

Call for 'concrete' changes

By DAVID WYMAN

The two main environment groups in Warrandyte have slammed the new roundabout as being "disrespectful to our cherished environment and streetscape" and a "suburbanisation of that corner—just dreadful".

Both groups have told the *Diary* that they were never asked by Manningham council to join its consultation process.

The Warrandyte Awareness Group has written to Manningham council criticising signage, the concrete content and lighting at the roundabout.

The Warrandyte Advisory Committee, set up to advise councils on both sides of the river on environmental design, was never invited to join the roundabout's "reference panel" or to view the plans.

When it saw the beginnings of the use of mass concrete in January, WAC sent an urgent fax to council requesting a meeting on site before further work took place. It received a reply near the end of February, when work had finished.

"WAC was never consulted nor did we see a plan of the roundabout," Bev Hanson, a member of WAC told the *Diary*. "We realise now we have to be involved in anything in Warrandyte involving council's engineering department."

Warrandyte Awareness Group's Peter Curry said: "Our group, along with other residents, did not envisage the finished product would be so disrespectful to our cherished environment and streetscape."

"We feel that the council have delivered an 'off-the-shelf' ultra-urban package, vastly unsuited to the site. We would like to ensure that a compromise can be reached."

"While it was a great pity the roundabout went ahead against many residents' and ratepayers' wishes, we are further saddened by the apparent lack of

Roundabout row

CLYDE & OCKER



"Whaddya know, Ock? The ring road's already here!!"

blends in better," she said. "I was never against the roundabout—traffic had to be slowed down. But now just the look of it—the suburbanisation of that corner—is just dreadful. If it was a low key roundabout like the one at the other end of town, no-one would have minded. But now we've got concrete paths everywhere."

Cr Patricia Young said she had received very positive feedback from residents near the corner, as well as the CFA and motorists, who all said how wonderful it was now there were no traffic holdups in peak hours, and the traffic moved very smoothly around the corner.

"The two large VicRoads freeway signs on entering the roundabout both ends, I have been advised, will be moved eventually. They are only there to alert drivers of the new traffic movements on this corner," she said.

Cr Young said the construction materials for the roundabout had been selected to meet the engineering guidelines for traffic loading and safety of vehicles and pedestrians using the intersection, and the requirements to address ongoing maintenance requirements. "The concrete footpaths are also necessary for wheelchairs and motorised scooters to be able to move easily on the surface of the footpath," she said.

"When the proposed landscaping is completed this will reduce the visual aspect of the paving works and assist in the enhancement of the local environment in keeping with the green character of Warrandyte," Cr Young said.

Rob Kilkenny, captain of Warrandyte Fire Brigade, was pleased with the roundabout. "There is no traffic build-up there now—no bottlenecks—and it doesn't present any problems for us," he said.

regard for Warrandyte's rustic and informal character. Through conversations and meetings with various council staff, we were assured that careful and proper regard would be given to the visual and environmental impact of the roundabout. This regard is not evident," Peter Curry said.

"The paths surrounding the roundabout are in complete contrast to the existing Warrandyte identity and impart an urban vista," WAG's letter to council stated.

WAG also sought a reduction in lighting at the roundabout and involvement in decisions about plantings at the site.

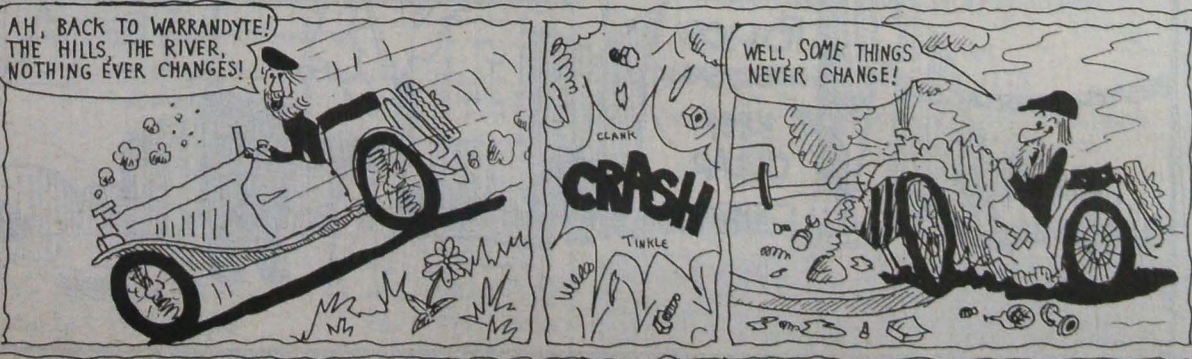
Bev Hanson of WAC criticised the concrete footpaths at the roundabout. "They've put concrete where there were perfectly good footpaths compatible with Warrandyte," she said.

"Nobody realised there was going to be so much concrete. We are going to see if we can get council to coat the concrete with colour seal so that it

WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL COMPLETE PROGRAM INSIDE

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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The curious revenge of a modest Page 2 superstar



Page 2 resident celebrity and cult figure Neil "Bozo" Dusting had waited years to get square with his mate Kevin Close, whom he blamed, rightly or wrongly, for reporting his every misadventure and foible to your columnist. Neil had done plenty of reporting himself, accusing Smokey, rightly or wrongly, of outrageous bias in suppressing anti-Kevin episodes while over-exposing his own regular brushes with absurdity. Anyhow, Bozo thought his big moment had arrived the other Sunday as he drove past the Goldfields Plaza and spotted Closey helping his mate, caretaker/curator Denis Clark, mow the lawns. Gripped by a curious news sense, our hero dashed home, grabbed his camera and photographed the event. "Got you this time, Closey!" he hollered and couldn't wait to get on the phone to us. "You've got to publish this, you've just got to!" he said. Why? "Can't you see? This is big stuff! Why would a recently-retired school principal on a huge superannuation payout be mowing lawns on a Sunday morning when he should be at church? And there's the obvious connection. Kevin and Denis. Kevin Denis. Would you buy a used car—or even a used lawnmower—from either of these men?" (For the benefit of those who were not yet born, Kevin Dennis was a high-flying Melbourne used-car dealer many years ago.) We said thanks very much Bozo and yes, we'd run the picture because it'd make a nice change from koalas. Unfortunately, we still don't get it.



IN RED & WHITE



Neil Dusting's singularly unsensational snapshot. What's it all about, Bozo?

our popular policewoman. As we mentioned last time, Kim's fiancé, Detective Chris Bridger, has volunteered to go under the razor himself if an extra \$1000 can be raised. Based on crowd estimates in the thousands, the night game promises to give the appeal a mighty boost and if we were Kim we'd be shopping around for a wig.



If you've not yet done your bit for Crop a Cop by investing in a bottle (or two or several) of the local RSL Club's Kim Dixon commemorative port, you'll get your chance during the Warrandyte Festival. The RSL chaps will be manning a mobile booth selling this very fine Rutherglen drop bottled and labelled specially for the appeal. At just \$9.50 a bottle you'd have to be nuts to say no.



Voice quavering with emotion and excitement, Easyrider, our man on the buses, phoned in the other day with his solution to road rage. "Mate," he said (bypassing the protocol of an employee-employer relationship), "a little grey car passed us on the freeway today and its licence plate was 'LUVVU2'. Love you too, get it? Now if you had a prang

with this car and its driver was patently at fault, would you get out and beat his or her brains to a pulp with a tyre lever? Course you wouldn't. You'd shake hands, say not to worry, none of us is perfect, and go on your way (provided your own vehicle was still driveable). I'm writing to Jeff Kennett suggesting that little red love hearts be compulsory on all licence plates!" Thank you, Easyrider, but we've already knocked out waiting for the meek to inherit the Earth.



It takes a lot—even more than an arm broken in two places—to take young Lachlan Gardener's mind off his school and his studies. Warrandyte Primary deputy principal Darryl Furze drove Lachlan to Maroondah Hospital after the playground accident and when the name of Mark and Kylie Gardener's son was called in the waiting room he said "Present".



We'd never imagined Gus McLaren as royalty material and it seems the mantle of Warrandyte Festival King sits a trifle uneasily on the shoulders of one of the few fair-dinkum characters this town has left.

We hear the prospect of presiding over this month's festival with his Queen and long-time partner Denise Farran has made him a touch testy, to the point of his pals dubbing him King Grumblebum. But you can bet good old lovable Gus will be a very fine monarch indeed. He's already had a practice run. At the local market on March 6, a lot of wags were bowing and scraping in his path.



Who said vaudeville was dead? It's alive and well and living in Warrandyte in the shape of The Laxettes. A Warrandyte Arts Association theatre group quartet which has burgeoned into a septet, they're singing up a storm at parties around town and now consider themselves ready to go on the road. Rae Danks, Libby Skeels, Gail McRae, Sue Dyring, Sue Davies, Phil Swindley and Alison Leitchford knocked 'em dead at Ken Virtue's 50th birthday last month and at a follow-up gig for their pianist Jack Stringer's 55th and retirement. Parodies are their forte and you can have them at your party by phoning Rae on 9844 3819. And why The Laxettes? Because to see and hear them perform can be a very moving experience.



Hugh McSpedden, who produces the Warrandyte Festival Light and Sound Show, is looking for help to emulate the spectacular effects of last year's extravaganza. No expertise required, just a willingness to be part of a team. If you'd like to lend a hand (and remember that many hands make light and sound work), give Hugh a call on 9844 3558.



And the pride of Joan MacMahon's native garden behind the community centre right now is the Fairy Fan-flower. "Still in beautiful bloom after these scorching summer days," says Joan, "this is a low, spreading, herbaceous plant covered with masses of mauve flowers reminiscent of a fan or an outstretched hand. Great for softening a path or a driveway edge, you'll find it by the steps leading up to Mitchell Avenue."



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EDITORS: Cliff Green and Loe Tindale
PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd, (A.C.N. 006 886 826) as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.
EDITORIAL: Chief of staff Jan Tindale, 9844 3719.
ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Rae Danks, 9844 3819 or 0414 745 212.
CIRCULATION: Peter Norman, 9844 3268.
FAX: Editorial and Advertising, 9844 4168.
DIARY OFFICE: 168-178 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 9844 0555
INTERNET EDITOR: Sandy Burgoyne, 9844 2680
EMAIL ADDRESS: thediary@vicnet.net.au
INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/
PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder, 9725 6699.
PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, 9417 2766.

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

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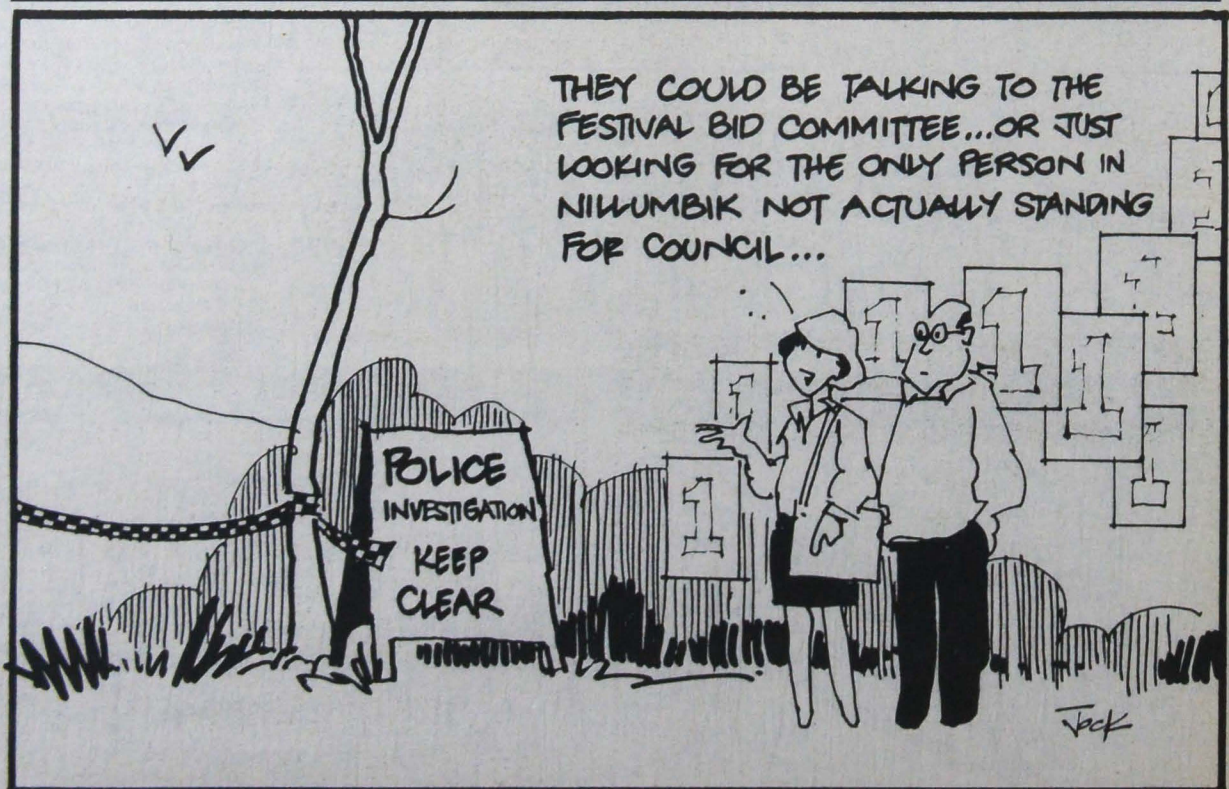
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OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



THEY COULD BE TALKING TO THE FESTIVAL BID COMMITTEE...OR JUST LOOKING FOR THE ONLY PERSON IN NILLUMBIK NOT ACTUALLY STANDING FOR COUNCIL...

Jack

Qualified support on dual occupancy

By DAVID WYMAN

Uncertainty exists about the future of the ban on dual occupancy housing in Warrandyte township, following release of the findings of an advisory panel on Manningham council's new format planning scheme.

Under the current Doncaster and Templestowe Planning Scheme, Warrandyte is protected from dual occupancy by its Environmental Residential Zone.

But the new Victoria Planning Provisions, introduced last year, have produced a small number of new residential zones which Manningham council believed had no controls to prohibit dual occupancy.

In formulating its new Manningham Planning Scheme, council staff introduced their own new zone, Special Use Zone, to protect Warrandyte township and other areas of the municipality from denser housing developments.

The Minister for Planning's panel and advisory committee, which reviewed the new Manningham Planning Scheme, has now released its report which has noted council concerns about dual occupancy and denser housing, and supports its contention that an Environmental Residential Zone should be explored as part of future

refinements of the Victoria Planning Provisions.

It has replaced council's Special Use Zone with a Residential 1 Zone and that is where the uncertainty lies.

The panel has recommended that "the Special Use Zone 3 (including Warrandyte township) be altered to Residential 1 Zones with appropriate overlays to maintain controls over intensity of development. These overlays can mirror the existing scheme provisions".

It also recommends that "the overlays to limit development intensity in environmentally sensitive residential areas should be reviewed within three years to see if there is a better way of achieving the existing strategic intent of preserving these areas".

Apart from the panel's report, it is understood that the Department of Planning and Local Government believes that the use of land (including dual occupancy housing) can be controlled by overlays. This is contrary to the advice given to council before it prepared its new planning scheme—hence introduction of the Special Use Zone.

Now, Manningham council will have to sort out with the department how, and which, overlays protect land from denser housing.

The panel's report says that "an overlay can specify that only one dwelling can be developed on a lot even if no permit is required to use the land for the additional dwelling".

Meanwhile, local councillor Patricia Young told the *Diary* that councillors had not yet had a briefing on the panel's finding.

"I would like to state again that I am against dual occupancy in the Warrandyte township, due to its character, that is river, lovely bush, open space and lack of infrastructure to support any further housing development, which in turn would put an extra strain on our roads, lack of sewerage in some areas and an increase in pollution," she said.

"As I understand it, the panel has recommended Residential Zone 1 for the township. I will be working closely with the council planning division to make sure the overlays that are available will guarantee that council will have a tight control over any developments in the Warrandyte township that might jeopardise the lifestyle of our residents and of future generations.

"I understand the panel supports the Green Wedge totally, and suggests that the boundaries should stay as is. I will have more information after our briefing."



Record field seeks votes

By FIA CLENDINEN

A huge field of candidates is standing for election in the current Nillumbik elections.

Eighty hopefuls are contesting the nine council seats. "As far as we are aware it is a record number of candidates in Victoria," a spokeswoman for the Local Government Branch told the *Diary*. "This is indicative of an active community, absolutely, and we welcome that."

In the ward of Sugarloaf, which includes North Warrandyte, Research and Kangaroo Ground, voters will have nine candidates to choose from. Twenty-seven people are offering themselves as potential shire-wide councillors.

Mike Hill, secretary of the Victorian Local Government Association, said the large field was not unusual. "When the Darebin council was eventually returned to democracy a large number of candidates evolved there, too," he pointed out. Seventy-four candidates nominated for the Darebin local government elections last year, after the sacking of the councillors.

"It seems to me that every time the Minister for Planning and Local Government dismisses a council, the one thing you can guarantee is that there will be a surfeit of democracy to follow," said Mr Hill.

But Mr Hill agreed voters could easily feel confused by the large number of candidates.

"Yes, it's going to be difficult. There will be some people out there who will be unknown and voters won't have much opportunity to get to know them."

Voters should judge candidates by their track record, advised Mr Hill. "If there are people who have been trying and working for issues that you feel are important, I think you really need to stick with them," he said.

He stressed the importance of preferences. "If you see the opportunity of someone quite new and fresh and who looks competent coming forward then by all means give them your first preferences. Maybe give your second preferences to the tried and true candidate."

The issue of political parties involving themselves in local councils is controversial, with many in the community strongly against it. But Mr Hill takes the opposite view.

"It's not a popular cause, but I'm one who believes that parties should get involved in local government. At present you've got people from all parties running for election in local government, but you haven't got a clue that they are a member of the Liberal, National or Labor Party. You subsequently find out. If they were nominating and declaring themselves at the election time, you'd know exactly what you've got."

Dr Nick Economou, lecturer in politics at Monash University, said Nillumbik ratepayers needed to realise how much

councils' functions had changed over past years.

"If the state government wants to bring in administrators, it can. Even if it wanted to redraw boundaries, it could. I think there's a very strong sense in which the local government sector in Victoria feels that its power, its relevance, its influence, its importance, has been eroded."

He said that these changes meant that residents could no longer expect so much from their councillors.

"The community can't blame councillors if they can't deliver on the manifestoes that they have put up. Because the abilities of councils to respond to these things has been constrained substantially by the state government. And then of course you get to the situation where the state government will say, 'we don't like how you guys are operating, we'll just close you down.' Which really has profoundly anti-democratic connotations, when you think about it."

Dr Economou pointed out this lack of respect for local government was bipartisan. "Every government, regardless of its political persuasion, has always meddled with local government. They just can't help themselves. Labour has put administrators in as well. It's not purely a Liberal thing that we're talking about here."

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● Where they stand: Page 5



King Gus and Queen Denise: Warrandyte Festival's royal family pose with their primary school consort. (Picture by Austin Polley) ● More festival pics, stories Pages 8 and 9

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Local stands on conservation record

Nillumbik shire urgently needs leadership and good management in a non-political arena. Our council chamber should be a place of debate and good governance, where residents can attend without intimidation.

If the Green Wedge is to survive then we must elect councillors who will strive to protect the shire's unique features by supporting existing planning schemes and rejecting inappropriate development.

The threat of the ring road passing through Nillumbik shire must be addressed through maintaining meaningful dialogue with appropriate government bodies until a satisfactory solution is reached. There will always be threats to a shire as unique as ours and that is why it is imperative to have strong representation at council level. I believe that party politics has no place in local government



and unnecessary political fighting might see the ring road imposed on us.

Having lived in Warrandyte for 20 years, I believe that I have the background to fairly represent the ratepayers of Sugarloaf Ward and offer my skills in the sound management of the shire. I have been involved as a parent representative on committees within the education field from kindergarten through

to secondary level, both at the local and regional level for a total of 12 years. I have also been involved in several sporting bodies including 18 years with the Warrandyte Tennis Club, several of these on committees.

For the last six years I have participated in the North Warrandyte Landcare Group. Working within the Warrandyte State Park and council land as well as on private property, I have been able to promote the importance of growing local indigenous, low fire-risk plants. I am a member of the steering committee for the Warrandyte-Kinglake Habitat Link which involves the management of an NHT grant of \$194,000 for works along the Yarra River from Warrandyte, up Watsons Creek to Kinglake. The first Community Fireguard group in Warrandyte was initiated by

DEAR DIARY

me and I have maintained a good relationship with our local CFA.

Having been employed as a business administrator for 15 years, I have sound management skills, which will be vital in getting our council back on track.

I believe that I have the expertise, localised knowledge and the desire to represent the ratepayers of Nillumbik in Sugarloaf Ward. I will bring to the council integrity and non-party political honesty and to that end I offer myself as your candidate for Sugarloaf Ward.

Ruth Rankin
Osborne Road



Considering Warrandyte's ambience, the roundabout is jarring and should not have been so designed—nor remain as it is. The semi-rural, naturally-treed environment has been damaged. With some extra will, surely Mr Ashford could have saved at least the perfectly healthy, large native specimen on the north side. Its stump remains, contributing to the gradual erosion of that special essence of bush that, to me, makes Warrandyte.

I'm angry about tree loss, as Mr Ashford stated to me in August that it may well be possible to save the tree. Plenty of room is now observable to the south-east for the whole roundabout to have been relocated. The construction looks over-engineered and is

a mess of white concrete. I don't feel that I can trust future Warrandyte projects to authorities without checking them. This area needs special consideration, it is not your ordinary suburban area. I have learned that the whole consultation process was quite inadequate.

We need to quickly:

- tone down of the sea of white concrete;
- make alterations to arrest traffic speed through the roundabout (currently, people driving in a smooth arc can negotiate the roundabout at 80kph or more;
- replace existing massive signs with signs probably 30-40 percent smaller.

Terry Kain
Yarra Street

Council comparison doesn't rate well

I have lived in Warrandyte for 25 years. The reason I live here is that Warrandyte is and has been recognized as the most livable town in the most livable city in the world. I have experienced and read the fear message that is being generated by your headline, (Diary, February edition) in reference to the interview with Kahn Franke and his political comments concerning the destruction of the Green Wedge in Nillumbik.

We lived in North Warrandyte for 13 years, still own property and have business interests in Eltham. In 1987 we moved over the river to Manningham. Now we receive a far superior council service. Quality appropriate human services are exceptional. Pro rata delivery is at a far cheaper annual rate than Nillumbik. How can most other shires deliver quality services at far reduced annual rates? As

an example compare 98/99 rate notices, both site valuations are about \$80,000, including garbage charge. Banyule's rate is \$678.60. Nillumbik's rate is \$1073.15, a 58 percent difference—why?

The majority of councillors in the old Nillumbik council had no perception of community need. The rate rake off; the delivery of services bear no resemblance to other shires.

The majority of councillors were sacked for the lack of good governance. They lacked the ability to understand and serve community needs.

Do not be fooled by Kahn Franke's comments of "Save the Green Wedge". We all love the Green Wedge, but these people use it as a political weapon towards their own ends.

Frank Lynch
Oakland Drive

CLYDE & OCKER

"Taught 'em all a lesson last time, Ock. Voted for Allan Border!"

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

Protecting bush and farmlands

I am standing as a local shire-wide candidate in the Nillumbik council elections.

My wife and I live in a caravan whilst owner-building our mudbrick home in the North Warrandyte bushland. We have leafy views, and eagles soar overhead from the nearby Chase Reserve.

We chose Nillumbik because, like the eagles, we need open space to survive. But bulldozing picturesque farmlands and bushlands to create more brick and tile suburbs is madness.

The residents of North Warrandyte need good continuous representation in the Nillumbik council, without the disruption caused by the state government sackings and appointment of unsympathetic commissioners. Administrator Don Gillies has the gall to state "Nillumbik has a generally negative image". Not the council, the whole of Nillumbik! (Nillumbik Update Ed 4. March 1, 1999).

I believe Nillumbik is a shining light for environmental lifestyles, and I would only change it to improve the bushland and oppose new subdivisions.

I oppose the ring road industrial corridor through Research and Kangaroo Ground which will overload council roads, increase traffic and rates and ruin North Warrandyte.

I support job creation funding, decentralised community and youth services and bushland regeneration. Lee and I are Friends of Warrandyte State Park, One Tree Hill and members of ARRO, Candlebark Community Nursery and SGAP.

Geoff Speedy
Research Road

Poles are a danger

Regarding the new roundabout at the corner of Harris Gully Road and Warrandyte Road.

As a Warrandyte resident of 24 years, I believe that this corner needed to be made safer. I think the roundabout is good, but I agree that it may have a little too much of a suburban look.

My concern is safety. I cannot believe in this day and age that we would have metal light poles in the middle of the road. Why couldn't the lights be suspended on cables from green poles situated well back in the safety of the trees on the side of the road? How long will it be before someone is killed or seriously injured when colliding with these unnecessary poles?

David Dawson
Jumping Creek Road



Death of an old 'un

Regarding the old manna gum so many people tried to save at the Harris Gully roundabout. This magnificent creation, one of nature's cathedrals, is now lying in chain-sawed pieces behind the Warrandyte CFA car park.

It was probably already a small tree when the first white explorers rode by. Perhaps they tied their horses to it while they drank from Andersons Creek.

One hundred and fifty years later the descendants of those newcomers have allowed it to be sacrificed on the altar of the Great God Car.

Joan MacMahon
Bradleys Lane

Concrete loathing

After reading the letter by John Hanson in the February issue concerning the roundabout at Harris Gully Road, I decided to write to Adrian Ashford myself. I totally agree with John.

I loathe the sight of the concrete paths and am very annoyed that they went ahead without informing the residents.

C. Murphy
Harris Gully Road

Poster apology

To those offended: The Mullum Mullum Valley Long Tunnel Campaigners apologise for any upset caused by the location of three posters along the Yarra Walk (two on rocks, one on a tree). Offence was not intended. All three posters were removed within 24 hours.

Our concern is to reduce, as much as possible, the further pressure that Warrandyte will immediately come under once the eastern freeway extension construction dates are announced.

Your Local Band of
Mullum Mullum Valley Long
Tunnel Campaigners

Flowers versus phones

As a Friend of Tindals Wildflower Reserve I am opposed to a mobile phone tower being erected alongside or within this reserve.

Whenever we have an issue that can be solved by "balancing" people and the bush, without doubt the environment loses; it is easy to reduce our natural environment in favour of people in such issues.

Surely man's technology should be man's problem and not swept out to where it will impact on special places. If we don't stand up and say no to such abuse these special places will be lost—do we want that to happen? Perhaps as a society we have to take stock and question: "Are our technologies in the long run reducing our quality of life?"

Please leave Tindals for indigenous flora and fauna.

Rosemary Buxton
East Doncaster

Facts on the Green Wedge. Are we already too late?

There is a lot of scare talk about threats to the Green Wedge which political opportunists have now linked to council sackings and the March election.

One article in the December Diary said, "If the community votes for a majority of candidates who will subdivide their land down to one acre or five acre blocks, then the Green Wedge is gone".

Such statements ignore the fact that Nillumbik is already a residential shire. About 16,000 of the 19,000 properties (84 percent) are already small suburban or township residential blocks.

Almost 90 percent of landholdings are already smaller than five acres. Only 3 percent

of properties are larger than ten hectares and only 1 percent is larger than 40 hectares.

The sacked Nillumbik council also unanimously approved the new planning scheme wherein house blocks can be as small as 200 sq metres and units crowd already densely settled areas.

The vision of Nillumbik as some kind of rural utopia is actually a myth supported by an elitist few who expect the majority of suburban residents and a few struggling farmers to finance their impossible dreams.

Far from being the "lungs of Melbourne" the trees of Nillumbik act as a carbon sink to absorb the pollution of the local car-dependent, high consuming, affluent society.

It is debatable whether "green" depends on size of site or rather on green industries, autonomous housing and a non-polluting lifestyle.

Potential councillors might be equally concerned about the increase in muggings, vandalism, stealing and gambling in our Green Wedge utopia.

(Statistics come from Nillumbik Environmental Incentives Working Party, final report, March 1996.)

June English
Eltham

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

Cars invade riverbank walk

In my role as community representative on Manningham City Council's Domestic Animals Steering Committee, a recent incident has been drawn to my attention. A vehicle driven by someone looking for a lost dog drove along the Warrandyte River Reserve path and nearly hit a young child. I am not surprised, and am, in fact, quite amazed there haven't been more serious incidents involving vehicles along the Stiggants/Yarra Reserve path.

Unauthorised vehicles are able to gain access to the Warrandyte River Reserve both from the west side of the Stiggants carpark and through the Community Church car park. The small area of reserve between Stiggants car park and the Andersons Creek bridge is becoming seriously degraded

by cars driving as close to the river as possible. Rubbish is often left in the surrounding area, particularly over weekends.

Behind the Community Church the timber edging bordering the carpark is easily negotiated by an ordinary vehicle and once a car crosses this, virtually the whole of the River Reserve is accessible.

On Friday, February 5, the end of a hot week, my husband and I saw several cars enter the reserve this way and drive at unsafe speed along the path to join other cars near the barbecues or at spots close to the water.

Having been aware of this problem for some time, I contacted the council by phone on February 9, 1998—one year ago! Since then I have made numer-

ous phone calls to council. At one stage I was told that there was dispute as to which body owned the land between Andersons Creek and the Stiggants car park—Parks Victoria or council!

Finally, in frustration at the inaction, I contacted Cr Lionel Allemand. On November 19, 1998, Lionel faxed me a copy of a council letter dated October 30. I had not previously seen this letter, despite it being addressed to me. The writer (the former Director City Development) apologised for the delay

and assured me that bollards would be installed to the west of the Stiggants carpark "within eight weeks". No mention was made of access behind the Community Church. The eight weeks were up on Christmas Day, and another seven weeks have nearly passed.

I have just completed a letter to Bob Seiffert, Manningham's CEO. Hopefully this debacle of disorganisation and inaction will be dealt with in the near future.

Doreen Burge
Diane Court



Festival Fun: March 20, 21

NILLUMBIK COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Where they stand

If elected to the Council of the Shire of Nillumbik, I would:

SHIRE-WIDE CANDIDATES	Oppose all subdivision in the Green Wedge	Oppose construction of a Ring Road through Nillumbik
BRENNAN, Lee	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
BURLEY, Phil	NO	YES*
CROUCHER, Kate	YES	YES
ELLIOTT, Geoff	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
FARRALL, Tracey	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
FREEMAN, David	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
GERADTS, Karin	YES*	YES
GRAVES, John	YES	YES
GRONOW, Fran	—*	—*
GURNEY, Peter	YES	YES
HOLLAND, Veronica	YES	YES
JORGENSEN, Sigmund	YES	YES
KELLOW, Robert	YES	YES
LAOS, Linda	YES	YES
MAINO, Ray	—*	—*
MATHESON, Julie	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
NEWHOUSE, Tim	NO*	YES
O'DONNELL, Margaret	—*	—*
PENROSE, Bill	YES	YES
RADONICH, David	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
RAUNIC, Tony	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
ROSOVICK, Alex	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
SARTORI, Alan	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
SMITH, Les	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
SPEEDY, Geoff	YES	YES
STANLEY, Claire	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
UPSON, Leni	NO	YES

SUGARLOAF CANDIDATES	Oppose all subdivision in the Green Wedge	Oppose construction of a Ring Road through Nillumbik
HODGES, Mick	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE
LUCAS, Anne	NO	YES
MANFIELD, John	YES	YES
MARSHALL, Robert	YES*	YES
RANKIN, Ruth	YES	YES
ROBERTS, Neil	YES*	YES
RYAN, John	YES	YES
SMITH, Lynlee	—*	YES
TONISSEN, Vikki	NO RESPONSE	NO RESPONSE

NOTES: * Qualified answer (—) Inconclusive answer

Mixed response on Green Wedge

COMMENT BY FIA CLENDINNEN

In the current Nillumbik elections the *Diary* surveyed the candidates relevant to this area on two vital issues: the Green Wedge and the ring road.

Of the 36 candidates surveyed (27 shire wide and nine for the ward of Sugarloaf) 13 candidates said YES, they would oppose all subdivision in the Green Wedge, four said NO, they would not oppose it and four preferred to make a comment, rather than answer with either yes or no.

A total of 13 candidates, including the four members of the Nillumbik First team standing as shire-wide candidates, declined to respond.

Cathy Willis, secretary of Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP), said she was disappointed by the number of candidates who had not responded to the *Diary's* survey.

"I think it shows a bit of arrogance towards the electorate, that maybe they are a bit blinkered and don't realise what people are really interested in," she said.

Ms Willis stressed she was certain the Green Wedge was of vital importance in the council election.

"Yes, I think the Green Wedge is one of the major issues, definitely. I think people in Nillumbik are extremely concerned about maintaining it. And all the stuff I've got in my letterbox from the candidates, they are all mentioning the Green Wedge, so I would have thought they'd all be aware that it is an issue, even if they are not too good on it themselves."

She said she would be closely watching the result of the election and it would be of great concern to FOWSP if pro-development councillors won a majority.

"FOWSP has supported the proposed Nillumbik planning

scheme because of its environmental overlays and all those sorts of things. We'd be very disturbed if a new council got in that was pro-development and didn't understand or didn't take into account some of the issues such as the Green Wedge and subdivision and the ring road. We'd be very disturbed."

Tim Newhouse, standing shire-wide, wrote he did not oppose subdivision in the green wedge because, "the present planning scheme, which I approve of, allows for some subdivision."

Several of the candidates surveyed, namely Karin Geradts and Peter Gurney standing shire-wide, and Robert Marshall and Neil Roberts standing in Sugarloaf, made the same point although they said they were opposed to subdivision.

Bill Penrose and Geoff Speedy, both standing shire-wide, stressed that subdivision and the ring road were threats to the Green Wedge and for this reason they opposed both.

Fran Gronow, Ray Maino, Margaret O'Donnell (all standing shire-wide) and Lynlee Smith (standing in Sugarloaf) chose not to answer the question with either a yes or a no.

Ms O'Donnell wrote, "my first response to development in the Green Wedge would be to oppose it. However...I would be prepared to sit down with the eight other elected councillors and discuss all proposals put to council with an open mind".

Ms Gronow and Mr Maino wrote they were opposed to the urban sprawl along the Plenty Gorge.

Ms Smith wrote, "some subdivision may be appropriate in urban zones provided (it makes) no impacts on native vegetation and natural features, and that services such as drainage and sewerage can cope with increased usage".

No-one wants the ring road: candidates pledge rejection

SO —!

By SYD & ONA

COMMENT BY FIA CLENDINNEN

ARRO spokesperson Jerry Loftus Hill described the response to the *Diary* survey as "very heartening." Of the 23 candidates who responded, 20 of them, or 87 percent, said YES, they would oppose the construction of a ring road through Nillumbik.

"I think it's great," said Mr Loftus-Hills. "If that's a true representation of the local sentiment that's fabulous for us."

Mr Loftus-Hills said it was vital that once the new councillors were elected they continue the work of the sacked Nillumbik council with regard to the ring road.

As reported in the *Diary* of March last year, all five Nillumbik councillors voted for a resolution which declared

that a "new arterial ring road" through the shire and the "ribbon commercial development" the ring road would encourage, was "in total contradiction with Council's Municipal Strategic Statement and the protection of the Green Wedge."

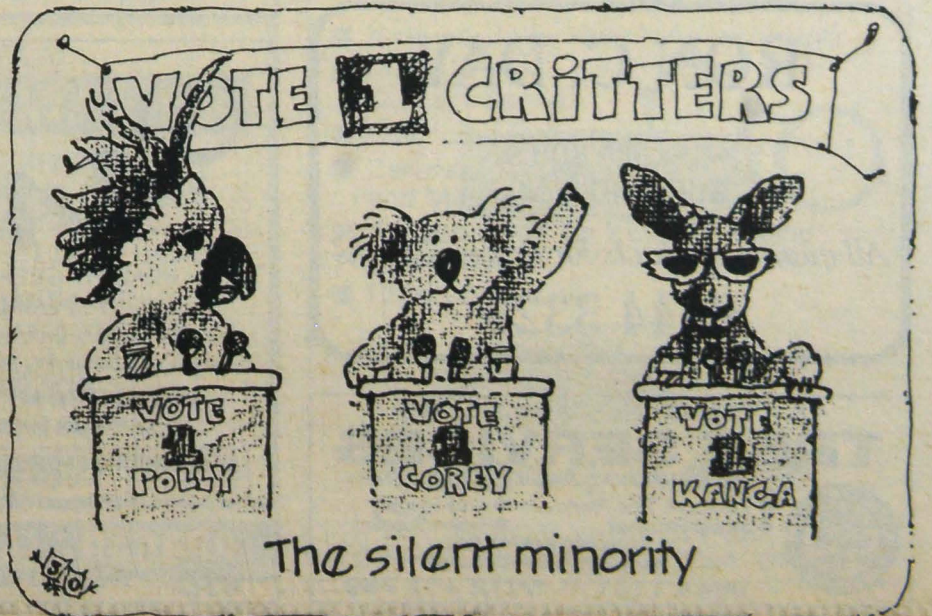
"New councillors should take up from that position," said Mr Loftus-Hills, "they should work with neighbouring councils and beyond, to further explore the issue and arrive at a definitive regional position."

The state government's current position on the ring road is that "existing roads will be used for the foreseeable future." But Mr Loftus-Hills said this was not adequate and it was imperative a long term position be developed.

"There's no way the existing roads will cope with the traffic

generated by a ring road which dumps traffic into the Green Wedge. It's a flawed policy and there needs to be a more sophisticated, intelligent and enduring response to the matter of the ring road. It's in everybody's interests to know whether it's going to be here or not."

Three candidates, Fran Gronow, Ray Maino and Margaret O'Donnell, all standing shire-wide, chose not to answer the question with either yes or no. Ms Gronow and Mr Maino both pointed to the connection between urban sprawl and freeways, as well as emphasising the importance of railways. Ms O'Donnell said, "I concur with the decision made by the previous council. However again I do support the linking of freeways around Melbourne."



NOTICE

Due to Easter, the April issue of the *Diary* will be published on Tuesday, April 13.

Copy will close on Friday, April 2.



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Local firefighters at Lawrence Court blaze. (Picture by Paul Williams)

House fire lessons

By CLIFF GREEN

A house fire at Lawrence Court in North Warrandyte earlier this month has focused attention on the need for adequate fire safety precautions within the home.

The fire, which demolished a three-car garage, is believed to have started as a result of an electrical malfunction in a clothes dryer. North Warrandyte, Warrandyte and Kangaroo Ground CFA brigades attended. Prompt response by the brigades limited the damage to the garage.

Warrandyte CFA captain Rob Kilkenny told the *Diary* that the alarm was sounded by a resident in Blooms Road, some distance from the site of the fire.

"Warrandyte brigade was originally alerted to a grass and scrub fire," he said. "Upon our arrival in the area it quickly became apparent that we had a house fire. We then had difficulty locating the exact site of the fire, due to complicated road networks and limited visibility caused by the topography of the area."

Paul Buck, North Warrandyte CFA captain, said that as a result of the new legislation, the resident had recently installed smoke detectors throughout the house. "However, had there been a smoke detector in the garage, neighbours or passers-by might have been alerted and notified the brigade earlier and damage could have been limited," Paul Buck said.

The CFA has pointed out that residents

are generally aware of the common causes of house fires: electrical faults, unattended cooking, aromatherapy candles, electric blankets left switched on, unattended children, unguarded open fires and so on.

"However, we do find that some people do not fully address these causes—and others—in an effort to maximise home safety," Jeff Adair, Warrandyte CFA facilitator, said. "Piggyback power points, electrical leads under rugs and carpets, lint-laden filters in clothes dryers and space heaters are all potential fire hazards," he said.

"The installation of fire extinguishers, power circuit breakers, fire blankets and an adequate network of smoke alarms—beyond those required by legislation—could all assist in reducing household fire risk."

"Many residents have already installed some of these items. However, CFA brigades are continually surprised and concerned at the number of householders who recognise the benefits of these precautions, but fail to install them. They could mean the difference between light structural damage and total loss; the difference between life and death."

Warrandyte CFA is conducting an information display and home safety advisory service at Stiggants Reserve during the Warrandyte Festival. Extinguishers, fire blankets and smoke alarms will be available.

"All candidates sound the same, who do I vote for?"



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Authorised by W. Penrose, 5 Alma Road, Panton Hill 3759



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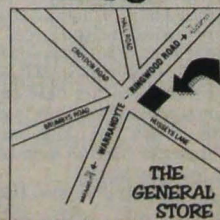
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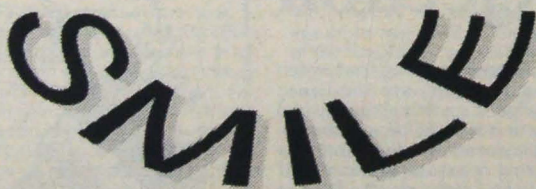
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Death on the road

By RACHEL BAKER

A sharp rise in the number of animal deaths on Jumping Creek Road in recent weeks has sparked concern amongst local animal workers and raised fears of human fatalities.

A short spate of five deaths over six days within a 600 metre strip of the notorious road increased the distress already felt by Julie Pryor—operator of Wonga Park's Koala Watch—and vet Dr Derek Fairley—who euthanised some of the injured animals. Apart from their concern for the animals' welfare, they are fearful that a human could be the next victim.

"My big worry is that humans will be killed," Julie said. "If you need to swerve on the road, there is nowhere to go. You would hit the embankment, and if there was a car coming the other way, you would hit it," she told the *Diary*. Three kangaroos, a koala and an echidna were killed between February 5 and 10.

Both agree that there is no simple solution to the problem, but believe that taking extra care when driving along the road could help reduce the risk.

Precautions advised by Julie include using high beam lights when possible and driving slowly—especially at night, when there is little traffic and drivers tend to speed up.

However, there are times when even the most careful

driver cannot avoid a collision, Dr Fairley said. "There was a recent case; it was daylight, the driver was not travelling fast, and a kangaroo just jumped out onto the road," he said.

If an animal does hit the car, the driver should get out and inspect the victim, Julie said. If the motorist calls an animal welfare organisation (such as Wildlife Care Network on 0500 540 000, or Koala Watch directly, on 9722 1117) the animal can be helped, and if an adult is carrying young, they can often be saved.

"I will take calls 24 hours a day, if there is an injured animal," Julie said.

People have suggested erecting fences to keep animals off the road. But, Julie explained, they would have to be very high to restrain kangaroos, koalas would climb over them, and echidnas and wombats would dig under them. As well as being expensive, fencing would create problems for residents, who would have to open and close gates every time they left their property, and would necessitate corridors being constructed so the animals could travel from one side of the road to the other.

"It would also simply shift the problem to the end of the fence," Julie said.

She believes street lighting, although expensive, could help the problem, as could improved signage.



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Authorised by Ken King, Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground

The banners are out along Yarra Street, so Warrandyte's favourite celebration must be near. That's right, it's festival time again—a wonderful weekend of music, ice-cream, art, painted faces, stiltwalkers and all-round revelry.

The festival, which runs across the weekend of March 20 and 21 (but is preceded by some events during the week) begins in proper fashion with the Grand Parade at 11am on Saturday, from the bridge to Stiggant's Reserve. This year's theme is Warrandyte: Great Space, and the parade will include clowns, marching bands, horses, cars, bikes, entertainers—and of course—locals floats, schools, clubs and other marching groups.

Festival-goers can choose their own pace for the weekend. The relaxed route is listening to music from a choice of three stages, taking in the sound and light show, sampling culinary delights from a multitude of food stalls.

The more adventurous can hire canoes, take a tour of the gold mines, or try rock-climbing. Kids aren't forgotten, with the return of the waterslide, animal farm and the billycart derby.

All the old favourites will be there, some with new modifications, plus a few never-before-seen attractions.



WORDS BY RACHEL BAKER
PICTURES BY SANDY BURGOYNE

royalty

Australia may be on the road to a republic, but the Warrandyte festival still needs its monarchs, and this year the parade will be led by King Gus McLaren and Queen Denise Farran.

The couple have been in Warrandyte "for quite some time", and, with Gus a founder of Potters Cottage and a renowned cartoonist, and Denise a long-term teacher at Warrandyte Primary School, they are both known by a lot of people, which, supposes Denise, makes them suitable candidates.

Their regal duties will include opening the parade with a small ceremony, then leading it, and announcing various accolades on the stage afterwards.

Despite some initial shock from both of them (Gus jokes that he would have skipped town if he had known he was to be King), they are now getting used to the idea, and "are bemused, but at the same time, honoured," Denise said.

sounding

River Dreaming, a new version of Hugh McSpeddon's sound and light display, will grace the Yarra River and its banks on Friday and Saturday nights. The production has been inspired by the river and has been produced by Hugh McSpeddon and Glen Jameson, with others contributing music and prose.

"It involves poetic projections and subtle plays of light onto and under the banks of the Yarra," Hugh McSpedden told the *Diary*.

River Dreaming will run in continuous sessions between 8pm and midnight on Friday and Saturday nights on the riverbank, at the end of Webb Street.



billycart derby

Get your helmets on and your braking strategies in place because the Billycart Derby is fast approaching.

This year's race, with the first prize a coveted Nintendo 64, is sure to have kids and dads rattling around the garage for the most aerodynamic timber and nails combination, and, consequently, anxious mums standing by the raceway clutching band-aids and cotton wool.

The 1999 derby, to be held on Sunday morning at 8.45am on Forbes Street outside the police station, will have a new look, with bunting and specially built starting and finishing gates, to "dress it up a bit", Rob Cousens, race organiser, said.

The makeover is all part of the bid to revitalise the derby, which, Rob regrets, has been dwindling over recent years. "We're hoping to get a lot more kids rolling up," he said.

He is confident that the Nintendo first prize, plus trophies for places and consolation prizes for all entrants, should encourage more kids to enter. "I've already heard rumours about lots of kids getting ready—they really want to win that Nintendo," Rob told the *Diary*.

There are a few requirements for budding racers. They must be between eight and 15 years old, the cart must be built by them and/or their parents, and the wheel diameter must be no more than 16 inches (to avoid kids hurtling down the hill at breakneck speeds). Finally, racers must wear helmets and long pants and sleeves.

Racers are encouraged to enter before the day, by calling Rob Cousens, on 9844 2328.

young artists on show

With an overabundance of negative images of youth, the community needs to take a look at the good things young people have to offer. The Youth Art Exhibition, making its festival debut on Saturday, will help make this happen, Aaron Jones, a youth worker at Warrandyte Youth Services, told the *Diary*.

The mixed-medium exhibition, including drawing, photography, painting, sketching, mural and sculpture, "will show what young people can do when their skills and abilities are exposed", Aaron said.

The exhibition will be open from 9am to 5pm on Saturday, March 20, in the Warrandyte Community Centre.



Great new acts for riverbank stage

An eclectic range of entertainment, aimed at pleasing a wide-ranging audience, will come together on the Riverbank Stage—between the river and the main stage—during Saturday and Sunday.

Performances will range from magicians and slapstick comedians to blues bands, providing a broader range of entertainment than Warrandytians have previously experienced at the festival.

"I think people in Warrandyte appreciate good music," event organiser Linda Carroll told the *Diary*.

"So we wanted to put together high-quality, diverse entertainment, but also keep the ele-

ments people are used to."

The result is a wonderful mix of musical styles and a prestigious line-up of some nationally—even internationally—known acts, including:

- Kerry Simpson's Gospel Train, a blues and gospel group which has played at Chapel off Chapel in Prahran, and whose lead vocalist regularly travels to New Orleans and is described by Linda as "the best gospel singer on this side of the equator". (Sunday, 3.30pm)

- An amalgamation of Aboriginal and Western sounds by Andrew McGregor, Chris Young and Tommy Lewis, which occupies "the magical area between indigenous Australian and Euro-

pean music". (Saturday, 1.30)

- An intimate performance of diverse sounds from an all-female trio called Collaborations, whose wide-ranging repertoire covers contemporary folk, blues and Celtic music. Penelope Swales, Jeanette Geri, Maria Ford and Fiona Boyes combine their music with speech, "so the audience gets an insight into how they write their songs". Linda said. (Saturday, 3.30pm)

- Zarnok the Magician, who has performed overseas, will provide fun entertainment that both kids and adults will enjoy. (Sunday, 3.30pm)

You might wonder how such esteemed artists would find

time in their gig-filled schedules to step out of brighter spotlights and into the Warrandyte Festival. But Linda says she had no trouble finding enthusiastic acts.

"A lot of performers know Warrandyte and think it's a special place," she said. "It wasn't a problem finding the acts."

The local favourites will still be there, such as Nunsense (a comedy and music act, on Saturday at 1.15) and a performance from the Senior Citizens' Bush Band on Saturday at 2.30pm.

"There are a couple of higher profile acts, but the essence of Warrandyte remains," Linda said.



Youth rock concert

Sitting back on a blanket, listening to tranquil melodies, sipping wine, nibbling on sandwiches and enjoying a mild evening may be fine if you're a grown-up. But kids wanna have fun. They want loud music. They want screaming. They want jumping around. They want the Youth Rock Concert.

And with headline act Biscuit—along with other esteemed bands—gracing the stage, long-haired-larrikins and cargo-clad youths from miles around are sure to descend upon the riverbank for the music and entertainment fest.

The concert, which this year runs from midday to 7pm on Saturday, on the Riverbank West (below Stiggant's Reserve, near the footbridge),

will coincide with other amusements, like BMX ramps and the 808 Bus (a drop-in and recreation room).

But the music is set to be the main attraction. There are nine bands, seven of which have either some or all local members. Most of the bands—including The King & I and Rasputin—built a following through rock concerts run by Warrandyte Youth Services throughout the year.

The most popular band of all, however, has been following higher callings. Biscuit, who played at this year's Big Day Out and Warped festivals, will be the final and most eagerly-awaited act.

"The local kids really were keen to have Biscuit play here," concert organiser Rick Gordon said.

Festival briefs

How fast can you serve a tennis ball? Warrandyte Tennis Club is once more running their ever-popular speed serving competition, using radar as demonstrated at the Australian Open. Their stand will be adjacent to the Rotary tent, below the Community Church.

A free bus service, courtesy of the National Bus Company, will run between Potters' Cottage and the Recreation Reserve on Saturday, from 12 to 4pm, and on Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

Sensitive New Age Follies is Warrandyte Theatre Company's festival contribution. Produced by Alison Leitchford, it runs from March 18 to 20 and 25 to 27, at 8pm in the Mechanics Institute Hall. Tickets are \$15 and can be booked through Laurie Shaw on 9844 1376.

Guest artist at the Rotary Club annual art show will be Sandra Harvey. The show will open with a gala at 7.30pm on Friday night. Tickets for the gala, which include refreshments, are \$10, and entry to the rest of the show (from 9am on Saturday and Sunday) costs \$2. More information from Richard Forde on 0418 842 926.

A Grand Read, featuring readings of original works by local writers, will be held at the Grand Hotel on Friday night at 8pm. Tickets cost \$5 and are available from the post office or at the door. For more information call Marion Winton on 9844 2971.

Candlelit and takeaway dinners are available on Saturday night from St Stephen's church, Stiggants Street. Takeaway meals cost \$7 per head, dessert is \$3 extra, available between 6 and 8pm, but you must bring

your own container. Dine-in meals cost \$15 per head, including coffee and mints, with BYO drinks, and must be booked before Saturday, March 13. More information on 9844 4151.

The Eltham Concert Band will open musical entertainment on the main stage at Stiggants at 12pm on Saturday. The band has never played in Warrandyte before, but has been brought across the river by new conductor, Warrandyte musician Barry McKimm. The band was formed in 1975 and it has around 50 members, ranging in age from 15 to 80.

Lyrics With Purpose can be heard from The Power of Seven, a gospel capella singing group, who are performing on Saturday at 3.30pm on the main stage. The group will lead other groups and soloists into performance on Saturday afternoon. Free tickets are available by calling Fransesca Longfield on 9876 9630.

A combined churches open air service will open proceedings on Sunday morning. The program, incorporating worship, entertainment and music, will feature The Potters, a group travelling on the mission ship MV Doulos.

The weekend will wrap up in time-honoured tradition, with the finale concert from 4.30pm, followed by fireworks at 9pm. The Moonee Valley Drifters will kick off the program, then Vintage Crop will return to play traditional jazz and blues favourites. The new version of the band, which comes on stage at 6pm, will include old favourite performers, plus some new faces. Closing proceedings will be Pure Genius, playing traditional Irish and contemporary rock from 7pm.

WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL
ART DEMONSTRATION by SANDRA HARVIE
2.30-4pm
SATURDAY, 20TH MARCH
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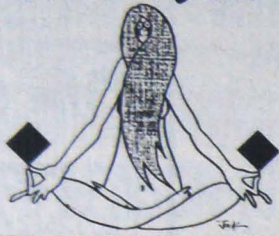
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Sensitive New Age



Follies

MARCH - 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

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NOW I know this is going to shock you, but I do like the feel of "folding stuff". To be able to hold that 10, 20, or at rare moments, even a 50 dollar note in your hand is like being able to hold onto reality. As you hold the note you only have to look at it to realise that all it represents is yours; that this piece of paper can be traded for food, entertainment or to pay for that speeding ticket.

Not only is it readily available, but it can be neatly folded and hidden away in a casserole, to be discovered at some time later in the winter when both soul and savings are a bit grim.

With "folding stuff" you know exactly how far you can go when you enter either Westfield or Ringwood Shoppingtown. Once you're down to the last crumpled \$10 note, it's simple. All you can now afford is a serving of Singapore noodles or a Tatts Quick Pick and a packet of chewing gum. As soon as these have been dropped into the bottom of the shopping bag, even the thought of more purchases flies from your brain and, sensibly, you make your way to the car.

At home, the unwrapping of the parcels is accompanied by the joy of ownership. This, now, is mine! I have bought it with my own money and I am beholden to no-one else.

How different things are with



"...dental reconstruction, which was the last item on your credit card bill."

the credit card. Small, innocuous, attractive in its own little way, the credit card is the modern-day version of Voices from Satan. The signs on the shop doors cry out that it is here that all your dreams will come true. Unsure about whether the sign really means you, you take out your wallet, remove your card to be seduced by the glossy boomerangs and the sophisticated green enclosing your name in significantly raised letters. Understandably, you are wooed, emotionally hooked to the promise of Nirvana.

This, then is the "spin". The reality is that the card is a piece of plastic with no intrinsic value

other than the encoded instruction on the narrow brown band that indicates to the merchant that "we've got a right one here!"

You can't actually give the card to a shopkeeper in return for an apple or a bottle of wine from Peter Maher's. Unlike the \$10 or \$20 bill. With the \$20, Peter will be more than happy to take it as a down payment on a half bottle of some unpretentious little sticky. For a tenner, he'll let you sniff a cork. With notes, you're back in the security of childhood where the rules are simple; you either can or you can't.

However, with the introduction of the card, the old style black-and-white morality of yes or no has been hijacked by the marketing gurus. And just like in the Garden of Eden, the serpents have been undermining our certainties by telling us that those old ways "are hisstory". With a new one being written, with a price tag and on a laser printer. Taught monthly, on an advice notice sent in an envelope with a window.

Knowingly or unknowingly, we have all colluded in this re-writing. We send away for the card, our financial declaration replacing the old confessional, and like a magician, faith healer or travelling evangelist, the shopkeeper is willing to brush aside for you all of life's little financial complications. With a

mystical swipe of your card, he sends you home on a consuming high.

Like any mindless conversion, the high is increased with each harvest in the Garden. And, like any instant-convert, cracks begin to appear in the edifice when the day of reckoning is pursued in the hard cold light. A phone call to the "card man" provides you with no more help than to "read the information booklet we sent you".

The conversion becomes an addiction and failure to pay results in a letter informing you that the dealer wants to be paid or he'll send around the "boys" to provide you with with a bit of dental reconstruction, which incidentally, was the last item on your credit card bill.

All of which is why I like cash and snail mail.

I had decided to bite the bullet and send an e-mail to a friend in the States. I was green with envy at both her ability to write such newsy letters and her confidence with the machinations of the computer. So, I bit my tongue, typed with two fingers and then hit the button marked "send". Nothing. No folding of paper, no sealing of envelope and no dropping of it into the post box. Boring!

Give me a nice crisp sheet of parchment, a fountain pen, a tongue-licking envelope and a stamp. And I'll pay for them all in cash.

ROGER KIBELL



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Green strangler at large in a northern paradise

BITOU bush, so the story goes, was introduced into New South Wales in ships ballast dumped on the banks of the Hunter River around 1908. But somehow you get the feeling it would have found its way here anyhow—aided or unaided. Ninety years on, and with considerable help from the sandminers, the South African import has become established along 60 percent of the New South Wales coastline and occurs in 12 national parks and nine nature reserves. Parts of Queensland's south coast are similarly afflicted.

It is February, and here in northern New South Wales the weather is hot and humid, but not uncomfortably so. We first came to this stretch of coastline three years ago, were magnetised, attracted back the following year and again, in 1999, have made the annual trek north.

Apart from a few small isolated settlements, the 100 or so kilometres of coastline—roughly midway between Coffs Harbour and Byron Bay—is largely unpopulated. Much of it is national park.

First impressions are that the area is as pristine as the day Captain James Cook sailed past on his journey up the east coast of Australia in 1770.

Beaches of golden-grain sand polished daily by the South Pacific rollers are fringed with spiky pandanus palms and darkly drooping she-oaks. The hummocky dunes dividing foreshore from heathy hinterland are lavishly vegetated. But therein lies the fly in the ointment, the rogue in the wilderness. For the verdant shrubby thickets that give the dunes



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

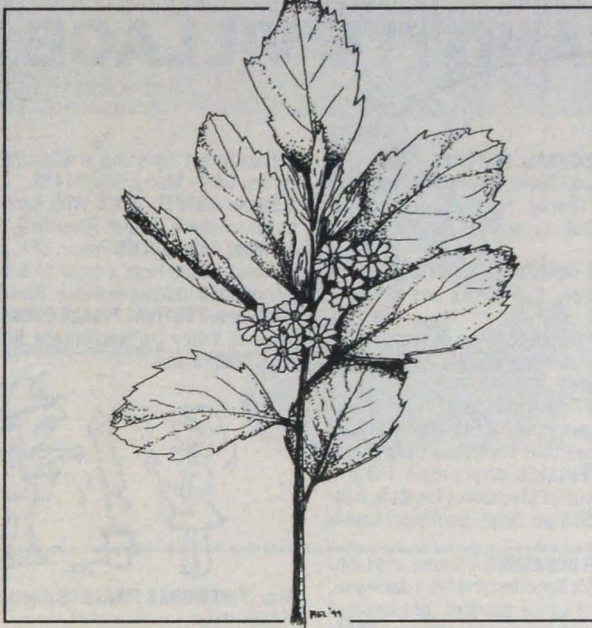
their luxurious look are none other than bitou bush. And those responsible for its presence here are the sandminers who worked this coastline from 1946 until 1982.

They came with their machinery seeking rutile, zircon and other semi-precious minerals which they extracted from the virgin sand. When they were done the edge of the land resembled a moonscape—hills and valleys of sifted sand minus their minerals and devoid of vegetation at the mercy of wind and waves.

Searching for a fast-growing, sand-stabilising solution and ignoring all native alternatives, they chose bitou bush. As a quick-fix dune coloniser it worked well. There was, however, one major side effect—the adopted alien, like Wyndham's triflids, was uncontrollable and rampantly overran most of the native vegetation along the foreshore.

One small saving grace is that bitou bush rarely penetrates more than 29 kilometres inland and, apart from an isolated occurrence at Melbourne's Studley Park discovered in 1986, it is not found in Victoria. Warrandyte has therefore escaped its clutches.

But bitou bush has a close relative called boneseed which has taken up residence in Warrandyte. The two are so similar that they are deemed by the taxonomists to be the same



species. Belonging to the daisy family with fairly conventional yellow daisy flowers, the differences between the sub-species probably developed in response to habitat.

While bitou bush is a sprawling shrub with a tenacious root system to withstand strong coast winds, boneseed is more erect and has comparatively shallow roots. Why the name boneseed? Well beneath its fleshy purple coating, the seed is as hard as a bone and the same colour.

In places like the You Yangs, west of Melbourne, and the Mornington Peninsula, infestations of boneseed rival that of

its northern sibling. It may be for that reason, its potential rather than actual threat, that in 1990, when the Warrandyte State Park management plan was released, boneseed was placed top of the list in priority for pest plant management. It is no longer so.

But here in northern New South Wales it is easy to forget about boneseed. It is even possible, in some strangely detached way, to ignore the bitou bush in the distant dunes. We wander empty beaches collecting coloured stones, wallowing in the luxury of solitude. We all need a circuit breaker sometimes.

Supermarket tantrum debts repaid

AN interesting fact about kids growing up is that as they embarrass us increasingly less, we embarrass them correspondingly more.

Well, I reckon we owe them a few. What parent hasn't been stuck in a queue at the supermarket checkout with a pusher containing a toddler (plus or minus a baby) and a few groceries.

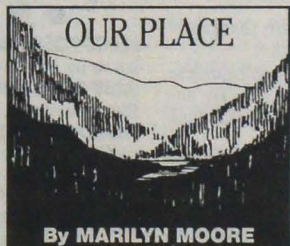
The toddler invariably fills in the time by undertaking one or more the following:

- Telling the whole district that they need a toilet.

- Proving the truth of the above statement before you are able to take remedial action.

- Hiding a grocery item in their bunnyrug, resulting in a ritual disembowelment of the pusher at the checkout. But the missing item is not in the bunnyrug. It's either found its way up a trouser leg, or it's under the hot cross bun display at the end of aisle 2.

- Surreptitiously removing your wallet from your handbag, then hiding the contents before discarding the empty wallet in aisle 3. You do not discover that the wallet is missing from your



OUR PLACE
By **MARILYN MOORE**

handbag until you are in the checkout queue. Store detectives arrive on the scene. The truth is revealed when disenchanting supermarket staff retrieve their groceries from the pusher and find your life savings scattered therein.

- Tipping a younger sibling out of the pusher. Guaranteed to cause severe embarrassment, because it is almost certain that you will overreact, thereby attracting the attention of a large number of onlookers.

- Throwing a tantrum because you did not buy jelly beans.

- Pointing excitedly at others in the queue whilst shouting newly-learned phrases such as "fat lady", "dirty shoes", "silly hat", or worst of all, "bald clown". (Serves the bloke right

for wearing a bow tie with brightly checked trousers!) Later, as their ability to put sentences together develops, adding phrases like "Look at that lady's whiskers!", or "Why has that man got holes in his jumper?"

Look, you could well be right, kiddo, but do please keep your voice down. Needless to say, parents become adept at simultaneously admiring the accuracy of their offspring's observations, and hushing the little blighters up.

Opportunities to turn the tables on our own blighters are few, but a beauty cropped up recently, purely by chance.

Imagine 20-odd Year 9 students wallowing in the privacy of their serene haven amongst the richly-vegetated dunes at Discovery Bay. Eight days of bushwalking, canoeing, caving and generally enjoying life had left them feeling pretty mellow, distinctively dirt-encrusted, and abundantly at peace with the world.

Gentle sunlight warmed the tanned faces of our heroes as they lay in silence amongst the sweet-smelling grasses, meditating on the highlights of their camp prior to the long trek back

to the road and the bus home.

Then lo! An invasion! Over the last dune clambered a pair of sparkling clean parents with sibling in tow.

One lucky 14-year-old was to be spared the gruelling bus trip home. Not only that, he was going to be spared the epic two kilometre trek back up the steep hill to the road. His family had driven almost right down to the camp. In his shoes, wouldn't you just die of embarrassment?

Not yet. You'd save the preliminary seizure for when it became apparent that one of the aforementioned parents had bogged the family car in deceptively deep sand on the jeep track through the dunes. You'd expire utterly when you saw the car forlornly bottomed out on a blameless-looking flat track, a track that to the untrained teenage eye looked readily drivable even to a blind man with two broken legs and a failed lobotomy. AARRGGHH!

Well, it proved educational in the end. The whole class now knows how to ease a bogged car gently back along the track. And we've repaid one offspring for a couple of the more embarrassing moments we owe him!

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PROGRAM: WARRANDYTE VILLAGE FESTIVAL, 1999

WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH

12.30-3pm: SCHOOLS' ACTIVITY DAY Kids and parents from Warrandyte and Andersons Creek primary schools have lunch together and then fun with a tabloid sports. At Recreation Reserve. Enquiries: WPS 9844 3537, ACPS 9844 2757

THURSDAY 18 MARCH

9am-5pm: QUILT EXHIBITION by Warrandyte Star Quilters. Devonshire teas available. Worrells Country Store, 321 Warrandyte-Ringwood Rd.

9am-5pm: FABRIC FANTASY EXHIBITION by multitalented crafts people at The Stonehouse, 323 Warrandyte-Ringwood Rd.



10am-5pm: DISPLAYS BY LOCAL ARTISTS Potters Cottage Gallery. Free entry. Morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner are available at Potters Restaurant, 321 Jumping Creek Rd.

7.30pm: NEW AGE FOLLIES Warrandyte Theatre company's annual revue at Mechanics Institute Hall. BYO food and drink. \$15 per head. March 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27. Bookings: Laurie Shaw 9844 1376.

FRIDAY 19 MARCH

9am-5pm: QUILT EXHIBITION by Warrandyte Star Quilters. Devonshire teas available. Worrells Country Store, 321 Warrandyte-Ringwood Rd.

9am-5pm: FABRIC FANTASY EXHIBITION by multitalented crafts people at The Stonehouse, 323 Warrandyte-Ringwood Rd.

10am-5pm: DISPLAYS BY LOCAL ARTISTS Potters Cottage Gallery. Free entry. Morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner are available at Potters Restaurant, 321 Jumping Creek Rd.

7.30-10pm: ROTARY ART SHOW OPENING Enjoy live jazz, chilled champagne and fine food. Admission by ticket only. \$10. Bookings: Richard Forde 9876 1862.

8pm-Midnight: RIVER DREAMING A Sound and Light Installation by Hugh McSpedden and Glen Jameson. Poetic projections and subtle plays of light inspired by the Yarra River. On the river opposite the Village shops, behind the Old Chemist (Spencer Martin Real Estate), opposite Webb St.

8pm-late: A GRAND READ New and established writers read original works across a wide range of styles and persuasions. Entry \$5 includes cheese and biscuits, bar available. Upstairs at the Grand Hotel. Tickets at the Post Office or pay at the door. Enquiries: Marion Winton 9844 2971.

7.30pm: NEW AGE FOLLIES Warrandyte Theatre company's annual revue at Mechanics Institute Hall. BYO food and drink. \$15 per head. Bookings: Laurie Shaw 9844 1376.

9pm-1am: LIVE MUSIC at the Grand Hotel. Live Bands.

SATURDAY 20 MARCH

10.30am: PARADE MARSHALLING at the Bridge Tennis Courts (Pedestrians) and Tills Drive (Vehicles and Horses).

10.50am: JUDGING of floats. Perpetual Trophy for best parade entry. Other categories: Most Colorful, Most Comical, Most Imaginative, Best Costumes, Best Make-up, Most Warrandytish.

11am: FESTIVAL PARADE Opened by the Festival King and Queen, Gus McLaren and Denise Farren. Bands, floats, bikes, horses, vintage cars & more. Commentaries at Community Centre, Grand Hotel and Stiggants roadside. Maedy Colenso 9844 4881.

12noon: OFFICIAL OPENING Main Stage.



12.10pm: ON STAGE AT STIGGANTS featuring concert, gospel and jazz bands, dancers and singers from local schools, and the Victorian Baton Twirlers.

12.30-8pm: ROCK STAGE (All-age gig—no alcohol). Local bands supporting top act 'Biscuit'. Stiggants Riverbank West.

12.30-4.30pm: RIVERBANK STAGE featuring The Magic Pirate, Nunsense, and a host of musicians.

10am on: FESTIVAL FOOTBALL MATCHES Warrandyte Vs: Upwey/Tecoma. Food Stalls, Novelties. Under 18s at 10am, Seconds at 12noon, Firsts at 2pm. Run by Warrandyte Football Club. Large Oval, Recreation Reserve.

2.30-4pm: PAINTING DEMONSTRATION By Sandra Harvie. Rivergum Gallery, Cnr Forbes and Yarra St. Enquiries: 9844 3948

3pm: THE EVENT Warrandyte businesses compete for a trophy. Run by Warrandyte Business Association. Riverbank Stage Area.

4.30pm: CAR RESCUE Police, CFA, ambulance & SES rescue a victim from a crashed & burning vehicle in a combined training exercise. Riverbank Stage Area.

7.30pm: NEW AGE FOLLIES Warrandyte Theatre company's annual revue at Mechanics Institute Hall. BYO food and drink. \$15 per head. Bookings: Laurie Shaw 9844 1376.

8pm-Midnight: RIVER DREAMING A Sound and Light Installation by Hugh McSpedden and Glen Jameson. Poetic projections and subtle plays of light inspired by the Yarra River. On the river opposite the Village shops, behind the Old Chemist (Spencer Martin Real Estate), opposite Webb St.

9pm-1am: LIVE MUSIC at the Grand Hotel. Live Bands. ALSO

YOUTH ART SHOW A diverse range of art produced by the local youth. Warrandyte Community Centre. Enquiries: Aaron Jones 9844 4918

ABSEILING WALL supervised by Warrandyte Scouts. Small charge.

NEWFOUNDLAND CLUB DISPLAY and water rescue. Dogs to see and pat, water rescue demonstrations. Stiggants Riverbank.

SUNDAY 21 MARCH

9am: BILLYCART DERBY Forbes St, outside police station. Ages 8-15. First Prize: Nintendo 64. Be there 8.45 sharp. \$4 Registration. Robert Cousens 9844 2328



9am: FAMILY CELEBRATION SERVICE at St Stephens Anglican Church, Stiggant Street. Featuring hymns to tunes of well-known colonial songs.

9.30am: DOG SHOW & PET PARADE With prizes for various categories, including cats, rabbits, hamsters, mice, goldfish, birds, etc. All animals welcome if under owner's control. Run by Warrandyte High School. Stiggants Riverbank. Enquiries: Sue Martin 9844 3535.

10am: CELEBRATION OPEN AIR SERVICE Combined Churches. Worship, entertainment and music for all ages.

10am: ARTISTS' TRAIL Join art historian Andrew McKenzie for a free 90 minute walking tour of the Heidelberg School Artists' Trail. Meet at the carpark near the Old Gospel Chapel. Enquiries: Pam Papiogiotis 9840 9362.



10.30-12.30pm: KIDS' MARKET Magnificent muddle of stalls offering goods and fun things by local kids for local kids. Stiggants Reserve. Phone: (WPS) Mandy Bence 9844 2859, (ACPS) Maree Burns 9844 2897

10.30am: YARRA BENT CFA Inter-brigade competition. Riverbank Stage Area.

12noon: PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT featuring Eltham College Wind Ensemble, Maurie's Jolly Roger, Short Circuit, Free Reign, and The Cadillacs.

12.30-3.30pm: RIVERBANK STAGE features Zarnok the Magician, Fools Like Us and Giant Puppets.

2pm: GOLD MINE TOUR (90 min duration) Join John Hanson for a leisurely walk & visit an 1850s gold mine. Bring torch, wear flat shoes. Run by Uniting Church. Meet at 104 Webb Street.

3.10pm: DUCK RACE Ducks sold at schools beforehand, and during the weekend at the information caravan. See over 1000 ducks launched into Yarra at

Forbes Street, finishing at Stiggant Street. \$2 entry. Prizes. Susie Morris 9844 1449.

3.30pm: GOSPEL TRAIN With Kerri Simpson. Traditional southern gospel. Riverbank Stage

4.30pm: CAR RESCUE Police, CFA, ambulance & SES rescue a victim from a crashed & burning vehicle in a combined training exercise. Riverbank Stage Area.

4.30-9pm: FESTIVAL FINALE CONCERT Featuring The Moonee Valley Drifters, Vintage Brew and Pure Genius. Main Stage.



9pm: FIREWORKS FINALE (Subject to CFA approval). ALSO

BASKETBALL SHOOT-OUT by Warrandyte Basketball Club. Stiggants Riverbank.

ALL WEEKEND

DUNK THE TEACHER Run by North Warrandyte CFA. Small Charge. Stiggants Riverbank.

KIDS' GIANT WATERSLIDE Starts 12noon Saturday. Run by Scouts. Changing Tent. Bring togs & towel. 50¢ a go or \$2 for all-day pass. Stiggants Reserve.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES run by Yarra Warra Pre-School. Small charge. Stiggants Riverbank.

FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, and tea, coffee and cake available for purchase. Come and relax while your children are entertained Run by Uniting Church, Riverbank.

WARRANDYTE TOY LIBRARY Come and try our playground and toys. Parental supervision required. \$1 per child. Stiggants Riverbank, Saturday only (12-5).

PONY RIDES For the children. Small charge. Stiggants Riverbank.

POSTER COMPETITION display. Posters painted in primary schools prior to festival, judged, then all displayed at IGA Goldfields Plaza Supermarket. Enquiries: Judy Finger 9844 3150.

ROTARY ART SHOW featuring local artists. Giant marquee behind Community Church. \$2 Entry.

POTTERY DEMONSTRATIONS and Sales. Warrandyte Ceramics Studio and Pottery School. Kids' clay activities. Small charge. Jane Annois 9844 2333. New Rotunda, Riverbank.

SPINNERS & WEAVERS DISPLAY by Doncaster & Templestowe Spinners & Weavers. New Rotunda, Stiggants Riverbank.

ART & CRAFT MARKET Craft, produce, pottery, plants, clothes, jewellery, leadlighting. Stiggants Reserve.

QUILT EXHIBITION by Warrandyte Star Quilters. Devonshire teas available. Worrells Country Store, 321 Warrandyte-Ringwood Rd.

FABRIC FANTASY EXHIBITION By multitalented crafts people at The Stonehouse, 323 Warrandyte-Ringwood Rd.

DISPLAYS BY LOCAL ARTISTS Potters Cottage Gallery. Free entry. Morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner are available at Potters Restaurant, 321 Jumping Creek Rd.

PARKS VICTORIA DISPLAY includes badge-making activities. Extend your knowledge of the park. Stiggants Riverbank.

ANIMAL FARMYARD Feed & cuddle farmyard favourites from Leigh's Animal Farm. Small Charge. Stiggants Riverbank.

ADVENTURE CANOEING Information and safety displays. Come and try canoeing from Stiggants Reserve. Small charge. Adventure Canoeing 9844 3323.

YARRA BOWMEN ARCHERY Demonstration. Have a go at archery. 6 arrows for \$2. In paddock, Stiggants Reserve West.

TENNIS SERVING COMPETITION Check your service speed by radar as seen at Melbourne Park. Run by Warrandyte Tennis Club. Stiggants Reserve.



FOOTY HANDBALL run by Yarra Warra Pre-School. Small charge.

MINI GOLF Obstacle golf course for all ages. Small charge.



CHESS COMPETITION & DISPLAY by Box Hill Chess Club.

HARLEY RIDES Ride around Warrandyte for a small fee. Top of Stiggant St.

BMX JUMP Demonstrations all day or bring your own bike and helmet. Victorian State Champion in attendance at 12 noon Sat. Stiggants Riverbank West.

SKATEBOARD RAMP Watch the professionals or bring your own skateboard and safety gear and have a go. Stiggants Riverbank West.

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB DISPLAY An extensive model railway based on the tracks at Bacchus Marsh. (Including run your own train between 1-2pm) Small entry fee. Warrandyte Community Centre.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE static display including local aerial photographs. Stiggants Riverbank.

MANNINGHAM CITY COUNCIL information and display tent. Stiggants Riverbank.

NILLUMBIK SHIRE TENT featuring North Warrandyte Landcare and Community Fireguard groups, waste and energy minimisation and Friends of the Parks Groups. Stiggants Riverbank.

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK Display of indigenous plants. Free plants. Stiggants Riverbank.

GREEN CORPS Display including games and activities involving flora and fauna for all the family. Run by the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Stiggants Riverbank.

CFA DISPLAY and activities, including the popular 'Dunk the Teacher'. Stiggants Riverbank.



BLOOD PRESSURE TESTING by qualified nurses. Sponsored by Warrandyte Primary School.

BABY CHANGING & FEEDING Facilities available in the Blood Pressure Testing Tent.

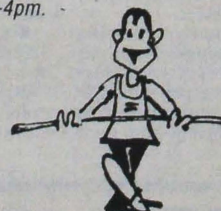
FABULOUS ROVING PERFORMERS around Stiggants Reserve all weekend, including the Warrandyte Street Theatre Group of talented local buskers and entertainers.

FESTIVAL FEASTING Gorge on firefighting franks & satays, hamburgers, saucy sangers, sweetcorn, German bangers, Indian food, spit roast, felafel, hot chips, pies & pasties, baked potatoes, crepes, poffettes, home-made ice cream, milk shakes, donuts, fairy floss and the Cake Walk. Stiggants Riverbank.

FESTIVAL RETREAT St Stephens Anglican Church invites you to bide awhile in peace and quiet within its space. Refreshments and teas available in church hall throughout weekend.

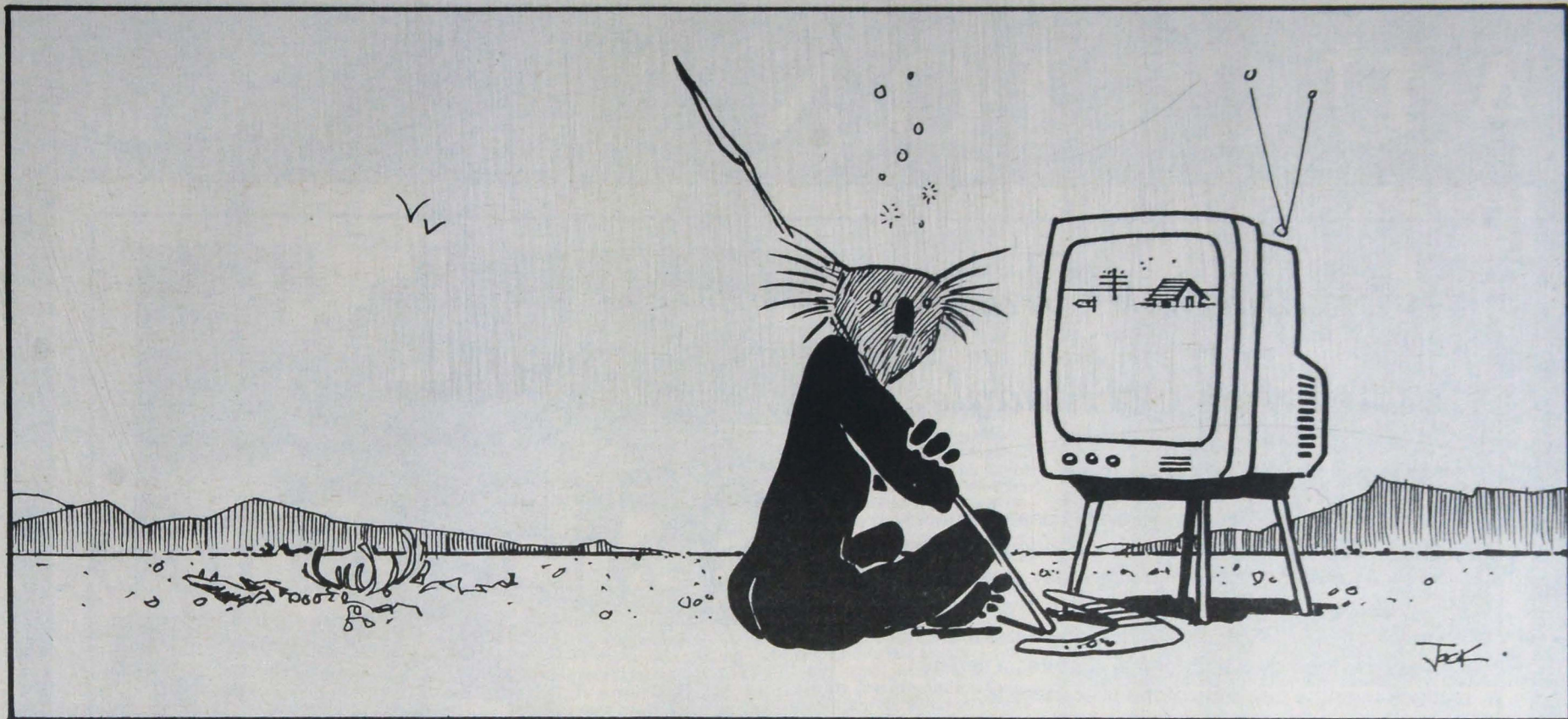
ELTHAM STATIONARY ENGINE PRESERVATION SOCIETY display of working engines and machinery. Stiggants Riverbank East.

WARRANDYTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM Showing a 1930s film of the artist Penleigh Boyd and scouts camp and canoe club of the 30s. Old Post Office, Yarra Street. 10-4pm.



INFORMATION can be obtained from the festival information caravan adjacent to the Main Stage. You can also be constantly up to date with festival happenings by listening in to 3ECB-FM who are broadcasting live from Warrandyte throughout the weekend. There is a free bus service available to help you explore the full range of sights and activities, proudly provided by the National Bus Company. First Aid is available from the St Johns Ambulance display in the Riverbank area.

WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL is run by the Warrandyte Festival Committee in conjunction with Manningham City Council and Nillumbik Shire Council.



Elixir of the land

THE Bug kicked in the door and a colossal gush of water poured in, smashing walls and windows. The Yarra through Warrandyte had risen 10 metres and the yabbies were bug-eyed with surprise.

Breaststroking out into the open, I realised that the water could only be coming from the huge dams of the Upper Yarra. I knew that if breached, this would result in the Yarra rising 10 metres in Warrandyte within 10 hours of damburst.

Water raced through the gorge at breakneck pace as the Upper Yarra Reservoir emptied itself along the entire Yarra Valley. The lilo I was riding tore through the Evelyn tunnel and out the other side in a tremendous gush. After filling the floodplains of Yarra Glen it was in no mood to stop, thundering through Warrandyte gorge, waves of water splashing awash to the great Chandler Basin, the Yarra floodplains brimming.

Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Alphington, Fairfield—express through to Richmond, where shimmering water would be metres deep before the day was out, finally surging through the city until it filled the Docklands stadium, creating a great new billabong that teemed with strange consumerist desires as the lilo I was riding, still with me and the yabbies on board, surfing nets of telephone and TV cable.

We collect water as we once collected gold. Hoard it as our most precious possession. It is life. It is death. The end and the beginning of Australia as the driest of the inhabited continents. More water is evaporated from its flat landscape than falls as rain. We are slowly, inevitably drying up as a crusty pastry does, left too long in the oven. The climatic oven, however, bakes biodiversity into the challenge to survive, honing the genes. Shearing the genes as they should be shorn.

It is not so apparent, living in the Warrandyte hills with the Yarra River in view—water on tap—that Australia is the driest and flattest continent in the world. More water flows through the Amazon River in one day than flows through the entire Murray Darling system in a year. Of all continents, Australian rainfall and streamflow are the most variable in the world. It has the least amount of river water, the lowest run-off, the smallest area of permanent wetlands.

Millennium Bug has infected everything. It has changed the weather, killed the trees, made rare animals disappear. It is a televised horror show you can't turn off. Written by GLEN JAMESON with illustrations by JOCK MACNEISH.

Drought drives the climate; carves the face of the landscape and its people; shapes the flora, the fauna: Gaia. Floods punctuate briefly, but El Nino claims the crown. We live in fear of drought. Of Kooboor stealing the water, leaving us to perish without a drop. A relentless drying pursues us like a Bug on heat with the sting of thirst and the bite of dehydration clawing at us.

Fresh, available water is a precious commodity in this world. Of the world's water, 97 percent is the salt water of the oceans, 2.1 percent is stored in glaciers and ice caps, 0.6 percent is groundwater and 0.001 percent is up in the atmosphere. Available to us is 0.02 percent on the surface.

WATER is precious to the old Melbourne tribe protecting their 'eternally flowing' Birrarrung, Yarra Yarra Birrarrung. Kooboor was a Wurundjeri tribesman who stole the water drinking vessels. Found hiding in a manna gum by the river, he was punished with such a severe beating that his face eventually resembled Kooboor, the koala. Kooboor, keeper of the drought, the El Nino marsupial.

How often we witness the small miracle that occurs every time we turn on a tap, water flows and we take it—for granted. Our early city planners appreciated this miracle. So we have more water stored per person than any other people across the world. Melbourne has 932,000 litres per person, New York 250,000 and London 18,200. More than Kooboor ever dreamed of, a harvest in protected forests that still cleanse the drinking water as they did for the Wurundjeri.

As each decade of this century has progressively become hotter and drier, the Bug has jerked the El Nino joystick, revving up the climatic engines. We will enter the new millennium having experienced the heat and dry of the 1990s, the hottest decade ever recorded. The heat is

on, as the enhanced greenhouse effect kicks in.

There is only a 2.5 to 5 degree difference in the present average temperature of the world and that experienced during the last Ice Age. The earth buckles and twists under relentless heat, evaporation and erratic rainfall. The control we thought we had over the vicissitudes of the land is a delusion of dancing mirages and the Bug cordially invites you to waltz in the ballroom of advancing deserts to the music of Louis Armstrong's Hot Five.

We have pursued the collection of water to the detriment of all other living creatures. Diversion of water for human purposes has seriously affected the natural environment. Wetlands and rivers need more water. Finally last year, for the first time ever, water had to be diverted down the Yarra River to maintain a minimum environmental flow level. A small positive change after wilful abuse.

The damming of rivers and irrigation demands changes their natural high winter/low summer flow pattern, to one of high summer low winter flow. These changes to the patterns destroy the flora and fauna that have evolved with the old flow regime.

We have looked after our own flow, though. Each Melbourne household uses 270,000 of litres a year. In the kitchen we use 27,000 litres (10 percent), flush 45,000 litres down the toilet (20 percent), bathe in 5,400 litres (2 percent), shower away 45,000 litres (20 percent), send 9,000 (3 percent) down basins, run 40,500 (15 percent) through laundries and 5,400 litres (2 percent) through pools.

A whopping 76,500 litres (28 percent) soaks into gardens; water dedicated to the false temple gardens of green lawns and deciduous trees. Gardens that are unsuitable to the climate and landscape. Gardens denying the essential Australian experience. Gardens still clinging to other places, other world values that contribute to the destruction of so much



MILLENNIUM BUG: WATER

wilderness through dam construction. Gardens the Bug is proud of. Gardens that deny the original garden, the lost paradise. Gardens that could be composed of indigenous plants and contribute to our Warrandyte sense of place and grow trees that feed Kooboor.

ON average, 685 millilitres of rain falls in our Warrandyte backyards each year.

To collect 270,000 litres of water you would need to harvest and store the rainwater that fell on a quarter hectare of land over six months. As we use 25 percent of our stored allocation each year, four consecutive dry years would test the Kooboor in all of us.

Gluttony for water has led to over-allocation to water-hungry crops. The bulk of harvested water—some 70 percent—used to irrigate for agriculture, brings major environmental consequences. In south-eastern Australia, water tables have risen 30 metres since the 1880s. Already one third of Victoria's irrigation area has been salinised, with an estimated 100,000 hectares affected. This area is expected to expand to 300,000 by the year 2020. The cost to the Victorian economy is more than \$60 million in lost agricultural production and reduced water quality. It is no wonder our country cousins are so poor. It has been predicted that the urban costs of salinity in Australia will eclipse rural costs by 2001. In the Yarra catchment, the Plenty River, Darebin Creek and Merri Creek are high discharge sources of salinity for the Yarra.

So little water flows from the land. Each year even this becomes more saline. There lies the Murray with her mouth closed, unable to speak of the devastation salt has wreaked upon her lands. We watch the ancient sea rise from the ground, a levitation of salt as if by magic. It is the relentless pushing of the land to be productive that draws the salt to the surface.

The Bug has fingers in many problem pies: sediments from erosion, salts, pesticides, chemicals, trace metals and organic wastes threatening aquatic habitats. High phosphorous nutrient levels and low water flows create blue-green algal blooms. Pesticides that impact more on aquatic species such as frogs than target organisms in crops. Large proportions of wetlands are destroyed or seriously disturbed by introduced fish and water weeds.

The atmospheric gases we pump up must come down. Waste products from electrical generation, gas production, fire-fighting, transport, agriculture, chemical, petroleum, mining and mineral industries, and domestic and commercial developments are washed along the same watercourse as my lilo. More oil from cars reaches the waterways and seas than through oil tanker spills. Waterways have all the major problems of a dysfunctional eco-family.

Adrift on a drunken lilo, the swollen river has deposited me somewhere out in Port Phillip Bay. Lost to human sensibility I am treading water in the small lagoon of my own thoughts. The Bug is still making waves, tipping and bucking the system, still in control as I am washed to sea amongst the debris of modern life. The yabbies have abandoned me. They hate salt water.

Although droughts last longer than floods, by modifying catchments through land clearing and other developments, we have increased the frequency and magnitude and our susceptibility to floods. Land clearance and increased imperviousness of soils, associated with urbanisation and soil compaction results in increased total volume and peak discharge during flood events.

The biggest floods so far witnessed by Europeans occurred in 1864 and 1934; 70 years apart. All floods have been analysed as to their extent and these two rate top of the scale: one in a century floods. So we could be due for another, any tick of the millennium clock.

The story goes that a Wurundjeri tribal elder was arguing about Bolin Bolin Billabong during Vic Roads' Bulleen Road widening during the 1980s. The engineers mentioned the 1 in 100 year floodline. The elder retorted: "You haven't seen anything yet—wait till you see the 1 in 1000 year flood!" Once in a millennium could be good lilo weather.

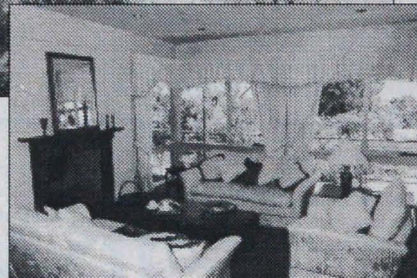
AUCTION

Sunday 28th March at 3.30pm

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PREMIUM PROPERTY



Let play begin: Phil Honeywood cuts the ribbon at the opening of the new tennis court, assisted by club president Mark Bence and Cr Patricia Young. (Picture by Jenny Grinlington)

Court opened

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte Tennis Club's much-needed sixth court was officially opened by local MP Phil Honeywood last month.

The need for additional playing space at the Taroona Avenue courts was first publicised in a *Diary* survey of local sporting requirements in 1991. The club then requested Doncaster council build two new courts at Warrandyte Reserve to cater for an ever-increasing number of players, especially among the juniors.

In late 1996, Doncaster council gave a commitment to improve tennis facilities in the area and funds were allocated. Council then declared that two courts could not be built where the club was requesting them and suggested they consider using the Lions courts near the bridge.

Following council amalgamation, the commissioners approved construction of one court only, the preferred site

was beside court 1. However, Warrandyte Cricket Club objected, fearful that a new court would impinge on the area used for cricket practice nets.

Others problems arose, including the fact that a Yarra Water sewer main goes under the area, which is zoned flood-prone by Melbourne Water, and removal of trees had to be negotiated with the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment.

Having had a new court costing at more than \$100,000, Manningham councillors resolved that no new tennis court should be built at the reserve and an agreement should be struck with the Lions Club for the shared use of the bridge courts.

Warrandyte Tennis Club approached Tennis Victoria for help in this dilemma and they supplied a consultant who pointed out how a new court could be constructed with a minimum of excavation and a

slight relocation of the existing courts. Council agreed, the project was cleared through the various government agencies, and a new court was built at a cost of \$65,699.

"The completion of the new court has seen the realisation of what has seemed, at times, to be an unachievable dream," Phil Honeywood told the *Diary*. It was a case reminiscent of a TV comedy show with "Yes Commissioners, then Yes Councillors, then Yes Minister." Finally "all the barriers were overcome and I am delighted that the Warrandyte Tennis Club can now conduct a full tennis program," Phil Honeywood said.

The tennis club's victory also benefited Warrandyte Cricket Club. "The cricket practice wickets about the tennis court construction," a council spokesman said, "so council determined that there would be cost savings to carry out works on both projects simultaneously".

Work begins at new centre

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Work is finally underway on Warrandyte's new basketball stadium at Andersons Creek Primary School. The stadium, due for completion in September, was financed through a co-operative arrangement between council and the state government.

Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood and Manningham mayor Irene Goonan turned the first sod for the stadium at a ceremony late last month.

But the ceremony was merely for promotional purposes. Barely 10 metres away was a large crater for the stadium foundations, courtesy of an excavator and bulldozer which had beaten them to the punch two weeks beforehand. "Normally in Warrandyte, when we see cranes, we say: 'No! We don't want them here,' Phil Honeywood said. "But this time we were very happy to have them because we are going to have a wonderful new basketball stadium."

He paid tribute to "demanding" local parents for getting the ball rolling for a new stadium some three years ago.

"We started this during the 1996 election campaign," he said. "I was standing down at Goldfields Plaza handing out my literature and all the parents were coming up to me, saying, 'Look, we love



Here we go again: Phil Honeywood, Irene Goonan and Patricia Young share the turning of the first sod with Andersons Creek students at Warrandyte's new basketball stadium. (Picture by Damian Arsenis)

Warrandyte, it's a great place to live. But there are not enough sports facilities for our children. I heard this message and got the working party going."

The working party, which included Mr Honeywood, councillors and school and basketball club representatives, netted several key funding grants. These included a \$600,000 grant from Manningham council, \$200,000 from the state government's Community Support Fund and \$100,000 from the Department of Education.

"The message is that it has been a wonderful partnership, with the state government and the City of Manningham able

to work together very well to benefit our wonderful community," Phil Honeywood said.

Irene Goonan underlined the partnership message, saying it was a "model we are hoping other communities will follow". She paid tribute to Phil Honeywood and Cr Patricia Young in their efforts to attract the necessary finance.

"The new stadium answers a real need in the Warrandyte area and will be a wonderful local asset," Mayor Goonan said. "Not only providing outstanding facilities but a real focal point for the local community and generating growth in the nearby Goldfields Shopping Centre."

Warrandyte Cellars

Peter's Selection for March

- ★★★★ Tim Gramp Prism Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Wine of the Month) \$16.50 (\$178 per doz)
- ★★★★ Milburn Park Trophy Chardonnay 1998 \$15.99 (\$175 per doz) (White Wine of the Month) \$11.99 (\$130 per doz)
- ★★★★ Ashwood Grove: Chardonnay, Shiraz, Cabernet \$10.99 (\$120 per doz)

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- Extensive range of handmade Cuban cigars

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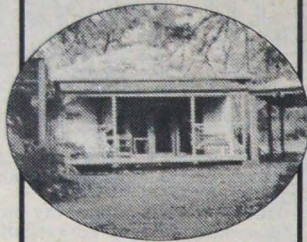
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Parents of new Year 7 students at Warrandyte High School making friends at a barbecue night early last month. The barbecue allows parents, students and staff to meet at the beginning of the year in a relaxed and informal session. It is a great way for parents, new to the school, to put faces to the names their children are talking about.

Award winner soon

The winner of the 1998-99 Warrandyte Youth Arts Award will be announced at a dinner on Thursday, March 18. The award is run by Warrandyte Lions and the *Diary*.

Now valued at \$6000, the award is designed to mark Warrandyte's special place in the story of Australian art, and to honour our young emerging artists.

The winner will be chosen from the following finalists: Andrew Batty (graphic artist), Melanie Coupar (artist), James Egglestone (singer), Emily Emerson (glass blower), Baden Hall (jewellery design), Tamara Moloney (artist), Rachel Swift (sculptor) and Timothy Vagg (artist).

Primary school kids keep cool

Traditionally, the start of the school year brings with it a heatwave, with overtired children in stuffy classrooms, unable to concentrate to their full capacity.

This year the weather was no exception, but the children at Warrandyte Primary School stayed cool, thanks to the installation of air conditioning in every classroom.

This project was financed by money raised at last year's fete.

Principal Ken Wing Jan told the *Diary* that "the improve-

ment in children's concentration, and, indeed, in school attendance numbers on very hot days was very significant".

Teachers were also appreciative of their improved working conditions, taken for granted at most other places of employment.

As well as cooler classrooms, students and staff returned to find freshly-painted buildings, new asphalted, some new carpeting and modern signage. Some of this was partly funded by Victorian government grants.

Warrandyte Cricket Club wishes to thank the following sponsors and hopes you avail yourselves of their services



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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.

Easter services

Warrandyte churches are combining to present Stations of the Cross at Stiggants Reserve at 10am on Good Friday. Other Easter services will be: **Community** (9844 4148)—Good Friday, 9am; Easter Sunday, 10am. **Uniting** (9844 3843)—Thursday, April 1, 7.30pm. Good Friday, 9am. Easter Sunday, 10.15am. **Anglican** (9844 3473)—Thursday, April 1, 7.30pm. Good Friday, 2pm. Easter Sunday, 8am and 9.30am. **Catholic** (9876 1509)—For services at Warrandyte and Park Orchards please ring.



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.

Seniors

Warrandyte Senior Citizens run a weekly program which includes a concert practice at 1pm Mondays, pennant carpet bowls, 1pm Tuesdays. On Wednesdays there is tai chi at 2.30pm. Thursday is a social day, with easy exercise, tap dancing, bingo and snooker, commencing at 9am. Friday has pennant bowls at 1pm and there is social bowls for learners at 1pm on Saturdays. Further information from 9844 2437.

Toys

The Warrandyte Toy Library has reopened for 1999 in the North Warrandyte Community Hall in Warrandyte-Research Road. Hours are 11.30am to 12.30pm on Wednesdays, 11am to 12noon on Fridays and 10 to 11am on Saturdays. New members always welcome. For information call Joanne Thodis on 9844 3459 or Karen Lockhead on 9844 2077.

Dance

A family social dance is held in the South Warrandyte Hall, Hall Road on the second Saturday of each month. Modern and old time dancing commences at 8pm. Admission is \$5 with BYO supper, tea and coffee provided. The next dance is on Saturday, April 10. Enquiries to 9723 3892.

Playgroup

Warrandyte Westend Playgroup is a friendly, self-run group, meeting on Tuesdays, from 9.30 to 11.30am at the Sunday School Hall, Uniting Church, Taroon Avenue. A second weekly session is about to begin and new members are being sought. You can enjoy adult company while your children (0-5 years) are playing. Further information from Liz Freeman on 9846 6851.

Bowls

Warrandyte Senior Citizens pennant bowlers won the flag for 1998. A presentation was held at the centre, with entertainment provided by the concert party.

Dedication

An invitation is extended to all who knew Lady Dorothy Reid to the dedication of a piano/organ in her memory at St Stephens Anglican Church, Stiggant Street at 9.30am on Sunday, March 14. Guest Speaker will be Lindsay Thompson, former premier of Victoria. Enquiries to Ann, 9844 4151 or Gary, 9844 3473.

Follies

Warrandyte Theatre Company is presenting Sensitive New Age Follies in the Warrandyte Me-



Merle and Trevor Wightman, members of the Warrandyte Senior Citizens, recently celebrated their golden wedding at the clubrooms, with many friends and family present.

chanics Institute Hall at 7.30pm on March 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27. Cost is \$15. BYO basket supper and drink. Bookings can be made with Laurie Shaw on 9844 1376. The company will be presenting Black Comedy by Peter Shaffer in June.

Koalas

Roger Martin from Melbourne University will speak on the koala at the Green Wedge Seminar, to be held at Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre, Reynolds Road, Doncaster East, on Thursday, April 1, commencing at 7.30pm. The seminar is free, with tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

Gallery

The Manningham Gallery, rear Municipal Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, is presenting The Return Of The Goddess—a celebration of Victorian women—from February 26 to March 31. The exhibition features portraits of notable women in fired ceramic by sculptor Ruth Lyon.

Information

Warrandyte Historical Society has been asked to seek information, by his grand-daughter, about Mr Len Brown, formerly of Blooms Road, Warrandyte, who died fighting the 1968 bushfires. Anyone who can assist, please contact Gina Bevan-Jones on 9844 3662.

Feltmakers

Eltham artist Lorraine Durrant is co-ordinating an exhibition of work by Victorian feltmakers at the Eltham Library Community Gallery from March 9 to 21.

Business

A series of business seminars is being held at the Manningham Council Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster. A two-day workshop on mature age employment opportunities in Melbourne's east will take place on March 22 and 25. On April 27 there will be an afternoon seminar on youth employment opportunities. For information call Sue Vujcevic on 9840 9406.

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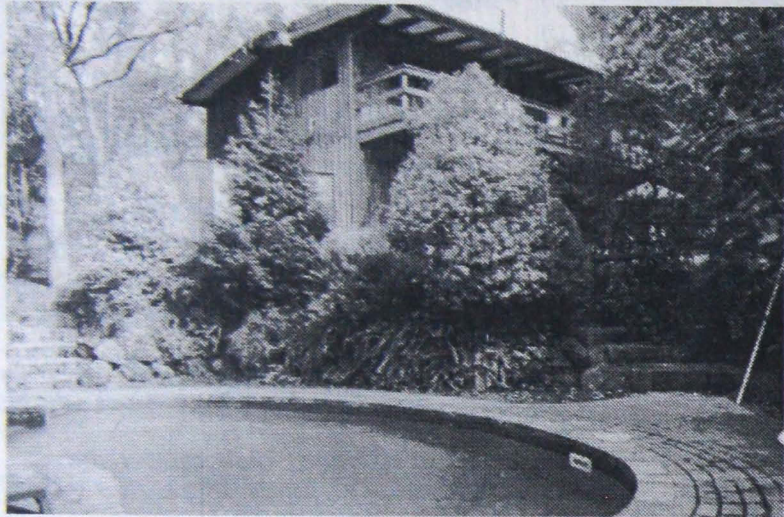
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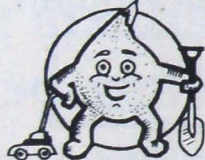
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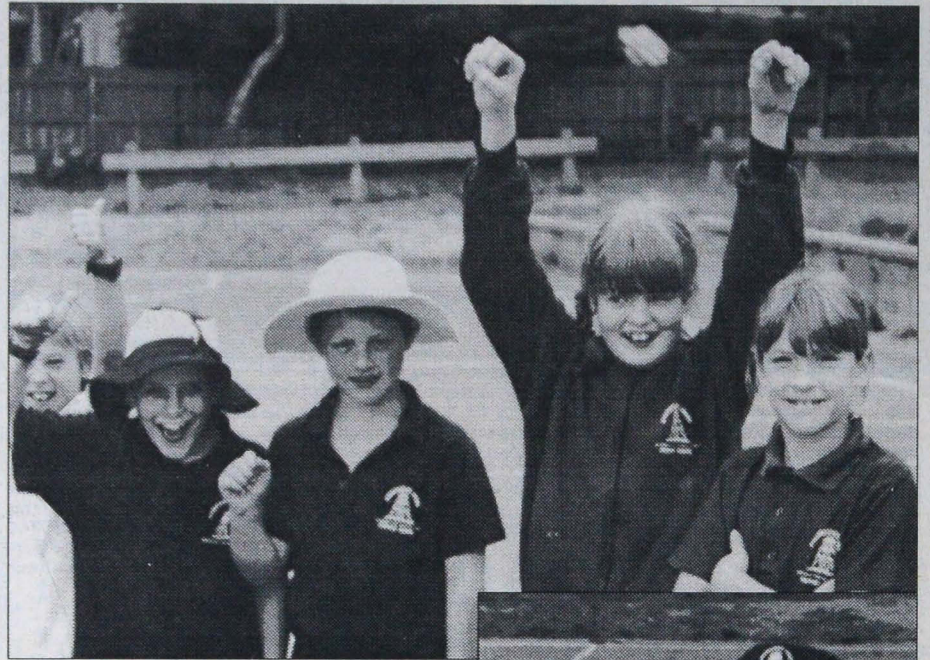
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School's in for baby Redbacks



Andersons Creek Primary School kids get their first lessons in basketball. (Pictures by Damian Arsenis)

By **DAMIAN ARSENIS**

Warrandyte Basketball Club recently conducted clinics at several local primary schools to promote the game at grassroots level within the community.

With the help of Redback coach Tristan Messerle and Cassie Eastaugh, the club introduced basketball to 38 classes, from grades one to four.

The participating schools—Warrandyte, Andersons Creek, Wonga Park, Warranwood and St Anne's—welcomed the clinics with open arms and their cooperation allowed the Redbacks to entertain 1000 children in the local area.

The program was a huge success, many of the children opting to join the club's Mosquito Fleet, itself a success story.

About 70 children attended the latest Mosquito Fleet session at the Donvale Sports Complex, the Redbacks having been swamped by interest in the program opener.

Many children have since registered to play for the Redbacks in the EDJBA winter season, which starts on April 24, with a number of parents expressing interest in coaching.

The club's involvement with schools will continue with further clinics to be run in term three. The schools will be invited to take part in the launch of the Redbacks' new primary schools basketball competition when the new stadium at Andersons Creek primary is opened in late September.

For further information on the Mosquito Fleet: Damian Arsenis (9846 7640 or 0418 995 663).



Our finals hopes high

The Redbacks are entering the EDJBA summer season finals with high expectations. A number of teams are showing plenty of promise in their quest for the premierships flag.

Presentations for the summer season will be made on Sunday, April 25, at the Warrandyte High School stadium. By popular demand,

it will again be a Twilight Presentation Day, proceedings beginning at 5pm.

Presentations will be made to all grand finalists and all Under-8 participants.

Drinks and a barbecue will be available.

• You can now visit the Redbacks on the Internet, at www.vicnet.au/~warrabc/redbacks.html

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Dismal Dytes herald change

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Cricket Club have bid farwell to a disappointing 1998-99 RDCA season and are promising change for the turn of the millennium.

The season ended with none of the four senior teams returning a positive win-loss record, the Chandler Shield firsts losing four of their five completed games in the run home to bow out of the finals race after a promising start.

Bushrangers president David Gee was re-elected at the annual general meeting last month and said the club had to turn around their fortunes both on and off the field.

"At the meeting I addressed the people and asked them as to which direction the club was going and where did they want it to go.

"We were finding it pretty hard to fill four teams on a Saturday this season, which is disappointing."

Gee said that while many at the meeting were the "same old faces", there were some positive signs.

"It stirred a few of them up. The majority of the committee has been maintained but we have co-opted more people on to help," he said. "This season there were some administrative things which were not as good as they should have been."

He said that while captain-



SPORT

CRICKET DETAILS

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 213 (White 84) drew with Kilsyth 0/2 —washed out. Warrandyte 97 (Tregear 44) and 3/34 lost to Wonga Park 224 (Gay 3/44).

SECONDS: Warrandyte drew with Kilsyth 6/301 (White 2/37) —washed out. Warrandyte 168 (Wellesly 45 n.o.) lost to Wonga Park 269 (Davis 5/104, Beardall 3/54).

THIRDS: Warrandyte 3/43 drew with Kilsyth 174 (Vitoritti 4/33, Cloke 3/32) —washed out. Warrandyte 165 (Kline 76 n.o., J. Cloke 50) and 174 (Goddard 74) lost to Wonga Park 5/207 and 0/18.

FOURTHS: Warrandyte 249 (D. Gee 69, Croft 54) drew with Kilsyth 0/29 —washed out. Warrandyte 149 (D. Gee 46, Sharpe 29) and 3/91 (D. Gee 38) lost to Wonga Park 7/369 (D. Gee 3/80).

VETERANS: Grand Final: Warrandyte 3/134 (McCarthy 40 n.o., White 35 n.o., Pascoe 24) defeated Norwood 6/132 (King 2/13).

JUNIORS: Under-14 Semi-final: Warrandyte 88 lost to East Ringwood 3/110. **Under-12 Semi-final:** Warrandyte 7/143 (Cloke 30 n.o., Jurey 30 n.o.) defeated North Ringwood 8/125 (Cleaves 3/24).

Kilsyth washed out.

One positive to emerge, however, has been the strong showing by the junior teams, with both the Under-12s and under-14s making the finals.

Gee said the club would make it their goal next season to promote the juniors and ensure more flowed through to senior ranks.

"The highlight of the season was the performance of the very strong junior group," he said. "We have a good crop of juniors and a clear policy for us will be to push them through as high as they can next season."

Those in contention include under 16-players Nick Taylor and Matt Gamble and Adrian

Wilson from the Under-14s, all of whom represented the RDCA this season.

The Under-14s lost their semi-final to East Ringwood by 22 runs, just the second defeat for the season for the team coached by Gavin Gamble.

The Under-12s coached by Greg Thomas beat North Ringwood in their semi-final by 18 runs, reaching 7/143 as both Travis Cloke and Brentan Jurey reached 30 before retiring. Justin Cleaves took 3/24.

Their grand final is against Ainslie Park this weekend (March 13 and 14) from 8.30am at Barneong Reserve in Croydon.

Junior presentation day will



David Gee: 'Same old faces but positive signs'.

be at the clubrooms on Sunday, March 21, from 10.30am.

At the other end of the age scale, the veterans capped a fine season with a premiership, beating Norwood by seven wickets in the grand final.

Norwood declared at 6/132 after 30 overs as Alan King (2/13) and Barry Johnston bowled

tightly. In reply the Bushrangers cruised to victory, with Marty McCarthy retiring at 40 and Rob White reaching 35 not out.

Senior presentation night will be at the clubrooms this Saturday night (March 13) from 7.30pm. Tickets are \$15 for the spit roast dinner.

Oh, what a night!



Flashback. The Under-18s make history by playing under lights here on August 7 last year.

Colts' desperate search for 1999 coach

Time is running out for Warrandyte Junior Football Club to find a coach to carry on a premiership tradition.

The Under-17 Colts, who won last season's Yarra Junior Football League flag, are still "ruderless" with their season little more than a month away.

Those premiership players have now moved on to the Under-18s and the 1998 Under-16s who have replaced them are putting in a big pre-season under a temporary coach with just one thing in mind: another flag.

"We have about 27 boys out there raring to go but no one to coach them," WJFC coaching coordinator Anthony Mirabella told the *Diary*.

"We have spoken to a lot of people and have gone very close to getting a very good coach, but we're still looking.

"Mathew Matheou, who coached the Under-11s to the premiership last season, is taking the Colts' pre-season and is doing a great job.

"But he wants one more season with his kids as Under-12s. He's in his third season with this team and he wants to take their development just one step further."

Mirabella said the club were struggling for Under-15s, resur-

rected from last year's Under-14s who were disbanded for lack of numbers.

"Under-15 registrations have been very disappointing, but hopefully they'll come up and be one of 10 teams we plan to field this season," he said.

The season starts on April 18. Mirabella's phone number is 9844 2623 and he'd love to hear from anyone—particularly an Under-17s coach and Under-15 players—who'd like to be involved in a very successful, friendly and energetic football club.

By LEE TINDALE

The countdown is on to one of the major events in Warrandyte's football history—the ground-breaking season's opener under lights at home on April 10.

It will be the Bloods' and the EFL's first home-and-away night game and it has created enormous interest throughout the competition.

"I was at a league meeting a few nights ago and everybody was talking about it," Warrandyte Football Club president Jeff Evans told the *Diary*.

"Of course, it doesn't compare with winning a premiership, but it will be a very significant event in the club's history and we are expecting a huge crowd.

"If the response to the Under-18s night game against Fairpark last season is any indication, we will be catering for thousands."

April 10 will be a triple-header against Wantirna South, the Under-18s kicking it off, followed by the Reserves and the Seniors.

Match times have not yet been finalised but they are likely to be three, five and seven o'clock respectively.

Evans said the Bloods expected a big representation from EFL clubs of all divisions among the crowd. "First and Second Division do not start their seasons until the following Saturday and I think we'll see a lot of players, officials and supporters of clubs in those divisions coming along to have a look at history being made," he said.

"And interested Third and Fourth Division clubs will have plenty of time to get along to our ground for the senior game after their own matches that day."

The game will be videotaped by the EFL media team led by Justin Nelson and telecast by Channel 31 the following Satur-

New look gets nod

Warrandyte Football Club's new jumpers for away and night games have been given a resounding "yes" vote.

The jumpers were unveiled at a sponsors night at the Grand Hotel last month and were unanimously approved.

A radical departure from the traditional red with the white "V", which will continue to be worn in home day games, they are white with red trim around the neck and sleeves and a red "W" emblazoned on the chest. They were modelled on the night by former club committeeperson Lisa Ryan and Catherine Selby, from Wilson McDougall real estate.

The new look, which will be far more conspicuous under lights, will debut in the Blood's history-making night game on April 10. It will also set Warrandyte

apart from teams with similar colours in away matches.

A draw for naming rights to this season's jumpers was won by Colin Aitken, of Wonga Park Goodfellows, who magnanimously declined it in favour of commercial concrete contractor Dalwood Lane, operated by Ian and Vicki Bell, parents of senior player Willie Bell.

● Former VFL/AFL premiership player and coach Robert Walls and former Australian Test fast bowler Rodney Hogg will be guest speakers at a Sportsmen's Night at the clubrooms on Wednesday, April 14.

Tickets are just \$20 and are available from WFC president Jeff Evans (9722 1111) or the Grand Hotel.

day morning. If free of other broadcasting commitments, ABC sportscaster and *Diary* staffer Clinton Grybas will provide special comments during the telecast.

Channel 31 will also screen Warrandyte's Round 6 away game against East Doncaster on May 15.

In other EFL-inspired communication developments for the 1999 season, GB Radio (1620 on the AM dial) will broadcast a game selected from any of the four divisions each Saturday and provide progress scores from all games in all divisions.

"It means that Warrandyte supporters unable to be at our game on a given day can follow the Bloods' fortunes throughout the afternoon on radio," Evans said.

Warrandyte will feature in at least one GB Radio live commentary this season, the Round 7 home game against the South-

ern Cobras on May 22.

Community radio Eastern FM (98.1 on the FM dial) will also be heavily involved in EFL football, broadcasting a First Division game every Saturday.

Meanwhile, Bloods officials are involved in ongoing discussions with several prospective recruits for the new season.

Warrandyte will play three practice matches (all at home) in the lead-up to April 10—against Doncaster on March 20 (Festival Saturday), Upwey Tecoma on March 27 and Rowville under lights on Wednesday, March 31.

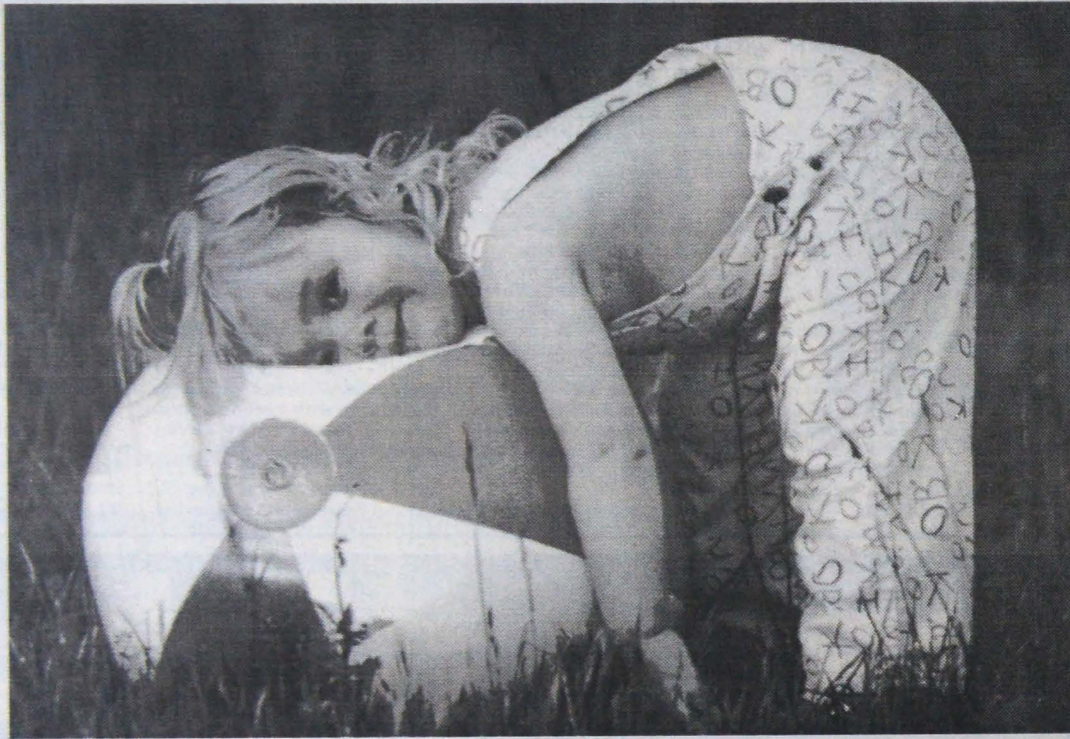
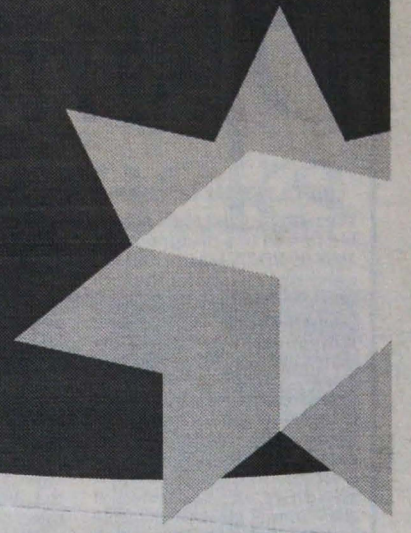
● Chris Barnes, who played football at Healesville, University High and trained with Fitzroy, will coach Warrandyte's Reserves this season.

Barnes has been involved with the local juniors for the past seven years and will continue to work with them to foster players down the track.



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Yours sincerely

David and Karen Copsey

Dear Russell

Just a note of thanks from Laila and myself to you and Vicki for your service, advice and efficiency in the sale of our beloved home. Both your professionalism and easy going "Warrandyte" manner helped us a lot in severing our ties with a home and community we both loved. In addition not only did we achieve a sale price at the top end of our expectations but we did so within 10 days of listing. Thank you both again for your dedication. We are both looking forward to the future.

Yours sincerely

Mark Lazzarotti

Dear Vicki and Russell

We would like to extend our appreciation and thanks for the way in which you helped us in the selling of our home and the purchase of our new home. From the very start of our relationship you both showed professionalism in your manner, with accurate estimation of selling and purchasing, pricing and timing of the sale and for us this was a crucial and important time. Your feedback during the sale of our home was informative and regular. So thanks once again Vicki and Russell for your help and commitment to a successful deal.

Best wishes

Mark, Debbie, Kate & Christopher Watson

To The Professionals

We chose Wilson McDougall because they showed a sincere appreciation of the area for the discerning buyer/seller. Catherine Selby was realistic and helpful with a non dictatorial approach which made us feel comfortable. We would thoroughly recommend Catherine Selby and Wilson McDougall to the buyer/seller in the local home market.

Regards

The Nolan Family

Dear Mr McInnes

Many thanks for the excellent sales service we received from you and your colleague, Vicki Gardiner. Not only was our property sold in five days, the price I expected was exceeded by 5%. Please convey our appreciation and thanks to Ms Gardiner.

R. & A. White

Dear Vicki

Both Alicia and myself would like to thank you for the excellent result achieved in the sale of our property in Caboola Drive. We were very pleased with the professional and courteous manner in which the sale was handled, the time spent ensuring we had a full understanding of how the sale was to be conducted, and keeping us informed on the progress of the sale. We would have no hesitation in recommending both you and your company to anyone looking at buying or selling in this area. Thank you very much again.

Kind regards

Erik and Alicia Bumpers

Dear Russell

I just wanted to send a short note to thank you for all your help with the sale of our property in Pound Road, Warrandyte. Your easy going communication and attention to detail and follow up made what can sometimes be a stressful experience, seem almost a pleasure! We were very pleased with the result. Happy with the price and the fact that the sale took only two weeks after we signed up with you. Thanks once again to you and the team there.

Kind regards

Debbie Marinier

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