

Council poll fears

By FIA CLENDINNEN

Green Wedge supporters on both sides of the river are anxiously watching elections, to be held in March, when Nillumbik residents will be able to return elected councillors.

This follows the state government's controversial sacking of the council late last year.

Kahn Franke, chairman of the Green Wedge Protection Group, told the *Diary* the choice for voters was stark. "Primarily it's going to be a vote for the Green Wedge or a vote for subdivision," he said.

The Green Wedge was supported by all five of the sacked Nillumbik councillors. In fact, since the inception of the Green Wedge as a planning scheme back in 1972, it has been supported by a majority of councillors.

"I think Eltham as a council was paramount," said Mr Franke. "That's why we've got the Green Wedge there. You can only look at councils like

Green Wedge threatened in Nillumbik elections

Cranbourne and Dandenong. All those sort of areas are just eroded. They've just broken it down slowly so that basically the only Green Wedge we've got left in Melbourne is Yarra Valley Green Wedge."

He warned if a majority of councillors were elected who wanted to alter the planning scheme it would possibly have a profound and irrevocable impact on this area.

"It could be a turning point if the opposition get their way. If the pro-Green Wedge councillors don't have a majority then there will definitely be an erosion of the Green Wedge. The principles will be undermined and

you'll just see increased urbanisation and sub-division."

This community has a long track record of working hard to defend the natural environment. Mr Franke said that candidates were well aware of local feeling and he predicted that all of them would say they supported the Green Wedge.

"Let's face it, to stand up and say, 'I don't support the Green Wedge,' you'd be a fool. The candidates will all say they support the Green Wedge. They'll just say the Green Wedge should be here but it should be in two acre allotments, or five acre allotments. That sort of erosion. Once there's a chink

in the armour it will just all fall."

Flora Anderson, spokesperson for the Wonga Park Residents' Association, said conservationists in Manningham were watching events in Nillumbik with "great interest".

She said the Green Wedge in Manningham was also under pressure and the result of the Nillumbik council elections would have serious implications across the Yarra.

Ms Anderson said she would be greatly disappointed if a majority of pro-Green Wedge councillors were not returned in Nillumbik. "What happened to the democratically elected councillors was outrageous enough,

but for it to result in that kind of council I think would be just very, very sad."

But she said "large property owners in Manningham who are looking to subdivide, who are looking for some way around to amend the planning scheme," would welcome an anti-Green Wedge council in Nillumbik. They would see it as a "precedent".

As reported in the December *Diary*, planning minister Rob Maclellan is currently considering an amendment to Nillumbik's planning scheme. The amendment refers to six hectares in the Green Wedge, on the outskirts of Diamond Creek. The minister has appointed a panel to consider submissions. Submissions will be heard in late March at the Nillumbik shire offices.

Mr Franke said the proposed amendment was deeply troubling, with serious consequences for the whole shire.

The Nillumbik election will be conducted by postal vote, with ballot papers mailed out to households between March 2 and 4. Ballot papers must be returned by 6pm on March 19.



Corey surveys his world

Last issue we announced that Corey, the young koala found abandoned as a small cub at the base of a tree near the Gospel Chapel, was being released into the wild.

Nurtured and backpacked by Kerrie Fairley, Corey was adopted by Julie Pryor of Koala Watch in Wonga Park. During the year that followed he had to be weaned off cuddles, handfeeding with gumleaves and the security and safety of his own private enclosure.

Finally, as he approached sexual maturity, Julie decided it was time for Corey to leave home and take his rightful place in the surrounding bushland.

● Chris Pryor's picture shows him surveying his new domain.

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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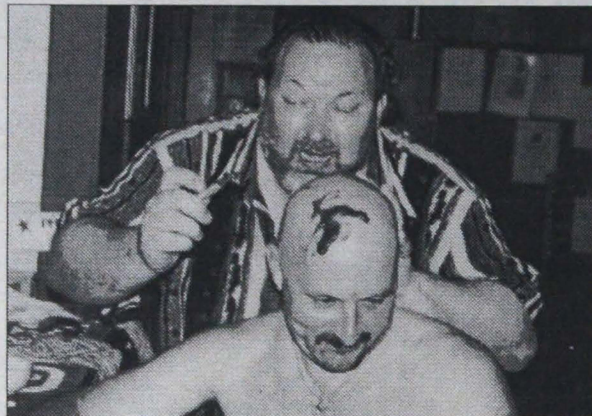
Wanna live dangerously? Go sailing with our Vic!

Despite a long and ever-growing list of mishaps at sea, Vic Grybas, of Melbourne Hill, insists he's not a poor sailor. Just an unlucky one. Not half as unlucky, though, as the bloke who struck up a conversation with him at Safety Beach, on the Mornington Peninsula, where Vic has a holiday house. Admiral Grybas had beached his catamaran when this unfortunate fellow, name of George, came along and they started talking boats. One thing led to another and Vic asked George would he like to go for a spin. "I'd like nothing better," said George. So away Vic and his new-found friend sailed, the skipper presumably shouting such things as "Scupper the yardarms" and "Keelhaul the mainsail", as some skippers are wont to do. A fair breeze, a sparkling sea. Ah, sheer exhilaration. Until the catamaran became a trimaran. Yes, Vic's beloved sailing ship suddenly fell apart.

The Safety Beach Sailing Club was racing that day and the main rescue boat was officiating at the finish line. The bloke manning the secondary rescue craft saw Vic's yacht belly up but he'd seen it that way so often he reckoned it was par for the course and just gave him a wave as he sipped a tinnie. By the time he had realised something was amiss and towed the various bits of the catamaran back to shore, the two seafarers had been in the water the best part of two hours and George had developed the first stages of hypothermia. Back on terra firma at last, George gave Vic a filthy look and stalked off. Didn't even say thanks for the ride.

The campaign for \$10,000 to crop local lady cop Kim Dixon for the cancer kids has taken a fascinating turn. For just \$1000 more we get to shave her hubby's head as well, making it the first mixed doubles event in Crop A Cop history! The package deal offer, which we surely can't refuse, comes from Detective Chris Bridger, of Doncaster CIB, who'll be marrying Senior Constable Dixon in April. And Chris says if we can't raise the extra grand he'll shave Kim's head himself for the round \$10,000.

IN RED & WHITE



Paul Taggart before (left) and after (above) his appointment with Scott Bradbury, the mad barber of North Warrandyte.



A Donvale bloke named Paul Taggart gave the "let's crop Kim" appeal a major shot in the arm on February 4 by leaving his head of hair on the floor of Warrandyte RSL Club. The barber in this case was his mate and distant relative Scott Bradbury, of North Warrandyte. Over a couple of Christmas beers, Paul, a senior Education Department officer, mentioned he was going to have his hair cut real short for the summer and Scott said why not have it cut real, real, real short (in fact, cut right off) and make a quid for a very worthy cause at the same time. And so it was done. The appeal within an appeal raised \$416, which has gone straight into the Kim Dixon kitty. A full-scale fundraising committee is now

being formed and if you'd like to lend a hand please give coordinator Geoff Feltham a call on 0417 548 152.

Terry Booth, of Drysdale Road, got a most unusual Christmas present from wife Pam this time around. A bone. Yes, a bone. A nice, meaty bone. We suspect Pam got a trifle confused when she was wrapping the presents and that it was meant for their dog Taffy, but we can't be certain. Anyhow, having received it, Terry treated his bone in time-honoured fashion. He buried it.

About 10pm on December 23, a ruptured water main flooded the line at Bacchus Marsh railway station and nearby Maddingly Park. Then the sky fell in, crushing the brass band in the park rotunda. A bugle player was thrown clear. Yes, it was one helluva night when the hot water service in the main kitchen at Warrandyte Community Centre sprang a major leak and brought down panels of ceiling

on Colin Bentley's miniature railway below. The main line to Ballarat was blocked for a few days and speed restrictions remain in place. Normal operations will resume in plenty of time for the Warrandyte Festival.

A wicked rumour has swept Warrandyte Football Club that The Ghost has hung up his boots. Nonsense. He's kicking right on. Roger Dalli—nicknamed Ghost when he turned up for his first senior pre-season as white as one, having spent summer scooting around in leathers on his first motorbike while his buddies were bronzing on the beach—is not resting on the life membership he copped at last year's presentation night. "Quit? Me? You gotta be joking!" said Roger, of Taroona Avenue, as he saddled up for his 24th season with the Bloods.

The footy club's 1999 season opener under lights at home on April 10 has already created enormous interest. It has even brought Top Shelf out of retirement! Topy, a long-serving former reserves player, is pulling on the boots again, after kicking the pickets for the past two seasons, in the hope of becoming part of local football history. No, he doesn't expect to make the seniors, but even if he misses out on the twos as well his very presence at the ground won't do the bar trade any harm. Onyer, Top Shelf!

And the horticultural treasure blooming in Joan MacMahon's garden back of the community centre right now is the Pine-leafed Geebung. "With branches weeping delicately, leaves soft and pine-like and golden flowers hanging in clusters at branch tips, it's a decorative delight," says Joan. "Its original home is the dry sclerophyll forests and heaths of central coastal NSW. Since it's difficult to propagate, if you come across some for sale, grab them, plant them well and look forward to years of graceful beauty."



OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH

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Fire lessons from Linton

New safety equipment will be bought

By **CLIFF GREEN**

Lessons learned from the disastrous Linton fire last November have caused Warrandyte Fire Brigade to review their fireground procedures.

Local CFA officers are replacing and upgrading the brigade's protective clothing and equipment to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its members.

"The severity of the Linton fire surprised us all," Warrandyte brigade captain Robert Kilkenny said. "The fire occurred on a day when weather conditions were quite mild. The fire itself was of relatively low intensity, until the point at which the tragedy occurred."

"The fate of the Geelong West tanker, when a fire of unexpected ferocity overtook them is a reminder that bushfires—and the dangers associated with fighting them—should not be taken lightly. Even with their extensive resources and training programs, fire brigades are not exempt from the extreme hazards of firefighting.

"This sad event has made it explicitly clear to all our members that the fundamental rule of never running out of water—and having properly equipped crews—must never be broken," Captain Kilkenny said.

"We have sharpened our focus on the provision of safety equipment on all our vehicles. We are ensuring that all members are kitted with good protective clothing; some of it has

been upgraded."

The brigade has received financial help from Rotary to purchase two new hose branches.

"This will allow us to use our emergency water supplies with far more efficiency," Captain Kilkenny said. "With this new equipment we can now regulate the flow, allowing greater economy of water at the firefront, thus ensuring water reserves for crew and vehicle protection."

The brigade is in the process of acquiring new CFA protective overalls that offer better body protection from radiant heat. Reflective striping across the chest, back and legs make firefighters more visible in dull and smokey conditions.

The brigade believes that the Linton fire is a timely reminder that residents should maintain their vigilance, even during periods of apparent low fire risk.

Local CFA liaison officer Jeff Adair is concerned. "Although we have enjoyed intermittent periods of rain and have witnessed the green regrowth along roadsides and through parklands, the forest and its fuel are tinder dry," he said.

"We would like residents to be mindful that during February and March we are entering the worst months for fire risk and behaviour. We should remember that Linton happened in November, on a day of apparent low fire risk. Weather conditions could become more critical as the months progress. The reality is—we only need one bad day."



CFA captain Robert Kilkenny receives a cheque for \$1000 from Warrandyte Rotary president Graeme Redman.



**ALL
FIRE
CALLS:
000**

The last serious fire in Warrandyte occurred late in February, 1991. It was a hot, total fire ban day with a late wind change expected.

"These sorts of conditions can persist right through into March, and it is imperative that the Warrandyte community must not drop its guard," Jeff Adair said.

Sophie will show them the way out South



By **PRUDENCE TRUBY KING**

A program of fire prevention based on varying risks throughout the year is to start in South Warrandyte following the appointment of a new CFA community support facilitator, Ms Sophie Cunliffe.

Ms Cunliffe, 26, will concentrate on helping residents reduce fire risk, not only during the three-month summer bushfire season, but also in preventing structural and non-structural fires at all times.

"I'll be raising people's

Sophie Cunliffe, new community facilitator at South Warrandyte CFA.

awareness of fire prevention so householders can take better care to avoid fires," Ms Cunliffe said. "There'll be a fireguard programme, following the success of the fireguard system in Warrandyte and North Warrandyte, encouraging homeowners and rural residents to manage their own particular environments.

"It's reducing fire risk and encouraging the community to be more responsible for themselves, which includes deciding well in advance whether or not to leave in case of bushfire," she said.

"Another part of the job is training volunteers in

procedural matters, reporting statistics, documenting brigade activities and dealing with correspondence."

The new position is one of 30 throughout Victoria, funded by the Justice Department. The program attracted 2000 applicants, with successful candidates equally divided amongst men and women.

Ms Cunliffe's background is in marketing, human resources and administration, having worked in risk management and prevention for a chemical company, with a big emphasis on safety.

"One of my first tasks is to find out about community

groups in the area—the schools and clubs—and see what information they already have about fire prevention. Then together we'll work on identifying and minimising fire risk," she said.

"I'm looking forward to working towards a common objective with a small community and putting something back."

Contracted to the fulltime position for three years, Ms Cunliffe has started a 12-week training course at CFA headquarters at Fiskville. The new job covers South Warrandyte, Warranwood, Park Orchards, Donvale and part of North Ringwood.



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Marking their first year in Warrandyte

Warrandyte is the best suburb to live in, at least that's what The Age told us recently. However, we knew that 25 years ago when, as students, we drove through its leafy, tranquil borders on the way to Latrobe. Weekends would see us picnicking on the banks of the Yarra and on hot summer nights frolicking in its cool waters.

Our relationship grew and we matured into professionals who spent copious amounts of spare cash wining and dining at Potters Cottage and Alfred's Homestead and choosing pieces of pottery to decorate our home. In those days we looked on Warrandyte as the place we would love to live in but never dreamed possible.

But a short quarter-century later sees us celebrating our first year as part of the Warrandyte community. We dared to dream the dream and seized an opportunity in January 1998 to take up our little piece of paradise.

Our first night gave us a glimpse of what was to come; baby ringtail possums basking in the moonlight, and the subtle sounds of the bush, all so strange and wonderful after 20 years living beside a major highway.

Then we met the neighbours. We found kindred spirits and extended families hiding behind the trees and bushes. We met the whole street and then some. Joan visits with free-range eggs. Cathy and the laconic Tony arrived with flowers and good spirits. Phee waves as she passes by. One John fixed a blocked drain while another serviced the plumbing (one a plumber, the other a medico!) Steve regularly rattles the pictures off the walls with his big truck; but always with a smile, a big heart and a cold beer. Warrandyte Village Janet is capable of philosophical discussion at 5.30am and North Warrandyte Janet is always good for a cuppa and a chat. Gaby empathizes often and the boys at the local wine cellars greet us like old friends. (Old habits are hard to break!)

The cottage by the river welcomes our polite dog and the Yarra Street shops supply us with excellent gifts for local and overseas friends. The pub doesn't need to explain the menu to us any more and whoever serves hot chocolate has our business. And the police are much friendlier than in our old suburb; they genuinely care for

DEAR DIARY

the welfare of the community, and in particular its youth.

We have willingly let Warrandyte settle into our souls. We wave to people as they pass by, and more often than not they (at least the locals) wave back. It is like the country towns of our childhood. Our regular morning walks along the river provide a sense of calm that sustains us for the day, and the aroma of baking bread is a bonus.

Thank you, people of Warrandyte. We remain in awe of our new home. Because of you and your love and care for the area we know we will continue to enjoy its community spirit and environmental splendour. Our first year, we hope, will be the first of many to come. Next time you see us drinking tea on the verandah, stop by, have a chat and feel good about yourselves.

Carole and Peter
Rushbrook
David Road



Concrete jungle: A slice of suburbia comes to Warrandyte. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Roundabout shocks

Although I am not against the new roundabout at Harris Gully Road, I and others I have spoken to, have been surprised at the suburban look of the roundabout, due to the extensive use of concrete, including footpaths that have very little use.

In recent years, council have referred plans to the Warrandyte Advisory Committee for comment and have used natural materials where possible. In fact when invited to ring 3AW for comments about Warrandyte, I praised the Manningham council for the way that Warrandyte has been treated recently.

However, plans for the roundabout were not submitted to the Warrandyte Advisory Committee for comment, and I suppose people have become complacent seeing that council has recently been doing the right thing by Warrandyte.

John Hanson
Webb Street

● Project manager for the roundabout is Adrian Ashford. He can be contacted at Manningham council. The Diary is planning full coverage of this issue in our March edition and we welcome further letters.



The ducks like Warrandyte too!

Plum thieves pinch fruit

Last weekend (24-25 January) we were sickened and disappointed to discover that all the fruit from our satsuma plum tree had been stolen.

Whoever took them would have had to come through our gate onto our property (and were therefore trespassing) to pick the fruit.

We are upset to realise that this "someone" must be a neighbour who had been keeping an eye on the plums as they ripened.

We had also been keeping an eye on the tree, watering and

caring for it, and were looking forward to the jam and chutney we planned to make.

It really is quite sickening to think that anyone would stoop so low, and we wonder if the person or persons responsible will be decent enough to give us the jam, etc., they make from their booty. Fat chance I suppose—we just might leave a box outside the gate in case!

Beth Gallagher &
Melissa Jackson
The Boulevard

No threat to the Green Wedge

The Green Wedge versus development has been used as a scare tactic to gain votes for years. In the past, private agendas have prevented responsible decision making on behalf of all (Nillumbik) shire residents.

It is time to consider the people of the shire and provide good governance for them, especially financial management. Some growth is required in or-

der for this shire to remain financially viable.

The council was sacked due to its incompetence.

Our Green Wedge is not threatened.

Mary McDonald
Diamond Creek

● The Diary has received other correspondence on the Nillumbik elections. As it deals principally with personalities, rather than the issues, we have refrained from publishing this material.

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

Young people are mingling

Warrandyte Youth Services is to be wound up and its functions merged into Manningham Youth and Family Services.

This incident is a major development in the history of youth services in this community and will add immeasurably to the work already being done.

To the young people of Warrandyte this should be an exciting time when new tasks can be undertaken. Aside from the Drop in continuing, many other things are in train, including the distinct possibility of a skateboard ramp being constructed.

To the older (no offence!) people of Warrandyte—for those of you with or without teenage children, now will be the time that you can make a contribution to the lives of the young people in this community. This will not be easy and there is great pressure on

many people today that will bring new challenges, but youth services in Warrandyte in particular, and Manningham in general, can make a great contribution in addressing these problems.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to those volunteers who set up the original coffee shop and the young people who used it. There are not many places like the Warrandyte Youth Centre in existence and it is solely due to the foresight and perseverance of a small band that has made this possible.

The task now is to take this forward and I ask all the people of Warrandyte to support the new service and to contribute to it.

Tim Joy
President
Warrandyte Youth Services

Thanks for fund support

The Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Trust would like to thank the Diary very much for your support in our fund-raising efforts for Christie and Luke's Memorial Fund. The Diary's generous donation of advertising and edito-

rials for our benefit concert is greatly appreciated and contributed to the evening's outstanding success.

Phyl Swindley
Memorial Fund
Trustee

Samaritan at cemetery

I would like to thank the kind staff, locals and a brave passerby who helped me so efficiently after I had backed my car into a ditch at Andersons Creek Cemetery on Tuesday, January 19, whilst visiting my late husband's grave. This helped me out of a very tight spot as I had my elderly mother-in-law and two young children with me.

Many thanks again and God bless you!

Veronica Wood
Mt Eliza

CLYDE & OCKER

"Pinching plums? Definitely a case for Neighbourhood Watch, Ock!"

Neighbourhood Watch call

The outstanding success of the CFA Community Fireguard initiative in Warrandyte has demonstrated the vitality of our community. While the reasons for interest in fire prevention in this area are obvious, it is timely to consider other safety and security initiatives of relevance to our community.

The 1996 census data for the 3113 postcode area showed 4143 people employed out of 4904 aged 15 to 64, after excluding students aged 15 to 24. As only a few of these people work locally or from home, many Warrandyte houses are unoccupied during each working day. This poses a security risk for

the absent residents, whether they are at work, on holidays or just out shopping.

While many residents already have mutual security links with their neighbours, there are significant advantages in having a Neighbourhood Watch organisation in our area. Almost 50 percent of Victoria is already covered by Neighbourhood Watch, which has been one of the main reasons for the reduced crime rates in this state.

The four simple strategies of the Neighbourhood Watch program are:

- Identification of valuables—to discourage theft and enhance the recovery of stolen

items;

- Reporting of unusual or suspicious behaviour in your area—and "what to look for" skills;

- Security and safety awareness—advice on personal safety and home security;

- Signposting—prominent signposting of your area.

Sgt Keith Walker and Neighbourhood Watch advise that the threshold for a Neighbourhood Watch area is 600 households. The area between the Yarra River and the Heidelberg to Warrandyte Road and Yarra Street, from Mullum Mullum Creek to the Warrandyte bridge meets that criterion.

A petition is being circulated seeking a significant percentage of those households "requesting establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch Area within the defined area". A number of community-focused people have already volunteered to assist in contacting residents, and more help is needed to cover the proposed area. Please contact me at 9844 3091 or by email at psclark@rie.net.au if you are able to assist with the establishment of this community initiative.

Phil Clark
Pound Road

Council hopefuls line up across the Wedge

By FIA CLENDINEN

In the lead-up to the Nillumbik elections two opposing groups of candidates have emerged as potential local councillors.

Voters will be able to choose either a number of independent candidates who share similar philosophies or the Nillumbik First group.

In the Sugarloaf ward, which covers North Warrandyte, Kangaroo Ground and Research, sacked shire president Robert Marshall is standing for re-election. So far, the only candidate known to be running against him is Neil Roberts, a member of Nillumbik First.

Nillumbik First are running candidates in every ward, as well as a ticket of four candidates for the new shire-wide positions.

The Nillumbik First candidates for the shire-wide councillors are David Freeman, Alex Rosevick, Les Smith and Tony Raunic.

Running in opposition for the same seats are Karin Geradts, John Graves, Linda Laos, Bill Penrose and Geoff Speedy.

In the impending council elections the Green Wedge is emerging as a central issue.

Sacked shire president Robert Marshall emphasised the importance of this election in determining the future of Nillumbik.

"This is crunch time for the Green Wedge. And if anyone thinks it isn't they are sadly mistaken," he told the *Diary*. "Other elections pale into insignificance compared to this one. Because if the developers get control of council, the Green Wedge as it is and as we have dreamt it will be, will be destroyed. And once it's destroyed, once it's been developed, you cannot turn the clock back."

Mr Marshall said, "The Green Wedge has been in place now for 27 years, and it should be in place for another 127 years." He said that he had worked hard to defend and protect the Green Wedge and if re-elected would continue to do so.

"I've been doing that since 1974 as a councillor. I'm not about to change my spots."



Earthworks for a golf course near Mt Lofty. Is this the future for the Green Wedge?

Standing against Mr Marshall is Neil Roberts, a farmer with a background in financial management, who has been living in St Andrews for the last nine years.

Mr Roberts described himself as "completely committed to the Green Wedge". He said the difference between himself and Robert Marshall was in, "being able to implement that in a workmanlike and meaningful way".

Mr Roberts said council needed to encourage people to "do something meaningful with their land that is environmentally sensitive and acceptable for the Green Wedge concept". Some of the options Mr Roberts said could be developed within the shire were cottage industries, bed and breakfasts and different kinds of agriculture, such as raspberries.

Mr Roberts stressed Nillumbik First would take a very different approach to the job of running the shire, compared to the previously elected councillors. If elected, Nillumbik First would run the council more as if it were a company and councillors were company directors.

"The analogy between that role of a councillor and the role of the director of the public company is very close, it's a strong analogy," explained Mr Roberts.

Tony Raunic is running on the Nillumbik First ticket as a shire-wide candidate.

Mr Raunic, a lawyer who has lived in Diamond Creek for 18 months, described Nillumbik First, "as a fresh organisation. We're fresh faces on the block who want to see a bit of change".

Mr Raunic ran as the Liberal Party candidate against Jenny Macklin in the last federal election but he denied that Nillumbik First have political affiliations.

"The group that I represent don't represent the Liberal Party or the Labor Party. I daresay that people vote either way in the group."

He said he was "absolutely" committed to the Green Wedge but could not guarantee supporting the existing planning scheme.

"I can't say that anything is set in concrete, (or) nothing could ever change, in a particular planning scheme. And I don't

think anyone could expect that."

Bill Penrose is from the opposing set of unaligned candidates who are challenging Nillumbik First for the new council seats as shire-wide councillors.

Mr Penrose, a computer engineer who has lived in Panton Hill for 15 years, was a councillor in the old Eltham council from 1991 until 1995.

He said he was motivated into standing again because of his fears that the Green Wedge is under serious threat. He claimed there is a concerted campaign for excessive subdivision within the shire.

"There is a push by some people to make some money out of this fantastic opportunity of land we have around us."

As well as wanting "to keep the area a beautiful place to live", Mr Penrose is also concerned with ensuring Nillumbik has good fire emergency management.

Mr Penrose was on the Emergency Management Committee from 1992 until 1998. He pointed out that "North Warrandyte is one of the most dangerous areas for fire in the world".

SO — !

By SYD & ONA

Green Wedge Pie

- a cup of conscience
- a pinch of patience
- a litre of leavening logic
- stir with a sense of humor
- wholemeal base - go easy on the red herring
 - garnish with indigenous greens
- reserve a serve for your children's children



Voters' guide

During the coming month, the *Diary* will be probing the attitudes of candidates offering themselves for election in the Sugarloaf ward of Nillumbik shire.

Each prospective councillor will be sent a questionnaire, seeking their opinions on such vital issues as the Green Wedge, the possibility of a ring road through Nillumbik and local democracy. Voters will be able to consider candidates' responses in making their choices.

Ballot papers will be mailed out between March 2 and 4 and must be returned by 6pm on March 19.

The next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, March 10.

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Two Warrandyte women who have made outstanding contributions to the community were honoured in the Australia Day Awards, conducted by Kevin Andrews federal MP for the local electorate of Menzies. The awards, which were inaugurated by Mr Andrews in 1995, were presented in the Great Hall, Ivanhoe, on Tuesday, January 26. The Warrandyte recipients were Gina Bevan-Jones and Bonnie Peake.

Local women honoured



GINA BEVAN-JONES has made an outstanding contribution to the Warrandyte community. Her enthusiasm, dedication and organizing ability have inspired all involved with the Warrandyte Historical Society. She, and her husband Andy, have worked hard to lift the profile of the society's museum, located in Warrandyte's historic post office, and have made it a 'must see' in Warrandyte's developing tourism industry. She is currently secretary of the historical society. It is Gina who has managed the regular opening of the museum, ensuring members are rostered to host group visits and keep the museum manned for increasing numbers of weekend visitors. She has also given freely of her time in helping out as a volunteer in Warrandyte's "Green Hand" op shop and also assists at the Warrandyte Housing and Support Services which assess needy persons for accommodation, food, support and guidance.



BONNIE PEAKE's mettle was early demonstrated when, during the Second World War, she was asked to take over the bread run by the local baker. The only problem was that she had to be able to drive a van, and she didn't even have a licence to drive a car. She learned quickly—in two weeks—and was to be seen around Warrandyte delivering bread, meat, the mail and whatever else was required. It was also at this time that Bonnie joined the local auxiliary of the Women's Hospital. That was in 1941, and for the last 58 years she has worked to raise money to purchase much-needed equipment for the hospital—such things as beds, incubators, microscopes and so on. Over more than half a century, Bonnie has, as you might imagine, held every position that could be held, including 18 years as president. Today at 84, she is still actively working for the hospital and is an inspiration to us all.



John and Bev Hanson.

Bev is year's top citizen

By CLIFF GREEN

Well-known Warrandyte resident, Beverley Hanson of Webb Street, has been named Manningham Citizen of the Year.

Active in a wide range of community activities, including conservation, youth, church and town planning, Bev, a landscape architect, is probably best known as the honorary designer of many of Warrandyte's public gardens, including those at the community centre, the high school and the pocket park beside the Commonwealth Bank. She also advised on the gardens at both Warrandyte and Andersons Creek primary schools.

She wrote a series of articles on native gardening in early issues of the *Diary*.

Active in conservation issues since first arriving in Warrandyte 27 years ago, Bev was an early secretary of the Warrandyte Environment League, a founding member of the Warrandyte Advisory Committee and has acted as landscape and botanical advisor on many projects affecting public spaces and streetscapes in

Warrandyte.

She has fought hard to protect the Green Wedge against subdivision, and with her husband John has created a model bushscape environment on their four hectares, adjacent to the state park in Webb Street. This has been classified as a "site of significance" by Manningham council. Her beautiful garden is part of the Open Gardens scheme and is considered a local showpiece.

A stalwart in the long battle against dual occupancy, Bev helped organise a public meeting on this issue in December, 1997, at which 200 locals pledged to work to retain the character of the township. She recently organised the Clean Up Australia campaign in Warrandyte.

Bev helped found the Warrandyte Festival. She has been a hard worker at the local Uniting Church, helping to run their youth club for the past 20 years. She is a member of the Australian Plants Society, Friends of Warrandyte State Park and the Tunnel Street Revegetation Group.

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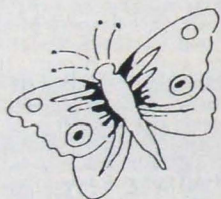
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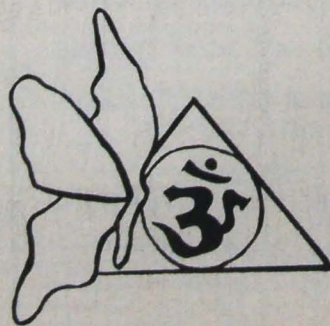
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Police call for a 'grog-free' zone

By CLINTON GRVBAS

The banks of the Yarra River, from Forbes Street to the bridge, may be declared an "alcohol-free zone" if Warrandyte police sergeant Keith Walker has his way.

He is seeking public support for the proposal, which has become a matter of increased urgency after an 18th birthday party got wildly out of hand there on January 30.

At one stage that evening a youth ripped the head off a duck, with one young man running around making gestures with the duck's head in his hand.

"This is disgraceful behaviour," Sgt Walker told the *Diary*. "I'm very keen for people to come forward and offer any information so that this doesn't happen again."

This isn't the first time the idea of an alcohol-free zone along the riverbank has been raised. Manningham council is currently perusing 10 letters on the matter.

"I'm still wanting people to write letters to myself or council, either supporting the idea or offering their views. The number of people we get down there with their slabs of beer in large groups—many with unrestrained dogs—it detracts from the beauty of the area and deters family groups from enjoying the peace and tranquility."

Sgt Walker reiterated his plea for parents to be more vigilant in monitoring their children's leisure time activities.

"Parents have to be more responsible for their kids. If they come home smelling of marijuana or smelling of alcohol ask them—have you been

drinking or using drugs—then find out where they are getting it from.

"There is not enough of that going on or, if there is, there is an unfortunate acceptance by some parents. We have got to remember it is not the 1960s or 70s anymore. There are far more dangers out there for kids than their parents were confronted with years ago."

This includes parties on the riverbank. "I'm certainly against any parties being held down there. They are usually for younger people, they are drinking alcohol and it's not supervised. At the very least they need an adult or parent there watching, so instead of someone taking the wrong turn and falling into the river and drowning they can be taken home earlier. There is no lighting down there so it is an extremely dangerous situation for kids."

Apart from the ugly scenes on the riverbank, Sgt Walker described the holiday period in Warrandyte as having gone "very smoothly".

It was not without incident, however, with more than a dozen people charged with various offences.

Two people appeared in Heidelberg court earlier this month on theft and burglary charges while another person, who has committed "several burglary and theft offences", was charged for driving a car fitted with false number plates. The person was nabbed in the traffic blitz that has been taking place on local roads.

The month-long blitz—which ends shortly—has also seen five people charged for driving while their licence was suspended or they were



"Parents have to be more responsible for their kids. If they come home smelling of marijuana or smelling of alcohol ask them—have you been drinking or using drugs—then find out where they are getting it from."

SGT KEITH WALKER

disqualified. Many speeding fines have been issued—a practice Sgt Walker said obviously continues all year round—while two people have been charged with driving

unregistered vehicles.

Several residents have reported items such as lawn mowers and garden tools being stolen from unlocked sheds and carports.

New 'adventure' playground idea

Warrandyte Business Association has applied for a grant through the Federation Fund Committee to build a community playground in Warrandyte. This will celebrate 100 years of federation in 2001 and the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold in Victoria—at Warrandyte. "Service clubs, schools and kindergartens are giving their support to the idea," a

The "Gooligulch" Play Space at Wonga Park sets a new standard in children's playgrounds. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

WBA spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Similar to other playgrounds, such as the one in Eltham, the playground will be built by volunteers from our community with direction and guidance from playground specialists. Two possible sites are on the flat area below Scandles—next to the bakery—or at Stiggants Reserve, replacing the existing playground.

"The structure will be built mainly from timber and recycled materials and will be sympathetic to our natural environment," the spokesperson said.



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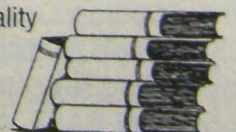
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David Watson shows off a Turk's Head pumpkin growing in Warrandyte's community garden. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

See how our gardens grow

By RACHEL BAKER

"I come down here a lot. I find it very relaxing. If I'm driving past, I'll just drop in and do some watering."

David Watson is one of Warrandyte community garden's most passionate members. He visits twice daily, and offers advice to the garden's managing committee on what plants should grow where and when.

"I have a biggish garden at home, but it's a typical Warrandyte one, with very rocky soil," David said. "I struggled for years trying to grow vegies there, so I was delighted to be able to come down here."

The community garden, between the police station and the Yarra, is now a blooming field of vegetables and flowers.

There are peppers, tomatoes, beans, sweet corn, pumpkin, and capsicum. One garden bed is growing flowers, with a white rose bush, which, says Sergeant Keith Walker, vice-president of the Police Community Consultative Committee (the group in charge of the garden), is "the jewel in the crown".

Soon there will also be a bed of native plants, which will be tended by Joan McMahon and have a focus on plants that are indigenous to Warrandyte.

"Things are going along very well," Sgt Walker said.

A working bee, held late last month, saw more garden beds built, bringing the total to 21 plus one communal bed, making six beds available for keen gardeners.

"The gazebo, by Ron Taylor, is now well under way, there's a cubbyhouse for the kids to play in, and a glasshouse," Sgt Walker said. "We'll have a sandpit built, and that will complete it."

Sgt Walker said there have been a lot of contributions from the community, which have made the garden possible. "Bev Hanson helped with the garden, and also designed it; Apex, Lions and Rotary helped with finances; Beasley's Nursery and several other local businesses have donated materials and labour; they have all provided wonderful assistance."

Anyone, of any age, who is interested in having a plot at the community garden can contact Keith Walker at the police station on 9844 3231, or Jeff Adair at the fire station on 9844 3375.

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Phone tower plan for Warrandyte

'Community will be consulted'

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Optus and Vodafone have identified four sites in Warrandyte that could become home to a new mobile phone base station. The companies say that a tower in Warrandyte is needed "to improve mobile phone coverage and capacity in the area".

In a letter to residents in Warrandyte's west recently they said that while they are hopeful of obtaining community involvement in determining a site, they concede not everyone is delighted by news of a tower being built in the area.

"We recognise that the two major issues for the community are the potential visual impact and possible health effects of electromagnetic energy from the base stations which receive and transmit

mobile telephone signals," the letter said.

"Our key requirements for potential sites are that they must meet our technical requirements and be environmentally acceptable."

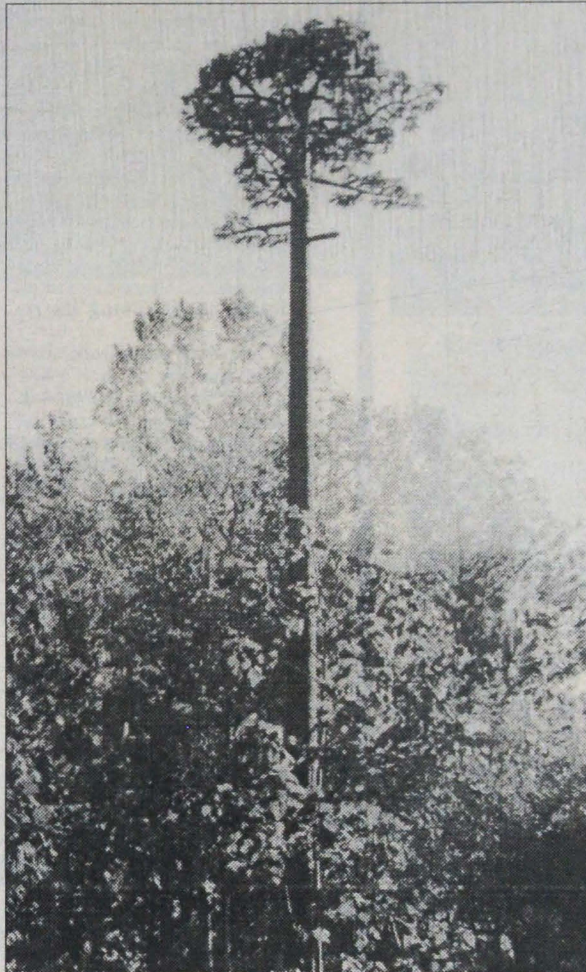
The four sites identified as a possible home for the tower are: Replacing one of the light poles at Warrandyte Reserve adjacent to the football club rooms at a height of 25 to 30 metres. Extending the CFA hose drying tower at a height of 35 metres. Building the tower on a 30 metre "slimline pole" on the road reserve adjacent to the Wildflower Reserve on the corner of Tindals Road and Warrandyte Road. The other option is to build the tower in bushland at the top of Fourth Hill.

The letter said the base stations could not be located on existing high voltage pylons because they "would not provide suitable signal coverage".

Optus and Vodafone held an open day at Warrandyte Community Centre on February 6 to discuss possible sites with local residents. They said they are prepared to establish a consultative committee if required.

If the committee is not established Optus and Vodafone would find the "preferred solution" and apply to Manningham council for a planning permit to build the tower.

Anyone interested in joining the committee or discussing the plans can contact Justin Robison at Optus on 9233 3901 during business hours.



Is this a tree? No, it's a communications tower. Malcolm Harris, formerly of Harris Gully Road, installs towers like this in the United States. Designed to resemble forest trees, these towers minimise impact on the visual environment. Malcolm's father Ron showed this picture to Manningham council in 1996, suggesting such lookalikes would be more appropriate in our area. "Council heard me out and appeared quite interested but I've heard nothing more," Ron said. With a proposal to build a tower in Warrandyte now before the community, Ron believes this alternative should be investigated.

CLYDE & OCKER



"How about a phone tower disguised as the world's tallest poppethead, Ock!"

Kids sleep out in cyberspace

A group of students at Warrandyte High School worked a 24-hour day during the summer holidays. They did so in collaboration with two partner schools in the US and Canada.

The three schools are part of the AT&T Virtual Classroom Contest '98. Warrandyte, Stevenson High School near Chicago, and Athens High School, Ontario, have been working together since September, using email and web conferencing to build a website.

The event was designed to have the students experience of an international, "corporate-style" 24 hour workday.

For one day, someone somewhere on earth was working on the students' web project. Warrandyte High now has three clocks showing the correct time in the three locations. A 24 hour schedule was carefully constructed by the students to organise themselves for the event.

The Warrandyte team of 16 Years 10 and 11 students spent

the night in the school computer lab and maintained direct contact with their partners in Canada and the United States who were in class.

The teams used video conferencing during this event. Students were able to see and hear their newly-made friends and workmates using the video cameras and video conferencing software.

"It is obvious, even from this early stage, that this team is going to be one of our outstanding Virtual Classrooms of 1998,"

Virtual Classroom coordinator Greg Wilmot told the *Diary*

"For some, it is the communication with individuals around the world and the possibility of establishing new relationships that is exciting," Sheila McGrath, the American Virtual Teacher said.

"For others, it is the satisfaction of completing a project as a team effort, as well as having made contributions to that effort. Either way, the project is a success."

"The VC project is not only an innovative way of students across the world cooperating to reach a goal, it is also a fun way of utilising our expanding technology skills and communicating with the new friends we have made", Warrandyte student Ebony Gilbee said.

The project is a web game based on the year 2000 computer bug.

Visitors to their site will take on the role of a character coming to a 1999 New Year's Eve party. When January 1, 2000 arrives, all kinds of problems arise and the hero must travel back in time to prevent these disasters from occurring.



Sleeping on the job: Students who worked the nightshift at Warrandyte High School included (l to r seated) Stuart Ralston, Cam Grant, Ebony Gilbee (l to r standing) Kate Single, Candice Carroll, Evie Gough.

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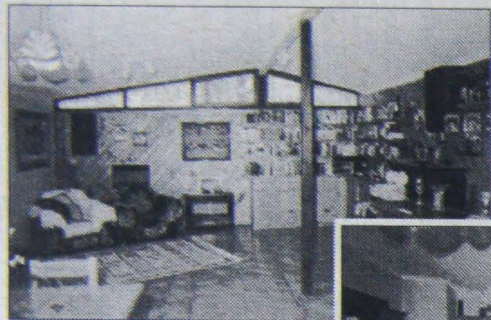
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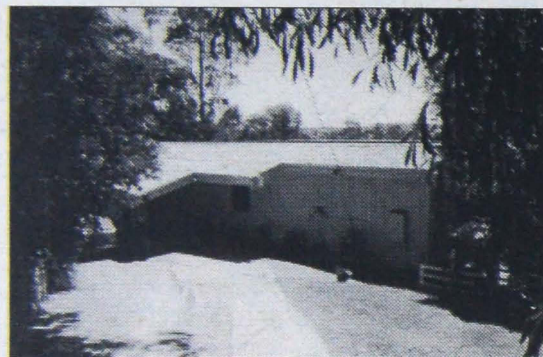
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Still no result on dual occupancy

By DAVID WYMAN

The Minister for Planning's advisory panel, which heard arguments for the retention of the ban on dual occupancy housing in Warrandyte early last September, has still not presented its findings to the minister or Manningham council.

The panel was expected to report to the minister at the end of November but it is understood there have been delays in finalising its report.

The panel was established to review the council's Municipal Strategic Statement, which includes the creation of a Special Use Zone covering Warrandyte township and preventing dual occupancy. This was necessary because the state govern-

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

Warrandyte Diary
June 1988

signed by 824 people in favour of the Special Use Zone. Personal presentations were given by five people, including local MP Phil Honeywood, urging retention of the ban on dual occupancy.

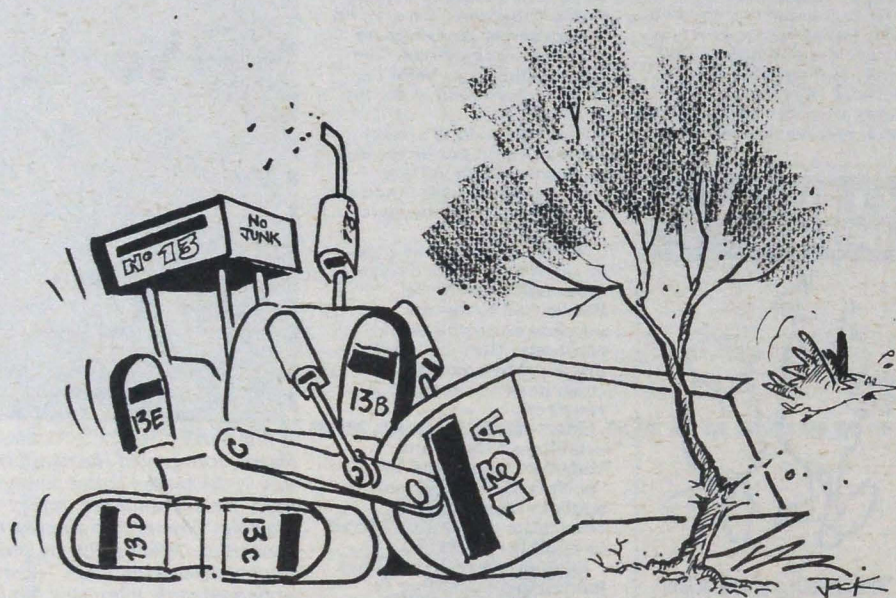
As previously reported, Warrandyte residents have expressed rigorous opposition to dual occupancy across a number of years, believing it would seriously threaten the unique character of the township.

In December 1997, an overflow meeting in the Mechanics Institute hall expressed strong opposition to the proposal.

The current ban on dual occupancy in the Warrandyte township is covered by the existing Environmental Residential Zone.

ments's new urban planning zones do not allow prohibition of dual occupancy anywhere.

At the hearing in September, the advisory panel received 62 written submissions, including a petition



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ENHANCEMENT OF EXTENDED BUSINESS ENVIRONS POLICY

The Manningham City Council has recently prepared and has placed on exhibition a proposed Enhancement of Extended Business Environs Policy.

Any comments or suggestions you may wish to make about the policy should be in writing, and must be sent to: Roger Collins, Manager, Economic & Environment Planning, Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster, Victoria, before 5pm, Friday, 5 March 1999.

Copies of the policy and explanatory report can be obtained by contacting Ben de Waard, Economic & Environment Planning Unit on 9840 9469.

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EVENSONG by Clara Southern (National Gallery of Victoria).
Warrandyte village, looking west from the hill on the north side
of the river.

Seeing our town as the painters saw it

By RACHEL BAKER

PEOPLE walking around Warrandyte recently may have suddenly seen some very familiar sites through century-old eyes.

Reproductions of paintings from early this century, of local scenes like the Grand Hotel and the bridge, have been put up at or near the places at which they were originally painted, as an extension of the Heidelberg Artists' Trail.

The trail, which covers Manningham, Yarra Ranges, Nillumbik and Banyule municipalities, and includes a total of 51 paintings, aims to attract tourists to the region, as well as "raise community awareness and interest in the region's cultural heritage", Cr Irene Goonan, Mayor of Manningham, told the *Diary*.

The paintings also serve as a visual historical record of the area, showing how sites have changed over time. Notes on the Warrandyte paintings have been prepared in

consultation with the Warrandyte Historical Society.

Some of the most notable artists involved in the trail, which has been funded by the four councils and Tourism Victoria through state government funding, are Arthur Streeton and Tom Roberts, and those featured in Warrandyte are Clara Southern and Walter Withers.

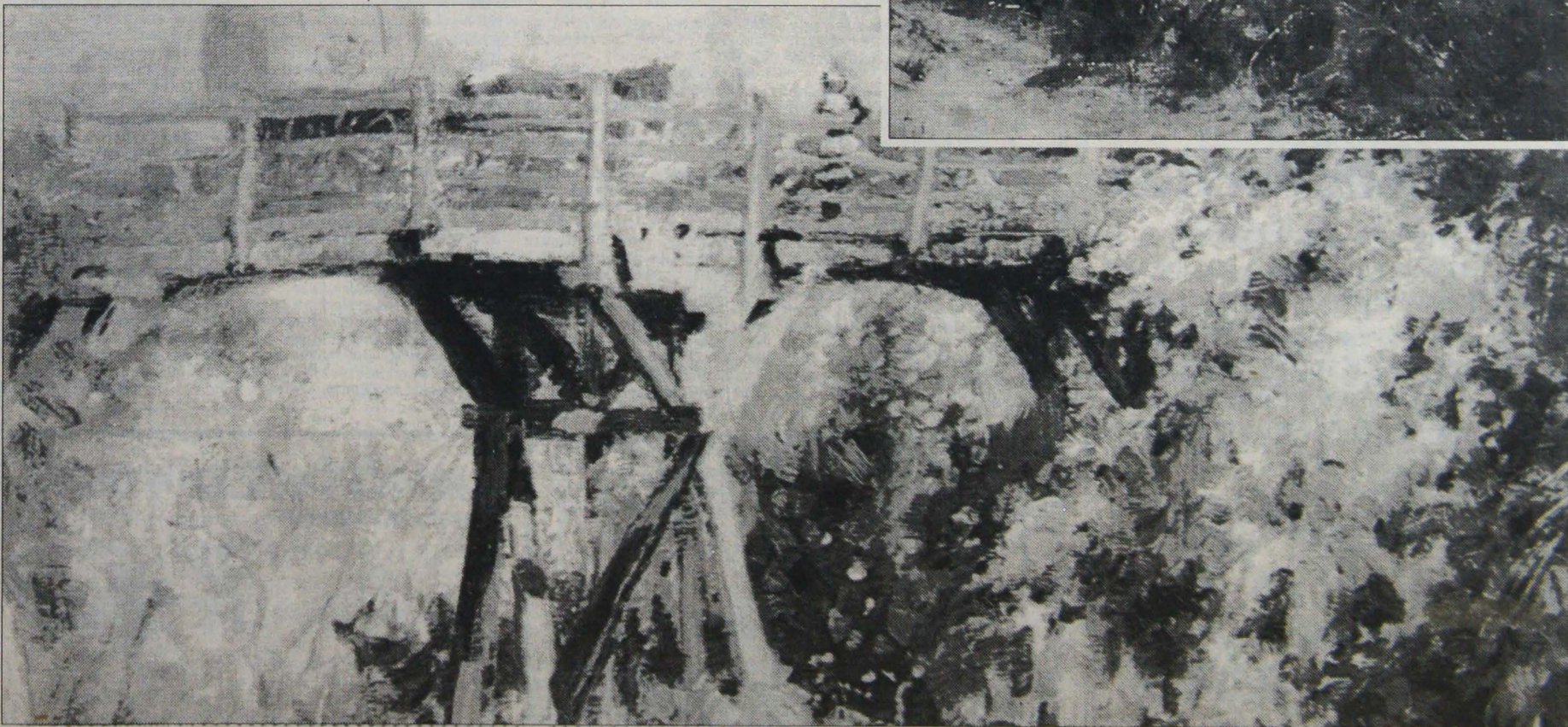
The paintings in Warrandyte are located at the corner of Webb and Yarra Streets, with a view of the Grand Hotel; and along the Yarra walking track (parallel to Yarra Street) featuring 'a cool corner', 'evensong', and the bridge.

Clara Southern, who lived in what we now call North Warrandyte, is featured most prominently, having painted the first three of the abovementioned paintings.

The erection of the signs precedes the official launch of the project, which will take place in April and include the release of brochures and a map of the complete trail.

COOL CORNER by Clara Southern
(Ballarat Regional Gallery). A quiet
spot on the Yarra, probably somewhere
behind the Old Post Office Museum.

OLD BRIDGE, WARRANDYTE by
Walter Withers (National Gallery of Victoria).
The wooden bridge across the Yarra,
now demolished. Painted in 1910.



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As you know, the Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund was set up to provide an annual grant to promising students in the performing arts and hospitality professions in the Warrandyte-Park Orchards area.

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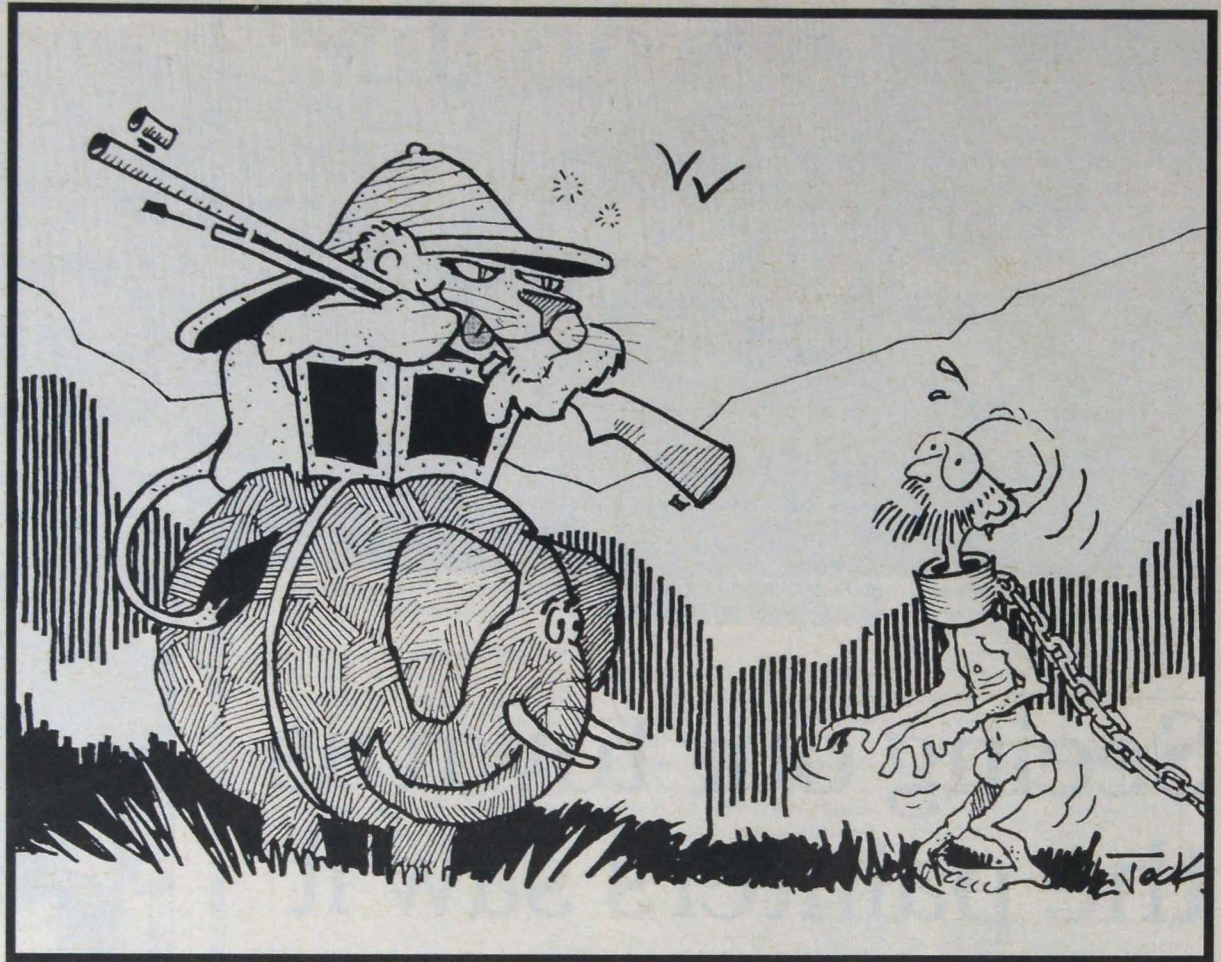
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Great power shift: where animals rule the roost


RICHARD Attenborough has a lot to answer for. Before the spate of animal documentaries showing the wonders of animal life and the importance of habitat and their place in the scheme of things, we had a much easier relationship with beasts.

They used to fit in around us. Animals knew their place or, should I say, they knew the place we had allocated for them.

In hindsight, we were very remiss but then so, too was our attitude to anyone who was of a different nationality, colour, religion, gender or class. At least our insensitivity was consistent. After all, we had been brought up on all those novels about hunting in the jungle, where the quarry was the rare and endangered white cheetah or the only pygmy elephant left in the world.

These were hunted by the white "bwana", complete with safari suit and pith helmet.

He was helped by wide-eyed native Africans who were suitably in awe of the hunting expertise of this macho man. Having grown up in the jungle and on the plains, obviously, they had no idea about what to do. The extent of their environmental education was the ability to stumble across the defenceless animal, then, jabber and point at it until the great white hunter left off charming Cynthia Fitz-Nicely to be passed his gun and, from safety atop his "tamed" elephant, blast a gaping and fa-



KIBBLLED

"...rehearsing in my mind what I would say when the Pet Police pulled me over."

tal round through both the undergrowth and the sleeping beast.

Inevitably, the films and novels both reflected and reinforced our attitudes to our role in the scheme of things. Dogs, like children, were mere appendages and ran free. Occasionally they were thrown a bone or some table scraps. Cats lived, bred and often died in a cistern flush or in a rock-weighted sugar bag. Birds were kept in small cages or on a chain, attached to a broom pole crucifix.

Then came migration. It took us a while, but we soon came to realise that there were other ways and other people in the world. We started to look at the world differently. And this in-

cluded the way we looked at animals.

Newspapers started reporting instances of cruelty. Dogs began to eat tinned food regularly, cats were "fixed" and aviaries became larger and small cages were replaced by an interest in the native birds that were attracted to our newly-planted native gardens.

The BBC educated us about wildlife and Dr Hugh Wirth harangued us into developing a sense of complete inadequacy about pet management. As our pet Dr Spock, he showed us that if we have a delinquent animal, it is we who are to blame. This developed generations of insecure pet attendants and generations of animals with a newly acquired self-worth.

All of which is why I have been led by the nose these holidays by the various wildlife in our lives.

Normally, when we head off to our "weekender", the cats are tended by a helpful neighbour. This time, no go, so we had to face the prospect of taking them with us. We have been down this path before. A trip to the vet, cat boxes, sedatives and a horrendous two hour journey of mewing, vomiting and diarrhoea. This was followed by a fortnight under the bed after having sighted a cow on their second day.

This time I decided on the freedom of the car. There were no boxes and no vomiting or diarrhoea but the mewing continued. George sat under the driver's seat and Embers, intent

on making a political statement, insisted on sitting on the back ledge, dribbling plaintively for the entire time we were in crowded traffic.

I kept rehearsing in my mind what I would say when the Pet Police pulled me over. I'm sure arguments about unhealthy boarding catteries or my past attempts would have met deaf ears.

Now after two weeks, I'm guilt-ridden because although the cats have relaxed about the house and immediate outside environs, they have managed to use social blackmail to get their own way. I find it difficult to turn a deaf ear to padding and meowing cats at midnight then three and five o'clock. Apart from waking me, the thought of them waking our house guests was too much. Eventually the cats deemed to allow us to share the bed with them each night. At least our friends got a good night's sleep.

Having been defeated by the cats, I found it quite easy to be manipulated by the families of plovers, magpies, ducks and peacocks. The magpies squawk on the deck until I feed them. The plovers complain every time I leave the house, the ducks with their ducklings threaten to leave the dam unless I feed them and the pea hen and chick stalk me in the garden.

By the end of the holidays, I crave a bazooka and an elephant.

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Wonderworld of 'weeds' populate a water garden

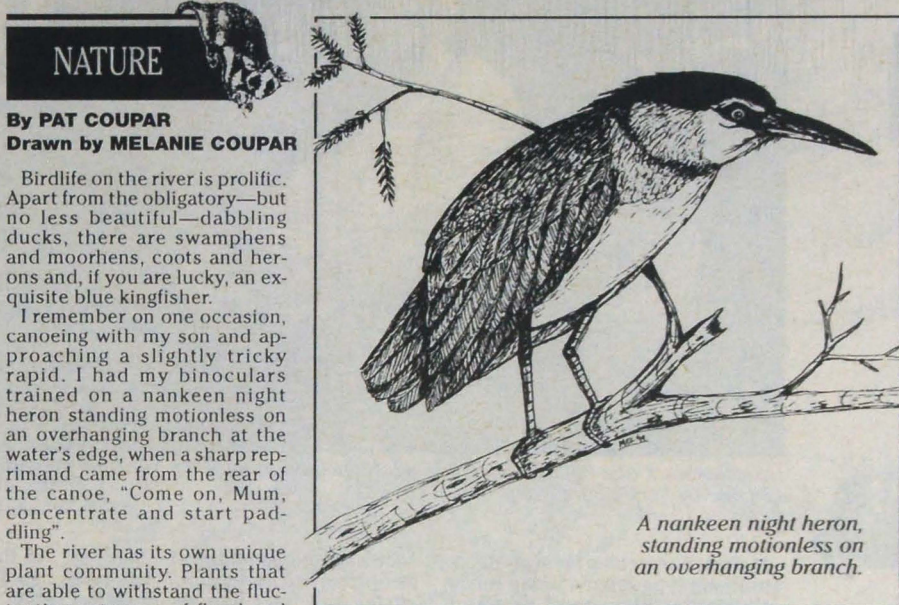
GENTLE plopping of paddle on water; a swish of movement as the canoe spears its way through the milk chocolate-coloured river: the Yarra River.

It is high summer and traffic on the waterway is heavy. After two years of drought, followed by a third of barely average rainfall, the river is still running low. Not ideal for canoeing. But we decided to do it anyway.

I have canoed the Yarra many times—sometimes surveying for weeds, notably willows, sometimes searching for rare plants, and sometimes, like now, purely for pleasure. However, I am by no means an experienced canoeist. While the Yarra is not in the same league as the Nymboida and other white water classics, it does have its dangers. Submerged rocks and logs lie hidden in its murky depths and shallows and some rapids can be difficult.

There are tranquil stretches too—calm water where it is easy to be lulled into a sense of security. It gives the paddler a chance to savour the scenic splendour of this rocky slice of Warrandyte bushland sandwiched between the rural paddocks of Coldstream and the orchards and parklands of the Yarra Valley Metropolitan Park.

Geologically speaking, the rock is of sedimentary origin. The sandstones and mudstones are 420 million year-old remnants of an ancient sea that have been uplifted and tilted over the aeons to form twisted strata known as synclines and anticlines. All of which translates visually into some of nature's finest rock art.



A nankeen night heron, standing motionless on an overhanging branch.

NATURE

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

Birdlife on the river is prolific. Apart from the obligatory—but no less beautiful—dabbling ducks, there are swamphens and moorhens, coots and herons and, if you are lucky, an exquisite blue kingfisher.

I remember on one occasion, canoeing with my son and approaching a slightly tricky rapid. I had my binoculars trained on a nankeen night heron standing motionless on an overhanging branch at the water's edge, when a sharp reprimand came from the rear of the canoe. "Come on, Mum, concentrate and start paddling".

The river has its own unique plant community. Plants that are able to withstand the fluctuating extremes of flood and drought. Some, like angled lobelia and joyweed, can survive the odd dunking, but generally prefer to grow on exposed rocks out of the flow. While others, such as mudmat and waterwort, are equally at home in or out of water as long as their roots remain damp. However, eelweed and curly pondweed, neither incidentally a weed in Warrandyte, require total submersion. Only their flowers emerge above the surface of the water during the summer months.

Dense waterweed is a weed in every sense. Similar in appearance to pondweed with rather thin crowded leaves, it domi-

nates the aquatic vegetation of the Yarra at the expense of its native counterparts. The weed is readily available in pet shops for use in aquariums, but as so often happens with exotic flora and fauna, once released it cannot be controlled.

We paddled on. It was pleasing to see the healthy growth of native vegetation along the river banks where for so long their rightful position has been usurped by crack willows. Over the past four years this aggressive species has been gradually removed from the banks between Jumping Creek Reserve and the Island, just upstream of the township.

This project, a Parks Victoria initiative carried out by them in conjunction with Melbourne Water, is ongoing, with the section above Jumping Creek to be targeted next. The commitment has been made. You only have to look at Pound Bend Reserve where the willows still hold a tourniquet-like grip on the waterway to know that it is the right thing to do.

For once I feel optimistic about the future of the Yarra. I am confident there will come a time, probably not in my time, but perhaps in my son's, when it will be possible to canoe the Yarra River through Warrandyte and not see a single crack willow.

January is a month for all seasons

JANUARY is definitely a mirage. During eleven hectic months one sees it shimmering on the horizon, a distant sunny paradise where a little window in time allows us to revisit the long hot summers of our childhood.

Visions of endless hours lazing by the pool, reading novels by the dozen, catching up with friends galore, and maybe a few days at the beach are mingled with a belief that the year's collection of horrid little I'll-get-that-done-in-January jobs will somehow magically vanish simply because it is January.

Surprise, surprise, this year my vision of January yet again failed to materialise. I strongly suspect, however, that for certain other members of our household, January may have exceeded all expectations.

Once content with spending the entire holidays lazing about at home, our newly-hatched teenagers now like to stretch their wings. There's a long list of things they simply must do, and friends and places they simply must visit. Preferably overnight.

Swimming, tennis, horse-riding, bowling, golf, and birthday parties scattered all over



OUR PLACE

By **MARILYN MOORE**

of waves at the beach. Those which break by progressively curling along their length. Those which don't break but just happen to collide with the shoreline. And those which break in one resounding crash along their whole length: dumpers.

Well, Christmas is just the biggest dumper. No matter how cunningly you approach it, how early you finish your Christmas shopping, how low-key you keep the celebration of Christmas Day, or how sober you remain on New Year's Eve, the festive season plucks you out of the sea of December madness (in which you may have been struggling to keep your head above water), gives you a great old time tumbling about in the froth and bubble, then dumps you unceremoniously straight into January. Splat!

No wonder the first week of the new year is spent more or less horizontal. Typically, nobody wakes up before midday, and it's a major effort between four people to get the budgies fed and the washing on the line before tea-time. Not only does the January job-pile dwindle in stature, but the recollection of what was in it is incredibly dim. The neurone pathways are

gridlocked. What day is it? No idea. Time? 7pm, and we haven't had lunch. Nobody has the energy to raid the pantry. Nobody has the energy to disentangle the newspaper from its plastic wrapper. Technically, we must be pretty close to brain-dead.

During the second week, some little project (entirely unrelated to anything on the joblist) crops up. Deciding to sort out 30 years of photographic negatives, or rearranging the garden, or reading the last 10 years worth of Christmas and birthday cards which you've found stashed behind the hot water service are all good time-wasters, guaranteed to make you forget your tax return for a day or two.

The truth about January is that it's too short and too isolated. What we need is a little January after Christmas (for recuperation purposes), a lengthy January in February (for a much-needed holiday after school resumes), a great big January mid-year (for a real holiday), and a last little January in November so that December would be as simple as cruising to shore on one of those exhilarating, progressively-breaking waves.

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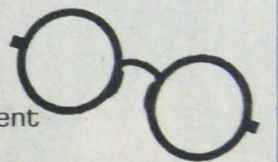
- OPPOSITE OF SEX
- DARK CITY
- SNAKE EYES
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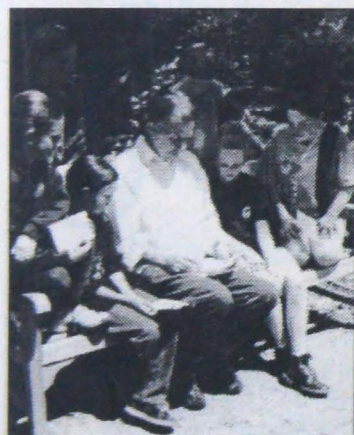
DOWN Everard Drive lives a man who can change our perception of reality. Using the cloak of darkness, Hugh McSpedden projects lights, colour and images onto solid objects creating illusions. A building, cliff-face, river or beach can be lifted out of the ordinary and transformed into a vibrant centre of a community.

The sound and light show at this year's Warrandyte Festival was an example of Hugh's creative inspirations. The underwater lights combined with a fan-shaped water wall onto which light was projected, was a unique idea.

"The idea of underwater lighting and projection came to me in a dream, but all the experts said 'it couldn't be done'. But I went fishing in the middle of the night about this time last year, dunking glaring low voltage projectors and lamps in the Yarra and had a few early morning walkers wondering!"

The notion was to impart "the story of the river, the animal life, seasonal changes and what it meant for the Aboriginal people," explains Hugh. Ambient music and bird sounds were added to the show.

Outdoor projection involves the



Talking about Amnesty to Warrandyte primary students. (Picture by Austin Polley)

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By LORRAINE WARREN

use of very high-powered projectors, and until recently Hugh owned the brightest projector in Australia. It looks like a huge laser gun on wheels, something one expects to see in a science fiction movie. "Its output is equivalent to a 30,000 watt lamp; if such a thing existed."

Under the name of Humania—meaning "colour madness"—Hugh has transformed buildings, beaches, rivers, cliff-faces, people and private parties from Darwin to Hobart. His main work tends to be for festivals and he's been responsible for the polka dots on the Melbourne Town Hall and the Exhibition Buildings in Carlton.

In fact, most inner suburban town halls have been "externally, kinetically and decoratively illuminated" by Hugh.

Another area of work is with contemporary opera. Here Hugh works with the designers and lighting directors to produce special lighting effects.

"I have always had a creative urge and tried to get into painting and drawing when I was young. I found my medium through a friend who was making experimental home movies back in 1968.

"I felt inspired, and I saved and bought an 8mm movie camera, and began making experimental movies. My fascination was with light, colour and distortion. I quickly realised that it was the potential of the actual projection that fascinated me rather than the content of the film.



Groucho Marx aka Hugh McSpedden, a hard act to follow at the Warrandyte Festival. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

"I started searching for ways to create flying-type effects using media other than film; such as hand-painted glass wheels and anamorphic prisms. The latter involves stretching an image with a prism like they would use in cinemascope projection. With such a moving image covering a concrete floor, if you stand at the end and look at that floor you really feel like you are flying.

"It wasn't long before I was invited to perform my tricks to musical accompaniment—mainly rock and roll and contemporary jazz. I projected special effects and imagery that would complement the music.

"For an old love song I might project roaring 20s type poster images, animate lips and eyes or tongues. But for a heavy blues number I often projected fluid images that involved pumping dyes into pyrex cells in projectors.

"The heat of the projector lamp would boil the fluid, creating an explosive, extremely dynamic effect. I could further enhance the synesthetic effect by manipulation of the cells, triggering micro explosions on the beat."

Before investing in high quality equipment, "I had a 1919 cinema projector which I used for some of my first building projections. Because it was a bare arc lamp which put out too much heat, glass slides would crack and films would melt within 10 seconds.

"To overcome this problem I put motorised polka-dot discs into the projectors. The effect of these dots projected onto buildings and landscapes is particularly spell-binding; especially when they are moving. It has a tendency to overtake the environment—the projection looks more solid than the structure it's on.

"I've made other effects—like the Lissajouiser. This involves spinning a group of images in one direction

while spinning individual images in the opposite direction. This produces an effect like an animated spirograph."

I had literally hundreds of different effects, all from my own brain. And if I ever ran out of ideas I could combine effects for something completely different.

"I have worked with all types of music, from Koori to techno and everything in between. I see projection as an extension of music or vice versa. Now I'm making my own music. It is very experimental and where possible I like it to be live—if you call wind chimes live music," chuckles Hugh. "I speed up and slow down the chimes."

"I started playing around with sound before I played around with light. I was fascinated by playing things backwards and recording them. I used to get amazing effects by turning the take-up spool by hand instead of by the motor. Very simple stuff but effective. Today, there are so many toys around to distort sound that it's getting easy to do fascinating things."

"I recently learned that the show of my life has been severely downgraded. I was commissioned to design the special effects projection for the side of the Sydney Opera House to mark the 50th birthday of Amnesty International.

"Amnesty International have been collecting 10 million signatures world-wide, in support of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I had planned to project them via three super powerful projectors panning across the sails. As a ground scene birds, butterflies and balloons drawn by school children would be flying above.

"However, birds will fly at the Melbourne Town Hall on this coming December 9, thanks to Denise Farren and 4F at Warrandyte Primary and Pauline Ward and Grade 6

at the Steiner School who have created birds, butterflies, clouds and so on."

Today, Hugh is "moving away from the cosmic effects created with fluids and the likes. In the past I've been reliant on musicians and their musical input. Now I'm creating the whole thing myself. I'm starting to do things I dreamed of doing 30 years ago—working with black and white photography and human images.

"As one gets older you appreciate the miracle of life. I'm saying what I want to say. The world is my oyster—it's much more adventurous." Hugh feels his "future direction is to become more political". To express through his art the "preciousness of life and how stupid the on-going abuse of the planet is".

Hugh isn't giving away what he intends to do. However, in 1991, one of his messages made the front page of The Age. The scene was Albert Road, St Kilda. The projection site was the building opposite the America Embassy. The message was—no gulf war.

Furniture-making from wooden patterns is another creative outlet for Hugh. He collects "foundry patterns that were used in the manufacture of metal industrial components". He loves "the workmanship and it's incredibly sad that beautiful wood is thrown away when not wanted".

The patterns are made from exotic rainforest timber, which include myrtle, Huon pine, kauri and king billy. The Japanese Bath Shop in Gardenvale sells his tables and display cabinets.

Everard Drive hasn't changed much in the 25 years Hugh has been living here. This unchanging character of country living, together with its proximity to the city, makes Warrandyte an ideal home, Hugh says.

Ming's Warrandyte

CHINESE RESTAURANT (BYO)

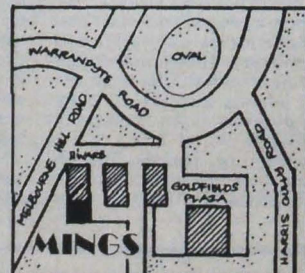
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Riding the dragon



BURNING the brain on a sweat-filled summer's night is the recurring nightmare of floating above the earth. Spiralling through the air with the smell of ozone scorching nose and throat.

Slowly ascending into the troposphere, the broad picture of the landscape lies before me, the familiar rough diamond shape of Port Phillip Bay centred. The jagged sketchy line of the Yarra River runs north-east away from the city, meandering around Yarra Bend, Pound Bend and Mt Lofty.

Each time I enter this millennium nightmare, it changes through the same three stages. In the first I am suspended in the urban airshed, breathing tortuously. The "big shed" of air that surrounds Melbourne is mostly composed of oxygen and nitrogen but also contains dangerous chemicals and particles that cause a range of respiratory disorders and other illnesses.

Pinned to the sky like a bug on a card and looking out over the housing gridlock, I see roads full of cars anting their way across the landscape. Cars everywhere, maintaining their position as the single most important source of pollution. Already more than 40 billion vehicle kilometres are travelled each year in the Port Phillip area and rising, choking the city with their vapours of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds. A simple trip to Warrandyte's West End shops can leave gases in the atmosphere for thousands of years.

Amidst the petrochemical diasma, hovering on oily wings, comes the taste of the smog breath emitted by the city. The new horizon, that brown haze shrouding the city in its poisonous vapour, enhances the sunset of our lives. Smog is the dragon of modern cities; a vaporous mystical spirit channelling an accumulation of modern sins. Shmoggy soup formed through the oxidation of oxides of nitrogen mixed with volatile organic compounds, heated by sunlight to produce ozone, a chemical concoction that damages the lungs, eyes and respiratory tract. Soup with particulated lumps. The pungent odour of ozone is the signature smell of a city bathing in its own necromantic trash.

It is all change up here, elemental change on a fundamental level. One pollutant mixing with another, reacting, creating new substances. New dangers that elude the streetwise.

Millennium Bug has infected everything, everywhere. The air we breathe, the soil and water we depend upon; rearranging the weather; changing everything. Commencing a new series by GLEN JAMESON. Illustrations by ONA HENDERSON and SYD TUNN.

Due to motor vehicle emission regulations and fuel modification there have been some improvements in Melbourne's air quality over the past decade. The air in the Bourke Street mall can be quite pleasant, there are fewer critical ozone days than the 1980s and the river parks are full of oxygen. But where do all the gases go?

We can change things if we wish, it depends how far past the limits of endurance we let it run; how far we stretch our belief that everything will work out; how much faith we have in the elasticity of the airshed and its capacity to save us; how much faith we have in the natural systems as we constantly change the rules.

During the mid-1970s, smog reached only halfway up Melbourne's tallest buildings. In 20 years it has grown to be three times higher than the tallest buildings, now much taller than those of the 1970s. Where does it all go, oh fairly parlous vapour that creates the second horizon? Do we build higher golden towers to keep our noses above it all? Its volume seems to increase each year, eventually each week. The sky is an archaeological midden recording the dirt on our cloudy linen. We travel in the sky boat across the wildest storms to regain the lost paradise.

High above the clouds, the movement of air currents known as the Melbourne Eddy becomes apparent. It is a deep, slow, clockwise wind circulation around the Port Phillip basin that recirculates the pollution again and again over all of Melbourne. A democratic movement of air, making sure everybody gets their fair share. Even the folk who live amidst the trees in Warrandyte. Concentric rings roll over the Melbourne airshed; a slow, lolling rhythm through summer and late summer.

Human activity exerts pressures on the earth's natural systems, not necessarily causing an environmental problem. This depends on the capacity of the natural system to absorb that pressure. But this assimilative capacity is often exceeded

during the re-circulation of pollutants when the Melbourne Eddy is in action. The sheer volume of pollutants tests the system every day.

Spiralling with millions of small particulate matter (down to 2.5 microns) and aerosols floating through the skies, I breathe in innumerable inhalable particulates that come from power plants, industrial processes, motor vehicles, diesel engines, home fires, incinerators, bushfires.

Some of the excitable particulates chemically react with other pollutants, changing, reacting, creating secondary particles and chemicals; an alchemy of mysterious concoctions, each a different tango of chemicals. Long term exposure is linked to lung cancer, heart and lung disease, asthma attacks and other health problems. The bug goes for the throat and I choke in its grip.

Emitted substances can be degraded and absorbed by natural systems; it depends on the volume that we pump out and for how long we intend to sit in this soup. Like yabbies in the cooking pot as the water slowly heats. They don't know they are being cooked; they adjust to the rising temperature until it is too late. Likewise, we have adjusted to the changing, polluted, smoggy soup.

Fiery lungs burst during the second part of the dream. I leave the 15 kilometre wide band of the troposphere and enter the stratosphere, wrapped around the earth in a protective clasp. It grows warmer as I rise; higher and higher until the Antarctic is visible and I am flying towards a circle of light, of colours—fuzzy flashes caught in the corner of the eye. Oily waves which fantastically colour the sunset become the hole in the ozone layer.

Ozone in the stratosphere reduces the amount of damaging ultra violet radiation reaching the earth's surface. Without this protective layer, life on land would be exposed to such dangerous levels of radiation that few life forms would survive. During spring, the hole in the ozone layer is around 20 to 24 million square kilometres (Australia covers



7.6 million square kilometres), representing a loss of 60 percent of the available ozone in the polar region.

Ozone depletion occurs over the most populated parts of Australia all year round and can cause severe burning to skin and interference to the natural immune system. Human activities—domestic, industrial and agricultural—produce emissions that accelerate the destruction of ozone. As I fly through the polar skies, my skin takes on the colour and texture of a takeaway roasted chicken, baked and peeling in blistering sheets; scabrous sores; I shed skin suits like a kentucky fried insect going through many rapid metamorphoses.

Sometimes the dream passes through time. A warped atom from infinity brings warm radioactive air currents, coming across the world from atmospheric tests carried out in the 1950s and 1960s and managed by scientists for the safety of humanity. Summery winds blow sultry air from the west, filled with the radioactive dust from someone's homelands at Maralinga. Chernobol dust, glowing in the water tank. As I drink, I take on the friendly green fluorescent glow of a Christmas beetle.

Smoke signals from distant towns tell of trouble on all horizons. Polluted plumes travel over the land in tribal clouds from the smelters at Port Pirie and Koolgardie and the power stations in the Latrobe Valley. Once more the winds are democratically sharing all that invisible smoke with you and me. Spumes trace the forgotten costs of industrialisation, pouring into the troposphere and beyond into the stratosphere. No bean counters are measuring the value of damage done to plants and animals, crops and ecosystems.

Leisurely orbiting earth before the third phase of my nightmare kicks in, it's easy to see the greenhouse gases at work. Across the stormy Tasman on the edge of Tasmania is the aptly named Cape Grim Baseline Station where observations of global concentrations of all major greenhouse gases are made.

The records show a continual an-

nual increase of all major greenhouse gases. Remarkably, CFC levels have stabilised, showing we can make a difference if we are smart. Australia's relatively high contribution to global emissions is mainly due to a high level of fossil fuel use, vegetation clearance and agriculture. No matter what the politicians say, it is continually rising, filling our part of the universe's 125 billion galaxies with toxic substances and conditions which may threaten our future.

In the 200 years of the industrial revolution, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has increased by more than 30 percent, methane by 145 percent and nitrous oxide by 15 percent. Greenhouse gases absorb infra-red radiation emitted by the earth's surface and re-emit in all directions, thus increasing the earth's temperature. Greenhouse gases persist for tens to hundreds of years, with their associated long term impact on background atmospheric levels. There is a discernible human influence on the global climate and it is recorded in the ice of Antarctica. Where will this take us in the future? Only the Bug knows.

Suddenly a fall to earth. Waking inside my room, I wonder why there is so little known about the long term effects of indoor air quality. Limited studies show Australians spend 90 percent of their time indoors where there is a range of pollutants and the personal exposure time is often greater than outdoors. Volatile organic compounds can be high in new buildings, caravans and cars. VOCs—especially formaldehyde—are released from furnishings, carpet and particle board.

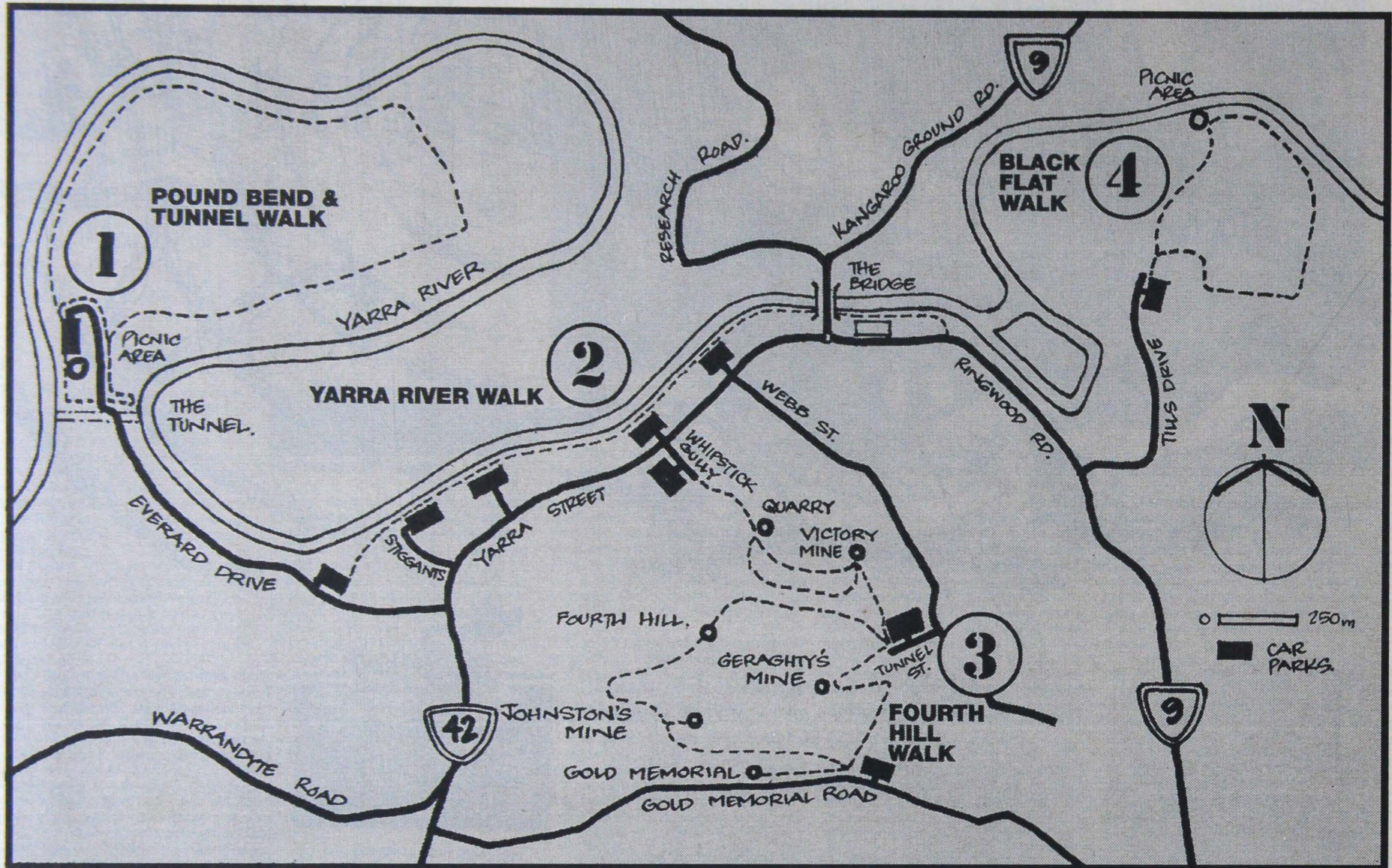
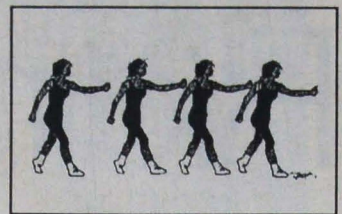
I don't want to go outside as the sun no longer feels good on my skin, it is like acid, burning holes in my hide and crisping the tops of my ears. My lungs won't let me breathe deeply any more. Yet I don't know what the inside of my house is doing to me.

Dinner is finally on the table, a delicious swamp brew of yabbie soup followed by crispy chicken done to a turn. The wood heater is cranked up to keep the dragon from the door. Suddenly someone is knocking. Could it be the Bug, coming to wake me and tell me it's just been a bad dream?

Factual information from:
 ● State of the Environment 1996 (CSIRO)
 ● Air Quality Management Plan, Port Phillip Region 1997 (EPA)

4

Walks around Warrandyte



1 Pound Bend Walk

Drive to the end of Everard Drive to find Pound Bend, which is situated in a large, narrow-necked loop of the Yarra River. In the early years the land was used as a pound for cattle, hence its present name. With luck you may spot a koala high in one of the smooth-barked manna gums. The picnic area attracts many birds, including colorful parrots, honeyeaters, kookaburras and noisy miners.

A short walk from the picnic area will lead to the unique Pound Bend Tunnel. This amazing venture was carried out by David Mitchell, father of singer Dame Nellie Melba, in 1870. The tunnel, six metres wide and almost five metres high was dug through 145 metres of solid rock at the neck of the loop. A dam was built across the river and the water was diverted through the tunnel, leaving exposed a five kilometre stretch of river bed, which was dredged for gold. While no remains of the dam can be seen today, the tunnel, in which lives a colony of bats, looks as if it was carved through only yesterday.

A walking track along the Yarra River, to the north of Pound Reserve, crosses various gullies by wooden bridges and ends at a large open area. The track continues to the south-east past the plaque dedicated to the site of the first youth hostel in Victoria, then joins the entry road to the park office, and turning south continues to Pound Bend Road. For alternative walk along the ridge top, return to the tunnel site above the Pound Bend Reserve car park.

2 Yarra River Walk

Halfway along Everard Drive begins a wide track which follows the river and is shared by walkers, joggers, cyclists and horse riders. Dogs on leashes are welcome in this reserve. A wooden bridge crosses Andersons Creek just above where it joins the Yarra. (Andersons Creek was the original name for Warrandyte). At Stiggants Reserve, site of the monthly Warrandyte Community Market, there is a children's playground, a small amphitheatre, picnic tables, electric barbecues, public toilets and two picnic shelters. A small wetlands area has been created by Doncaster council and the Friends of Warrandyte State Park. Each autumn, the two-day Warrandyte Festival attracts thousands of visitors. Above the path, adjacent to Warrandyte village itself, are additional public toilets, the historic Gospel Chapel and the old Warrandyte post office, faithfully restored and home to the Warrandyte Historical Society's museum.

This walk terminates at the Warrandyte bridge. Immediately downstream is the site of the old wooden bridge, built in 1865 from yellow box timbers felled in the Stony Creek area.

The old bridge was the focal point in Warrandyte for New Year celebrations, when the locals would meet to sing Auld Lang Syne to the accompaniment of bagpipes and fireworks—and sometimes exploding gelignite!

The existing steel and concrete bridge was built in 1955. A smaller picnic area, with barbecues provided, is located at the public tennis courts, downstream from the bridge. A third set of public toilets has been provided adjacent to the bridge.

3 Fourth Hill Walk

Four kilometres long, this walk takes about one-and-a-half hours. It starts from the carpark near the gold memorial cairn at Andersons Creek in Gold Memorial Road. Ford the creek, turn to the left and walk up the steep track. On your left is a mine shaft surrounded by a wooden railing. This whole area is covered with mullock heaps and other relics of the gold mining days.

About 30 metres horizontally left across the hill, on a small track, is a corrugated iron hut of a type common around Warrandyte in years past. This hillside is covered in a sea of white heath in the late winter months. Continue past the hut, and another shaft, on the steep track that climbs uphill. At a T-junction, turn right for 20 metres to reach Johnston's Mine.

Backtrack to the T-junction and continue around the hill past some mossy boulders to a vehicle track, running from Betton Crescent to the top of Fourth Hill. Turn right and follow the track straight up onto the large, open area at the top of Fourth Hill. Nearby is a grate covering an air shaft down into the Fourth Hill Tunnel.

Walk straight ahead from point of entry to a walking track which leads downhill and to the right. Continue in the same direction, past the Y-intersection, towards the park gate. Turn left at the gate along the vehicle track, following the fenceline. This track undulates down into Whipstick Gully. The shorter Bruce Bence Walk commences just behind the Information Centre to the south-west, meanders through old diggings and mullock heaps. This narrow track is only 620 metres long but quite steep. It ends on a vehicle track overlooking the Victory Mine site, which had five levels going up inside the hill. This mine is safe to explore up to 20 metres in, where a steel gate prevents further access for safety reasons. A torch should be carried.

Backtrack to the Tunnel Street gate and continue on, veering to the right, and follow it downhill to the Fourth Hill Tunnel, which runs 100 metres into the hill.

This was the first large-scale mining operation in the area, started by Patrick Geraghty, Warrandyte's first innkeeper. Geraghty did not strike the reef he was seeking, but two other miners continuing his work in the 1880s were more successful. This mine is safe to explore with a torch. Emerging from the tunnel, turn right and follow the track downhill along Wild Cat Gully to Andersons Creek, where the walk commenced.

4 Black Flat Walk

The entrance to Black Flat Reserve, Warrandyte State Park, is situated partway along Tills Drive, which leaves the Ringwood Road close by the Stonehouse craft shop. There are carparks and a picnic area at the reserve.

This is a fully-developed "nature walk", the route is marked by signs and arrows and will take about an hour to cover. Black Flat is covered by open forest, dominated by eucalypts—mostly red box—and is one of the most scenically attractive areas of Warrandyte. Each season brings its own special surprises.

One is constantly reminded of the part this area played during the goldmining era. In 1904, Warrandyte's largest mine—the Caledonian—commenced operations here. One of the boilers that provided steam power for these extensive workings can be seen on the left, not far from the entrance to the reserve.

Also to be seen is a circular depression in the ground, marking the remains of a puddling machine, powered by horses walking in a circle and used to crush quartz from which gold was extracted.

Reminders of the agricultural history of the area include a grand old red box tree used as a fence post by the Mullens family, who homesteaded the area from the 1870s to 1914. Evidence of some of the orchards planted by the Mullens can also be observed, as well as a breacher dam wall. Partway along the nature trail is a sign indicating the track to Jumping Creek Reserve, not shown on the above map. Spectacular views of the meandering river are a feature of this longer walk. Wombats have burrowed into the soft soil beside the narrow track, creating a maze of holes and tunnels.

A grassy area by the river, near the start of the track, marks the site of one of the old orchards. Close by is a pleasant swimming spot and a delightful picnic area under the shade of a huge manna gum.

Before the mast

By CLINTON GRYPAS

WHILE many local teenagers headed for the beach or relaxed at home during their summer holidays, Katie Throssell decided to say goodbye to her usual routine.

She describes herself as "not really a very physical person", so it surprised many that she took to the open sea, tackling the rugged waves off Tasmania's east coast aboard the Young Endeavour.

She was one of 24 young Australians taking part in the next voyage of the Young Endeavour, a sail training ship given to Australia as a bi-centennial gift by the British navy.

For Katie and her 23 crewmates it was no Love Boat cruise. With 4am wake-up calls, lengthy sessions hauling on ropes and climbing masts, not to mention some icy temperatures, high seas and bouts of sea-sickness, many folk wouldn't have called it a holiday. But for the 17 year-old from North Warrandyte, "It was fantastic; it has definitely inspired me for a career in adventuring".

The Young Endeavour spends its time teaching 24 young people at a time about life at sea. It sails primarily in Australia's south-eastern waters, moving from New South Wales to Tasmania and across to Victoria and South Australia. Katie's 10 day voyage from in January took her from Devonport to Hobart, negotiating some of the water featured in the ill-fated Sydney to Hobart race. And the tragedy of that race figured in

discussions before the Young Endeavour set sail.

"My mum was 'packing it', saying I don't know if it's a good idea. But I wasn't too worried because the stormy conditions had passed and we were going to get better weather, but it was still pretty cold."

How cold? "Well one day I had to wear a t-shirt, long sleeve top, a jumper, a windcheater and wet weather gear, but fortunately that didn't last too long."

While they may have been on their holiday break, the young travellers weren't spared an intensive program. Responsible for the bulk of the work on the ship, they did everything, from hauling the gear and rigging masts to taking turns on watch.

"Everybody was divided into watch groups because we had to keep the ship going 24 hours a day. So at some stages we had to get up at 12midnight and go to bed at 4am or get up at 4am and go to bed at 8am—or stay awake. It is amazing how much you can get accomplished on just four hours sleep each night."

But the long hours each day—which started with breakfast at 5.45am—did provide her with a good chance to get to know her fellow travellers.

"It's half past two in the morning and you are sitting there and it's raining and you're feeling miserable—you do get close to people. I made a couple of close friends and will write to them by e-mail to stay in touch."

On the ninth day the navy staff handed over the ship's control

solely to the "apprentices". Along with their normal duties they took control of the ship, nominating a captain and navigator. Katie took her turn as navigator.

"The crew don't say anything. They will only answer if a person is in danger or the ship is going to break up. It is a big task and everyone is needed. Even when people are throwing up over the side or lying there totally incapacitated they still have to get up and pull on ropes."

Adding to the enjoyment for her—yes, she actually enjoyed all this—was that she has never been a sailing fan.

"I have been on boats before but never sailing. My father's a bit of a yacht person but I have never been out with him. It's not at all something I would usually do."

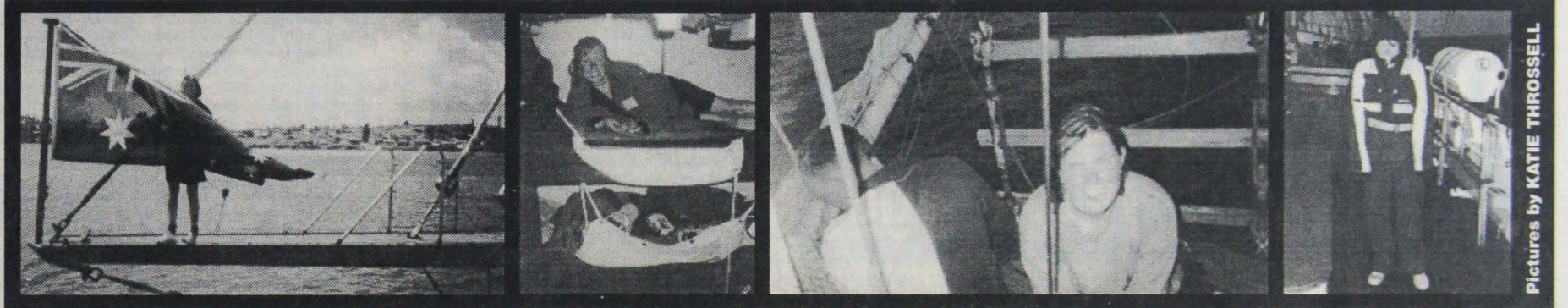
And that was borne out early on as she spent a couple of days finding her sea legs.

"I threw up once or twice early on. At our first stop I went to the beach and lay on the sand for a while and the beach was rocking. But when I got back on the ship it had stopped rocking so that was the end of my sea-sickness."

Now Katie has caught wild sea fever.

"I loved the feel of the sea. I definitely want to go back and do it again or go on holidays and travel and climb mountains."

But that is still a little way off. Right now she is beginning Year 12 at Eltham College with the aim of doing a science/arts degree next year. And she has a pretty good holiday tale to share with her classmates.



Pictures by KATIE THROSSELL

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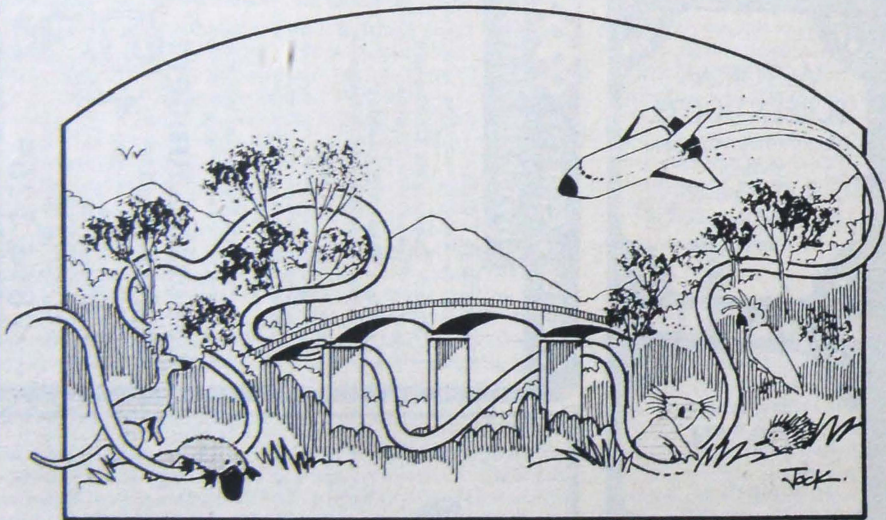
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WARRANDYTE - GREAT SPACE

MILISSA HOUGHTON

A warm and generous personality

By **MARIAN and ERIC HOUGHTON**

MILISSA died suddenly on December 20 aged 31. We had just begun a holiday at Lorne, a place she dearly loved, when it happened. We miss her beyond belief.

Milissa was born on May 16, 1967. When she started school at Warrandyte Primary School she was the fifth generation of Houghtons to do so. As a child she was a member of the WAA junior drama group, conducted by Yvonne Reid. She loved her Saturday morning lessons at the hall.

She had worked at Olinda Creek House and Garden in Lilydale for the past nine years, where she made many lasting, special friends. She had an incredible work ethic, never missing a day.

She adored a variety of music, especially U2. She never missed a concert. Anything she took on she totally embraced, and was very passionate about everything she did. She had a vibrant personality, and summed up people for what they were. We valued her judgments in this respect.

She loved wearing trendy bright clothes. She greeted everyone with a winning smile and had a great sense of humour. She had a warm, generous personality, she loved giving little gifts and was always writing messages to people. She was so friendly, loved talking to people. They were all the same in her eyes. She loved to share a coffee with friends.

Shopping was her passion, she had 200 pairs of socks. Gimmicky things caught her attention, not standard or run-of-the-mill; these are now all over our home.

Muffin, her cat, always got quirky presents; for example, a cat poster, to



put in "her bedroom", (the laundry) called "How to speak cat!" So that she knew how to behave when she grew up!

Milissa loved the ballet and opera, and spent many a season enthralled by the performances. We went to The Flying Dutchman, she came home and wrote her own opera The Flying Dutch Lady.

She packed into her 31 years what a lot of people don't manage in a long lifetime.

A special thanks must go to the Warrandyte Football Club, both senior and junior, who by their warmth and understanding made a social niche for Milissa and her friend, David.

We, Eric and Marian, would like to thank the kind Warrandyte people for the cards, letters, flowers, plants and visits that we have had from you during this sad time. We greatly appreciate your support.

Back to the future at Montsalvat

Robert Theobald, internationally renowned author, public speaker, futurist and specialist community consultant, will be addressing a gathering at Montsalvat, 7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham, on Tuesday, February 16, at 7pm.

He has described the 20th century as the economic century and believes the 21st century could characterised as "the healing century".

Theobald's latest book, *Re-working Success: New Communities At The Millenium*, has created a great deal of interest. His collaborative work

on the essential components of Resilient Communities has led to the formation of at least 10 discussion groups around Melbourne. Similar groups have been formed in other states and connect regularly with community-based groups in Canada and the USA.

People who believe that resilient community structures represent our best hope for the future are invited to meet this inspirational speaker.

Please call Kerrie Bernhard on 9433 3146 for more information.

CLYDE & OCKER



"I'm not worried about the future, Ock. It's my past catching up that concerns me!"

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Festival in the valley

Mullum Mullum Festival, running between February 28 and March 14, is described as "a celebration of the ecological and cultural values of the Mullum Mullum Valley".

The festival has quickly grown since 1995 to encompass four sites throughout the valley. At each site, on a different day of the festival, expert guided walks will arrive at and leave from outdoor music performances.

Festival coordinator, Cameron Taylor, believes this year's program is the most exciting yet. "The diversity of Mullum Mullum Festival events is a reflection of the varied creative ideas people have about the environment," Mr Taylor said.

Bill Nicholson, elder spokesperson for the Wurundjeri Tribal Council, will open and welcome the festival to Kulin land at 1pm Sunday, February 28 at Schwerkolt Cottage, Deep Creek Road, Mitcham.

Following the opening address on the day and the next two weekends, 21 guided walks will explore the remnant bushland of the Mullum Mullum Valley between the creek source and the Yarra River.

Of particular interest to residents of the Warrandyte area is Sunday, March 14 at Tikalara Park, Websters Road, Templestowe—where the Mullum Mullum Creek meets the Yarra River.

"This site is not often open to the public and the day offers an afternoon of quality listening experience on the banks of the Yarra River," Mr Taylor said.

The music begins at 1pm with the 25 piece Surrey Hills Chamber Orchestra performing new works composed by Peter Simondson. Other performers include the merimba and vibraphone exploration of undulating, circular rhythmic themes by Invention In Time and the harmonic and percussive vocals of Coco's Lunch.

Well-known Warrandyte naturalists, Pat and Mike Coupar, will lead a walk at Tikalara looking at the insects and spiders of the region. Other walk topics include the geological history of the area, a discussion on different ways of recognising place by author Paul Carter and a walk led by 12 year-old Rosalyn Moore, who would like other young people to join her, looking at the tiny water animals in the creek environment.

For a complete Mullum Mullum Festival guide, with all the walks and music details, call 9654 0023.



Phil Honeywood—and Friends—at Warrandyte State Park. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

New funds for Park

Warrandyte State Park will benefit from three state government grants, totalling \$2580, being made available to the Friends of the Park for fencing, publishing an information brochure and installing a new timer for the watering system at the nursery.

The first two projects are being sponsored through the Parks Victoria 1998/99 Community Grants program.

They are:

- Romulea control, Pound Bend Tunnel fence—\$880—to continue to enrich the Pound Bend Tunnel site by revegetation and weed control;
- Information Brochure—\$1,200—to undertake a second print run.

The third grant, of \$500, made through Friends Centenary Grants program will enable the nursery support group to install a new timer for their watering system.

Announcing the grants, local MP Phil Honeywood said, "I am delighted that funding has been made available for these projects as they will make a significant contribution to the improvement of this area."

"Funding through the Friends Centenary Grants commemorate both the centenary of Victoria's national parks and the hard work and commitment of Friends groups in helping to manage our parks."

Reflect on this



Alan Alder

Local emergency services have expressed concern about inadequate property numbers in Warrandyte. They are calling on residents to clearly display their street numbers, suggesting that reflective numbers will give the best result.

If numbers are not displayed, or are inadequate, "after-hours response by emergency services not familiar with the area could be delayed," Alan Alder, chairman of the Warrandyte Park-Orchards Police Community Consultative Committee, told the *Diary*.

"This could have dire results, especially in the case of an ambulance call."

"In many cases, local properties are set well back from the road, often concealed by vegetation, making house number identification difficult, if not impossible."

Council regulations require all owners or occupiers to clearly

mark their street number on their property. The by-law states: "The allotted number must be of a size and located in such a manner as to be clearly visible from the road on which the land or premises has its frontage"

Alan Alder believes that most properties go part way to meeting this basic requirement. "However," he says, "whilst this will assist the postman, who may not necessarily operate on the road proper, the by-law requirement that the number must be clearly visible from the road is often inadequately met."

"Reflective numbers greatly assist after-dark identification, and if these are placed above head height on an appropriate post or tree beside the road, they will greatly assist emergency services to rapidly attend an incident."

Further advice is available from Alan Alder on 9844 3237.

Carpark at bridge

The riverside carpark east of the bridge will be upgraded, possibly being finished by June this year. Manningham council discussed plans with local traders and others at a recent meeting.

John Hanson, who attended the meeting, told the *Diary* that "as a result, the dust problem will be eliminated and safety improved with the exit being relocated 20 metres west."

"Little carparking will be lost," John Hanson said, "with on-street parking on the river side of Yarra Street retained. Natural materials will be used where possible, being complemented with indigenous planting, similar to the carpark opposite the hotel."

The entire project will be funded by council.

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District-wide rabbit blitz

Are you absolutely sick and tired of rabbits? Can't grow a thing in your garden? Maybe the solution is at hand.

The community is organising itself into rabbit action groups in an effort to begin a coordinated campaign. The programs will integrate all forms of rabbit control, including pindone baiting, and will involve the local shires and agencies.

"Everybody will be doing their bit," says Norman Reserve/Bradleys Lane coordinator Bob Stubbings. "All the households will be mobilised and act together with the agencies. This happened last year at Pound Bend and the rabbits have dropped from extremely high numbers to just a few here and there, and these will be bumped off this year of the campaign."

The idea behind the campaign is that rabbit management

zones have been drawn up for Warrandyte. In each of these zones everybody pulls together and attempts to create a rabbit-free area.

Firstly, a baiting program cuts down the numbers drastically, then warrens are treated and harbours (shelter spots) are removed making it difficult for rabbits to re-invade. In some cases, fences are built to prevent rabbits migrating back. The zones interlock and force the rabbit out.

"It's an exciting prospect," says Bob Stubbings. "The ecology of the local area has suffered greatly through rabbits, not to mention the gardens and the cost to agriculture."

"The community has had enough and is using the organisational structure of Fireguard and such groups to band together. A mail-out will occur soon."

Friendship quilt

By RACHEL BAKER

All the things that make Warrandyte what it is today will be recorded for future generations in a Friendship Quilt, to be produced this year.

Neighbourhood House, who initiated the project, are calling on local groups—including schools, service groups, and others—to contribute to the quilt, which will be launched in November 1999.

Each group will make a 12 inch square, which will symbolise what they are and how they fit into Warrandyte, as well as being unique, hopes Glenys Pearson, events coordinator of Neighbourhood House.

"Each group is individual, and we hope that our quilt is a reflection of this," she said.

Contributions are not limited to fabric, as in a traditional friendship quilt, and groups are encouraged to "use their imaginations" and come up with original ways of decorating their square.

"We want the quilt to be tactile," Glenys said. "It will record our history—our lifestyle and what is happening—but, unlike written material, the quilt will be visible and instant."

The quilt will be displayed at the community centre and at the Warrandyte Festival.

Some groups have already indicated their interest, but, said Glenys, "everyone is welcome to contribute", and interested parties can contact Neighbourhood House (9844 1839) or Glenys (AH) on 9844 2894.



Robert Colvin, Warrandyte High School top Year 11 student, leads the school big band. (Picture by Greig Ruthven)

Big night at the high school

The 20th anniversary banquet auction held at Warrandyte High School towards the end of last year was a wonderful celebration. As late as 2pm, past students and staff were still talking and dancing. An entertainment highlight was the compilation of past musical productions featuring stars of the musicals performed at the school.

The evening proved to be a very good fundraiser for the school, too. The school now has over \$12,000 in a fund for community sports facilities. This was raised from the auction of gifts generously donated by the school community and local businesses, held during the dinner.

"Our local high school has certainly grown from the four portables perched on a steep muddy hillside over 20 years ago," principal Michael Blake said.

"There were only 42 students in the first intake. By the year 2000 we anticipate that we will have over 700 students."

The anniversary was attended by local people who were on the original planning committee before 1978, original teachers including the first

headmaster, Murdoch Nielson, and school council presidents.

"There was a table of the first students of the school (the class of 1978) and tables of students from all years since 1978, past and present parents and prominent community members. Families starting in 1999, representing the future of the school, were also present."

Around 70 percent of the school's 1998 Year 12 students were recently successful in gaining first round tertiary placements.

The school's top three students—Amee George, Linda Sprigg and Simon Poon—were offered places at Melbourne University in science and engineering, while business courses at diverse locations proved popular with many students. Computer and art courses were also well represented.

A school spokesperson told the *Diary*: "Warrandyte High encourages many Year 11 students to undertake a Year 12 subject, and the results achieved were particularly pleasing. All of them passed these subjects and many gained high study scores which can be added to this year's results."

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WARRANDYTE CRICKET CLUB would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused by a mistake in the 1999 Business Directory. Under the heading of ASBESTOS REMOVAL, A-BRIGHT SERVICES PTY LTD, Contact Brian Chapman—the correct mobile phone number is 0414 327 784.

Town clean-up time

Clean Up Australia Day is on Sunday, March 7 and the local effort is being organised by the Warrandyte Awareness Group. Volunteers are required to help clean up between Yarra Street and the river, from Stiggants Reserve to Stonehouse, near Tills Drive. You can register and collect bags from the car park opposite Whipstick Gully from 11am to 2pm on the day. Volunteers need to wear appropriate footwear, gloves and hat. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Manningham council will dispose of the rubbish. All enquiries to Peter Curry of WAG on 9844 0958.

Winners

Lucky Nancy Johnson of Warrandyte won the Christmas hamper organised by the Warrandyte Business Association and the prize for the best shopfront display—a balloon flight over the Yarra Valley, donated by the Grand Hotel—was won by Riveresque. Essence of Australia came a close second.

Variety

Warrandyte Senior Citizens are holding a variety night at their centre in Tarooma Avenue on Friday, February 26 at 7.30pm. BYO food and drink. Cost is \$5 per head. Bookings through Dot Hill on 9844 2437 or 9844 1522.

Songs

As part of the Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund, the trustees have produced a CD of songs Christie recorded with friend and singing partner Robbie Neville. Copies are available at \$20 each from 9844 2498. The fund will provide an annual grant to promising Warrandyte or Park Orchards students in either the performing arts or hospitality fields.

Joey's

A new Joey Scout Group for boys and girls aged 6 and 7 is commencing in Warrandyte this month. Call Margaret Randall on 9842 1293.

Concert

Following the Senior Citizens variety night in February, their concert party will begin rehearsing a new show. If you like to dance, sing, play an instrument or tell a joke, drop in to their rehearsals on Monday afternoons at their centre in Tarooma Avenue. Call Maisie Temple on 9844 1411 or 9844 2437 for further information. The club is celebrating the International Year of the Older Person in 1999.

Rotary

In addition to donating \$1000 to Warrandyte CFA for firefighting equipment (see Page 3), the Rotary Club of Warrandyte has given \$2000 to the Warrandyte Food Bank for Christmas hampers for those in need and \$1000 to the community garden project.

Carols

Because of rain, fewer people than usual attended the annual carols by candlelight, held at the Community Church in December. The Interchurch Council has asked us to thank the community for their support and generous donations to the Christmas Bowl Appeal: \$313 was collected.

Bowls

The final of the Warrandyte Senior Citizens carpet bowls championship was held on Saturday, January 9, with Fred Knibbs taking out first place and Martin Quarendon coming in second.

Minister

The Uniting Church minister, Rev Trevor Williams, has retired due to the short illness and sudden death of his wife Ann. In the meantime, Rev Alan Reid is ministering to the



Fred Knibbs, winner of the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Bowls Championship, with runner-up Martin Quarendon and club president, Isabelle Bradord.



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.

church and a committee has been appointed to seek a new minister.

Readings

Marion Winton (9844 2971) is organising another night of public readings by local authors—titled A Grand Read—to be held at the Grand Hotel during the Warrandyte Festival in March. While there will be some local professional writers participating, the majority are enthusiastic amateurs and Marion is hoping new writers will feel encouraged to come forward. Please call her if you're interested.

Fair

Park Orchards' ever-popular Strawberry Fair is coming up again, at St Anne's School, Knees Road, Park Orchards on Saturday, March 13. All enquiries concerning stalls should go to Janet Forde, telephone 9876 1862.

Dance

A family social dance is held in the South Warrandyte Hall, Hall Road, South Warrandyte on the second Saturday of each month, commencing at 8pm. An excellent band plays music for both modern and old-time dancing. Admission is \$5, BYO supper, tea and coffee provided. The next dances will be on Saturdays, February 13 and March 13. Enquiries to 9723 3892.

Badminton

Social badminton is continuing each Wednesday night in the Uniting Church Hall in Tarooma Avenue. Cost is \$2 per person, per night. All ages are welcome. For further information call John Hanson on 9844 3906.

Disco

Warrandyte Blue Light Dance Party presents the Victoria Police rock band—Code 1—at the Warrandyte Primary School on Friday, February 12 between 6 and 10pm. Admission \$5, food and drink available. No alcohol.

Neighbours

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, as well as providing a number of classes in a variety of interest areas, runs an occasional childcare centre, a sole parents support group, the book exchange and a "local jobs for local people" employment service. They can be contacted on 9844 1839.

Millenium

Business Victoria is holding a free business information session and demonstration to help with Year 2000—"millenium bug"—computer compliancy works in Warrandyte. It will be at the Grand Hotel on Wednesday, March 10. The first part of the evening—4 to 5pm—is an information session, followed by the workshop—5 to 7pm.

Paper

Manningham's next waste paper pick-ups will be on Friday, February 19 and Friday, March 19.

Copies

John Hanson has asked us to thank those people who rang offering spare copies of the *Warrandyte Diary*. He now has a complete set from the first edition in December 1970.

Visiting

The St Johns Ambulance Visiting Friends program is seeking volunteers. This usually entails an hour or two once a fortnight or month to support a resident—taking them to medical appointments, on outings or just providing some company. Offers of help to Visiting Friends, PO Box 254, Lilydale 3140 or call 9736 2130.

A Capella

An on-going A Capella singing

group has formed in Croydon, meeting on Tuesday evenings. Learn new songs and skills in a friendly atmosphere. Call Alannah Sheridan on 9722 1402 (AH).

Gallery

Manningham Gallery is holding a summer show of works by the members and tutors of the Doncaster and Templestowe Arts Society from February 10 to 21. On Wednesday, February 17, at 1pm, there will be a talk and demonstration by artist and tutor Sandra Harvie. Further information from 9840 9367.

Grandparents

As part of the International Year of the Older Person, a grandparent of the year competition has been organised. It will be launched in the Melbourne Town Hall on Sunday, May 23. The quest will mark the significant contribution made by older people to the community and/or their families. Further information from Grandparent of the Year, PO Box 232, Lilydale 3140 or the Arthritis Foundation, 9530 0255.

Abuse

Advocates for Survivors of Child Abuse will next meet at St Thomas More's Church, Reynolds Lane, Belgrave on Friday, February 12. Ring Gwen on 9754 8987 for further information.

Tell us

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

Newsletters

Looking for a simple way to keep the *Diary* informed of your group's activities? Put us on your newsletter mailing list.



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57 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Phone 9844 4148

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You win one, lose some

Mixed results for Redbacks in big Eltham tournament

By DAMIAN ARSENIS

Warrandyte Basketball Club experienced both high and lows at the Eltham Wildcats' Australia Day Weekend Tournament.

The high was the grand final triumph of Lorraine Parfitt's U14C girls, who played exceptional basketball throughout the weekend.

They were unbeaten heading into the final and after some nail-biting round-robin games, the Redbacks were able to secure the premiership in what was a very promising start to the girls' 1999 championship season campaign.

Malcolm Anderson's U20B men went into the tournament with high expectations. Playing South Australian side Norwood first up, they were able to peg back what seemed like a winning lead to steal the win.

A missed free throw by Norwood sparked a Redback's fast break and a Ben Walsham lay-up in the dying seconds got Warrandyte home by one point. Gaining momentum, the men scrapped their way to a comfortable 31-22 win against Waverley in their second game and escaped with a draw against arch rivals Hurstbridge after blowing an early lead.

After accounting for Sherbourne 42-28, the Redbacks were rematched against Norwood in the semi-finals and laid claim to the title by destroying the opposition defences for an imposing 41-26 victory after being inseparable

SPORT



at the half.

Unfortunately, they were unable to carry that form into the grand final against Montmorency and fell short 33-24 despite a late fightback.

Warrandyte will now look to making amends in the upcoming season.

The U12 girls of Paul Haskings improved rapidly over the weekend but were unable to record a win. They were beaten 12-8 by Manningham then thumped by the highly-skilled Healesville and Darebin teams.

The girls were looking good against Hawthorn East in their fourth game of the day but were pipped on the post by a solitary point in a heart-breaker after leading for most of the first half.

In their last game of the tournament, against Waverley, the young Redbacks started enthusiastically to stay in touch early. But Waverley proved too big and strong and won comfortably, 32-11.

Re-entering the basketball stage after an extended break, the U14B boys of Gavin Whitmore finished the weekend with two wins from five games. Facing Healesville first up, the Redbacks' lack of match fitness showed in their first outing as Healesville powered home to win 28-24, but they atoned with back-to-back successes against Manningham and the Waverley Falcons.

Facing Banksia next up, the Redbacks blew a 10-nil lead to

lose 35-24 and surrender their chance of playing in the finals. They saved their best basketball of the tournament until last, going down by just three points to undefeated Benalla.

It was a character-building exercise for the team, the players still learning to adapt to each other's game.

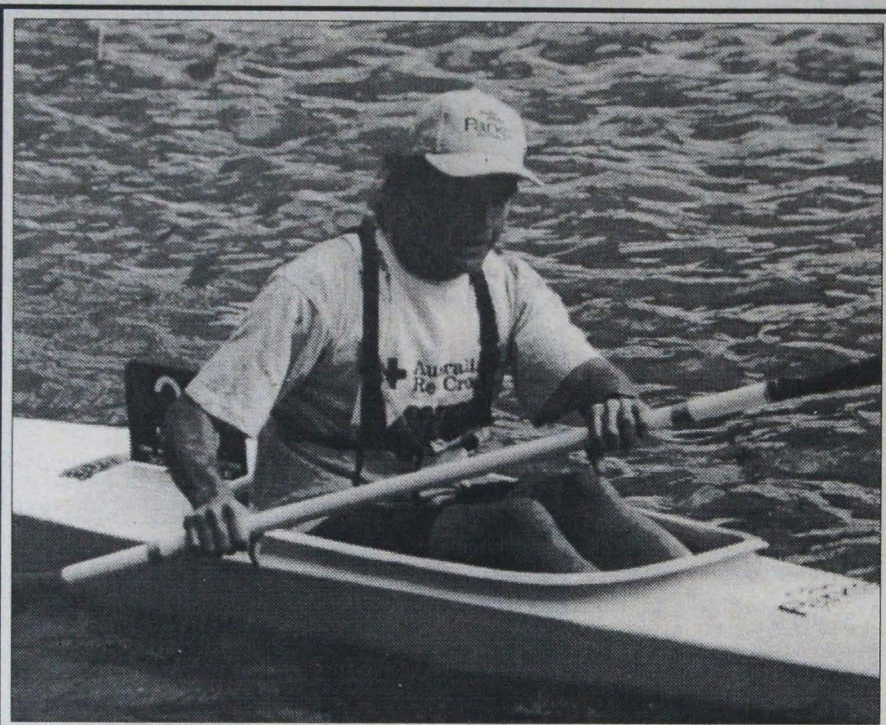
Fatigue cost the U12 boys of Tristan Messerle dearly, lack of fitness exposed in close finishes. After losing narrowly to Hurstbridge, the boys were overrun by a very quick Kilsyth team then blew a half-time lead to fall by the narrowest of margins in their third game.

Against Waverley, the boys finally looked like breaking through for their first win of the year, but injuries and fatigue told on them again.

After an overnight rest, Warrandyte came out and played brilliantly against Collingwood. Dominating every facet of the game, they took a commanding early lead, but missed opportunities in the second half cost the game, coach Messerle swearing there was Gladwrap over the rings!

Despite a losing weekend, the boys played some great basketball and will continue to improve.

Dianne Godwin's inexperienced but very enthusiastic U10 girls learnt the harsh realities of tournament competition against bigger and older opponents. In their first tournament ever, the girls displayed great courage, determination and improvement and will be all the better for the big-time experience.



Murray Marathon winner Phil Hamer. He won't be resting on his paddles.

Marathon man triumphs in Old Man Murray epic

By RACHEL BAKER

Most of us spend our Christmas and New Year break relaxing. We head off to the beach, share time with family and friends.

Not so Warrandyte adventurer Phil Hamer, who spent the five days between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve paddling a kayak in the Red Cross Murray Marathon from Yarrowonga to Swan Hill—and winning his section.

Phil, ranger in charge at Yarra Valley Park, took 35 hours three minutes and one second to complete the 404-kilometre test of stamina, winning the Men's Veteran 40s division and also raising money for the Red Cross.

On New Year's Eve, the final day of the race, after paddling an average of 81 kilometres a day for five days, and crossing the line first after 10 attempts, you could have been for-

given for thinking that Phil would be celebrating not only the beginning of another year but the end of his gruelling training and racing schedule.

Not so. He was already thinking about the next Murray Marathon. He plans to defend his title ... "once I forget how bad the pain is".

Other than "stupidity", Phil says the friendship is what makes him do it. "You really get to know a lot of people, it's a really social thing," he said.

There's also the element of charity and, thanks to a donation from the Warrandyte Lions Club, Phil raised \$240 for the Red Cross.

Apart from being able to get up at 5.15 every morning to train, Phil says competing again next year depends on sponsorship and help from a "land crew"—in this case his partner Mitzi, who met him at checkpoints throughout each day of the race.

It's a goer!

Work on the new basketball stadium at Andersons Creek Primary School started on Monday, February 8, with a sod-turning ceremony.

After many years of waiting and lobbying, Warrandyte Basketball Club are now assured of a home of their own.

Current facilities at Warrandyte High School will be used in conjunction with the new court and Donvale Sports Complex. The new stadium is expected to be finished by the end of August.

Put your name down for new basketball season

Warrandyte's registration day for the 1999 EDJBA winter season will be held from 10am to 5pm on Saturday, February 13, at the high school.

Registrations cover boys and girls from Under-9s through to Under-19s and all skill levels are catered for.

Contacts: Boys—Jenny Brown 9437 0153; girls—Kerry Singh 9844 3583.

Special "mosquito fleet" clinics to introduce basketball to children aged between five to 10 begin on February 22 and will run until the next school holidays.

They will be held from 4-5pm at Donvale Sports Complex (former Mallauna College) in Springvale Road.

For further information or to book a place phone Damian Arsenis on 9846 7640 or 0418 995 663.

Long wait over for sixth tennis court

Warrandyte Tennis Club's long-awaited sixth court is finished at last.

"Squeezed in" at the Taroona Avenue end of the existing complex, it will be officially opened by local MP Phil Honeywood on Friday, February 19, at 7.30pm.

The club began campaigning for additional courts as far back as 1991. With more than 750 members, including many juniors, it has had to

hire a number of outside courts to accommodate its many players, especially on Saturday mornings.

"Although some outside courts will still be needed, the new court will go a long way to relieving the pressure for playing space," a club spokesperson said.

All club members and friends are invited to the opening.

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Race Cars, Pool, Juke Box & Giveaways

Down, not quite out, but Warrandyte's finals hope forlorn

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte Cricket Club have all but conceded defeat in their race for the RDCA Chandler Shield finals.

With a game and a half of the home-and-away season to go, the Bushrangers have won four and lost five and captain-coach Paul Montgomery admits they would have to be "very lucky" to make the finals.

"Seven wins and four losses would just about assure you of a place," Montgomery said.

"We would have to win our last two, perhaps both of them outright, and have other results go our way."

Warrandyte were still realistic chances until the game against Wantirna South, played over the last two Saturdays in January.

"At that stage, there were eight teams in the finals running and we were sixth among those eight, just a game out of the four," Montgomery said.

Dytes need luck and plenty of it!

SPORT

But unfortunately the Bushrangers failed in the run chase.

"A lot of players got up and made runs but no one really went on to a big score and that

was disappointing," said Montgomery.

"The outcome of that match was decided in the second half of the first day, which was a bit unfortunate."

"Wantirna South batted on the first day. They were 2/96 at tea and then they really got ahead. Their captain made 100."

Greg Tregear took the bowling honours with 4/69 and Adam White chipped in with 2/53 as Wantirna South were dismissed for 285. Warrandyte managed only 217 in reply, Jon Sharman topscoring with 42 and pace bowler Gerald Walshe contributing 33.

The latest game, against Kilsyth is evenly poised, Warrandyte setting a target of 213 thanks to a personal best score for the club of 84 by White.

"We batted quite well," said Montgomery.

"Adam and Greg Tregear batted very well and Greg got out in unfortunate circumstances."

"It was an lbw decision that was a little bit dubious. He was

a little bit unlucky.

"We were 5/104 at tea and finished at 212. We had three overs at them and they're 0/2."

"Kilsyth are a good team, we got a good score and now the job is ahead of them. They have some of the best batsmen in the competition."

Montgomery said that despite a disappointing season, there was no question of Warrandyte being relegated from the top competition.

And of the composition of the final four: "The top three teams are pretty well safe. It's just other teams contesting for that fourth spot."

"We were challenging Wantirna South for their spot, now we're challenging Kilsyth for theirs."

Cricket details

Warrandyte 217 (Sharman 42, Walshe 33) lost to Wantirna South 285 (Tregear 4/69, White 2/53) and 2/79.

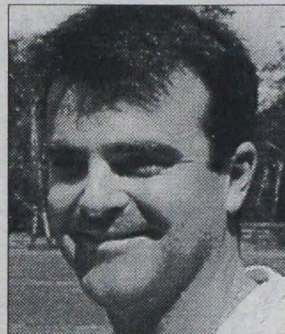
Warrandyte 212 (white 84, Tregear 29, Jason Graf 24) v Kilsyth 0/2.



Paul Montgomery: Other results would have to go our way.



Greg Tregear. 'A little bit unlucky'.



Jon Sharman. Topscored against Wantirna South.

A lighter shade of red and white

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club will unveil a brand new look this month—an alternative jumper for night and away games.

"We are Warrandyte, we are the good old red and white" will prevail in the club song, but the traditional red with the white "V" becomes predominately white.

The new jumper will be launched on February 24 at a sponsors night at the Grand Hotel hosted by *Diary* staffer and ABC sportscaster Clinton Grybas.

It will debut in the Bloods' historic, season-opening night match against Wantirna South at home on Saturday, April 10.

"We are introducing this jumper for a couple of reasons," WFC president Jeff Evans told the *Diary*.

"For one thing, the red jumper does not show up all that well under lights. We saw that in the ground-breaking Under-18s game against Fairpark last season.

"The new one—the very latest material with screen-printed sponsors' logos—will be far more conspicuous. And if the interest being expressed even at this stage in the April 10 game is any indication, night football could become very big in Warrandyte.

"Another reason is that a number of other teams in EFL Third Division wear colours similar to ours. When we're playing away we'll now be very distinguishable.

"The alternative away jumper is in no way intended or should be perceived to be replacing the time-honoured red with the white V. However, it should be seen more as enhancing the spectacle, especially when playing teams with similar colours."

The game against Wantirna South will be a senior underlights first not only for Warrandyte but for the EFL itself and the Bloods expect a huge crowd. The league will videotape the match and screen it on Channel 31 the

following Saturday.

Warrandyte will lead up to the big event with Saturday practice matches against Doncaster on March 20, Upwey Tecoma on March 27 and the ultimate try-out, a night affair against Rowville on Wednesday, March 31. All games are at home.

Coach Lex Munro, who led the Bloods into third place last year after qualifying them second, will preside over a special team meeting on Monday, February 15, to map out the 1999 season. And the strong feeling around the club is that it will be a very successful season.

"All last year's senior players have committed themselves for the new season and our ranks will be bolstered by the return of at least three former seniors," Evans said.

"We are also talking to half a dozen very good prospective recruits, two of them from First Division.

"We still have a lot of hard work ahead, but I'm sure it will be a very good year for the Bloods," he said.

"We are, however, in desperate need of general help around the club and I appeal to supporters and former players to assist wherever possible."



WFC president Jeff Evans: 'I'm sure it will be a very good year for the Bloods.'

No takers for premier job

You would think that a lot of people would want to jump aboard Warrandyte Junior Football Club's Under-17 premier-ship bandwagon. You would be wrong.

Despite the Colts' glorious victory in last season's Yarra Junior Football League grand final, there are no takers for the team's coaching job for 1999.

The all-conquering 1998 boys are now Under-18s and coach Greg Alchin has moved up with them to further shape their football careers and ensure an

ongoing flow of young talent into the senior ranks.

The only expression of interest in the Under-17s job has come from outside Warrandyte.

"We'd like to keep it within Warrandyte if we can," said WJFC coaching coordinator Anthony Mirabella.

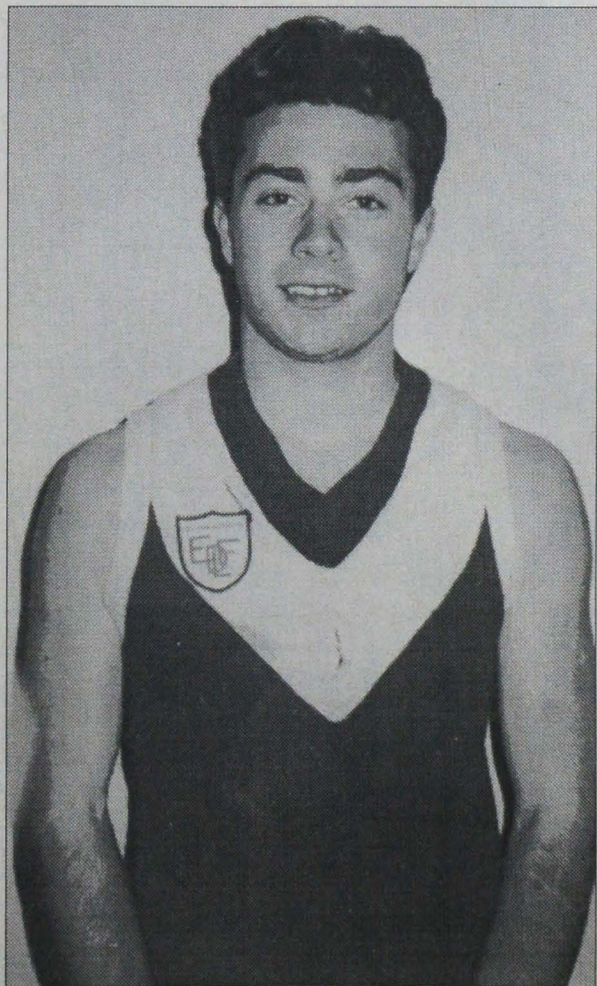
"However well-meaning and dedicated they may be, a lot of out-of-town coaches have an unfortunate habit of taking a lot of young talent with them when they return to their former clubs.

"So we're desperately looking for the right person to replace Greg, and we're in a similar situation with the Under-15s.

"Ideally, a couple of senior players would find the time to take over these sides."

Anyone interested in coaching either side—or any of the eight other teams the club intend to field in the YJFL this season—is invited to contact Mirabella on 9844 2623.

Registration day for the juniors is February 28, 10 to noon, at the clubrooms.



The traditional Warrandyte jumper, as worn by rising young star Liam Riley.

Casino express leaves soon

There is still time to get aboard the bus for Warrandyte Football Club's Crown Casino night on Wednesday, February 10.

The bus leaves from the clubrooms at 6.30 and the \$20

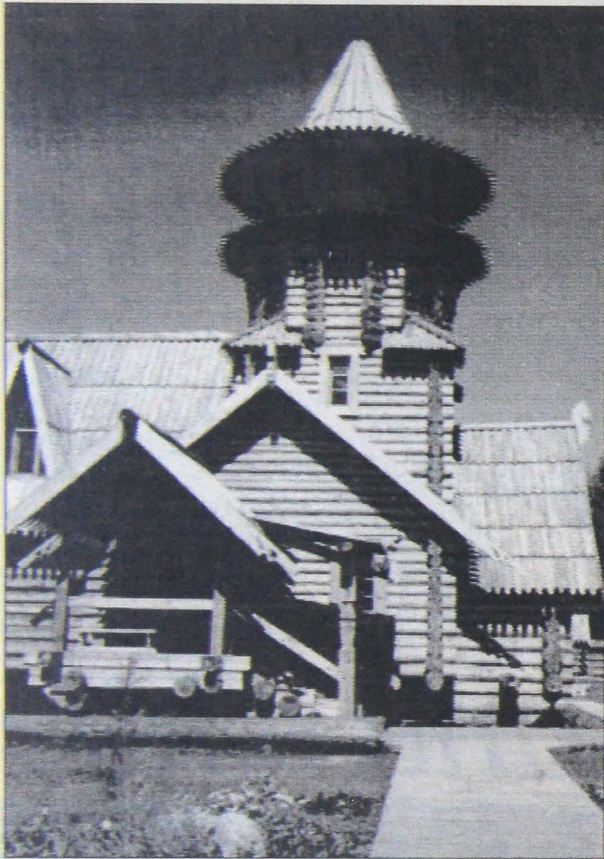
return fare gets you beer and champagne on the trip and a meal at the casino.

Your fortunes at the pokies and tables will, of course, be in your own hands.



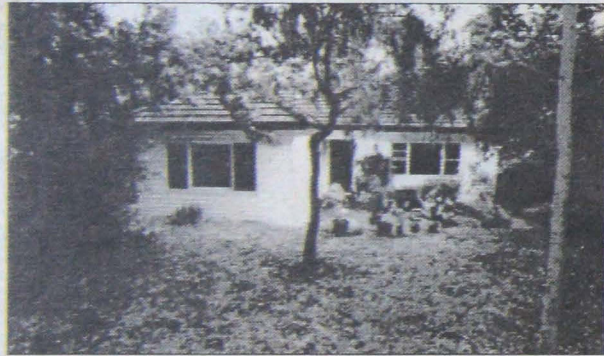
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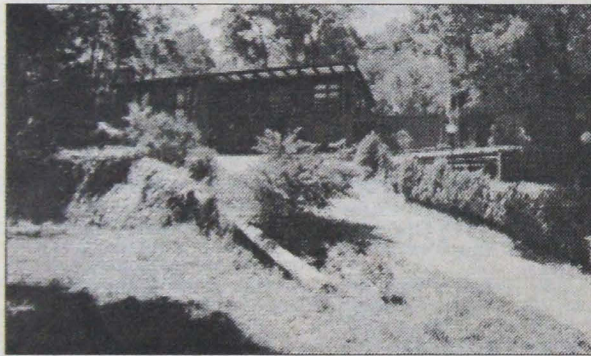


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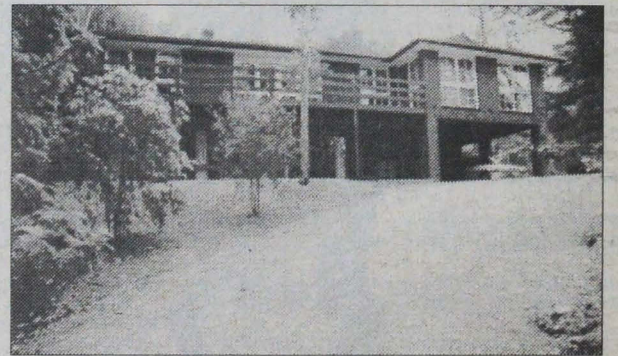
Let our experience be your reward.



3 bedroom character cottage \$175,000



4 bedroom brick home on 1/2 acre \$225,000



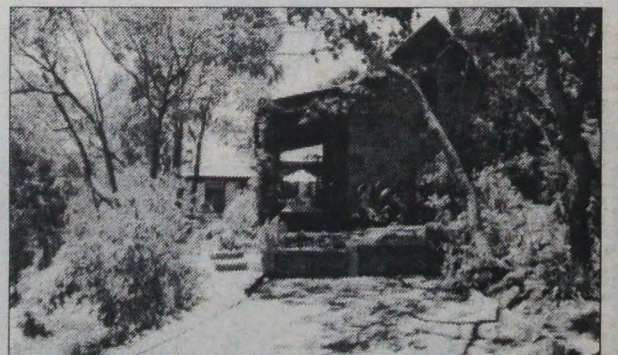
4 BR brick on 1/3 acre close to Yarra \$249,000



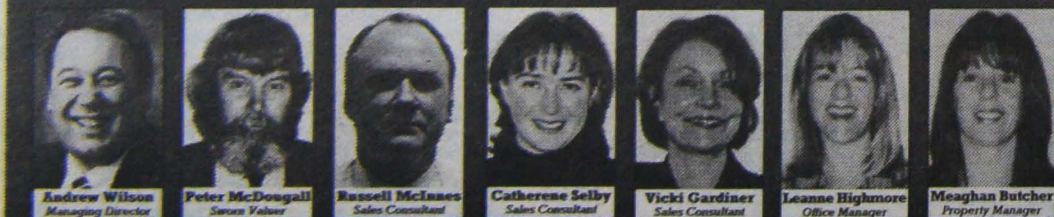
30sq home on 1/2 acre with IG pool \$295,000



2 x 10 acre allotments AUCTION 13/3 \$270,000+



Unique mud brick on 1 acre AUCTION 13/3 \$400,000+



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Together we'll make it happen