England and Ireland, in a modern way.

"If I were starting up a bush band now, it would include Aboriginal music, Asian and Italian, to reflect our blend as a country. Back then, people hadn't heard about shearers! Warrandyte was a good place to start; it has atmosphere and history."

The band's traditional finishing song, called Heather's Song, is Kevin's favourite number. It was written by Mark and was taken up by The Fureys. These Irish gypsy brothers recorded Mark's song on their last album. In fact, it was the title track and went into the charts in Ireland.

The Fureys came across the song in 1993 when they were touring Australia. The Rock Wallabies were the supporting band for regional Victo-

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

Words by LORRAINE WARREN  
Picture by AUSTIN POLLEY

rian concerts; its members current and ex-Paradiddle musicians. Mark was one such member and gave them a tape of Paradiddle.

Looking back over the years, Mark and Kevin remember highlights which include a month in Japan for the Australian Tourist Commission, the Opera House in Sydney, a TV kids' show appearance on Shirle's Neighbourhood, supporting Peter, Paul and Mary on their 25th anniversary tour at the Melbourne Concert Hall.

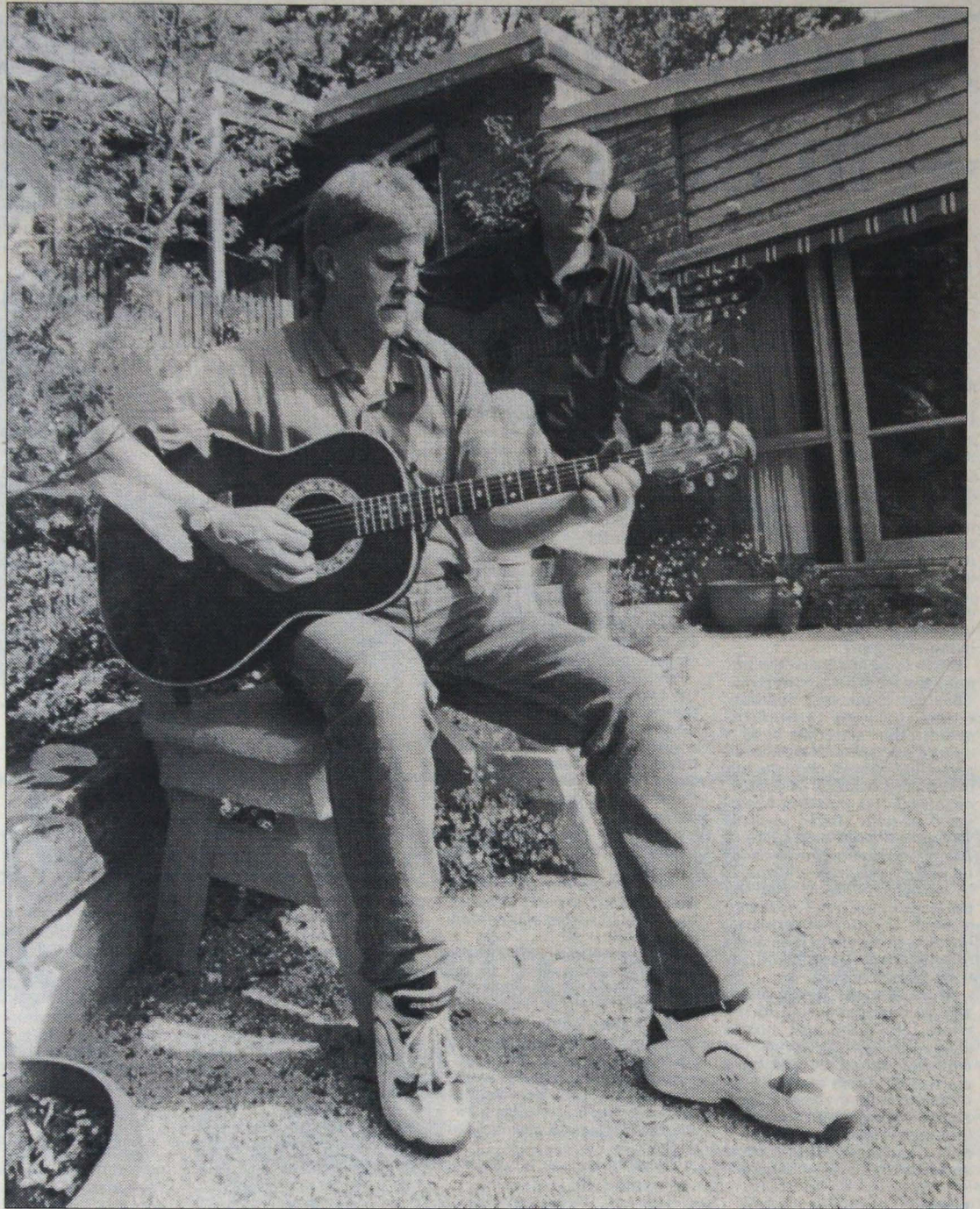
"Dargo public hall!" recalls Kevin. "We even played for cattlemen. It was the coldest place I have ever been in my life—the fiddler wore gloves! But, the one gig that put the fear of God into us, stressed us out, was to be performing to your own town. I couldn't enjoy the festival weekend."

Perhaps Kevin's sensitivity is due to his lengthy involvement in a number of community groups. Coming from a sporting background, he now enjoys sports clubs with his children. He has coached Redbacks basketball teams and is currently involved as team manager with the Bloods junior football team where his two boys play.

Kevin and Mark began their careers as classroom teachers and ended up as music specialists—Kevin at Warrandyte Primary and Mark at Templestowe. Both came to live in Warrandyte in the mid-1970s. Within six months of this move they were playing at the Mechanics Hall.

Mark says he picked up the guitar as a teenager because a girl he was interested in might be impressed if he sang Mr Tamborine Man. He went on to "play where ever I could until I was sent off. I played on trams, in cafes and folk clubs, anywhere they wouldn't throw me out. I wrote songs that no one wanted to hear and I still write them".

In the late 70s and early 80s Mark, together with Brian Laurence and John Zigantras (sound manager of



Kevin O'Mara (left) and Mark Leehy.

Paradiddle), ran a recording company in Warrandyte. They recorded acoustic and fringe acts like Yasmin and The Tea Leaves, The Panton Hills Umbrella Club, John Derum and, of course, Paradiddle.

One of the first bush bands in an Australian school began at Warrandyte Primary. Kevin started this band. It has played for the Dalai Lama, the Frederick McCubbin Exhibition and a small group appeared on a TV show called Cartoon Connection.

"Prior to our day, music at school was very strict and formal. For our own enjoyment we started bush bands, rock bands and recorder groups. We began writing children's musicals because we thought it would be fun and there was no material. Rob suggested we write a mu-

sic and put it on at our different schools," Mark said.

This was 1986 and the show was called Superkids. Lynne Bartlett suggested the formation of Bushfire Press. Prior to this, "musicals weren't done in primary schools. You needed talented people," says Mark. "We knew if we gave the schools simplicity, with directions, music, songs and backing tapes anyone could do them—in multi-purpose rooms to theatres."

Publishers didn't understand the concept so Kevin, Mark and Lynne started their own company. At first it was on a part-time basis, then it became strong enough for them to go full-time.

Now they receive submissions from other writers and draw on other talents when needed. For ex-

ample, Jock McNeish illustrates and is accredited with coming up with the image of cats for the Cool Cats Across Arts Adventures. This is believed to be the world's first complete primary arts course and has four levels, from prep to year six.

Kevin believes that music gives children another opportunity to participate in their community. "Children need to feel a part. Whether it is a football team, drama, music or the Warrandyte Arts Association. It's happening here in Warrandyte."

"Rasputin is a serious young band at Warrandyte High," Mark says. "These are children in years 8 and 9 who have cut their own CDs." They were taught by Kevin in primary school. "It's great to belong to a community that supports music as another avenue."

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Warrandyte Post Office, 1934.



Navigating Yarra Street, 1934. (Pictures courtesy Warrandyte Historical Society)

# Warrandyte was awash

By RICHARD WARWICK

**T**HE Yarra River has always been a central feature of life in Warrandyte—whether it was gold mining, a water supply, a fire-break during bushfires, or for recreation. Whilst usually of great benefit, there have been times when it has broken its banks and caused major flooding through the township.

Since the time that Melbourne was established in 1835, there have been 11 major floods on the Yarra.

Since the 1850s, a lot of work has been carried out on the river to improve its flow. Construction of the Coode Canal (on the river downstream from the city), and the removal of waterfalls at Market Street, have enabled any flood waters to be cleared relatively quickly.

Upstream of Warrandyte there has

been the construction of the Upper Yarra Dam and in more recent times works associated with the Sugarloaf Dam near Christmas Hills. All have reduced the severity of flooding as it affects the township of Warrandyte.

During the mining era in Warrandyte there were some minor changes to the course of the Yarra that assisted its flow. At Thompsons Bend (just upstream of the bridge) the river was diverted to remove a bend and form a small island, which has recently been extensively cleared to show the old river bed.

In 1875 the river flooded in Warrandyte and the waters were so rapid that the timber bridge across the Yarra was partially washed away. At that time the bridge was located behind the post office and was at a significantly lower level than the

current bridge.

In 1891 a large flood affected all of Melbourne and at Richmond there were 800 houses inundated.

By far the biggest flood occurred in 1934, when large areas of Melbourne and towns upstream, including Warrandyte, went under water. As an indication of the level of the flood, the old timber bridge across the Yarra (which was built to about the same height as the existing structure) had water rushing across its deck.

Whilst there was no major damage, this was only a matter of luck, as several large logs and other heavy debris crashed into the side of the bridge.

The 1934 flood level is now used as the benchmark for the whole metropolitan area and no development is allowed in areas below the level

of that flood.

At that time, if you had driven from one end of the town to the other, you would have seen that Tills Drive was under water for its full length, and as you approached the then post office you would have seen that it had water to a depth of some 150mm (six inches) up the walls.

A contemporary photograph shows that the building now occupied by Folkart had water up to its doorstep. At the old dairy, a brick building was demolished by the force of the water, a tennis court roller had been washed down, presumably from the bridge courts, and there was debris strewn everywhere. The Presbyterian Church at Whipstick Gully was under about 1.5 metres of water.

At the time, a footbridge was lo-

cated over the Yarra near the Pound Bend Tunnel and was known as Pearson's Bridge. The floodwaters were so strong that the bridge was washed away and was never replaced. The bridge provided access to what is now Laughing Waters Park.

Whilst there has been no serious flooding during the past 20 or 30 years, there is still a chance that given enough heavy rain falling for long enough in a concentrated area, it could happen again.

(Based on research from old MMBW publications and contemporary photographs).

● If you would like to know more about the history of Warrandyte, why not join the Warrandyte Historical Society? You can contact them on 9844 4176, or write to them at PO Box 67, Warrandyte 3113.

## They built a school at Kangaroo Ground

By JOY NESS

**I**N 1851 there were only ten families in the Kangaroo Ground district, but by the exertions of Andrew Harkness with other settlers, a school was erected. It was situated north of the present one, on half an acre of land provided by Mr J. Donaldson and was built by Samuel Furphy, father of novelist Joseph Furphy.

Consisting of a single room 30 feet by 18 feet and built of slabs, it was at first lined, but the green slabs soon shrank and showed half-inch openings which had to be stuffed with paper to keep out the wind and rain.

It was to serve as a Presbyterian school and church, fees of 18 pence per week being charged, and classes held on winter evenings for young men who had few opportunities for education. Agriculture was also taught. One corner of the room was curtained off to provide living space for the schoolmaster and the pulpit

was used as a sleeping place.

Andrew Ross was the first teacher. He also took the church services when the minister was unable to attend, which was often, on account of the long distances he had to travel and the bad state of the roads. This building was used as a Court of Petty Sessions in 1857 and also served as a post office from 1854 until 1858. Andrew Ross retired in 1876.

During the gold rush era, fossickers on their way to the Caledonia diggings at Queenstown (now St Andrews) prospected the district but did not remain long. However, the farming community grew, until by 1878 the population warranted the erection of the Kangaroo Ground State School Number 2105, a one-roomed, tongue and groove board-lined building of 49 feet by 18 feet to accommodate 60 children. The old school, Number 352, was closed and the new one opened on October 1, 1878 with Mr Henry J. Wallace as head teacher, assisted by Annie B. Johnston as



Kangaroo Ground school around 1880. (Picture courtesy Spark-Jones Collection).

work mistress. A four-roomed attached residence was built in 1879.

Other early teachers included Messrs Smith, Hamilton, Prosser, Jamieson and Boardmen; Miss Sweeney, Limerock and Davies; Mrs Gosling as sewing teacher, and Miss Oliver whose gruesome stories told every Friday afternoon gave some of the children nightmares.

In the early 1920s, a small room was built on the front verandah of the teacher's residence. This served as a State Savings bank agency until about 1934. In 1928 the three-tiered floor of the schoolroom was replaced by a flat floor and teacher's platform, since removed. A half

glassed partition wall divided the large room into two rooms in which the old style for form-type desks were replaced with dual desks. The small playground, surrounded by pine trees and a picket fence, was extended in 1931 by the purchase of an additional one acre of land.

During World War II, the school faced closure because of a decrease to seven in the enrolment, but by 1946 it had increased to 45, with Mr Eric Morgan as head teacher and Mrs Margaret Banks as assistant teacher, a position she held for 10 years.

In 1955, under the direction of head teacher Mr V. Gardiner, the school

won the ANA prize for the best kept garden and schoolground in this inspectorate. Mr Gardiner taught there for 13 years.

Because of subdivision in the district the enrolment in 1968 had increased to 65 and through the efforts of the committee a bus service was established. In 1969 there were 79 pupils, 51 of whom still used the original building—the local hall—demolished in late 1969, serving as a temporary classroom. Then the fire brigade meeting room became available for use as a classroom until a new school building, with much needed storeroom and staffroom, was built in 1974.

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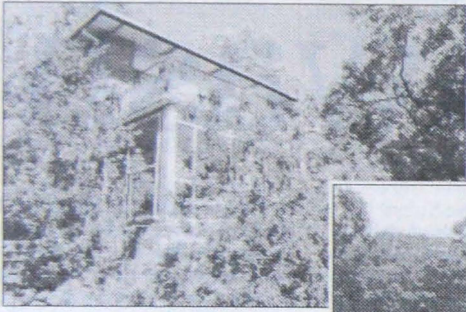
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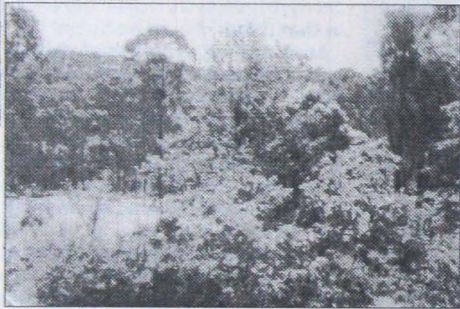
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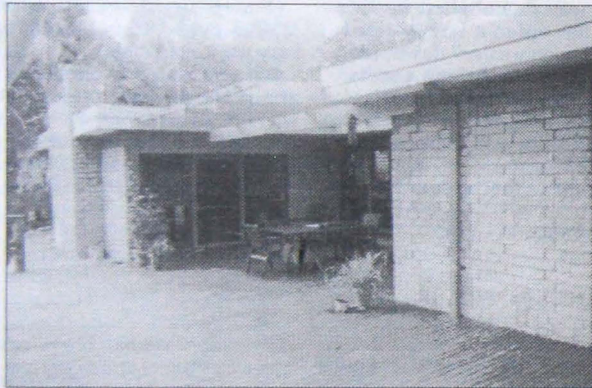
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# Rosie is the expert

By RACHEL BAKER

If you want to know how stream habitat affect macroinvertebrates as a measure of water quality, ask Rosie Moore of Weerona Way. It seems Warrandyte's highest authority on the subject is 12-year-old Rosie, a student at Warrandyte Primary School.

Rosie Moore took out the BHP Science Award for environmental and earth sciences—making her entry the best in the country for all primary and secondary school students—for her study of Mullum Mullum Creek.

After receiving inspiration from a Double Helix science excursion, Rosie decided to investigate the quality of the creek, and, over about three months, went out to 21 locations, took samples, calculated results, and drew conclusions—one of them being that the creek's habitat is poor and the water's condition "fairly degraded".

Rosie discovered a lot about the importance of stream habitat: "Things like removal of vegetation, damage to banks and erosion in the catchment area do terrible things to water quality," she said. She vows that the project was "easy", that science is "easy"; in fact, the word "easy" seems to pop up quite often in a conversation with Rosie—but you would expect that from the girl who has won the Science Talent Search three times in a row.

Rosie's mother offers a slightly more in-depth explanation of Rosie's success: "One of the judges said that it was the enthusiasm with which her report was written; it was obvious she had enjoyed what she'd done."

The project—which also



Rosie Moore, on behalf of BHP, presents Warrandyte Primary School principal, Mr Ken Wing Jan, with commemorative plaque.

earned Rosie a prize in the 1997 Victorian Science Talent Search—won her \$1000, a plaque for herself and the school, and a three-day science camp—not to forget the science t-shirt.

Whatever her secret to success, Rosie is eager to continue her scientific pursuits, and her mother has promised to support her: "It's so important to have a go," she said.

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# A night to remember

By KEN VIRTUE

HERE are moments, even in the metropolitan rush of our busy lives, when we are vividly reminded of the true fundamentals of community living. There were many such moments during an evening in early October when family and friends of Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall gathered at the Warrandyte High School for A Celebration On Stage.

Diary readers will know that Christie and Luke's young lives were cut short in a recent tragic road accident. A memorial fund was set up so that their memories could live on, and the proceeds from this special benefit concert, together with previous donations, will enable an annual grant in their names.

The concert, directed by Chris and Lynette White, drew on the abundant love felt by many locals for these two special young people. More than 300 attended, and many of them performed on stage or helped with the organisation.

Producer Phyl Swindley echoed her "heartfelt thanks—to the cast, crew, sponsors and volunteers too numerous to name". Media personalities Peter Stubbs and Jason Cameron jointly hosted the evening, and introduced a diversity of song and dance items which were so much part of the lives of Christie and Luke.

Their youthful exuberance and vitality were mirrored by an ice-breaking Spice Girls opening which featured 10 young friends: Anna, Vanessa, Sally, Elissa, Amanda, James, Jamie, Matt, Jason and Judd. Individual songs from Roz Gaffney, Alison Leutchford, Greg Stewart, Sally Morrison and Rob Melville set a very high standard, all sung from the heart.

Duets from Sally Morrison and James Egglestone brought back great memories of previous high school productions where Christie and Luke also performed. Jack Stringer was a marvellous accompanying pianist, whose talent helped many songs reach their full potential.

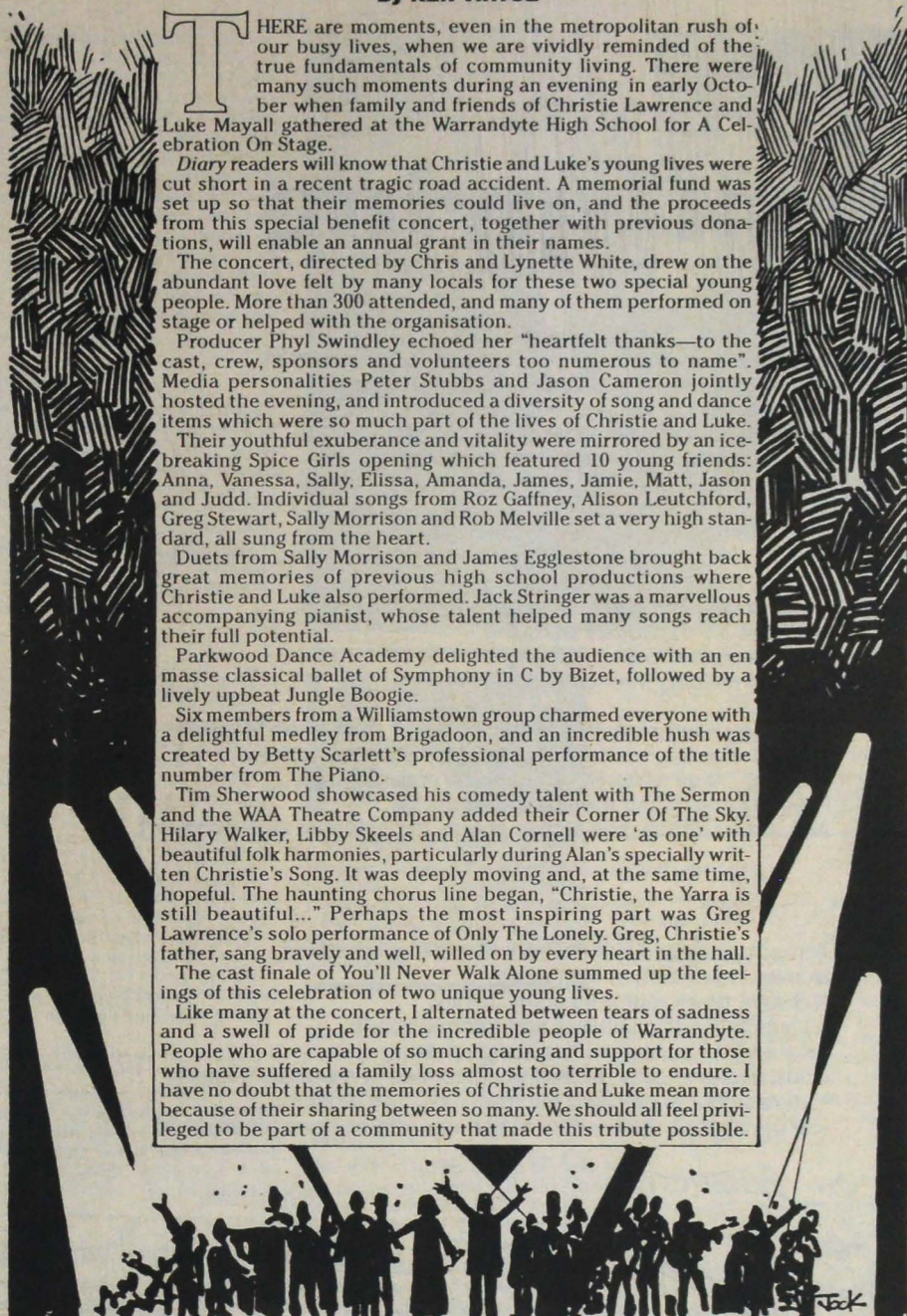
Parkwood Dance Academy delighted the audience with an en masse classical ballet of Symphony in C by Bizet, followed by a lively upbeat Jungle Boogie.

Six members from a Williamstown group charmed everyone with a delightful medley from Brigadoon, and an incredible hush was created by Betty Scarlett's professional performance of the title number from The Piano.

Tim Sherwood showcased his comedy talent with The Sermon and the WAA Theatre Company added their Corner Of The Sky. Hilary Walker, Libby Skeels and Alan Cornell were 'as one' with beautiful folk harmonies, particularly during Alan's specially written Christie's Song. It was deeply moving and, at the same time, hopeful. The haunting chorus line began, "Christie, the Yarra is still beautiful..." Perhaps the most inspiring part was Greg Lawrence's solo performance of Only The Lonely. Greg, Christie's father, sang bravely and well, willed on by every heart in the hall.

The cast finale of You'll Never Walk Alone summed up the feelings of this celebration of two unique young lives.

Like many at the concert, I alternated between tears of sadness and a swell of pride for the incredible people of Warrandyte. People who are capable of so much caring and support for those who have suffered a family loss almost too terrible to endure. I have no doubt that the memories of Christie and Luke mean more because of their sharing between so many. We should all feel privileged to be part of a community that made this tribute possible.



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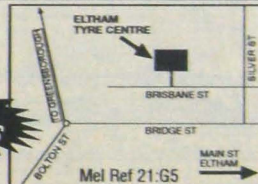


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Handwritten notes in the top left corner, including "Dor", "257", "6", and "5-0-7".

# Psyche: Soul of spring

A woodfire's amber ashes fade and glow,  
A woman draws her eyelids from her quilted swansdown;  
Below the half-lowered calico roller blind,  
Beyond the raw wood windowpane surround,  
her membrane-filmed, half-moon eyes  
trace mother-of-pearl inlays swirling in milky cloud:  
A breath, a breeze—  
grey-and-white marbled and mottled wood pigeons' feathers drift,  
floating;  
crinkled, colourless, winter-veined leaves crumple to the ground,  
falling.

A meandering river valley wreathed in morning breath,  
A translucent, white-robed figure wanders alone,  
A pathway of pale-faced, riverbank-rooted, silk-shrouded river  
dancers

arch embracing arms:  
Glistening globules of dew dangle from tree dimples—  
jewelled, bulbous, amniotic sacs;  
Cobwebs scallop river edge—  
curtains of lacy spinning wheels.

Swelling river sweeping past in whirlpool mist,  
Silver slivers shiver down dancers' spines,  
A kookaburra's cacophonous call stirring the sleeping—  
resonating river valley.  
Light-footed, bare-footed,  
numinous draped river goddess passes through nature's veil:  
Swirling sauna, riverbed-robed,  
she dissipates into enclosing opaqueness—  
watery, silken cascades carrying her, cocooning her on her river  
journey ...

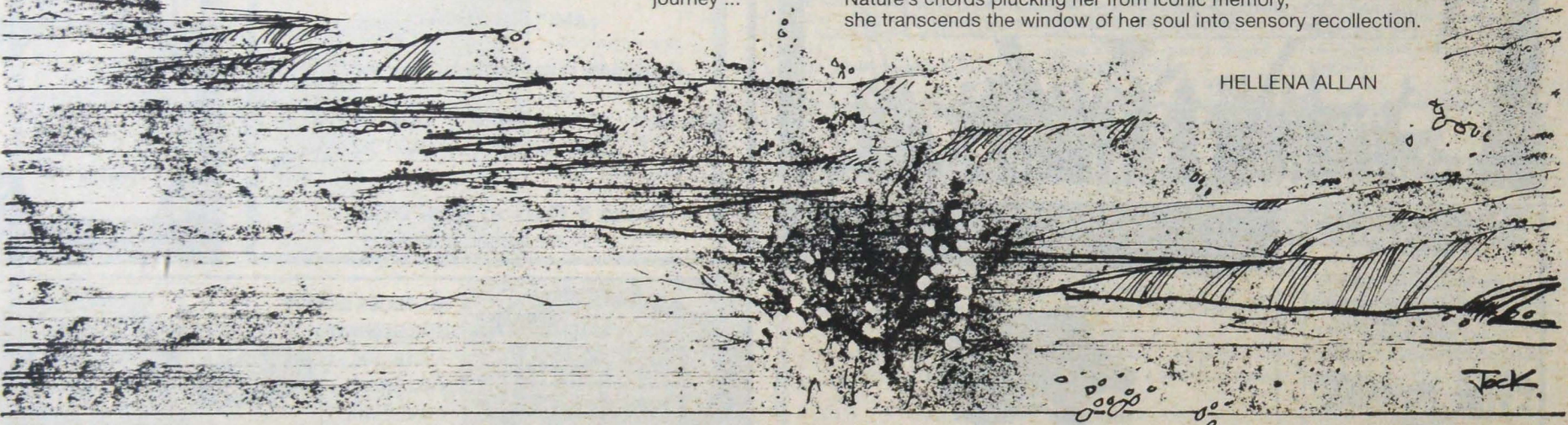
Hillside breath haloes distant valleys,  
Shards of sunlight streak through ribbons of river mist.  
In river shallows, like strands of hair, reeds float,  
A little girl skips pathway tree trunk roots,  
Her father strums a mellow guitar.  
A woman walking her dog opens a gate—  
grazing horses snort in a field of long, dewy grass.

A fine-tipped, finger-pointed, barked hand  
hosts a silken-suspending, thread-hanging chrysalis, well bound;  
pulsing, bleating, blood pumping,  
a pair of wrinkled and wet wings are painfully born.  
Her eyes are cautiously watching:  
riverside spinning and weaving—  
spiders' needles threading lace.

Wedding-veiled plum tree brides spraying springtime blossom—  
confetti-cloaking newborn butterfly with soft petal down.  
"Psyche," they whisper, "you are the soul of spring".  
Psyche spreads her transparent wings  
And like a rainbow she arches across the golden wattle-sprinkled  
river.

Threads of smoke spindle from dwindling woodfires,  
Human breath lulls in light sleep.  
A distant creek murmurs softly, faintly,  
resounding within sublime and tranquil minds.  
Awakening woodlands' heartbeats pulsing—  
wood pigeons' calls reverberating echoes in a woman's dream.  
Nature's chords plucking her from iconic memory,  
she transcends the window of her soul into sensory recollection.

HELLENA ALLAN



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# Christmas in lights

The Warrandyte Business Association has arranged for every shop in Warrandyte to receive a set of fairy lights to be illuminated for Christmas. The lights may be used inside or outside the shops. Cost of the lights is being met from the streetscape enhancement scheme and they will be returned after the New Year. Shops are being asked to open late on Thursdays, December 10 and 17, when Father Christmas (courtesy of the North Warrandyte Fire Brigade) will tour the town.



The Rotary Club of Warrandyte was pleased to welcome John Grady, alias "Pommy John" back into its ranks. John last visited Warrandyte in 1995. He was able to display his particular brand of humour at Rotary, the RSL Club, the Grand Hotel, and Ken and Patricia Sharps' wedding. As can be seen from the smiles in the photo he has not lost his touch. John is shaking hands with president Graeme Redman on one side and Rotarian Pam Holmes on the other. Rotary meets at Warrandyte Hotel on Tuesdays at 6.30pm. Information from David Greenwood, 9844 2864 mobile 0419 897 327.

## Fete

Warrandyte Primary School's Christmas Fete will be held at the school, in Forbes Street, on Saturday, November 14, from 10am to 4pm. As well as stalls, there will be a variety of activities and displays. School children will entertain with performances by the bush band, guitar and recorder groups and choirs.

## Garden

Judith and Ben Van Der Haar, of Albatross Pools, 226 Heidelberg Road, Warrandyte, are opening their beautiful garden on the weekend of November 28 and 29. At their October opening, \$10,000 was raised to help fight cancer. Proceeds from the November opening will also be forwarded to the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria. The garden display will include 600 roses, water lilies in the large ponds and a wide variety of summer annuals. Donation is \$5 and the garden will be open between 10am and 4.30pm, both days. Refreshments will be available.

## Exhibition

Warrandyte Arts Association's annual exhibition of art, craft and pottery will open on Friday, December 4 and will continue through the weekend. The theme will be "The 12 Days of Christmas".

## Gardens again

Bev and John Hanson's delightful garden at 104 Webb Street, Warrandyte, will be open on Saturday and Sunday, November 21 and 22 as part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme. This garden has a great empathy with its bushland surroundings and shows a subtle mix of Australian and exotic elements, all skilfully combined. It will be open between 10am and 4.30pm. Also open on the same weekend is the Payne garden at 10 Yarra Braes Road, Eltham, and the Secret Garden, 5 Wombat Court, Eltham.

## Elvis

The Grand Hotel's final fundraiser for 1998 is a Tribute To Elvis—featuring Andrew Portelli—to be held on Friday, November 27, arriving at 8.30pm for a 9pm start. Tickets cost \$13, including snacks.



## 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.

Please book on 9844 3202 and collect tickets a week in advance. Fundraiser is the Park Orchards kindergarten.

## Wildlife

The next monthly Green Wedge Environment Seminar will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Thursday, December 3 at 7.30pm. Mike Clarke from Latrobe University will discuss his research into the bell miner and its interaction with other birds.

## Playgroup

Warrandyte West End Playgroup meets in the Uniting Church's Sunday School Hall in Tarroona Avenue. It caters for children from 0-5 years and has comfortable facilities for mothers and babies. Call Meredith Bubner on 9844 4533.

## Information

Information Warrandyte has a new committee. President is Louise Joy; vice-president, Ron Golding; treasurer, Wendy Allardice and secretary, Janet Rowe. The new co-ordinator is Pat Adlam. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer worker at the bureau, call 9844 3082 for more information.

## Retirement

Teacher Janita Martin, after 10 years at Andersons Creek Primary School, is retiring from the Department of Education. Parents, colleagues and past students are invited to a farewell afternoon tea at the school on Friday, November 20, from 4.30 to 6.30pm. A contribution of \$20 (students \$10) will cover food, drinks and a presentation. RSVP by November 13 to 9844 2757, fax 9844 4028.

## Overeaters

An Overeaters Anonymous group is operating at the North Ringwood Community House, 120 Oban Road, on Monday nights from 8 to 9.30pm. The group is a fellowship of individuals who support one another in solving compulsive eating problems, including anor-

exia, bulimia and overeating. Their program is patterned on that of Alcoholics Anonymous. Information: 9726 6896 or from Kath (after 6pm) on 9725 6470.

## Pensions

Kevin Andrews, federal MP for Menzies, has issued a guide on the age pension. Copies can be obtained from his office at 651-653 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, phone 9848 9900.

## Artworks

Syd Tunn and Ona Henderson invite everyone to their Annual Open Studio at Creek House Studios, cnr Henley and Oxley Roads, Kangaroo Ground on November 14, 15, 21 and 22 from 2 to 6pm. Rivergum Art Gallery, 63 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, is re-opening on Friday, November 20 at 8pm.

# Grand auction

Response from the Warrandyte community to the high school's 20th Anniversary Banquet Auction has been "overwhelming", according to a school spokesperson. "There are valuable art works for auction, including a \$2000 painting by local artist and teacher Chris White. There will be signed football jumpers and other sporting memorabilia.

"A multi-media show will mirror the history of 20 years of WHS, Chris White is arranging highlights from past school

productions and guests will be provided with a sumptuous three course dinner. Greg Stewart and his band will be performing pop and jazz music," the spokesperson said.

The 20th Anniversary Reunion and Banquet Auction will be held at the school on Saturday, November 28, 7pm to midnight.

Proceeds from the auction will go towards new school facilities.

Reservations can be made on 9844 4509.

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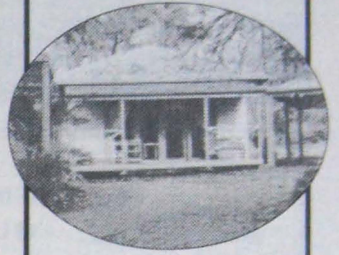
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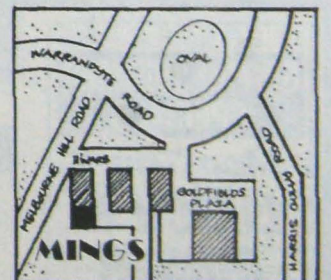
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# Youth dominates our tennis titles

By JUDY GREEN

Young players starred in Warrandyte Tennis Club's 1998 championship finals. The womens singles title was won by 14-year-old Katrina Sochacki, the youngest player to take this title since club championships began in 1980.

Katrina defeated her 13-year-old teammate Tamara Valentino in three sets in a rain-delayed match played over two weekends. Katrina and Tamara both play for Warrandyte in junior competition and in Tennis Victoria Pennant and participate in Eastern Region Tennis squads.

In the mens singles final, 18-year-old Greg Hutchings defeated Lee Dehmel in straight sets.

Katrina Sochacki was also victorious over Tamara Valentino in the junior girls championship.

The boys singles title was won by Chris Chapman, defeating Jarrod Casey in another rain-interrupted match.

The Most Improved Junior trophy was won by Adam Atkins. Trophies were presented by club president, Mark Bence.

Competition in the Eastern Region Tennis summer season is now in progress, with six senior and 12 junior teams playing on Saturdays and two junior teams playing on Sundays. Both the Lions Club courts at the bridge and the South Warrandyte Tennis Club courts are being used to help cater for the number of junior teams.

The long-promised sixth court at the club's Tarroona Avenue complex is now nearing completion. It is anticipated that the official opening of the new court will take place early next year.

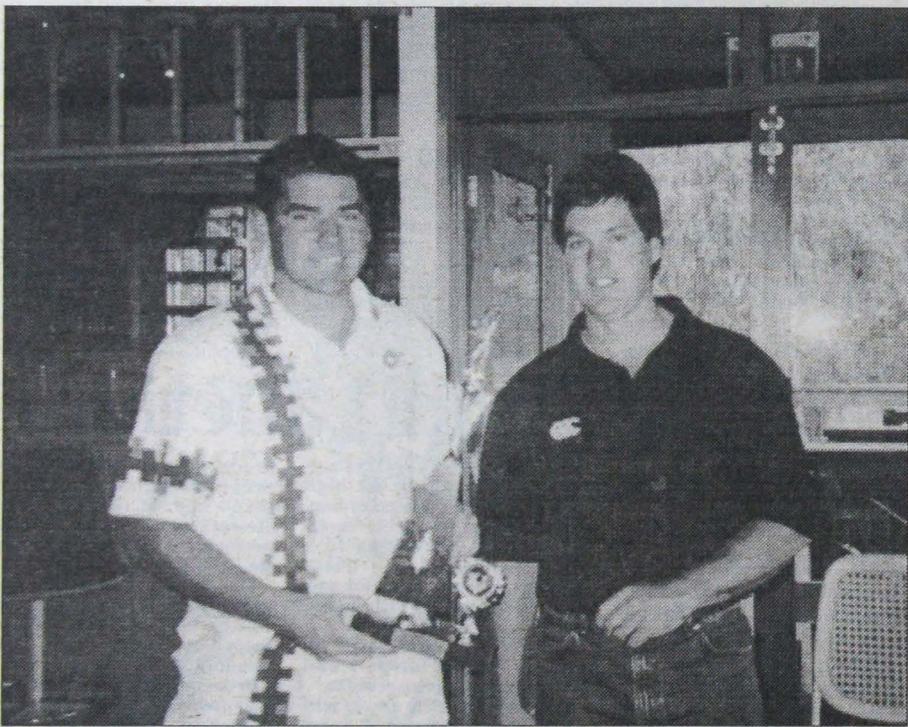
Championship details:  
Mens Open Singles: Greg Hutchings d Lee Dehmel 6-1, 7-6. Mens Open Doubles: Neil Sproat-Adrian Caspersz d Lee Dehmel-Mark Bence 6-1, 6-3. Womens Open Singles: Katrina Sochacki d Tamara Valentino 3-6, 6-4, 6-3. Open Mixed Doubles: Geoff Ryan-Katrina Sochacki d Brian Cleaves-Pauline Dusting 8-0.

Juniors: 13-U: Boys Singles: Will Rogers d Josh Casey 8-5. Boys Doubles: Joel Drew-Josh Casey d Will Rogers-Jonny Drew 8-2. Girls Singles: Tamara Valentino d Linda Stanzel 8-2. Girls Doubles: Tamara Valentino-Linda Stanzel d Rosie Moore-Kirsty Moegerlein 8-4. Mixed Doubles: Joel Drew-Kirsty Moegerlein d Tamara Valentino-Trent Valentino 8-7.

18-U: Boys Singles: Chris Chapman d Jarrod Casey 6-3, 7-6. Boys Doubles: Chris Chapman-Aidan Davey d Rod McCutcheon-Joel Drew 4-6, 6-4, 7-5. Girls Singles: Katrina Sochacki d Tamara Valentino 7-5, 6-1. Girls Doubles: Tamara Valentino-Katrina Sochacki d Zoe White-Kirsty Moegerlein 7-5, 2-6, 6-0. Mixed Doubles: Rod McCutcheon-Katrina Sochacki d Chris Chapman-Tamara Valentino 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.



Above: Multiple winners Tamara Valentino (left) and Katrina Sochacki with just some of the trophies they collected from Warrandyte Tennis Club president Mark Bence. Below: Bence presents Greg Hutchings with the mens open signles trophy.



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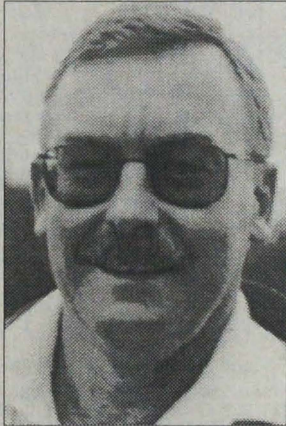
By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte Cricket Club's first eleven have dropped two of their first three matches of the new season—but no one is writing them off as finals propositions.

The Bushrangers ran into last year's Chandler Shield finalists Croydon North and Ferntree Gully at their first and third outings for sound defeats, but sandwiched a convincing victory over Parkwood in between them.

"We've played the top two teams so hopefully we will now be able to exert authority over other teams," captain-coach Paul Montgomery told the *Diary* after the home game against Ferntree Gully.

"Hopefully, we can do well against other teams and possibly look at being in the finals.



Steve Pascoe. Still setting the example.



"We're good enough if we're at our best."

Warrandyte's season started in embarrassing fashion when, chasing what appeared to be a gettable target of 209 to defeat reigning premiers Croydon North away, they were bundled out for just 58.

It was a much better showing at home to Parkwood, mustering 231 and dismissing the visitors for 179, paceman Chris Snaidero the destroyer with 7/65.

Batting inadequacies again told on Warrandyte in the home game against Ferntree Gully, Greg Tregear playing almost a lone hand at the crease.

Tregear scored 100 of the Bushrangers' total of 202, a total which was never going to be enough against the powerful Gully battery, which amassed 8/370.

"I thought we played quite well in the field," Montgomery said, "but we were unlucky with the rain.

"The rain started at a bad time for us. They had us on the back foot—a good batsman came in and we were unable to get them out.

"We lost, but it looks worse on paper than it actually was.

"Some positives came out of it. We showed we can be competitive against a top team (Ferntree Gully have been runners-up for a few consecutive seasons). And for the first time since I've been coach, a first eleven player has made 100.

"We made over 200 but that score was a bit disappointing.



Greg Tregear. A lone-hand century against Ferntree Gully.

We could have made more but we were 4/40 at one stage.

"We proved we can go against the best. That gives us something to go with for the rest of the season."

The second eleven's season so far has followed the same route as the firsts—losses to Croydon North and Ferntree Gully and a win over Parkwood.

A couple of veterans continue to set the example—Steve Pascoe with scores of 85 and 42 already to his credit and Mark Davis taking 6/40 against Parkwood with his off-spinners and contributing 40 with the bat against Ferntree Gully.

The thirds and fourths have yet to open their winning accounts.

### DETAILS

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 58 lost to Croydon North 208 Tregear 3/32, Walsh

3/37, Snaidero 3/46) and 5/186. Warrandyte 231 (Sharman 42, Fazzolari 30) d Parkwood 179 (Snaidero 7/65). Warrandyte 202 (Tregear 100) lost to Ferntree Gully 8/370 (Snaidero 2/49, Walkshe 2/73, Sharman 2/87).

SECONDS: Warrandyte 4/178 (Pascoe 85, Wellesley 39) lost to Croydon North 334 (Davis 3/102). Warrandyte 212 (C. Day 49, Pascoe 42, B. Kline 30) d Parkwood 109 (Davis 6/40). Warrandyte 51 and 163 (Baker 55, Davis 40) lost to Ferntree Gully 5/117 (Davis 2/33, Beardall 2/39) and 2/99.

THIRDS: Warrandyte 89 (Baker 32) lost to Croydon North 7/333 (Holland 3/55). Warrandyte 7/192 (Gay 64 n.o., Baker 54) lost to Parkwood 8/324 (Gamble 3/82). Warrandyte 99 (Croft 33, Holland 25) and 8/82 (Croft 28 n.o.).

FOURTHS: Warrandyte 58 (Gathercole 28) and 54 lost to Croydon North 5/207. Warrandyte 193 (N. Gee 64, R. Day 45) lost to Parkwood (Gathercole 3/54). Warrandyte 90 and 3/52 lost to Ferntree Gully 232 (Barres 3/26, Elliott 3/16).

## Local primary school kids have winning down to a T

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte Primary School students—both boys and girls—are state T-ball champions.

The two grade six teams ended a gruelling three-month training regime by grabbing the glory in the recent Victorian primary school championships.

The girls had won the final last year, but the boys had to settle for third, so it was a matter of pride that they trained hard—up to three times a day, every day.

They were rewarded by victory over arch rivals

Heatherton.

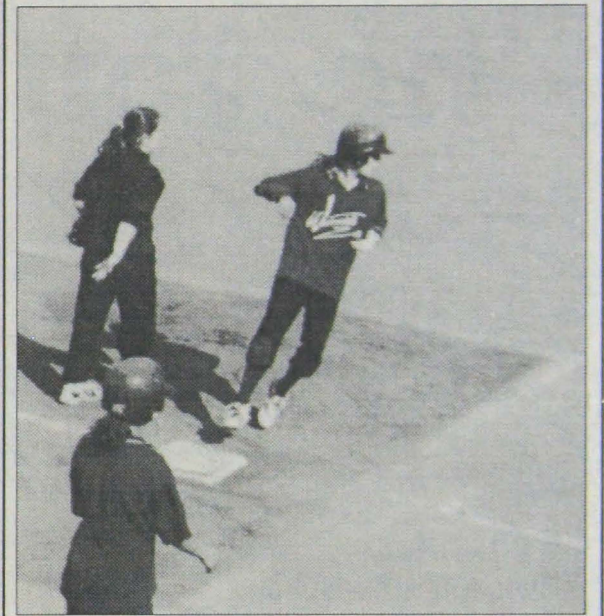
All the students agreed it was "definitely worth the effort".

The teams were hand-picked, coached and nurtured (even taken to McDonald's afterwards) by teacher and sports guru Fiona Wells.

"They're great kids," she said.

So what's the secret to transforming a bunch of high-spirited and sometimes unruly kids into a "well-oiled, slick team"?

"If they hit the ball over the fence, I gave them a free lunch!" she said.



Home run: a member of Warrandyte Primary School's championship girls T-ball team hits base

# A ghost with the right spirit

By LEE TINDALE

Roger Dalli is affectionately and universally known at Warrandyte Football Club as "Ghost" and his spirit—club spirit, that is—was recognised in the nicest possible way at the Bloods' presentation night last month.

He was installed as a life member, along with another tireless club stalwart, Anne Drew.

For Dalli, 32, it was the highlight of a close 23-year association with the club—close in more ways than one because he lives in Taroona Avenue, virtually on its doorstep.

He was just eight and therefore considerably under age when he first wore the red and white, in the Under-11s, progressing through the junior ranks and on to senior level.

And that's where the "Ghost" emerged.

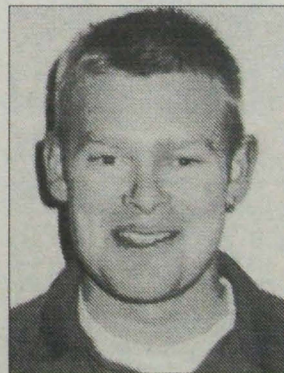
"When I graduated to the seniors I got a motorbike licence and spent that summer riding around in my leathers while the other guys were at the beach," he recalls.

"When I turned up for pre-season, they were all tanned and I was as white as a ghost."

Dalli has played 248 games as a senior, mainly in the Reserves.

And he has duplicated that service off the field by consistently "putting in" behind the scenes, taking on any job asked of him and volunteering for just as many.

He has served on the commit-



Aaron Woolley. The coach's choice.

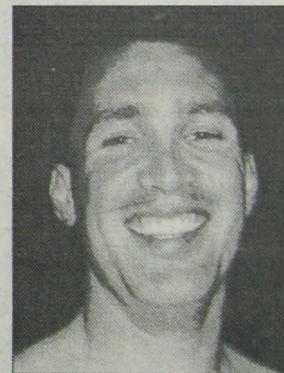
tee for the past two years and his head is likely to among the first to be nodded when nominations for the new committee are called at the Bloods' annual general meeting this month.

Anne Drew, 50, has been similarly devoted to Warrandyte Football Club—as committee-person, cook, canteen hand and statistician among other things. "People like Anne and Roger are really the lifeblood of this club," WFC president Jeff Evans told the *Diary*.

"Nothing is too much trouble for them and the hours they put into it in the course of a season and beyond are inestimable.

"They were unanimous choices for life membership and it was a very popular decision."

Warrandyte's AGM will be



Kimberly O'Connor. Best club person.

held at the clubrooms on Wednesday, November 11, starting at 7.30 pm.

As previously reported, Evans will be standing for a third term as president.

Treasurer Norm Carrington and secretary Robert "Noddy" Ireland are also expected to be returned.

Presentation night awards:

SENIORS:

Best and Fairest: Kimberly O'Connor 1; Andrew Brown 2; Mack Clarkson 3.

Coach's Award: Aaron Woolley.

Most Improved: Chris Quinlan.

Most Determined (Darryl Valentine Memorial Shield): Brendon Smith.

Most Courageous (Gary "Madge" Alsop Award): William Bell.

Best First-year Player: Eddie Marin.

Best Finals Players: Chris Quinlan (Second Semi-Final); Trent Ferguson (Preliminary Final).

### RESERVES:

Best and Fairest: Adam Borwick, Danny Weatherley, James Logan 1; Matthew Chapman, Craig Evans 2; Daniel Makris 3.

Coach's Award: Chris Tomlinson.

Most Improved: Travis Brogan.

Most Determined (Geoff Darby Memorial Shield): Brett Yarwood.

### UNDER-18s:

Best and Fairest (John McCartin Memorial Shield): Glen Carle 1, Luke Wilson 2, Liam Mulcahy 3.

Coach's Award: David Gates.

Most Improved: Craig Lincoln.

Most Determined: Scott Vickery.

Most Consistent: Nathan Fearn.

### CLUB AWARDS:

President's Trophy: Jim Yarwood; Craig

Best Clubperson (Tracy "Snowy" Prior Award): Kimberly O'Connor.

Life Membership: Roger Dalli, Anne

Drew.

Appreciation Awards: Ingrid Manley, Jenni O'Brien, John O'Brien, Dawn

Bellinger, Lee and Jan Tindale, Julie

Ryan, Shelly Turner, Gates family,

Roger Drew, Peter Appleby, Lawrie

Sloan's Bloodstained Angels, Lex

Munro, Luke McFarlane-Smith, Ashley

Grybas, Vic Cosmas, Eric Houghton,

Shirley McCartin, Vicki Williams, Jim

Yarwood, Craig Cock, Prue Riley, Nicole

Riley, Kimberly O'Connor, Vic Grybas,

Laurie Holmes, Bay 13, Joan Atkinson,

Lisa Ryan.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

200 Senior Games: John O'Brien; Roger

Dalli.

150 Senior Games: Kimberly O'Connor,

Dale Vitritti.

\$100 Club Winner: George Kassel.

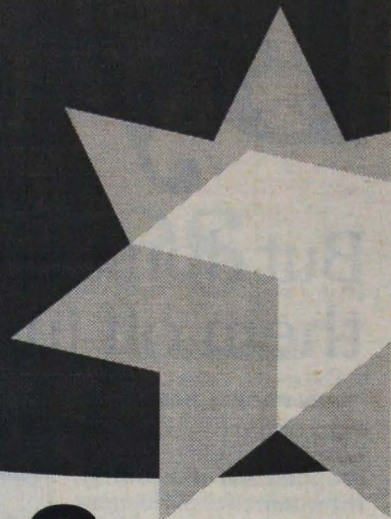


Anne Drew. 'People like her are the lifeblood.' (Picture by Jan Tindale)



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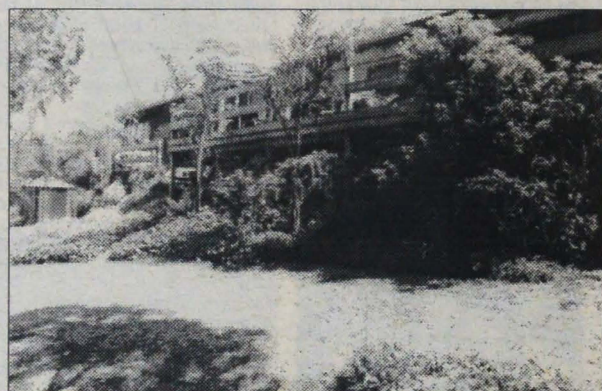
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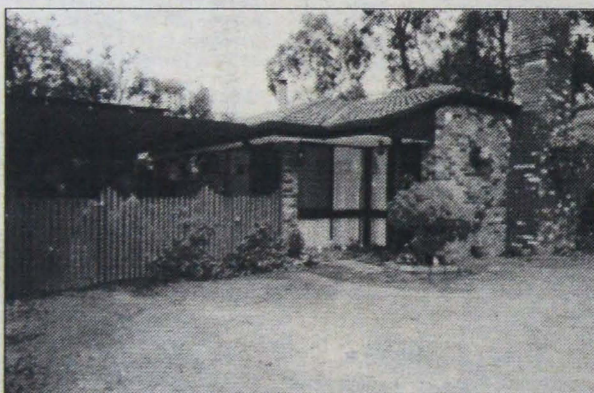
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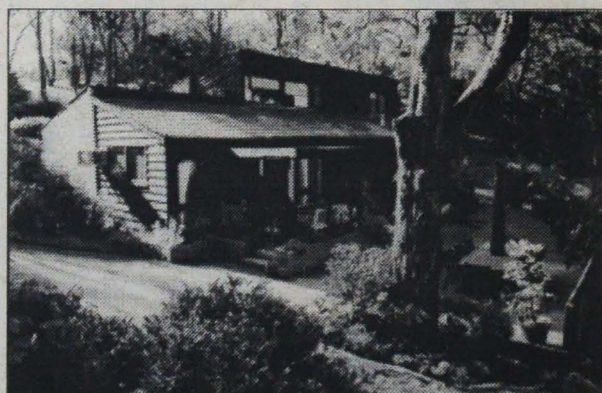
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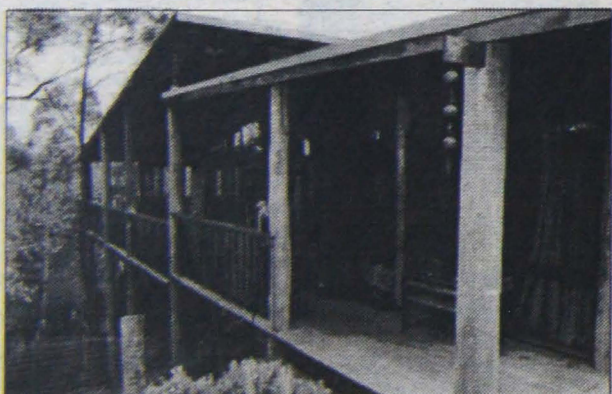
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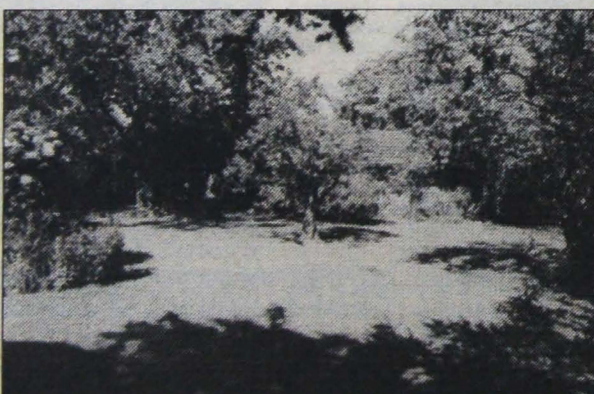
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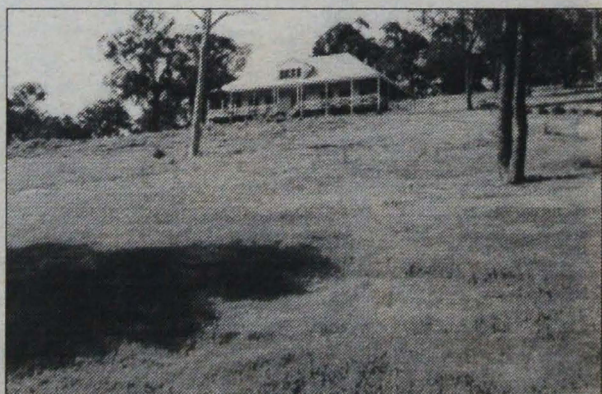
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