

No to subdivision

Roundabout changes on, nursing home off

By DAVID WYMAN

Following concerted campaigns, Warrandyte residents have won two major victories and a bid to subdivide land in the Green Wedge has failed.

The proposal to build a nursing home in Harris Gully Road has been withdrawn and major changes are mooted for the controversial roundabout at the Warrandyte-Harris Gully roads intersection.

The appeal against Manningham council's refusal to grant a permit for a 60-bed nursing home on Green Wedge land at 54 Harris Gully Road has been withdrawn, and a proposal to rezone the land for subdivision has been rejected by council and a planning advisory panel.

The appeal was due to be heard on March 26 by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

ERM Mitchell McCotter—environment engineering consultants acting for the permit applicant, Hillington Valley—withdraw the appeal because the applicant "is currently unable to obtain the appropriate allocation of high care licences from the Commonwealth Government to operate the proposed 60-bed facility".

"In fact, we understand that it is unlikely the appropriate licences will become available within the next two years," ERM Mitchell McCotter says in a letter to all concerned.

"However, our client does intend lodging a new town planning application with council if and when the appropriate allocation of licences from the Commonwealth Government becomes available in the future."

"Thanks heavens for this," Cr Patricia Young said, "as we

CLYDE & OCKER



"One day they'll learn not to mess with Warrandyte, Ock!"

never know what the tribunal or planning minister Maclellan will do, even though we have strong grounds for all of our refusals on planning applications."

The nursing home project was deemed by Manningham council to be inappropriate for the site, based on an "orderly and proper planning perspective". A large number of strong objections to the proposal were received by council from local residents.

Meanwhile, the *Diary* has discovered that the consultants for Hillington Valley proposed a change in zoning of the property to allow subdivision. The consultants made a submission to the panel appointed by the Minister for Planning to review the Manningham new format planning scheme.

ERM Mitchell McCotter proposed that an Environmental Residential Area replace council's Special Use 1 Zone. "It is submitted that the proposed change in zoning would allow a logical extension of existing urban development," the submission stated.

"The land (at 54 Harris Gully Road) has infrastructure capacity, is largely cleared, and has the ability to connect to streets in the residential subdivision to the north.

"A change in zone to an Environmental Residential Area would ensure that any new development has regard to landscape quality and environmental character. The existing subdivisions in Timbertop Ridge and Opossum Rise form a logical

boundary to landscape and environmental areas further south."

Manningham council did not support the proposal, stating that there had been no change in circumstances to overturn minimum lot size or zone boundaries in the Green Wedge.

The minister's panel noted that the consultants' submission "seeks to extend the boundaries of Warrandyte township into the Green Wedge, to include the subject land (at 54 Harris Gully Road). This request would allow for residential development around the proposed (now abandoned) aged care facility".

The panel's report stated that council's Municipal Strategic Statement should be modified to include a clear statement on the desire to achieve urban consolidation within the existing Warrandyte township boundary.

"This would send a clear message that council does not support the extension of these boundaries."

In a further development this month, Manningham council will review signage, lighting and the colour of footpaths at the new Warrandyte-Harris Gully roads roundabout.

In a letter to Warrandyte Awareness Group, John Stamp, manager of Manningham project management, said the type and number of signs at the intersection would be reviewed.

"The issue of the lighting of the intersection is to be reviewed when the existing temporary lights have been removed," he said. "The matter of the colour and finishes of the footpaths is to be the subject of further consideration."

Mr Stamp said WAG would have the opportunity to review the plans for the proposed landscape works at the roundabout. It is understood that council is considering coating concrete footpaths with asphalt to reduce the impact of their bright grey colour.

Diary readers have expressed concerns about the camber and alignment of the road when one makes a right hand turn in the roundabout from Harris Gully Road, and the failure of the roundabout to reduce vehicle speed.

During recent heavy rain, a large amount of earth was washed into the road surface, causing concerns about soil erosion and drainage at the site.



More Sandy Burgoyne pictures, festival stories inside



NIGHT FOOTY
Bloods switch on!
—PAGE 19

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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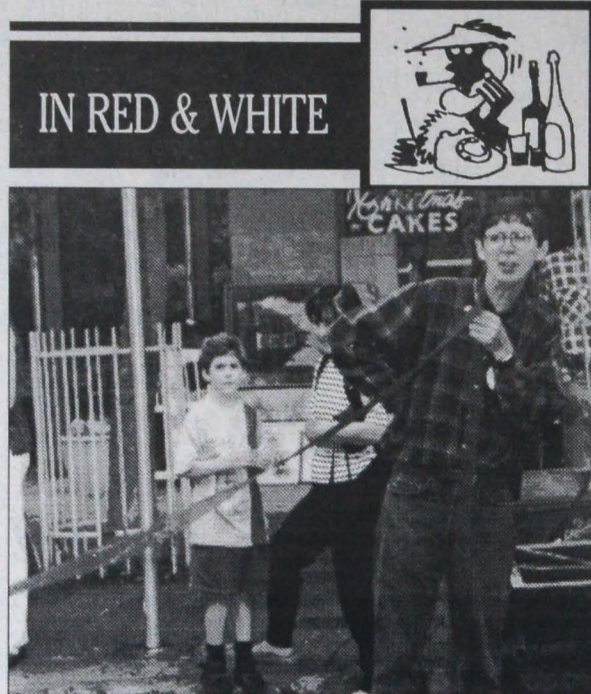
Merciful rain gods spare us festival Full Monty!

Every cloud has a silver lining, doesn't it? The clouds that tipped buckets of rain over the Warrandyte Festival sure did. They spared us the terrifying spectacle of long-running chairman John Boyle and his festival committee blokes doing The Full Monty at the finale concert. John had announced (make that threatened) at last year's show that the chaps were going to get it all off in 1999 and rehearsals had been held in the dead of night behind locked doors, sentries posted to warn of any raid by the morals police. Thank God or Hughie or whoever for sending it down and washing the concert away. Then again, it was so cold you probably wouldn't have seen much anyway. Not with the naked eye. And now the bad news: weather permitting, they're going to do it next year! Start praying for rain, people.

Ken Sharp was doing a fine job as barman in the Rotary Art Show marquee on festival opening night and he should have quit while ahead instead of getting carried away by the very fine music of Triple Play and insisting on standing up and doing a barely-recognisable rendition of Blueberry Hill. He damn near cleared the tent but there were sufficient folk left, when he asked if they'd like another, to shout "No" loud enough to be heard at Croynod. We think Fats Domino can rest easy.

Gus McLaren and long-time partner Denise Farran gave a right royal performance as king and queen of the fest. Threw themselves into the role. At the muster before the parade, King Gus told Town Crier David Hogg: "Any booing from this rabble and I'll put 'em in the stocks!" To which David replied: "You're in a jovial mood today, sire. The usual sentence is beheading!" Denise had a splendid time, remarking as she alighted from her carriage at parade's end that this was the closest thing she'd get to a wedding. We think she's trying to tell you something, Gus.

Hugh McSpedden, of festival Light and Sound Show fame, was kind enough to lend his World War 2 Ford Blitz army truck to the senior citizens to



Would you buy a used Full Monty from this man? Festival committee chairman John Boyle holds the red tape for Their Royal Highnesses King Gus and Queen Denise to cut and officially open this year's proceedings.

carry their bush band in the parade, with Martin Quarendon at the wheel. Unfortunately, Martin forgot he was no longer driving the Warrandyte fire truck and on the way to the marshalling point the steering column disintegrated, leaving him with a handful of steering wheel and nothing else. With just minutes to go before the parade, Martin's cousin, Jackie Law, rushed to the festival caravan and enlisted the aid of Mal Parsons, who made a few quick phone calls and, in the true community spirit that is Warrandyte, came up with up George Nikakis, his Mercedes and tandem trailer. But hang about, what was this coming down the road at the last moment? Yes, Hugh's Ford Blitz truck with the senior cits aboard. Seems that while Plan B was being put into operation, it dawned on the seniors that this was a truck of a vintage of which they were entirely familiar. Spanners, screwdrivers, hammers and split-pins were produced and in no time at all the old-time bush band show was back on the road.

Jackie Law observed that in the course of the festival's history she'd ridden on floats for the kindergartens, primary school, pony club, high school, sports clubs and now the senior citizens. She wonders whose banner she'll be carrying next year. The Coffin Cheaters?

The festival Billycart Derby has taken on a new image under the management of Rob Cousins. No insignificant backwater event this. No, it has entered the space age. A complete team of officials, entrants registered by on-line computer and the prize a Nintendo 64 system. The derby has become so popular that some oldies are suggesting kids be banned next year and replaced by parents. It's unlikely, however, that the organisers will adopt Terry Oakley's suggestion that the race start at the top of Forbes Street, near Warrandyte Primary School, and run across Yarra Street without closing it to traffic!

NIGHTMARE ON YARRA STREET (1): If you'd passed Wilson McDougall real estate in Yarra Street about midnight on festival Saturday you'd have been forgiven for thinking Priscilla Queen of the Desert's bus had come to town. Three outrageously-attired drag queens were having their photos taken in the rain and we expose them here as David Parsons, John Azzopardi and Craig Carthew, all sequined, sexy and slinky and sporting Carmen Miranda hairdos. Stopped the traffic, they did, just as they'd stopped the show with an hilarious performance on the final night of the Festival Follies in the Mechanics Institute Hall across the road.

NIGHTMARE ON YARRA STREET (2): Wolfe Dietrich, who runs Teddy's coffee shop and ice creamery on the corner of Yarra and Webb Streets, was working back late the other night defrosting his fridges and he couldn't help noticing something different about the bloke on the phone in the call box outside. The guy was starkers, naked as the moment he left the womb. This was obviously no emergency call because Wolfe says he looked quite calm and relaxed. And what's more, he returned 15 minutes later for another go. Wonder where he kept his phone money?

The two long-time local blokes shall be nameless here to protect Smokey from a writ or a hiding (whichever comes first) or both and we'll refer to them only as Heckle and Jeckle. Over a customary beer at the Grand, Heckle remarked that Jeckle's jeans were a little on the tight said, to which the latter responded that all his were either dirty or in the wash and he was wearing his wife's. "Jeez," said Heckle, "how lucky are you! I've been dying to get into your wife's pants for years!" Remarkably, Heckle and Jeckle are still mates.

Smokey Joe



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OVER THE HILLS
By JOCK MACNEISH

Jock

Drugs: parents act

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Evidence of drug and alcohol abuse among local teenagers has prompted a group of parents to band together to try and help their children.

Eager to preserve the health of their teenagers and ensure the problem does not become a police matter, they are taking a pro-active role through meetings and the procurement of drug and alcohol information.

Rob Reindorp is one local father in the Concerned Parents Group. He says he became aware that his 16 year-old son was smoking marijuana more than six months ago.

"I think it is fairly endemic in Warrandyte," he told the *Diary*. "Probably all our children, at some time, have been involved in a substance abuse situation."

The initial group of six to 10 parents—whose children all spend time at the community centre—met for the first time four weeks ago.

"It was brought to our attention that drugs—alcohol and marijuana—were being abused on the premises, if not at the community centre then certainly in the car park around the corner."

Terry McKee is another parent who felt compelled to help form the group. She says her 15 year-old son is just one of a surprisingly large group involved in substance abuse.

"We were quite shocked at how many 14, 15 and 16 year-olds are involved, she said. "Some parents were a bit shocked, thinking that their sons could not be involved. It was a real eye-opener for them."

"Our concern is the dishonesty that seems to go with alcohol and drug abuse," Rob Reindorp said. "Kids that

are normally honest, but when it comes to these sorts of things they lie and cheat."

He says parents found dishonesty increased when "zero tolerance" was adopted, as opposed to a "benign guidance policy" which helped bring the issue out into the open. This was evident at early meetings attended by both parents and their children. In one case one young person "gave away" his remaining dope, saying he felt too guilty to use it.

● For further information on the group contact Rob Reindorp on 9844 1937 or Jim and Terry McKee on 9844 2590.

"The response has been an improvement in relationships, understanding and openness," Mr Reindorp said. "The children seem to realise we are concerned about their health and future, rather than just 'don't do this because it's bad'."

He says the parents hope to try and end the matter before it becomes a police issue.

Sergeant Keith Walker of Warrandyte police supports the parents' pro-active stance. "It's terrific that parents have taken an active interest in their kids and their well-being," he said.

"I've spoken with Manningham Community Health. They have a drug and

alcohol worker and I'm hoping this person can get into the schools and our youth centre to speak to the kids, teachers, and others to educate them about drug use and abuse."

He believes the problem is confined to a "group of young people perhaps 15 to 16 years of age", similar to that being experienced in most areas of Victoria.

"I would hate to think of that group getting larger; of kids falling victim to peer group pressure and becoming involved."

"It's certainly something that can be policed by parents, simply knowing where your kids are. I get reports from parents who have said their kids have gone to the youth centre, but they've not attended there at all." He says some local young people have been seen walking the streets at two o'clock in the morning "obviously affected by something".

"They can then go home and not be asked any questions by their parents. I think that's irresponsible. Address the issue at home rather than the police having to get involved. When this behaviour happens out on the streets,

then it becomes a police issue."

He says Warrandyte police regularly patrol "the known haunts" and have received several letters of support for a proposal to make the banks of the Yarra River an alcohol-free zone.

Sergeant Walker is eager to hear from anyone with information about who is supplying drugs and alcohol to local youth. "If I was told who is supplying it, I would pursue that with great vigour."

"We are very fortunate with our licensed premises and the licensed grocers in town—they have all done responsible serving of alcohol courses. They are aware of their responsibilities but can't stop older people coming in, buying alcohol and passing it on."

Rob Reindorp agrees that alcohol and marijuana is being passed on by older people, a criminal offence. "I know that marijuana grows in and around Warrandyte and is not too difficult to get."

He said the Concerned Parents Group has proven to be a great relief for some local parents. "They had been trying to hide the problem. They did not know how to face it. Having a group that is similarly inclined has made it easier for them."

Neither Mr Reindorp nor Sergeant Walker believe that the excuse used by local young people—that there is little for them to do in Warrandyte—holds up.

"I think there is a definite need for entertainment for the youth in town. But it doesn't excuse the problem," Sergeant Walker said. "If people are going to use alcohol or drugs they will."

The ages of some young people using alcohol and drugs would surprise



Home-made "bong", used to smoke marijuana, found recently in the community centre garden. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

many parents. Warrandyte Community Centre manager Norm Tillack recently found a plastic bag full of cans and bottles of spirits mixed with fruit juice and beer.

"Included in the bag was an invitation," he said. "Please come to my 14th birthday party." They had a party, which mum or dad may have supervised, then they dropped the evidence in our garden."

While regularly picking up as many as 40 empty alcoholic cans or bottles every Monday morning, he also found a two-thirds bottle of Jim Beam whisky. "And I found a home-made 'bong' planted beside the building under some foliage."

Skateboarders 'on outer'

By CLINTON GRYBAS

They have been banned from local primary schools, shopping areas and the community centre—and now Warrandyte's rapidly growing skateboard population have had enough.

The youngsters have written letters and presented a 270 signature petition to Manningham council lobbying for their own "skate park" in Warrandyte. Several sites have been identified as a possible location, including Warrandyte Reserve,

where the Whitehouse once stood, and the old dairy site in Yarra Street.

Local skateboarder Dale Dunn is just one of the many teenagers pleading for more facilities. He says local riders, whose ages vary between seven and 18, have been banned from riding at Andersons Creek Primary School, Goldfields Plaza and Warrandyte Community Centre, leaving them with virtually no flat stretches of concrete in Warrandyte on which

to ride.

"We have to go into the city and use the skate park in there, which is an hour away by bus," he said. "Andersons Creek Primary School is the best spot in Warrandyte to skate and that is where most people went to skate on weekends before we were banned."

"But if we had our own ramp there wouldn't be any trouble."

As a result of the initiative shown by the Warrandyte youth, Manningham council has undertaken a feasibility study, investigating skateboarding across the municipality. It takes the kids away from the main shopping centres and gives them their own space."

He said two parents lobbied the case for a skateboard facility at a recent meeting of the Warrandyte youth sub-committee. "What we need are for more parents to be pro-active. To get letters of support to the local members and councillors to express their concerns."

"Certainly as chairman of the Warrandyte youth sub-committee I would be urging council to consider having a facility built in Warrandyte."

The popularity of skateboarding has surged in the last two years, stressing the need for a skate area. A fully-equipped skate park could cost in the vicinity of \$100,000.

crete and they don't get kicked out of anywhere."

Sergeant Keith Walker of Warrandyte police agrees a skate area must be built locally.

"There is a definite need for a skateboard facility to be built in Warrandyte. There are skateboard facilities nearby in Bulleen and Lilydale, but we are faced with a problem that other areas do not have and that is a lack of transport and a lack of other forms of entertainment," he said.

"I believe the most suitable site for a skateboard facility is the one next to the old dairy. It takes the kids away from the main shopping centres and gives them their own space."

He said two parents lobbied the case for a skateboard facility at a recent meeting of the Warrandyte youth sub-committee. "What we need are for more parents to be pro-active. To get letters of support to the local members and councillors to express their concerns."

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All rigged up and nowhere to skate. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

Youth seminar

A noted expert on young people in their adolescent years will be addressing parents in Warrandyte early next month.

The local Rotary Club is bringing Graham Burrows, professor of psychiatry at Melbourne university and director of the psychiatric and psychology clinical service unit at Austin hospital to Warrandyte High School to participate in two free seminars, one on May 10 and the second in July.

"We are most fortunate to have the support of one of Australia's and the world's most eminent authorities on mental health," Rotary president Graeme Redman told the *Diary*.

"Professor Burrows serves on a number of advisory boards to Australian and international scientific organisations, including the World Psychiatric Association and the World Health Organisation. He was president of the first and is currently president of the second World Congress on Stress, chairman of the Australian Society of Hypnosis and head of the Mental Health Foundation of Australia."



Professor Graham Burrows

The seminars will help parents recognise stressors and associated symptoms in their children during adolescence.

"Whilst there is already a strong community focus on the tragedy of youth suicide, these programs are not intended to highlight suicide, rather, to address the factors that can lead to anti-social behaviour, disruption in learning and to avoid the possible tragic finality of suicide."

"In other words, address the problem before it starts."

Graeme Redman can be contacted on 9722 1252.

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PHONE TOWER DILEMMA

Where will all the flowers go?

By **RACHEL BAKER**

Despite resistance from community groups, the Optus mobile phone tower is set to be built next to a Warrandyte nature reserve.

Optus plans to build the base station, which includes a shelter and a 29-metre high tower, beside the Tindals Wildflower Reserve, at the corner of Warrandyte and Tindals roads.

A new group has been formed—the Warrandyte No Tower Action Group—pledged to resist construction of the tower anywhere in Warrandyte.

The proposal is also being opposed by Friends of Tindals Wildflower Reserve, who object to the tower being built in a nature reserve, and the Warrandyte Awareness Group, who oppose the tower completely.

WAG has written to Optus, requesting that they withdraw the proposal, and plans to gather a thousand signatures to a petition to show that residents do not want the tower.

The Friends group believes the construction of the tower is inevitable, but claims it is unfair for human technology to impact upon wildlife. "Nature shouldn't have to bear the burden," spokesperson Rosemary Buxton told the *Diary*.

Dr Pamela Dry, spokesperson for the No Tower Action Group, said that her group is opposing the project for a number of reasons.

"The proposed site is adjacent to the wildflower reserve. The significance of this area does not end at the fence. There is a buffer zone which assists in preserving the bushland.

"The reservation itself is an important conservation zone with a number of rare native flora and fauna and great diversity in plant species.

"The site is adjacent to Warrandyte Road, at a location which is important geographically as the gateway to Warrandyte," Dr Dry said. "It is out of character with the historical nature of the township.



Site for a tower? Tindals Wildflower Reserve. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

"It is within a residential area. There is very little industry in its vicinity. The amenity of the residents is of great importance.

"Such a structure would dominate their horizon and is out of keeping with the character of the area."

WAG member, Louise Baker, said they oppose the tower and the shelter—which will measure 3 by 4.8 metres—because it will threaten both the landscape and skyline of the area, and may damage people's health.

Optus community relations manager, Ross Monaghan, claimed that "scientific evidence suggests there is no impact on health". He said if people are concerned about health issues, they should contact Optus, or such authorities as the Federal Department of Health or the World Health Organisation website.

Mr Monaghan said the visual impact will be minimised by painting the pole and the shel-

ter mist green and surrounding them with trees.

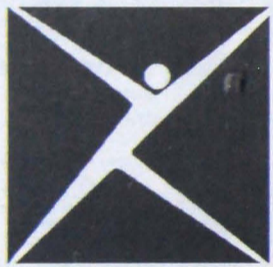
But roadworks may be necessary. The road reserve (the unsealed road off Tindals Road, parallel to Warrandyte Road) may have to be redirected around the tower.

Despite this, Mr Monaghan said the Tindals Road site was most favoured by residents. Several sites "were investigated and discussed with the community," he said in a press release. Other possible sites were closer to the township, but residents had concerns that the tower may be harmful to children at the school and kindergarten.

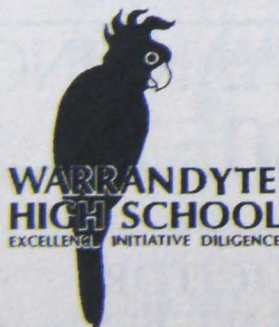
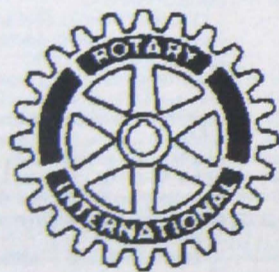
The No Tower Action Group is urging residents to sign the community petition now circulating and to "contact and/or write to your local councillors, City of Manningham and Optus/Vodafone".

The group can be contacted on 9844 3249 or 9844 4826.

● **LETTERS: Page 6**



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NILLUMBIK COUNCIL ELECTIONS

'Dramatically different'

By FIA CLENDINEN

Nillumbik residents went to the polls last month and inaugural mayor Bill Penrose described the new council as "dramatically different".

He told the *Diary* he is confident the recently elected nine councillors will co-operate positively and not be dragged down into the infighting and controversy which so often characterised the former Nillumbik council.

"This is undeniably a new beginning," he said. "But I don't wish to denigrate the previous councillors in any way at all. I think they had a hell of a job."

Cr Penrose won office as one of the four shire-wide councillors in the elections. He was unanimously elected mayor.

He said the new council had decided the title "mayor" had a "better profile" than shire president and for this reason had made the change. "Most shires are moving across to mayors," he said. "There's very few shire presidents left."

After the state government's sacking of the council late last year, Premier Jeff Kennett warned Nillumbik residents at a public meeting the shire could possibly be scrapped and divided up amongst the three neighbouring councils. Mr Kennett said there was a lot of support for this option because, "people fear a re-elected council will repeat the mistakes of the past".

But Cr Penrose said that while "the nine councillors at the moment are working extremely well together," debate was a vital part of the democratic process and the community should not be alarmed if councillors disagreed.

"As far as I am concerned disagreement is another word for arguing over things which is exactly what we have been elected to do," he said.

Nillumbik shire now has nine councillors as opposed to the previous council's five and Cr Penrose said he believed this will be a major factor in ensuring Nillumbik's future stability.

"Let's suppose two councillors disagree with each other in a fairly strong manner; there's another seven who are not quite as deeply involved who can help pull them apart. With nine there's a much better chance of a long term working relationship because these things are diffused."

He said there was no difference between the shire-wide and ward councillors. "All nine councillors can represent any-

body," he explained. Residents can go to whichever councillor "they know best and think will represent them best".

Cr Penrose said this community had passionate and long standing commitments to arts and the environment and this was reflected in the new council. Three of the new councillors are deeply involved in these areas.

"Arts and environment are what's different about Nillumbik," he said. "They are what make Nillumbik a separate council to any other council in Victoria."

He said the new councillors represented a wide range of expertise and he believed their combined talents would serve the shire well.

"Penny Mullinar, Di Bullen and Sigmund Jorgensen have strong connections to arts and the environment. You've got science and engineering represented by Marg Jennings and myself. You've got the medical and legal profession represented by Phillip Hughes and Tony Raunic and you've got business and farming represented by Alex Rosovick and Neil Roberts."

Four of the sacked councillor stood in the council elections but only Cr Jennings from Wattle Ward was returned.



ARRO at the festival: the new council is expected to oppose the construction of a ring road through environmentally sensitive Nillumbik shire. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

Marshall's defeat after 25 years: an era ends

By FIA CLENDINEN

Sacked shire president Robert Marshall said local government is in his blood and despite failing to win Sugarloaf Ward he will be maintaining an interest in the new Nillumbik council.

"The community has elected somebody else, so therefore I need to step away," he told the *Diary*. But he added that he believed the fact he had won the highest number of primary votes indicated "a sizeable proportion of the community which I have represented for 25 years has faith in me and they would expect me to keep an eye on things, to make sure that the local community in Sugarloaf are not badly done by".

Mr Marshall was defeated by the Nillumbik First candidate Neil Roberts in the recent elections. He has stood in nine elections since first winning office to Eltham council 25 years ago

and last month's election was the first he has lost.

Mr Marshall stressed it was too soon to say whether he would be running as a candidate in the next council elections, three years away.

"It's far too early for that," he said. "I don't have any plans in that regard. All I want to do at the moment is give support to the majority councillors where I am able to, and to get on with my architecture and to enjoy my home and my friends and have a little bit of a private life."

Mr Marshall acknowledged that whilst a councillor he had generated a lot of media attention, some of it unfavourable.

He said the new mayor would take a different approach.

"Bill Penrose is a very moderate person. And he won't attract the publicity or the controversy and so on that I attract, just by my nature."

Mr Marshall said in all his years in council he had worked ceaselessly to maintain the Green Wedge and he believed this was his major legacy to Nillumbik.

"Not wanting to sound as though I'm blowing my own trumpet, but if it hadn't been for me being on council, endlessly fighting for the Green Wedge, it would be something very different from what it is now," he



Cr Bill Penrose



Robert Marshall

said. "It would be very much more urbanised. The towns would all be very much bigger and the blocks in the rural parts would be smaller."

He said he was also a strong supporter of public open space, such as the Chase and Professor's Hill, both in North Warrandyte.

New man for Sugarloaf

By FIA CLENDINEN

Neil Roberts, newly elected councillor for Sugarloaf, promised ratepayers he will try and represent everyone. Mr Roberts, the Nillumbik First candidate, defeated Robert Marshall in the local government elections last month.

"Whether you're an extreme greenie, or whether you're just a moderate greenie like me, or whether you're not a greenie at all," Mr Roberts said, "you can come to me with your problems and I'll see if we can do something about them. I may not believe in what your particular position on the world is but I can represent you honestly. And I can at least investigate whether there are solutions that will suit you."

Mr Roberts told the *Diary* the two main issues he had strong feelings about were the Green Wedge and responsible government. Responsible government was something he believed he could deliver on because, he said, he had "a sufficiently good track history".

Mr Roberts is one of the four Nillumbik First candidates who won seats in the new council. He said he believed his group had a lot to offer ratepayers and he was disappointed they had not won a majority. Nillumbik First, he explained, was first developed as an elec-



Cr Neil Roberts

tion strategy.

"We thought people were entitled to look forward to some cohesion in council, some platform of moderation that would guarantee that the council would work. So we thought, well the only way to guarantee people of that is to put forward a group of people who say they've already—in advance—agreed to work together. That's the only way we could see any honesty and integrity in the process."

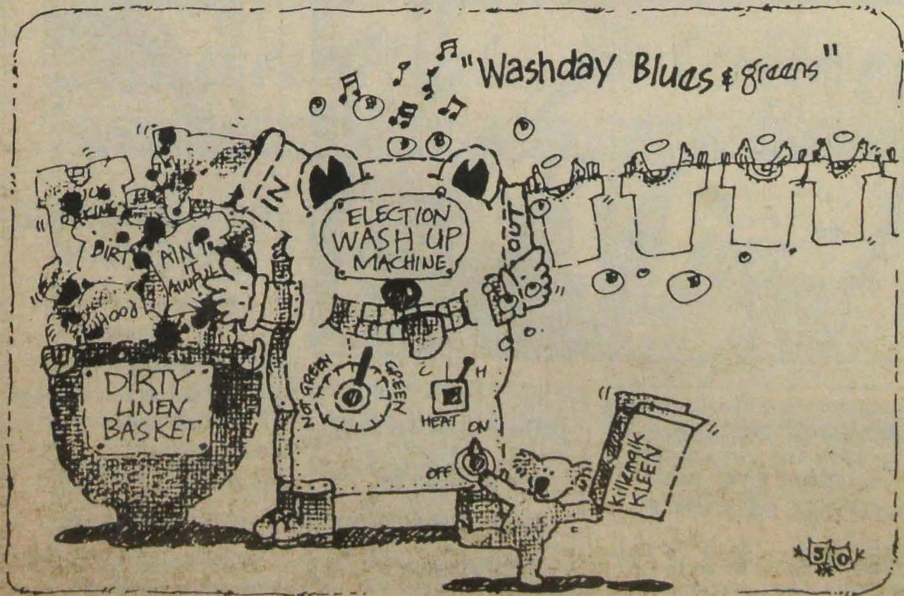
Mr Roberts encouraged Sugarloaf residents to come and see him if there was something they wanted to discuss. "I am their local councillor and I hope I'm sufficiently approachable," he said.

He also stressed that there was no difference in status between himself and the shire-wide councillors, but he hoped that residents would approach him first.

"I would urge them to come to me in the first instance. I would regard it as a real problem if they felt they couldn't come to me or I wasn't able to help them and that therefore they had to go and seek the help of another councillor. I do quite patently represent the interests of Sugarloaf but I also represent the interests of Nillumbik as a whole. I see my role as not parochial, in other words."

SO — !

By SYD & ONA



Laughing Waters

I seem to be spending a lot of time at a place called Laughing Waters lately. Laughing Waters is a pleasant little treed spot, with two waterholes on the Yarra River near my home. The name derives from the sound the water makes as it rushes over the rapids.

Somebody once told me that Laughing Waters was a meeting place for the indigenous people of this area, a spiritual place where there can never be any conflict. I have been there at times when there were 50 swimmers lining the banks, but I have never heard anyone yelling in anger.

I have heard the hallowed sounds of strings playing on the banks and people singing folksongs, but never have I heard an argument. It took me a while to understand the legend of Laughing Waters, but I think I am beginning to see.

Sometimes I go to Laughing Waters with a group of friends to swim or just to sit and talk. Sometimes I go there on my own to try to catch a fish or to sit with my laptop to try and write a story. Sometimes I go there to try and work myself out when I'm feeling confused and lonely. I go to Laughing Waters to find peace in a world which I so often do not understand and I always come back with a warm feeling in my heart and a sense of relief. This land is a part of me and I can never own it. In fact, it owns me.

Today I am alone at Laughing Waters. I walk barefoot along the gravel track leading to the

waterholes and allow my mind to wander. I often question the sanity of my world. I often wonder why we destroy peace in the name of personal power. I wonder why we destroy beauty in the name of wealth. I pray as I walk. I don't pray to any god in particular. I believe in the concepts of brotherhood and warmth and friendships, but I cannot understand the workings of the churches. They, too, seem to be getting lost in the game. I have no religion, so I just pray to mother nature.

I dive into the water and swim against the rapids for a while. I drift along in the current, allowing it to take me where it will, relaxing as I go. I climb out of the Laughing Waters and I sit there for a while. For some reason, I keep seeing a mental picture of a property developer standing on the bank of my favourite waterhole, dreaming of concrete and telephone poles and the dollar. It starts to grow dark. I think about the imaginary property developer and I picture myself sitting there with him until he too can see the beauty of this place. I leave Laughing Waters, but I leave reluctantly.

I reach home and I think about ringing some friends, telling them we need to protect Laughing Waters; to stand watch around the clock. I think about finding a torch and going back down there to take the first watch. I settle myself and I sit down to write.

Paul Herbert
Tindals Road

DEAR DIARY



Roundabout should save lives

I have been a resident of this lovely village for 29 years and have witnessed a number of changes in that time.

Living close to the corner of Harris Gully Road, I have also witnessed numerous accidents and injuries as well, much to my regret. There is hardly a resident of the Blair Street area who hasn't got a story of a "close call" occurring at the old corner. One longtime resident has been involved in no less than three accidents on that corner over the years.

Even as a lad, my friends and I would collect \$20 "spotter's fee" for each accident we reported.

I too want the village to remain the same and protect our precious environment, however, like the lights at Goldfields or the roundabout at the bridge, there are safety factors to take into consideration. I for one would rather lose one old-growth tree than a single, precious Warrandyte resident.

Glen Careedy
Blair Street

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

Saying 'no' to Optus

Optus/Vodafone are busy congratulating themselves on the excellent public relations on choosing a site for the proposed tower. The reality is far from the impression given.

At the community forum, several sites were canvassed. A consultative panel was selected from interest groups and concerned individuals. The relative merits of the options were lost in the lobbying strength of the various groups, all wishing to protect their own territory.

As a result, the least defended position was selected. Yet panel members had an uneasy feeling that they were being "cheated" in the process with the selected site far from ideal.

"Divide and conquer" gave Optus/Vodafone the conclusion they were looking for. The wildflower reserve site was always the preferred site from a technical viewpoint. However, because it had the most visual and ecological impact it was least favoured from the council's perspective. Now Optus/Vodafone could use the trump card of "community preferred site" to further its planning aspirations.

How different would the result have been if the various persons involved in the consultative process had taken an altruistic approach?

Ironically, it is the unique physical characteristics of Warrandyte which have led to the problems that mobile phone users are experiencing. The radio waves do not submit to the meandering roads and hilly terrain which endears us all to the area.

Perhaps we should be asking, for the sake of our generation and our children: at what cost is this relentless pursuit of modernisation? Why do we want our cake and eat it also?

We urge all concerned residents to voice their opposition by signing the community petition and writing directly to the council regarding the proposal.

Sarah Blackwell
Poppy's Court



A tree? No, a phone tower.

What do *Cynoglossum Suaveolens* (Sweet Hounds Tongue) and *Vittadinia Muelleri* (Narrow Leaf New Holland Daisy) have in common? They have both been found in the road reserve adjacent to the wildflower reserve.

Their presence has earned the remnant bushland the designation "significant roadside area".

This recognition is from a broader perspective than local importance, as the species, once prevalent in wider Melbourne, are represented only in small pockets of surviving wilderness.

This vestige of our native floral diversity is being threatened by the proposed Optus/Vodafone mobile phone tower planned for the road adjacent to this reserve. Should construction of this tower be allowed to proceed it will make a mockery of any existing and future conservation attempts by Manningham council.

Readers are urged to write to the City of Manningham expressing their opposition to the proposal and sign the petition located at the IGA supermarket, post office, Warrandyte childcare centre and other local venues.

Pamela Dry
Timbertop Ridge

PAINTING FOR SALE

This magnificent oil painting by well known local artist and teacher CHRIS WHITE is being offered for sale at Warrandyte High School. All proceeds will go to new facilities at the school. Warrandyte High School is indebted to Chris White for providing readers of *The Diary* with the opportunity to purchase this outstanding work.



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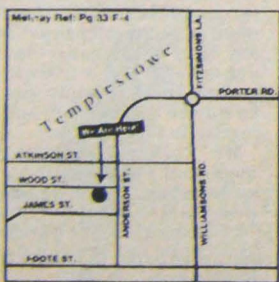
NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held in the Mechanics Institute Hall, Mitchell Avenue, Warrandyte, 8pm Monday 3rd May 1999. All interested persons most welcome.



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TRUCK DRAMA AT HARRIS GULLY

'Strength and courage'

By CLIFF GREEN

Emergency services "performed magnificently" at a potentially fatal truck accident off Harris Gully Road late last month.

Between 50 and 60 emergency workers responded to the call after Claude Kaucic's large tiptruck, loaded with crushed scoria, careered down Beauty Gully Road, crossed Harris Gully Road at high speed, crashed through timber, jumped the gully and impacted into the bank.

"It was a brilliant example of emergency services working together," Warrandyte CFA facilitator, Jeff Adair, told the *Diary*. "One of our members—Mike Willersdorf—was almost involved in the accident. Proceeding along Harris Gully Road, he saw the gravel truck approaching, seemingly out of control. He stopped, just in time to avoid a collision, and watched as the truck slammed into the creek bank."

Mike Willersdorf investigated the crash scene, realised help was urgently required, proceeded to the fire station and alerted the brigade. Full emergency procedures were immediately implemented, including police, Rescue 27, South Warrandyte CFA, SES and the ambulance service.

"Warrandyte CFA was first on the scene," Jeff Adair said. "It was immediately apparent that the driver, trapped in the crushed cabin, pinned from the waist down and still conscious, was in a life-threatening situation."

"Rescue conditions were as bad as they could get. The vehicle was perched precariously above the creekline, with a severely limited working area. The truck cabin was concertinaed into the bank and was completely distorted. The 15 tonnes of gravel, some of which had spilled in and over the cabin, further complicated the situation."

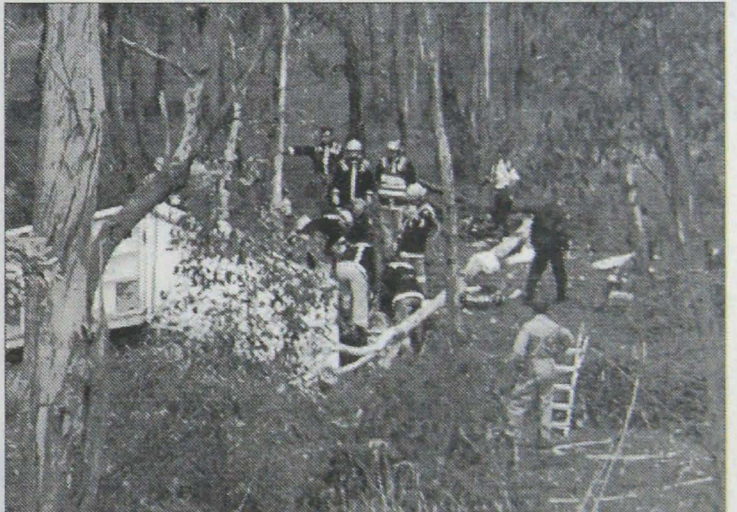
Due to the protracted rescue and the driver's predicament, ambulance officers thought it could be necessary to amputate his legs and a surgical team was flown in by helicopter.

"Realising the gravity of this last resort, emergency personnel accelerated their efforts to extract the driver from the cab. In the three hours it took to remove the driver, everyone worked at full stretch: shovelling gravel, cutting steel and supporting other services."

"Through all of this," Jeff Adair said, "the driver remained conscious. He was provided with information about his rescue in order to reassure him and maintain some level of morale. His strength and courage throughout was one of the miracles of this exercise."

Claude Kaucic was finally removed from the cabin, taken by ambulance to Warrandyte Reserve and flown by helicopter to the Alfred Hospital.

The rescue and salvage proceeded for at least five hours. Mr Kaucic underwent 12 hours of surgery. He is now out of intensive care and is "doing well".



Pictures courtesy Warrandyte CFA Brigade

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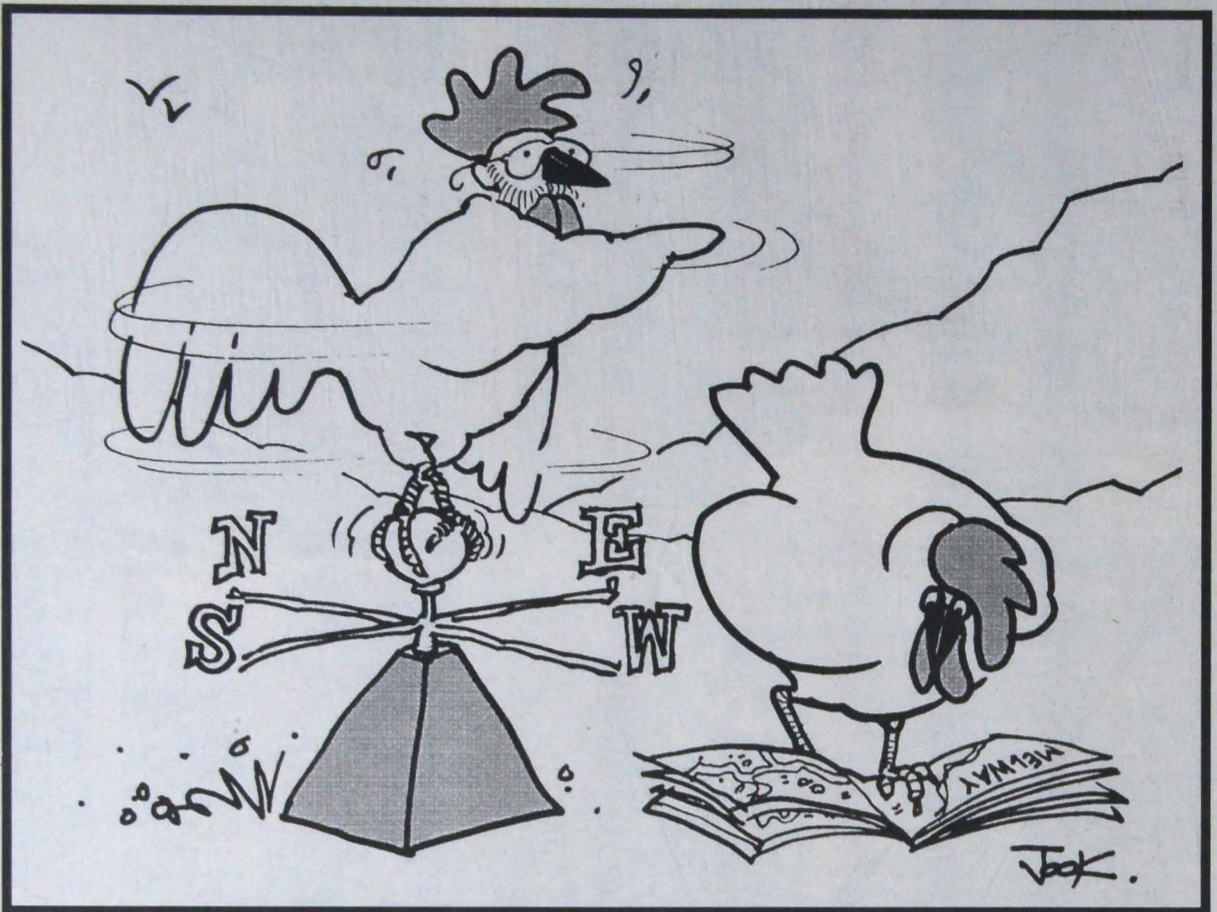
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Locating yourself on the terrestrial grid of life

“**B**UT I do know which way is north!”
“Only if you imagine yourself back in your junior school and I don’t think that’s going to be of much use to us in Italy. Unless of course you remember where you used to sit for Italian language classes.”

In hindsight, I probably could have been a little more subtle, especially in discussions concerning our relative abilities to navigate.

Herself is a whiz at using maps and the street directory. She understands all the implications of contours, grids, scale and legend. Ask her anything about the height of mountains, the direction and flow of rivers, the distance between cities or the most scenic route from one country to another and you’ll be blown away by her speed and perspicacity. However, put her in our backyard and ask her to point north and she’s in trouble.

Herself’s time honoured practice in solving this apparently tricky problem is to picture herself sitting in a particular classroom at Little Ruyton. Evidently, that faced west, so all she has to do when confronted by the old north/south dilemma is imagine she’s sitting in that room, at this location. By some feat of mental gymnastics, the room at her old school is mystically transported—ink wells, pigtails and all—to wherever an indication of direction is required.

KIBBLED

“Earth Mother had decided men were to be the hunters and women the gatherers and tea-makers...”

Like Dr Who’s Tardis, Herself’s junior school room travels the length and breadth of Australia, never faltering in its capacity for aligning itself with the cardinals of the compass.

On the other hand, however, I’m hopeless when it comes to remembering the names of intersections, streets, landmarks or my relatives. It’s a constant source of irritation to my children and of gross embarrassment to myself that I become an incoherent and bumbling idiot when anyone has the misfortune of having me as the only available source of directory assistance.

“Ah, you just need to go along—that street with that

building on the corner—you know, the one that runs into that one with the bridge just near the railway station. I think it’s called Swanston Street but I’m not sure. If Herself were here she’d be able to tell you. I’m sorry, I’m a man and I’m in the middle of fixing this little gizmo. If you could wait until I finish it I’ll be able to give you my full attention. Until then—”

Despite our 32 year marriage, it wasn’t until the other day, when I was flicking through the latest airline club magazine, that I chanced upon an article that put our “problem” into perspective. It appears that research has shown that spatial relationships are brain-side dependent.

Evidently Earth Mother, in Her infinite wisdom, decided that men were to be the hunters and women the gatherers and tea-makers. So, on an off day, She decreed that, at birth, baby boys would get a squirt of a hormone that halted the development of the right brain so that the left brain could improve its ability to size up the correct gap on spark plugs and calculate the critical distance between a woolly mammoth, the end of his spear and the quickest path to the nearest pub.

Coincidentally, his right side of the brain—that should be developing the ability to hold three conversations at once, redesign the cave, invite all the relatives over and remember not only their names but their children’s—was sadly depleted.

It has been argued by some Even-Siders that Earth Mother got interrupted by a long distance deity call and forgot to turn off the baby boys’ harmonic treatment before permanent and irreparable damage was done.

By the time She’d put down the mobile, She’d created a sub-group who loved gadgets, who loved tinkering with stuff, who had a spectacular ability to be single-minded, who could twist the lids off difficult jars, who happily got muddy whilst kicking a boar’s bladder around the rutting field, who learnt to say, “All right then, I do love you! Will that do?” and who most definitely and instinctively knew which way was north.

The ancient scriptures record Earth Mother’s reaction to her stuff-up thus: “Oh dear, I think I might have gone a little over the top. Ah, what the heck, it just might make for an interesting few millenia!”

However, to regain a position on the gods’ First Eleven and in order to compensate for Her over-enthusiasm on the mobile, Earth Mother spent an inordinate amount of time tinkering with the other sub-group. She managed to get right organisation, walking and talking at the same time, bothering about other people’s emotional entanglements, collaborative decision making and shared outcomes. In Her enthusiasm for a happy and cooperative result, however, she left out “direction”.

ROGER KIBELL

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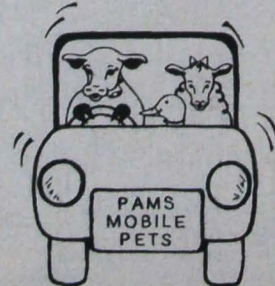
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Uninvited migrants live the sweetest of lives

NO sooner was the food on the table than they arrived, resplendent in yellow and black like distinguished guests at a garden party. There had been no invitation. There was no party. These ostentatious gate-crashers had breezed in to disrupt a family barbecue.

March and April is the peak time for European wasps and although numbers are down a little on previous years, their presence when eating outdoors is decidedly annoying. The natural instinct is to swish and swat at the persistent interlopers, however, they are attracted to moving targets and this only aggregates them further. Best to sit quietly and ignore them, but try telling that to the children!

The wasps are a pest even in their native northern hemisphere countries of origin. Their immigration to Australia is a recent event. They were not recorded in this country before 1977. It is no surprise that once here they found the place very much to their liking. Our propensity for picnics and barbecues is to the wasps' ultimate benefit.

We can of course just dismiss these boldly-banded vespids with a squirt of Mortein or call the local rent-a-kill company. But, regardless of their pest status, we can still appreciate the insect's social structure that is complex and highly specialised. There is a queen, but no king. The majority of the commune are sterile females, the workers. Fewer in number and larger in size are the fertile females. They are the privileged class, born to be queens. Males are short-lived, and their sole function is to mate with the young



NATURE

By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

princesses. Towards the end of autumn those wasps destined for royalty leave the nursery nest to search for temporary lodgings in which to hibernate—hollow trees, sheds and attics are all favoured localities. Hooked on by her jaws the young queen hangs unconscious for several months.

In October she wakes from the coma and sets about building her empire. She is both architect and carpenter. Rasping pellets of wood from trees and fence posts with her powerful mandibles, she mixes them with saliva to produce a soft woody pulp which, when dried, resembles thin cardboard. She begins by building stage one—a domed frame, suspended from the nesting cavity. This is followed by construction of a honeycomb of hexagonal cells into which the industrious monarch lays her eggs.

First to hatch, around November, are the non-reproductive females which are reared by the queen herself. Once this brood of workers have matured they take over the role of enlarging and maintaining the nest, allowing the queen to devote herself entirely to egg-laying. The workers add new tiers of cells to the royal palace, which when completed looks like one of those globular paper and wire lightshades.

Throughout December and January eggs continue to hatch and the number of workers



reaches several thousand. Wasps differ from bees, which rear their larvae on nectar and pollen, by feeding their young a diet of protein. Meat is provided for the squirming white larvae by the workers, which hunt caterpillars, hoverflies and other insects, sometimes dissecting their victims into small pieces to carry them back to the nest. The workers themselves are partial to sweeter things, like ripening fruit, soft drinks and beer.

In late summer the fertile females and males hatch. Tended by the workers they grow rapidly over the next couple of months. Mating occurs in autumn. By May nests begin to decline as the workers die. In some areas, though, where winters are mild, nests not only survive the winter, but can grow to an enormous size; up to three

metres. These can be a major problem for pest eradicators.

Wasps are at their most aggressive when defending their nest, and who can blame them when genetic destiny is the reason for life. A wasp, unlike a bee, can withdraw its sting and use it again and again. It is a dangerous device, particularly for those allergic to the apitoxin constituents of the poison.

A few words of warning if attempting to deal with the nest of a European wasp yourself. Treat it at night when the wasps are least active, and use a torch covered with red cellophane—wasps cannot see red light. Wear long-sleeved, loose fitting clothing and a hat. Oh, and leave off the after shave, perfume or deodorant. The smell can drive the wasps wild and you may find yourself the centre of attraction.

A pre-loved garage sale on wheels

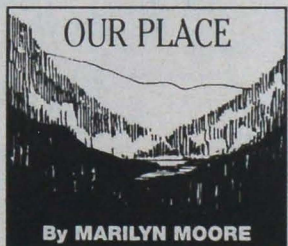
CAR advertisements aimed at the family market never fail to demonstrate the purportedly excellent capacity of the boot.

Cunningly filmed using wide-angle lenses, they show pristine collections of exemplary contents, such as two matching suitcases, a hatbox and an umbrella; or golf clubs, a briefcase and an overnight bag; or two schoolbags, two supermarket bags, a tennis racquet and the family dog.

Have these marketing experts ever actually looked inside a car boot?

We highly-educated baby-boomers, therefore by definition trendsetters in hi-tech family living, hereby vow and declare that a really useful car boot must be able to comfortably house, at any one time, the following items:

About four litres of water, bits of bike-rack, tennis racquets and balls, spare racquet grips (of a type no longer used) and a blue thingamajig which may have once been a sun visor. A hairbrush (belonging to somebody's friend), plastic bags for recycling, car jack rusted in position, a one metre ruler (for



By MARILYN MOORE

measuring stream depths—at short notice, presumably).

Anti-freeze (probably—the label's almost worn off), a motley collection of rags, string, somebody's softball (definitely not ours), superseded editions of Melways, several folding chairs and a picnic rug. Parkas, one stray sock, spare radiator hoses, garbage bags, plastic sheeting which might come in handy one day and \$1.27 (approx.). Drink bottle—officially declared missing last week.

Dog-eared car manual. Yesterday's edition of The Age, snugly rolled in plastic film. A torn page, bearing such an intriguing scribbled inscription as: "During a caucus meeting outside the cenotaph, the brute imperiously rendered haemorrhoidal the hated haunches of his most feared chauffeur".

More tennis balls, along with a collection of empty ball tins. Items to be dropped off at the op-shop (one of these days). Two rubber bands, a wheel-nut spanner, formerly functional jumper leads which have been subsequently found to be useless (kept just in case).

Cardboard shoebox used last Friday to rush a budgie to the vet for an emergency amputation of her agonisingly collapsed uterus. (Sadly, the box wasn't required for the return journey.) Paper bag containing crumbs and a black, slimy-looking object (banana?). Old shopping list with important phone number written on the back. Steering wheel heat-shield. Umbrella(s).

Tin of assorted oddments: seat button, nail file, key of unknown origin, 1cm diameter bolt (souvenir of our last puncture), dental floss container, ink cartridges from several ballpoint pens, spare screws for the bike-rack number plate, nuts and washers off some long-forgotten item, spare fuses, corkscrew, tyre-pressure gauge and about three metres of nylon cord.

Geologist's hammer, frisbee, empty jam jars for collecting interesting things. Something awaiting repair—pool skimmer net or pond pump. Such recyclable items as plant pots, Yellow Pages, egg carton. Dried-out imitation chamois (in container). Windscreen cleaner and dashboard polish.

And that's just the bottom layer. The top layer varies from day to day, but as a starting point consists of two or three backpacks, two or three tennis racquets and/or hockey sticks, assorted blazers, hats, musical instruments, half-a-dozen overflowing IGA bags, a briefcase, a music case and an endless variety of odds and ends to be dropped off here and there.

I should know. I've just emptied it all into a pile on the driveway. Our beloved old bomb is tonight being replaced by a sparkling new machine of superior capacity. But spread out on the gravel, all this once-vital cargo suddenly looks suspiciously like a heap of rubbish.

Rubbish? Never! Back it will all go, every last piece of it—except perhaps for the paper bag. With any luck, there'll be room in the new boot for a few extra necessities as well.

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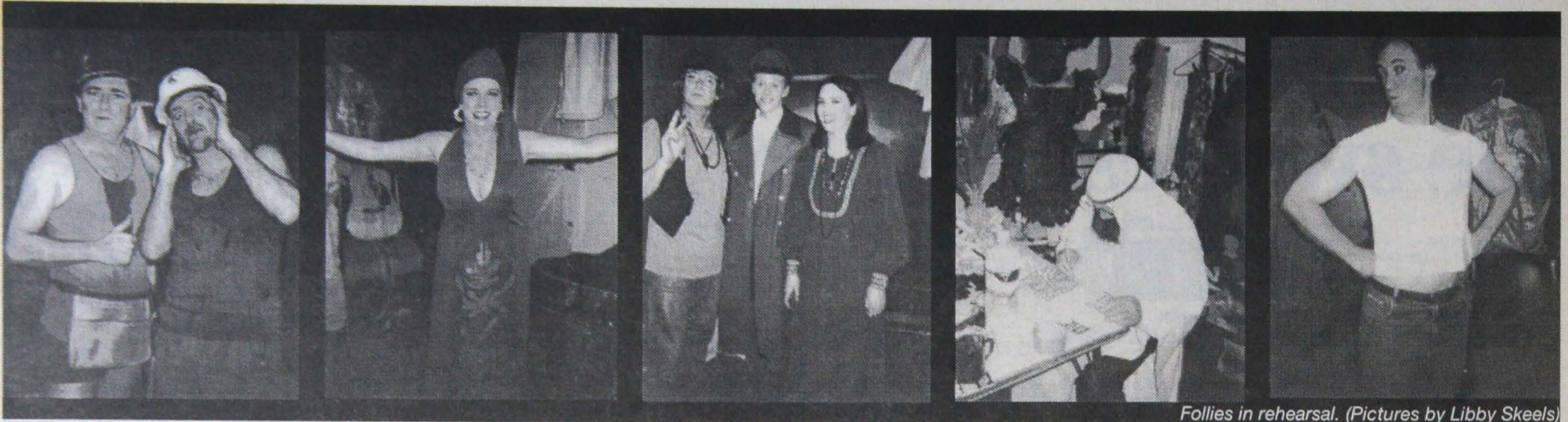
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Follies in rehearsal. (Pictures by Libby Skeels)

On stage with SNAGs and dags

We all loved Sensitive New Age Follies, Warrandyte Theatre Company's contribution to the festival. The audience fell about laughing.

The casting was spot-on. The men were generally stronger than the women, but in the musical numbers—like the Hairdressers' Octet—the women's voices combined particularly well. The writing was good and managed to capture the essential zeitgeist of the new age, though I had some reservations about the actual period. Items like Aquarius are, to me, synonymous with the 70s. I assume they chose this as the opening number to suggest the start of a period of heightened awareness that culminated in the sensitive new age 90s.

The first sketch, Comet To Suburbia, was a send-up of the Aquarius ideal, exposing the intensity of the 70s; both making and breaking the connection with that period. The punchline was good, as

THEATRE

By MARION WINTON

the stargazers, frustrated in their search for other terrestrial life forms, quickly resort to earthly conveniences.

Warren Davies was excellent in the musical number I Can Cook Too, cooking being a necessary skill for any SNAG (Sensitive New Age Guy). Perhaps the joke lay in the unresolved tension of the macho pre-SNAG, represented by the pelvic thrust (albeit it under a frilly apron), and the need to come to terms with a caring, sharing role. And what were we to make of the unexpectedly sexist little number, Everybody Ought To Have A Maid, again very well performed, but by a male team. Wouldn't that have been more appropriate for the females to perform, or would that have been too

new age?

I just lay back and enjoyed Masochism Tango. Husband and wife team, David and June Buck, have obviously worked together for many years and this shows in their anticipation and timing. The Spotters sketch allowed Stephen Robinson to do a convincing David Attenborough. We have spotted a great stage-talent warbler in Stephen. Swamis—a sort of "all hold hands and contact the living" sketch—had some very good lines—not to mention physical contortions—but I haven't heard so much chanting since the 70s.

It was a real pleasure to listen to the Hilary and Chris duo again, combining so well in their three chosen numbers. A young gent at my table suggested that this act would probably be at home at the Port Fairy Festival. I think they could go further than that. I was particularly impressed with the maturity of expression in Hilary's rendition of Field Of Gold. Sketches—What If Men...?,

Size Ten and Used Car Salesman—were all feminist pieces with women on top and men in control. However, when a row of performers takes it in turn to speak, as in What If Men...?, timing is critical and performers should play out to the audience and be totally deadpan for maximum laughs.

Tantric Sex was firmly located in new ageism, as two macho labourers—still wearing their hard hats—tried to unravel the mysteries of tantric sex: "for people bruised in love". Adrian Rice's attempts to explain to Ken Virtue that the elevation of sex to a spiritual plane was a greater experience than "the real thing"—and the ensuing punch-line—were good revue.

Herb Therapy was one of my favourite sketches, mainly due to the casting of Caroline Shaw as "Coriander". Her attempt at "channeling", to connect with her swamis (including Swami In Pyjamas), was hilarious. Caroline is particularly

suited to comedy and interacts well with the audience. Though again I would say this had more of a 70s than a 90s feel. Caroline also excelled in Sublime, intentionally upstaging the strong performance of Raine Dinale as the yoga teacher.

A very warm welcome to the Warrandyte stage to Warren Davies of the Two Ladies sketch. With a good voice, presence and timing, I look forward to his future involvement. Alan Cornell doesn't have to try too hard to make me laugh, but he obliged anyway, as he strummed his way through relationship songs. His tribute to astrologist Athena—his constellation when things go wrong—was truly memorable.

Musical number Havana was the ultimate in razzmatazz. Performed with all the subtlety of a Cuban mardi gras by David Parsons (Carmen Miranda), John Azzopardi and the very professional Craig Carthew, the audience adored it. The finale, All You Need Is Love,

and the other feel-good number, Let The Sunshine In, were both well rehearsed, rousing items, with the full cast on stage.

Director Alison Leutchford's control of the show was very good, leaving the players enough room to express themselves; which they did with great pizzazz. I liked the witty exchanges between players and lighting crew, whose effects enhanced the onstage action.

Jack Stringer's musical direction was strong and enthusiastic, and as pianist, he played along with the performers in every sketch. The backstage crew was obviously vital in ensuring the success of the show. Could I put in a plea for names of players to appear alongside the sketches in the program? We all like to know who is performing at the time.

Alison Leutchford has proved herself a worthy revue director; the show was thoroughly enjoyed by performers and audience alike.



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As Anzac Day approaches, Warrandyte resident and former RAAF navigator BOB COX remembers a special journey 54 years ago.

PRIOR to WW2, Anzac Day was a solemn occasion. Most Australians had a relative or close friend who had been killed or maimed in action. It was a day of mourning for all. No football, no races, no theatres, no pubs, no newspapers; nothing to ease the pressure of grieving.

As we approach another Anzac Day I cast my thoughts back to the early 1930s. I remember those Anzac Days as tragic days. I wasn't yet a teenager. The morning newspapers on April 26, in most of those years, carried at least one story of a "veteran" (they were called returned soldiers in those days) murdering his whole family and shooting himself, more often than not with his service rifle that he had been allowed to keep. In most cases the reason given was his inability to get a job and so provide for his family. The story usually was that after attending an Anzac Day reunion he had got drunk and depressed to such an extent that he saw no light at the end of the tunnel. He would end it all. Some people blamed the reunion itself for the tragedies and suggested they should cease.

The Second World War changed the whole attitude to warfare. We now had separate services and dozens of branches within each of them. Reunions after that war were for men and women who had served closely together doing the same type of specialist work: medical, engineering, submarine, air crew, military police. You name it, there's a reunion to cover it. That's why post-WW2 reunions are different from those that followed WW1. There was full employment after WW2, in fact veterans were given preference in any job they were capable of doing.

The Anzac Day celebrations and the reunions are totally different. Anzac Day is for remembering the dead and is a solemn occasion. Reunions, which can be held any day, even on the day itself, are happy times. Old comrades-in-arms or friends meet and reminisce about the good or funny things that happened. There is always a "stand-to" in which "absent friends" are remembered, but that is all.

I have been going to Anzac Day celebrations and reunions every year since 1946, when I came back from England after serving in the RAAF. I



look forward to the reunions. They are happy times.

Here is a story I don't often tell because it brings a lump to the throat and inhibits me a little.

ON May 8, 1945, the war in Europe was over and most air crew were sent on a week's leave, only to be recalled early. We weren't exactly delighted with this, particularly when it seemed we were only recalled to test-fly aircraft. I had become engaged and, with marriage imminent, was busy flat-hunting. Besides, without the buzz-bombs and rockets, London was a great place to spend a holiday.

On May 23 we were told why we had been recalled. All available Lancasters were scheduled to go to Juvin court in eastern France to repatriate prisoners of war who had been freed from German POW camps. First reaction was, "Why bombers?" The answer was that it would take weeks to bring so many

home by any other means. Lancasters were chosen as the most suitable.

It was about two and a half hours' flying time each way. On arrival at Juvin court, we saw Lancasters parked everywhere. Beyond the end of the runway a fierce fire was raging. We landed, parked the aircraft and the pilot and I went to enquire about our prospective passengers. We were told there would be a delay because an aircraft had crashed and was burning. We were told that one of the POWs had stood up on take-off and steadied himself by grabbing the dinghy release cable that ran along the fuselage. The dinghy, which was stored in the wing, inflated and blew the wing apart, causing the crash.

All air crews were briefed and warned to keep a close watch on the passengers to prevent a recurrence. The pilot and I signed for the POWs by name. While this was going on, I noticed several soldiers in German uniform, with rifles, standing on guard. I asked the British officer-in-charge whether they were German and were the rifles loaded? A "Yes" answer to both questions made me shudder. He said, "Don't worry, they're OK."

I did worry. Our aircraft had been hit seven times by rifle bullets fired by so-called "friendly" German soldiers while we were dropping food from tree-top level at Rotterdam only a few weeks earlier. The Allies had been given assurances that, although the war was not officially over in Europe, the aircraft would be given safe passage. Could a "friendly" German have sabotaged that crashed aircraft? I didn't ask any of our 23 passengers their opinion. They were still in a state of shock, watching the aircraft—with their mates inside—still burning.

We took off. I gave the pilot the course to Oxford, where we were to drop the passengers. They were all moving forward in the aircraft, it was dark down the back and they wanted

to see something. The crew established a roster, calling the POWs forward four at a time. I went down to the bomb-aimer's compartment with the map of the area. I knew I could rely on the pilot; he could fly a straight course.

The POWs appeared to have settled down. They were excited to be going home after up to four years in captivity. Some cried aloud but everyone, including the crew, were shedding tears. They asked questions: Where are we? What's that? I answered all questions confidently. They seemed to be enjoying the trip.

We soon reached the French coast. I was surprised to find we were 50 miles from where we should have been, heading straight for Dover. I was never a good map-reader. There is a big difference between the prairies of Alberta, Canada, where I did my training, and the French countryside. It seems the pilot was going through the same emotional turmoil as everyone else and had wandered off course. So much for my answers to their location questions. (I must point out here that all bomber navigation was done using radar, the navigator never saw the ground at any time between take-off and landing.)

Straight ahead were the White Cliffs of Dover. The barrage balloons had been brought down to 1,000 feet. We were at 500 feet. The POWs were crying at the sight of the White Cliffs, some started singing the song. I didn't have time to cry along with them but I would have, if I had had the time.

After a course correction, we were soon at Oxford and off-loaded the POWs. Emotions were high. The POWs were going through their kit bags looking for something to give us. They wouldn't have had much after four years in captivity but they wanted to give us something.

The crew were strenuously refusing gifts being forced upon them when the adjutant asked the pilot and I to accompany him to the CO's office. I was in trouble for approaching Dover, a forbidden area. I told of the aircraft burning and the emotional atmo-

sphere that prevailed and that I had decided to bolster the POWs' spirits by showing them the White Cliffs of Dover. I don't think he believed me. He would refer my indiscretion to my home base. I returned to the aircraft where the POWs were still waiting. It was a very emotional parting. I expected a roasting on return to my home base but nothing was said.

FIFTY years later, in Melbourne, my wife and I were given a photo album to mark our golden wedding anniversary. We assembled all our old photos. Screwed up in the bottom of an envelope of negatives from my old wartime trunk I found three money tokens for German currency that I could not recall ever having seen before. I later found out from a coin dealer they were used to pay POWs for work done in prison camps. The POWs could use the tokens to buy luxuries such as writing material and toilet paper. The tokens were signed, presumably by some of the soldiers our crew brought back on that trip. I do not have any recollection of having seen those tokens before. I must have had a mental black-out. It was a very stressful day.

It's too late now, but over the last few years I have often thought what a wonderful reunion that would have been. If only I had found those tokens 20 or so years earlier. It would be no use trying to find them now, after 50 years. Only two of my crew out of seven are alive today and those POWs were all older than us, and had been through a much tougher war.

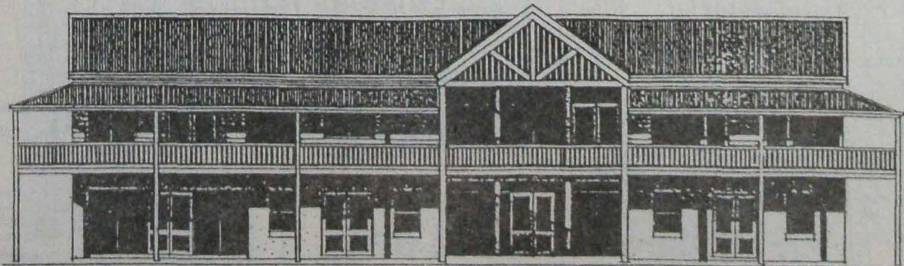
These tokens are on display in the Warrandyte RSL, where I hope they will remain as a reminder to future generations. Come along to the memorial service on Anzac Day, have some refreshments, and see a little piece of history.

●Warrandyte's Anzac Day parade will assemble at the Gospel Chapel carpark at 10.30am. A service will be held at the war memorial, followed by refreshments in the RSL clubrooms.



Bob Cox (centre, front row) and his war-time Lancaster crew.

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School wins top prize

The 1998 de Bono Innovation in Education Award, organised by the de Bono Institute in Melbourne, has been awarded to Warrandyte High School's "Solving the Year 2000 Problem" project.

Dr Edward de Bono presented the award, designed to showcase Australian schools that demonstrate creativity and innovation, to students at the Melbourne Town Hall recently.

The winning project involved Warrandyte High School collaborating with schools in Canada and the US to construct a website aimed at educating people about the Year 2000 problem. Students learned technical skills related to web page design and construction,

research and practical information on Y2K and made new international friends.

"The Solving the Year 2000 Problem project has enabled the students to practise new thinking skills and has better equipped them to take their place in a competitive, changing and challenging society", said Max Dumais, CEO of the de Bono Institute.

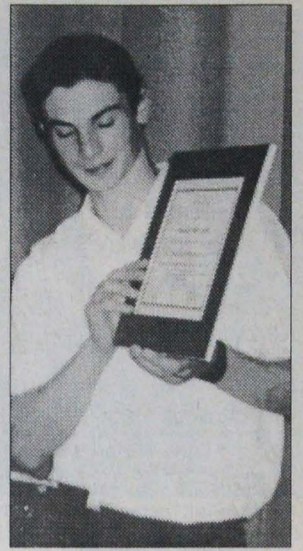
The school received six de Bono books and computer software and hardware valued at around \$15,000.

Warrandyte High School's star students received recognition at a "community report-back" and awards night for "excellence in 1998" at the school late last month.

Elise Hodgson and Melissa Lynch received the inaugural Lorraine Duff Sportswoman award, made in memory of Lorraine, who served as school receptionist for many years, before losing her battle with cancer. Rhys Hanna was named sportsman of the year.

Nadia Spiliotacopoulos was honoured for her performance in West Side Story, winning the award for artistic excellence. Elise Hodgson received an award for musical excellence as well as a sportswoman award and school dux Elise Hodgson was named school citizen of the year.

Stuart Ralston displays the school's de Bono award



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Cr Irene Goonan speaks at the launching of the "virtual library". (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

Virtual library is 'online'

Warrandyte residents have a "library without walls" thanks to the \$108,000 "virtual library" project developed by Manningham City Council and the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation.

A library spokesperson told the *Diary* that "the 12 month virtual library pilot is the first of its type in Victoria and breaks new ground in the provision of library services."

"The project offers an innovative and cost effective way of providing library services to underserved areas." It was

launched last month at the Warrandyte Community Centre.

This follows concerted campaigning for a local library by locals and the collection, in 1997, of more than 700 signatures to a petition, calling for a library in Warrandyte.

"The project provides residents with remote access to a library catalogue on the Internet, enabling them to search the catalogue, place reservations, check reservations status, check the status of items already on loans and renew loans," the spokesperson said.

Locals will also be able to access library catalogues and other information at internet-capable "web point kiosks" at the Warrandyte Community

Centre, which is also a drop-off and collection point, and the IGA supermarket at Goldfields Plaza, where books can also be dropped off.

The spokesperson said that the virtual library project will be monitored throughout the trial period "with regard to patron satisfaction, cost effectiveness, efficiency, long term viability and impact on existing library services".

The virtual library is located in the small meeting room off the foyer in the community centre and is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 6pm; on Fridays from 3 to 7pm and on Saturdays from 2 to 5pm. It is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

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1998/99 YOUTH ARTS AWARD

'And the winner is...'

Words by
RACHEL BAKER
Pictures by
SANDY BURGOYNE

ON the surface, it was all very civilised. The guests were chatting, sipping champagne and nibbling hors d'oeuvres. The organisers were chatting too, and watching everyone else. All enjoying themselves. Even the eight finalists looked like they were having quite a good time.

But you only had to look closely to see what was really going on. They were never quite absorbed in the conversation. They were pushing the food around their plates. They all tried their best to be sociable. To stop the images spinning around in their heads. "It doesn't matter if I don't win. I'll just enjoy the night," they told themselves.

But they were nervous. No matter how they put it, they couldn't escape the fact that tonight would be a landmark for one of them. One of them would be announced the

winner, receiving critical acclaim, and taking the substantial cash prize. They would be talked about, written about, and known as winner of Warrandyte's Youth Arts Award.

They could travel abroad, they could learn from the best, they could build that studio out the back and finally have room to work properly, or they could begin preparing their own exhibition. For this was presentation night for the sixth biannual award.

It began in 1987, when the Lions Club of Warrandyte decided they wanted to sponsor a youth scholarship project. After discussing it with the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust—who publish the *Diary*—the award's format was devised.

The Lions and the trust jointly organise the event, the trust arranges the assessment process and the Lions sponsor it.

Applications are called for



"Yes!" says singer James Egglestone, as flanked by other finalists, he hears the good news.

in the first half of the previous year and panels of experts in the art fields chosen by each applicant judges the finalists. So, for instance, three singing experts assessed James Egglestone. They commented on his ability and potential. From such judgements, the awards committee chooses the winner.

But the night wasn't just about who won and who didn't. "It's about recognising young people who dedicate their lives to

being artists," Cliff Green, chairman of the committee and co-editor of the *Diary*, said.

Jock Macneish reminded us of the talents of all the finalists. He reminded us that becoming a finalist, while an honour, left a burden of expectation on that young person. This burden was multiplied for the winner. "They will carry this burden until they succeed," he said.

Guest of honour was Deborah Halpern, creator—among much else—of the

Angel sculpture outside the National Gallery. Deborah grew up in Warrandyte, she is a very successful artist, her work is well-known and provides her with a living. To the young finalists, she was an example of how good an artist's life can be.

Pursuing a life in art is about having the freedom to decide where your life will go, she said. "That's what we're celebrating tonight."

After all that talk about art and life and freedom, everyone almost forget why

they were there.

Everyone except the finalists. Their cheeks were even paler, their palms sweatier, their necks more bristly. If someone didn't announce the winner soon, they were all going to pass out.

Finally the envelope was passed to the guest of honour. Everyone swallowed and Deborah Halpern announced: "The winner of the 1998-99 Warrandyte Youth Arts Award is—James Egglestone!"

The finalists

ANDREW BATTY is 19 years old, studying visual merchandising at RMIT, which involves graphic design and airbrush painting. "I'm really busy," he said of his workload, "but I'm really enjoying it."

BADEN HALL, a jewellery designer, is 22 years old and has completed a diploma of art and design in jewellery and gold and silver-smithing. He now works in jewellery design, making individual pieces for clients.

MELANIE COUPAR, a black and white illustrator, is 23 years old. She draws native Australian wildlife—her work appears regularly in the *Diary*—and works as

an apprentice chef to support herself. She doesn't draw from imagination, she says, but aims to draw things so perfectly that they mirror reality.

EMILY EMERSON, 22, is a glass blower. She has just finished fine arts (majoring in glass blowing) at Monash University and is very passionate about her art. "When the glass comes out of the furnace it's all hot and gold—it's beautiful," she said.

RACHEL SWIFT, 25, is a multimedia sculptor, meaning she sculpts in a variety of materials. Her work is usually "organic shapes, derived from nature," she said. She hopes to become a

respected artist, and have the freedom to make what she wants.

TAMARA MOLONEY, 22, is an intuitive artist. She works in any medium and tries to express her feelings or visions, which are often from dreams. "It's like someone tapping you on the shoulder until you do it," she said.

TIMOTHY VAGG, aged 25, is a naive artist. He tries to paint purely, like a child, he says, without the conditioning and prejudices that adults have. "I try to look at things and capture them as simply as I can," he said. He has completed a fine arts degree (majoring in painting) at Ballarat University.

The winner

"I'm not gonna win." That's what James Egglestone kept saying all night. The up-and-coming singer, known for his vivacious performances in Warrandyte High School musical productions, said he was there to have a good night, maybe have a drink, then go home.

He had given strict instructions on what to do if he didn't win. His girlfriend, Melissa King, had been told: "Don't say anything to me. Don't mention the award. We'll just say, 'Oh, well,' and go home."

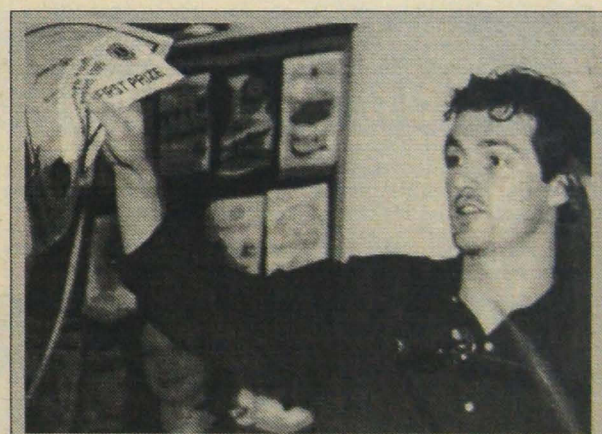
James, 23, was very good at creating a cool, modest exterior. The trendy black shirt, the slick hair—if looks could talk his would have said, "Yeah, that's cool with me, baby."

But as the evening wore on, this exterior began to crack. When he was asked—hypothetically, of course—what he would do if he did win, he couldn't hide his excitement.

Travel. That one word changed his whole face. Travelling meant not just exploring a new country, but being in the same place as the world's best singers, performing with them and learning from them. It meant being noticed by the people who counted. It would change his career; his life. His eyes lit up as he said: "I want to go to Germany. There are more opportunities there."

When Deborah Halpern announced that James was the winner, the Danny Zuko shell was crushed completely. His face formed a huge grin. He mouthed the word, "Yes!"

Words of thanks and promises that he would honour the prize flooded out. His hands refused



SOME ASSESSORS' COMMENTS...

"James sang three pieces for me, in which he showed evident control, good diction, great promise, very good support of top notes, an evident understanding of the text, excellent German, well studied work, excellent vocal production, good technical control and good French."

Ruth Guthrie

"When Opera Australia are next here he (James) should sing for them. They should be aware of him as he is a voice worth nurturing for the future. Tenors being rare, James has fine potential with his quite outstanding voice. I see James destined for a successful career."

Bettine McCaughan

to stop shaking. He borrowed a mobile phone to ring his mum, who couldn't make it to the ceremony.

James plans to use the \$6000 prize to travel to Germany at the beginning of next year—unless, of course, he gets a better offer here. "But I'll definitely use the money to travel eventually," he said. "Whether it's at the start of next year or later on."

In the meantime, James will finish his third year of music at

the Victorian College of the Arts. He is also rehearsing for Oklahoma, a production by the Catchment Players theatre company, opening in May at the Darebin Arts Theatre.

Can we expect to see James's name in lights at the Opera House one day? He doesn't know. But he is confident that travelling will improve his employment prospects.

He's also confident his life is on the right track. "I love it," he says. "I love what I'm doing."



Guest of honour, Deborah Halpern.

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Centre: a rubbish dump

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Community Centre manager Norm Tillack is mystified as to why the centre has become a target for the dumping of rubbish recently.

He says the weekly clean-up now involves more than just broken bottles from weekend drinking sessions.

"We are getting quite a bit of household rubbish just dumped here. I can't understand this as Manningham council provides a good rubbish collection service. Most of it is thrown in the garden."

"Warrandyte residents and users of the centre probably do look after it but I have no means of knowing who is dumping the rubbish. I would like to think it is out-of-towners," he said.

While the household rubbish

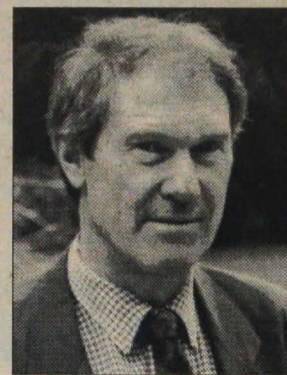
has become a new occurrence, the pick-up of bottles and cans became a regular event through the summer months.

"There has been a lot of drinking going on, especially in summer. Monday morning is a big clean-up. The worst it has been was 40 bottles in the garden and in the car park and they were just those in one piece, many others were smashed."

He also reported "irritating damage" at the centre recently, including the slashing of chairs in the foyer, graffiti sprayed on the walls, security lights smashed and the destroying of plants in the garden.

"It comes in waves, sometimes very serious and expensive damage, other times negligible damage like the couch."

He says insurance excess for



Norm Tillack

the centre has increased 500 percent following the recent damage.

Joining with the neighbours

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is situated upstairs at the community centre.

"Visitors are always welcome," coordinator Nicole Collins told the *Diary*. "We will always be ready with a cuppa and a listening ear."

The House offers courses, classes and such groups as yoga, folk art, tai chi, walking, tennis, computers, backpacking, a men's and women's health group and an ADASS group for seniors. They have internet and computer access for \$3 an hour, local jobs for local people and occasional child care.

The House has secured a plot at the community garden and plans to grow flowers to give to local people "who may be in need of a lift". The plot will be in four sections, with flowers for each season.

"We need keen amateur gardeners, plants, cuttings and tools," Nicole said. "If you are donating cuttings or plants, a note outlining flowering habits and any other information would be appreciated."

"The book exchange is undergoing a rejuvenation, with a new sub-committee formed to achieve higher

community awareness and use." The book exchange, in the back room, lower level of the community centre, has a big range of books (fiction, non-fiction and books for children) which can be borrowed on an exchange system or bought.

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is managed by a volunteer committee of management, with volunteers assisting the coordinator in everyday running.

The phone number is 9844 1839. After hours callers may leave a message and their call will be returned.



Blind driving fun

By RACHEL BAKER

It was the first time Gerry Flood had driven his children around in a car. They said he "had a smile from ear to ear".

Gerry Flood is legally blind, but last month he was offered the chance to drive a car as part of a Warrandyte Lions Club project.

Gerry was one of 140 blind people who drove in the third annual In The Driver's Seat program, designed to allow vision impaired people to drive a car.

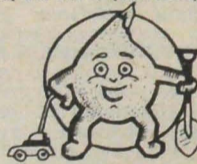
The program began in Sydney and was initiated in Victoria by Peter Watts, who is a Warrandyte Lion and also legally blind. "One of the things blind people miss most is being able to drive," Peter said.

The event was held at Sandown Raceway. RACV instructors gave each driver a half-hour lesson, but most of the drivers stayed all day, said Kathy Watts, who helped organise the event. "This day is something they look forward to all year," Kathy said.

Vintage cars and motorbikes were also there to entertain the participants and their families.

The day is so popular with the blind community that within 24 hours of the club sending out application forms, 40 people had responded.

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Information Warrandyte operates in the community centre (ground floor, Yarra Street frontage) each week day from 10am to 4pm (closing at 1pm on Fridays). They offer an information and referral service that is free, confidential, impartial, independent and community-based, operated by trained volunteers. They carry a large selection of brochures on local tourist attractions, craft and educational short courses, legal and health matters. Local bus timetables are available. Information Warrandyte also has a trained tax help volunteer and offers internet, computer and fax access. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact coordinator, Patricia Adlam, on 9844 3082.



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.

Grinners

First prize in the Billycart Derby at the Warrandyte Festival—the Nintendo 64—was won by Jace Ranson. Second was Jake Humble, with Sam McKellar coming in third. The award for the best cart went to Cleelan Alexander. Yarra Warra kindergarten won the award for the most outstanding entry in the Festival Parade. Hugh McSpedden (aka Noddy) was judged most comical, Bhava Yoga school the most imaginative, Warrandyte and District Preschool the most colourful and Warrandyte Childcare was judged most Warrandytish. Andersons Creek Primary School too off the penant for best costuming.

Choir

Warrandyte Primary School's Grade 2 choir made their debut at a celebration of Senior Citizens' Week recently. Wearing their bright red robes, they performed at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens' Club, who in turn treated the children to a lively rendition of Rock And Roll Granny.

FOWSP

Friends of Warrandyte State Park are seeking new members. They offer an opportunity to support our state park in practical terms and to take part in a wide range of activities, including walks, talks, slide nights, excursions and hands-on plant propagation experience. Enquiries to PO Box 220, Warrandyte, 3113, or ring 9844 1344.

Auditions

The Warrandyte Theatre Company's next production is Black Comedy by Peter Shaffer. Auditions—for five male and two female parts—will be held at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall on Sunday, April 18 at 4pm.

Salvos

The Salvation Army's annual Red Shield Appeal doorknock will take place on Sunday, May 30. Mr John Cox has been appointed district chairman and he would be pleased to hear from individuals and groups able to help on this day. The Warrandyte community raised over \$4500 in 1998. The Red Shield appeal supports a wide variety of community-based projects, including their employment-plus program, which has placed 12,000 people in jobs since May last year. John Cox can be contacted on 9844 2702.

Winners

St Stephens Anglican Church have asked us to announce the following winners of their recent raffle. First: Easter hamper—Peter Norman; second: Dutch windmill lamp—Carol Adkins; third: Universal remote control—Chris Leigh; fourth: tackle boxes—Malcolm Foster; fifth: Easter cake—Stan Andrew.



Local student, Christine Redfern of Bradleys Lane, received a 1998 Premier's Award at a ceremony at Government House last month. Christine attended both Warrandyte primary and high schools, then completed her VCE at Box Hill Senior Secondary College. She received her award for achievement in industry and enterprise studies. Christine is pictured with Premier Jeff Kennett.

Playgroup

Warrandyte Westend Playgroup meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9.30am to 11.30am at the Sunday School Hall, Uniting Church, Taroon Avenue. Please phone Liz Freeman on 9846 6851 for further information.

Dance

The next South Warrandyte social dance will be held at the South Warrandyte Hall, Hall Road, on Saturday, May 8. For further information call 9723 3892.

Koalas

As part of the 1999 Green Wedge seminar series, Roger Martin from Melbourne university will speak on the koala on Thursday, May 6. Roger has been conducting research into the reproduction and behaviour of the koala for several years. The seminar will be held at the Currawong Bush Park conference room, Reynolds Road, Doncaster East, com-

mencing at 7.30pm. There is no charge and tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

Exhibition

An exhibition is being held at Manningham Gallery of retrospective and new works by Jan Szrednicki from April 8 to 18. The gallery is located at the rear of the Manningham municipal offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster. On Tuesday, April 13, at 1pm, there will be a floor talk by the artist.

PBC

Primary Biliary Cirrhosis (PBC) is a slow, chronic liver disease that causes progressive destruction of the bile ducts of the liver. There is no known cause or cure and final stages of the disease may result in the sufferer needing a liver transplant. A support group has been formed for PBC sufferers, and anyone interested should call Doreen Donaldson on 9706 2404 or Rosemary Rimmer on 9700 2981.



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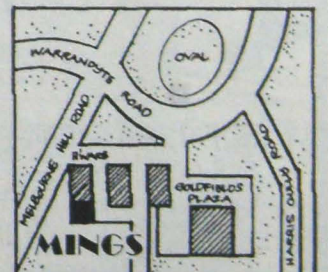
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Redback boys defy the odds

By DAMIAN ARSENIS

Warrandyte's high expectations of an onslaught on the Eastern District Junior basketball Association finals ended with only a handful of Redback teams making the grand finals.

Malcolm Anderson's U18A boys were the story of the series. Playing in the highest grade, they began their finals run, after finishing third in the regular season, against the Doncaster Doncats.

And they played exceptional basketball to stave off elimination and advance to a preliminary final meeting with the highly-fancied Balwyn.

In a tough contest, the Redbacks held the Balwyn shooters in check on their way to a convincing win.

Making the grand final might have seemed good enough for the Warrandyte boys as they were matched up against classy cross-town rivals the Eltham Wildcats, who had dominated the competition all season.

The Redbacks were also without coach Anderson, who had to miss because of family commitments and was replaced by Gavin Whitmore, but they took the upper hand from the outset, putting the clamps on the defensive end and forcing the Wildcats into errors and poor shots.

It was Warrandyte's best performance of the year. They were brilliant.

The Wildcats were simply unable to play their usual game. They were outgunned, outplayed.

The Redbacks shot an amazing percentage from beyond the arc. They just couldn't miss as they stormed their way to an upset win.

Craig Dick, Ben Walsham and Callum Anderson were the best of the hometown heroes as they laid their claim to the perpetual A-grade trophy.

Awards will be made at the Redbacks' Twilight Presentation Day on Anzac Day, April 25, at the Warrandyte High School stadium. Proceedings begin at 5pm and include a shoot-out, exhibition game and barbecue.

By JUDY GREEN

The tennis clubrooms in Taroona Avenue are sporting three new premierships flags following the finals of the Eastern Region Tennis summer season.

The senior Mixed 4 team of Neil Sproat, Brian Cleaves, Barbara McBain, Jeanette Cleaves and Carol Davis defeated South Warrandyte by nine games in a closely-fought match. The Mixed 15 team also reached the grand final, but were unable to win on the day.

The club will be represented by five senior teams in the approaching winter season. In the junior competition, four teams reached the grand finals, with two successful.

Mixed 3—Aidan Davey, Chris Chapman, Katrina Sochacki, Tamara Valentino and Esther Waterham—came from second position on the ladder to defeat the top team, Montrose, in a tight match, winning by five games. Victory depended on the last set, in which three match points were saved by Montrose before they finally succumbed.

The Mixed 20 team of David Johnson, Jonny Drew, Jason Philippou, Stella Loftus-Hills, Stacey Freedman and Vanessa Haynes finished the season undefeated. They had a com-

SPORT

fortable win over the second team, Croydon: seven sets, 44 games to one set, 24 games.

Two other teams—Boys 17 and Mixed 25—both finished second on their respective ladders and lost to the top teams, Scoresby and Park Orchards.

The club will have 14 juniors teams in the ERT winter competition, with 13 playing on Saturday and one on Sunday.

There will be four Warrandyte teams in Tennis Victoria's Penant competition—two mens and two womens.

The club's contribution to the Warrandyte Festival—the speed serving competition—was as successful as ever, despite wet weather on the Sunday.

The winners were: Open—Men: Darren Cary (198kmh); women: Kylie Bevan (148kmh). 16&U—Boys: Chris Chapman (175 kmh); girls: Kylie Bevan (148kmh). 14&U—Boys: Ben Telford (178kmh); girls: Linda Stanzel (118kmh). 12&U—Boys: Justin Cleaves and Karan Sikand (140kmh); girls: Rosie Moore (95kmh). 10&U—Boys: Beau Tobin (132kmh); girls: Courtney Merbis (80kph).



Above: Warrandyte Tennis Club's premier Mixed 4 team. From left: Barb McBain, Carol Pavia, Neil Sproat, Brian Cleaves, Jeanette Cleaves. Below: The champion Junior Mixed 20 team. Back (left to right): Jonny Drew, David Johnson, Stella Loftus-Hills and Vanessa Haynes. Front: Jason Philippou, Stacey Freedman.



The "oldies" salvaged something from a disappointing season for Warrandyte Cricket Club by winning the veterans competition premierships on February 28. They lost only three wickets in their pursuit of a 132-run target set by Norwood in the grand final. The winners (pictured left to right with the two umpires): Alan King, Steve Pascoe, Marty McCarthy, Ian Woolf, Alan Cornell, Robert White, Chris England, John Chapman, Bruce Taylor, David Stickels, Brian Cleaves, Graham Lawrence and Barry Johnson. Absent: Craig Holland.



A team of students and ex-students of Warrandyte Primary School brought home a premierships last month from the Northern District Softball Association competition played at Mill Park. The mixed team beat Amigos 10-7 in the under-15 boys grand final. The premiers: Breanna Leone, Justin Cleaves, Lisa Williams, Natalie Dusing, Alastair Coates, John Burgoyne, Kelly Fuller, Ben Taylor, Rachael Lynch, Luke Galley and coach Fiona Wells.

Excitement ahead for juniors

Warrandyte Junior Football Club will field 10 teams in the new Yarra Junior Football League season, which kicks off on Sunday (April 18).

And there's plenty of cause for optimism about at least emulating the two premierships of last season.

"We have a full complement of players and some brand new coaches on board," club president Terry Pieper told the Diary. "We are quietly excited about our prospects."

The club will run Under-9 Tackers sides, two Under-10s, two Under-11s, an Under-12, Under-

13, Under-14 and Under-17 Colts.

Missing will be an Under-15 side, which has temporarily folded for want of numbers.

"Our expansion over the past few seasons has created a hole in the Under-15s area," Pieper said. "It's a hole that we'll be plugging next year."

The search for a coach for the Under-17s—premiers last season—has ended with the appointment of Shaune Wilson.

"Shaune is a very experienced former player and premierships coach," Pieper said. "We're delighted to have him aboard."

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SUN 25: Wayne Horner —Balladeer. ANZAC DAY 12.30pm
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It was a perfect night for footy and a perfect result for the mighty Bloods. The fog was nice enough to stay away until a few minutes after the final siren. (Pictures by Sandy Burgoyne)

By LEE TINDALE

It had been billed as Warrandyte football's night of nights—and the historic season's opener under lights at home on April 10 lived right up to that.

The weather was particularly kind, the crowd big and enthusiastic and the Bloods, resplendent in their new night and away game jumpers, won very well. They could have and should have won by considerably more than 29 points—9.20 (74) to 6.9 (45)—but at evening's end nobody in the crowd of well over 1000 was really complaining about the many opportunities that went begging against Wantirna South in front of goal.

The first-ever EFL senior game for premierships had everything. It had bonfires, barbecues, fireworks—even a young West Indian fellow who brought along his bongos to drum up support for the "Warrandyte Reds".

It also had a fine game of football, tough, physical uncompromising stuff from which Warrandyte can take great heart.

It was a total team effort largely inspired by two men—coach Lex Munro, who had left hospital only hours earlier after a near-fatal bout of pneumonia, and skipper John O'Brien, who'd had the job of acting coach thrust upon him in Munro's absence.

Both addressed the team at half and three-quarter time. It was stirring stuff.

Munro had been admitted to hospital on March 26. He was given special leave to attend the game but left the ground before the final siren to return to hospital for surgery the following morning to drain his chest.

"How lucky are we to have John O'Brien?" said Warrandyte Football Club president Jeff Evans. "John stepped in and took the reins when Lex was hospitalised and has done a magnificent job."

"His level of commitment is

Dytes supreme in historic night game

SPORT

extraordinary."

And the night itself? "Great, just great," Evans told the *Diary*. "Everything we had hoped for. A lot of other EFL clubs had people there and we heard nothing but favourable comment."

"There were two downers: through no fault of our own we were unable to illuminate the scoreboard and the boundary line disintegrated in the dew. But overall, a wonderful night."

"Obviously we'd like to play at least one more senior night game at home this season and we'll be sitting down with other clubs to talk about it," he said.



Jeff Evans: 'Great night.'

"We'll almost certainly be playing an Under-18s game under lights and the junior club are also keen to play fixtures at night."

Warrandyte lined up against Wantirna South with two new faces, two "returnees" and two who'd taken the big step up from the Reserves.

The newcomers are ruckman-forward Josh Eastaugh, a brother of Essendon AFL player

Simon, and forward David Bean. Eastaugh was recruited from the University Blues and Bean from the Bellarine league. Both shape as valuable acquisitions.

Back in red and white are defender Stewart Rough, who has spent the past two years at North Ringwood, and Greg Pearce, a class act who has returned from two-and-a-half years at Echuca.

Promoted for the big occasion were Steve Warr, who turned out to be one of the Bloods' best, and James Logan.

Wantirna South, who were reported to have recruited very well, jumped Warrandyte in the first half minute, receiving two free kicks for a goal while denying the Bloods a touch. But there was to be little joy for the visitors thereafter.

Pearce put Warrandyte on the board with a miraculous snap after three minutes and Mack Clarkson to Chris Quinlan for another half a minute later had the smiles back on the faces of the home crowd.

It was a nervous start by both sides—typical first-game-of-the-season stuff—but it was certainly willing.

Both defences were on top but when Dale Vitiritti accepted a pass from his good mate Kimberley O'Connor for a goal 19 minutes in, the Bloods were looking good.

They looked even better three minutes later when Brad Valentine snapped cleverly, sending Warrandyte in to the first change with an 18-point lead, 4.2 to 1.2.

O'Brien told his players in the huddle that it had been "not a bad quarter, but just one of four".

Wantirna South missed a golden opportunity to goal immediately after the resumption. They atoned a minute later, but Justin Edwards quickly repaired that damage and Andrew Brown to Valentine at the 15-minute mark blew the lead out to 25 points.

All this and the little fellas too

Football fans expecting a triple-header—Under-18s, Reserves and Seniors—to open the season on April 10 were given a little bonus.

They were treated to an exhibition match by the Under-9 Tackers, the mighty atoms, before the big game.

The Under-18s were beaten 13.6 (84) to 8.8 (56) but were short of numbers, thanks in part to school holidays.

Their best were Nathan (Stumpy) Ireland, Shaun Irvine, Lachlan McDonald, Andy Moore, Rick Templeton and Harvey Brown. The Reserves also went down, 10.12 (72)

to 4.5 (29).

"We allowed Wantirna South some easy, soft goals while we had to work very hard for ours," said new Reserves coach Chris Barnes. "We were beaten by basic errors but our numbers are good and our players will unite."

"It's worth remembering that Wantirna South trounced us last year.

Best of the Reserves were Glen Carle, Adam Borwick, Peter Harvey and Paul Mechan.

● The 1000 can raffle on the night was won by "Kewley".

Wantirna South goaled at 17, but Edwards restored the advantage 3 minutes on and the visitors were finding the Warrandyte defence impregnable. They pulled a goal back at 25 minutes, but the Bloods went in at the interval with a 22-point lead, 7.7 to 4.3.

The third quarter opened in something of a stalemate situation, the defences calling the tune but Warrandyte still looking the more dangerous. A "blue" in Wantirna South's forward poked after 14 minutes broke the deadlock.

While the players at that end of the ground were exchanging pleasantries, Warrandyte whipped the ball upfield for Liam Riley to mark and goal.

The Bloods dominated the rest of the quarter, but for little result on the scoreboard. Very

gettable goals were missed until Eastaugh accepted a pass from O'Connor and kicked truly on the siren. At three-quarter time it was 9.15 (69) to 4.5 (29).

Wantirna came out for the last stanza with plenty of fire in the belly. They kicked three consecutive behinds before sending a minor fit of the fears through the vocal home camp with goals in the fifth and sixth minutes, but Warrandyte were not about to let this one slip and they were to be the only major scores of the term.

Again, errant kicking for goal brought undone some fine passages of play by the Bloods, but the defence, rock solid all night, continued to dominate and the result was never in doubt.

O'Brien described the game as a very promising start to the season.

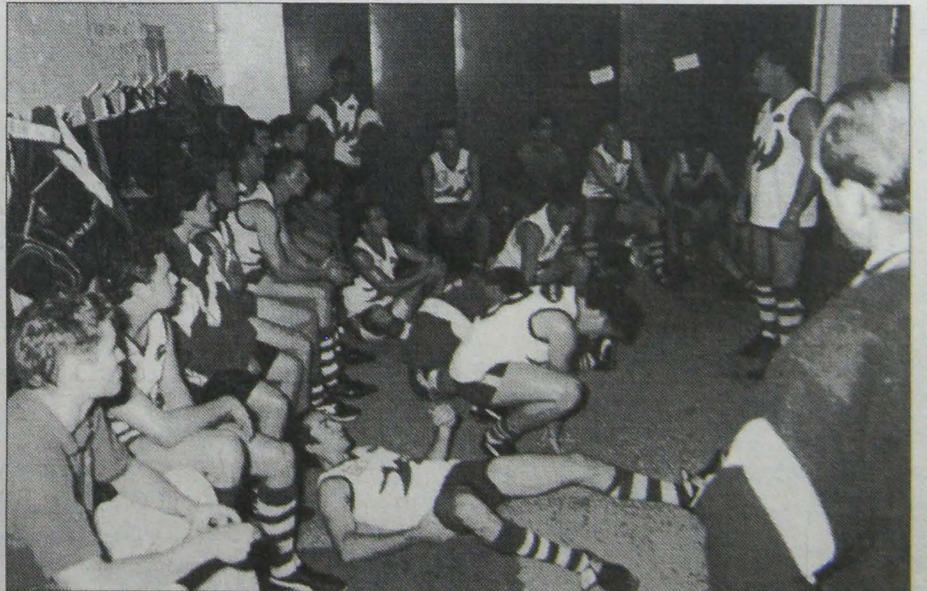
"It was our first real game under lights and I think we adjusted quicker to them than Wantirna South," he said.

"The dew made the ball very greasy and I think we also adjusted better to that."

"We still have two or three very good players to come back into the side and at this early stage things are looking very promising."

"Our conversion rate was disappointing and we should have won by more, but a very pleasing start to the season."

Warrandyte's goalkickers were Valentine 2, Edwards 2, Pearce, Quinlan, Vitiritti, Riley and Eastaugh. Their best were O'Connor (outstanding), Brendon Smith, Valentine and Warr—but every player contributed to a memorable victory.



John O'Brien addresses his troops before the big game as coach Lex Munro (right foreground) looks on. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

Friendly enemy makes it happen

The success of the night game was a result of an exercise in cooperation between rival clubs.

"I'm very grateful for the assistance we got from Wantirna South president Kevin Nelson and his committee," WFC president Jeff Evans told the *Diary*.

"They went out of their way to make it happen and I thank them very sincerely for that."

Another EFL Third Division club, South Croydon, also came to the party. A giant cherry picker from which the match was filmed was donated for the night by South

Croydon president Kevin Wheeler, of Garner and Wheeler Crane Hire.

A replay of the game will be shown on Channel 31 next Saturday morning (April 17). It will also be screened at the Bloods' Sportsmen's Night at the clubrooms on Wednesday (April 14).

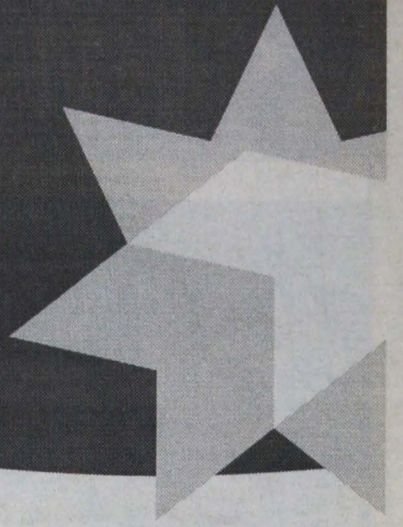
Guest speakers at the night will be former VFL/AFL premiers player and coach Robert Walls and former Australian Test fast bowler Rodney Hogg.

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



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