

# Threat to centre?

## Council calls in consultants

By CLIFF GREEN

Manningham council has called in a firm of consultants to review operations at the Warrandyte Community Centre.

Their brief includes "financial operations and future opportunities for the centre to become financially independent".

All the permanent tenants of the centre are local community service groups. They include Information Warrandyte, Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, Warrandyte Diary, Warrandyte Youth Services, Apex opportunity shop, model railway club and the virtual library.

Public areas are let to community groups (on a reduced rental scale), private organisations and individual hirers for a wide range of uses, including social functions, seminars and meetings.

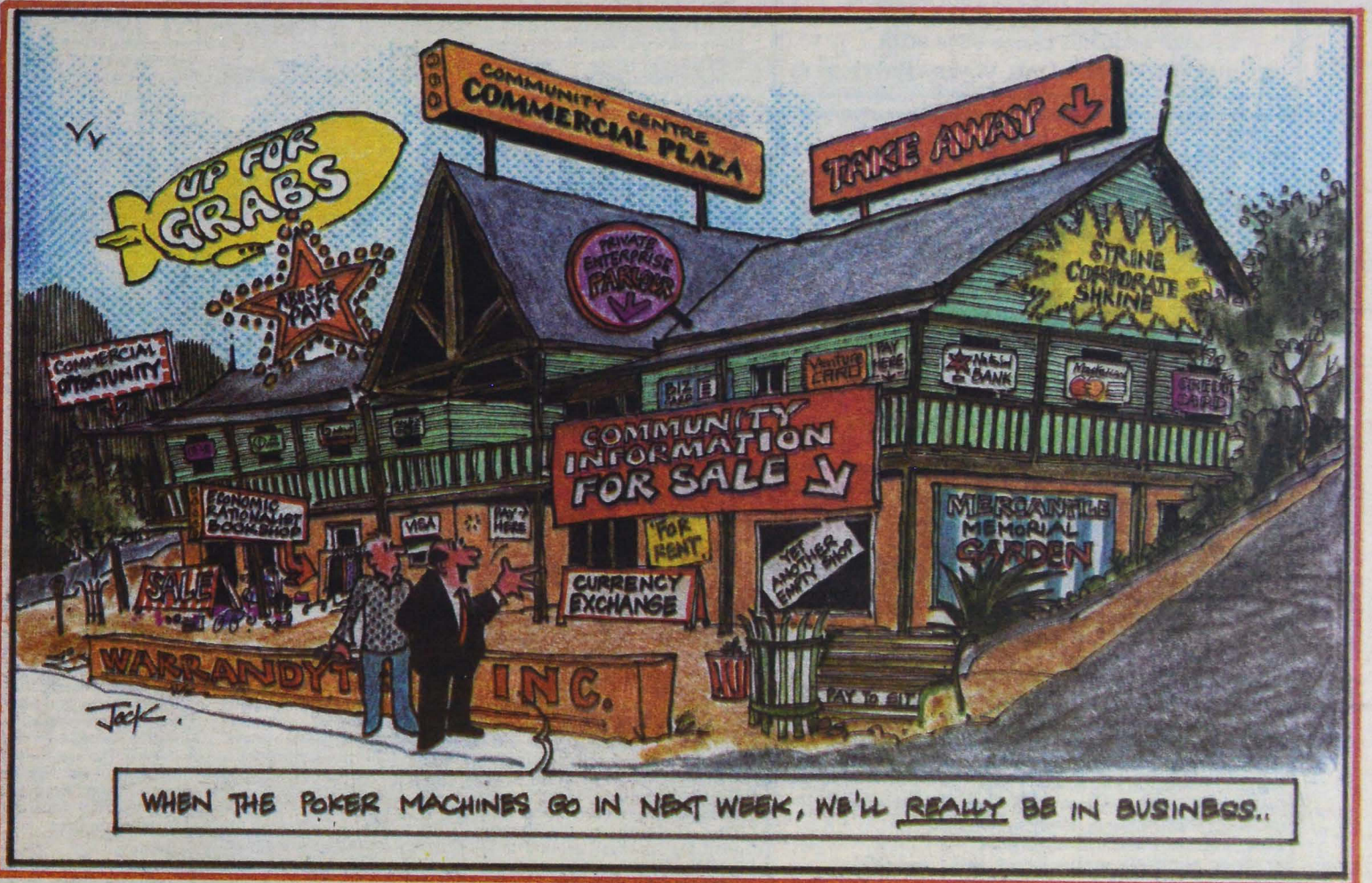
The management committee has been under council pressure to make the centre "cost negative" for a number of years. "Council is applying the principle of 'user pays'," Jock Macneish, chairman of the management committee, said. "But the ratepayers are the main users, and they have already paid—through their rates."

The *Diary* understands that Domeney Reserve in Park Orchards has already been "privatised". A contractor has been awarded the right to hire out spaces in the newly refurbished facilities in return for an annual fee to council of \$20,000.

"The pressure for commercialisation of community centres is characteristic of the economic rationalist approach to service delivery in the community sector," Louise Joy, Information Warrandyte president, said. "The Mooroolbark Community Centre has been privatised, with availability of community rooms for hire at such a rate that service groups are choosing to meet at the hotel, which is providing rooms rent-free."

"The two spaces most vulnerable to the takeover by commercial operators are the offices of the Warrandyte Diary and Information Warrandyte. Both organisations have been paying regular rent to the centre since 1991."

Jock Macneish believes that the centre is already remarkably cost-effective. "The part-time manager's salary of \$16,000 a year is the only cost to council," he said. "All other expenses, including cleaning, power, insurances, garden care and regular maintenance are covered out of the tenants' rents and hirers' fees."





# Panel backs scheme

## Green light for Wedge

SO —!

By SYD &amp; ONA

By DAVID WYMAN

A state government panel set up to review Manningham's new planning scheme has come out in overwhelming support of continued retention of the Green Wedge.

"Many arguments were put forward as to why subdivision should be allowed," the panel's report stated. "The panel was not convinced by any of these and the more the arguments were put the less credible they seemed."

"Practically all submissions which supported subdivision of land in the Green Wedge also supported the concept of the Green Wedge—this seemed somewhat disingenuous to the panel."

This was one of many strongly supportive comments on the Green Wedge made by the panel and advisory committee which recently reviewed and reported on Manningham council's new format planning scheme.

Almost 70 submissions were made to the panel, many via consultants, seeking subdivision of Green Wedge land in Donvale, Park Orchards, Warrandyte, South Warrandyte, Warranwood and Wonga Park.

Under the heading of "Why have a Green Wedge?" the panel reported: "The Green Wedge is part of Melbourne—we should be as determined to preserve it as we are to preserve our heritage buildings. To have saved these areas from development shows a clear sense of planning direction and vision for the growth of Melbourne."

"There are numerous reasons for supporting the Green Wedge, and many of these were raised in submissions to the panel—the area

● has significant landscape that ought to be protected

● has environmental values and certain rare and threatened species and eco-systems that need to be preserved

● provides a rural lifestyle choice and income producing opportunities close to a major city—this has international appeal

● is part of the image and sense of Melbourne—it has meaning in the same way heritage buildings have meaning

● is not easily developable

● would suffer rapid decrease in land values if developed.

"Without a control of subdivision there would be no Green Wedge. The whole concept of Green Wedge relies on restricting further subdivision of land."

"Further subdivision of land based on individual submissions (which were remarkably similar in nature) would undermine the value of this asset to provide the choices and benefits it currently does."

"These opportunities and choices ought to be preserved—planning must consider the use and development needs of future generations."

"It is true that there has been a reasonable amount of subdivision in the area in the past, and that lot sizes in the area are smaller than ideal given the objectives of the Green Wedge. However, the panel is firmly of the view that while one might wish that some of the past subdivision had not occurred the Green Wedge remains substantially intact and is able to be preserved."

On the issue of "lots too large", the panel observed that "any lot can be too large depending on the willingness of the owners to maintain it."

The panel said it was not presented with any evidence that land lots below a certain size were free of "maintenance problems", and that subdivision of larger lots would attract pur-

chasers who would be just as likely to experience "maintenance difficulties".

"The problem is one of mismatched expectations of resources, not one of absolute lot size", the panel reported.

"Many of the arguments revolve around the money to be derived from a subdivision of the land. The panel makes the observation that if subdivision was not perceived as being a financially rewarding exercise then there would be far fewer submissions to the scheme."

"It is clear that some land owners see the subdivision of their land as a form of superannuation—the fact that such subdivision has not been permitted under the planning scheme for over 20 years has been no deterrent."

"The panel does not believe that any planning weight should be given to the notion of subdivision as a form of superannuation."

On the issue of "hardship" (of having large lots of Green Wedge land) the panel pointed out that subdivision would be inequitable, a permanent solution for a temporary problem, could create more "hardship" and would be open to abuse.

"If the Green Wedge is worth saving then it should be worth saving in perpetuity. That will not be achieved by a slow erosion by piecemeal subdivision."

"The decision to preserve the Green Wedge is not arbitrary, nor was it taken on a whim. It is a long standing part of Melbourne's management—one that has come to define Melbourne in part," the panel said.

"We would not contemplate allowing heritage buildings to be demolished simply because of the personal circumstances of the owners. The same principles should apply to the Green Wedge."



## Council stands firm

Manningham City Council made a strong submission on the Green Wedge to the panel. It said, in part:

"There must be a strong resistance to the ad hoc rezoning of Green Wedge land in this planning process."

"Many arguments will be put to the panel in relation to hardship, the superannuation argument, the argument in relation to inability to care for the land and the like. The planning authority recognises all of these arguments. However, it does not think that allowing (further) subdivision of the land is the appropriate answer."

"The non-urban areas are an asset of state importance. It is an area that has survived because there has been a restrictive approach to subdivision (which is by and large the major issue in the non-urban areas). However, the area must be maintained for the enjoyment of future Victorians as well as those that presently reside on the land."

"Allowing subdivision to meet the various needs of the present occupiers has the potential to see the character of the area change within the span of a generation."

## Landowners keep trying to subdivide

By DAVID WYMAN

Of the 70 submissions concerning the Green Wedge to the panel reviewing Manningham council's proposed new planning scheme, many were from broadacre landowners seeking subdivision.

They were looking to break their holdings up into lots ranging from .4ha (1 acre) to 2ha (5 acres).

Virtually none received any encouragement from the panel's report. They were told: "The panel considered in some detail the key issue of subdivision in the Green Wedge including the location of the boundary between non-urban and urban areas."

"The panel concluded that there was no justification in changing either the subdivisional controls that currently exist, or the boundary."

The panel said in its report that it could not help concluding that in some cases landowners' aspirations for development and consequent income were being raised without justification by their professional advisors.

Indeed, none of the submissions gave specific or detailed reasons for such comments as:

● "Properties are too large to sustain an attractive environmental state."

● "Subdivision controls to not take into account the need for

viable land management."

● "Four hectares is too much land for one family to look after."

● The need to "carry out an environmentally sensitive subdivision".

● To change the zoning of 33.9ha of mostly orchard land on seven titles to "increase opportunities for a range of development proposals".

● "Present lot sizes are too large to manage in an environmentally sustainable way."

Many submissions were made by consultants for groups of property owners in most areas of the Green Wedge and these, too, were thin on specific reasons, stating in one case that the "planning scheme was biased toward preservation and does not recognise the planning needs or characteristics of the area."

There were several submissions strongly supporting council's new planning scheme. One Dudley Road, Wonga Park, resident stated that the "area has been changed over the years by property owners driven by greed. No further subdivision should be allowed".

A Yarra Street resident said that he supported council's approach to planning for non-urban areas. A Jamieson Road, Wonga Park, family expressed "concern over additional subdivision in bushland areas".



Green Wedge landscape: "If the Green Wedge is worth saving, then it is worth saving in perpetuity". (Picture by Jan Tindale)

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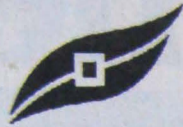
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MANNINGHAM

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Jumping Creek Road Closure

from 26 May 1999 for Five Months

For several years there has been community and Council concern in relation to the dangerous traffic conditions on Jumping Creek Road, especially the narrow Jumping Creek Road Bridge.

The road carries approximately 6000 vehicles per day and the number of accidents, including fatal accidents, makes the road one of the most dangerous in the region.

Council over the past two years has developed a strategic plan in consultation with a Resident Reference Group to upgrade the road and improve traffic conditions, whilst also taking into account the sensitive environmental nature of the area.

The initial stage of road works will involve the replacement of the Jumping Creek Road Bridge, which is in urgent need of replacement.

The new bridge will be wider, have a pedestrian / equestrian walkway and will also be 1.4 metres higher making it less likely to flood.

Because of the environmental sensitivity of the location and the physical limitations of the site, the Jumping Creek Road Bridge will be closed for approximately five months during the construction period.

Whilst the Council appreciates this will cause inconvenience, unfortunately there is no other way in which this urgently needed project can be undertaken. Works include regrading and realignment of the road approaches to the bridge to improve sight and safety for motorists as they approach the bridge.

For public safety reasons the construction period will take place from the last week in May until the first week in December so the works will be finalised in time for the 1999 / 2000 fire season.

We are making you aware of the closure of the Jumping Creek Road Bridge well in advance so you can plan alternative routes during the construction period. See *Melways Map Reference - Jumping Creek Road 24:A11*.

Council will be erecting an extensive sign network to assist motorists to take alternative routes. We would suggest you familiarise yourself with these or other routes, as soon as possible prior to the closure of the Jumping Creek Road to establish the extra time you may require travelling to the locations within the area.

For further information please contact: Manningham City Council's Project Management Unit on telephone 9840 9310.

Thanking you for your co-operation in this matter

**BOB SEIFFERT**  
Chief Executive

# Thanks for Wedge stand



DEAR DIARY

Since first electing me to Eltham council 25 years ago, the people of Warrandyte have been critical to the success of the Green Wedge concept. They have shaped the character of our district and ensured the protection of its special natural environment. The Warrandyte community has worked closely with me throughout this period, and always delivered a great swag of votes to myself and like-minded candidates on election day. For all this, I thank the residents of Warrandyte.

There were no tree-clearing controls when I was first elected and no Green Wedge. I believe Eltham was the first Victorian municipality to control the clearing of bushland, and was the strongest supporter of the Urban Growth Corridor/

Green Wedge concept for Greater Melbourne.

Professors Hill and The Chase Reserve, significant local legacies of the community's partnership with myself and the council, hopefully will survive for generations to come.

The Shire of Nillumbik grew out of support for the Green Wedge. It has a great future, but unfortunately fell on difficult times through some endeavouring to remove much of the community input from the workings of council. As the inaugural shire president of Nillumbik, I am proud that, working with

the majority of councillors, I was able to steer Nillumbik in a more democratic direction, as a council determined to work with its residents rather than in isolation from them.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the community over all these years, and I would particularly like to heartily thank the people of Warrandyte for their support, criticism, encouragement and vision throughout a quarter of a century.

As I now concentrate on my architectural business and enjoy home life, I will always remember that Warrandyte is one of the great strengths behind Nillumbik—the Green Wedge shire.

**Robert Marshall**  
St Andrews

## When towers vs flowers

To the Warrandyte community, thank you very much for your support for the community petition objecting to erection of the proposed Optus/Vodafone mobile phone tower in the Warrandyte area.

We now have over 1000 signatures and we have sent letters or made representations to Manningham councillors, Phil Honeywood, MLA Warrandyte, Kevin Andrews, MHR Menzies, the Australian Heritage Commission, the Australian Communications Authority, Optus and Vodafone.

It is our understanding that Optus/Vodafone will lodge a planning application with the Manningham council shortly. We would like to let you know that we plan to hold a public meeting so that the Optus/Vodafone plans can be viewed, information can be provided and opposition as a community can be expressed.

Please be vigilant for information about such a meeting as there will be a restricted time period to act after the lodgement of the planning application. It is then that we need your letters to the above representatives of our community at local, state and federal levels of government.

Should the planning application for the Wildflower Reserve site be unsuccessful it is unlikely that Optus/Vodafone would pursue other sites in the Warrandyte area, as they have technical limitations.

Readers are urged to sign the petition expressing their opposition, if you have not done so already. Petitions are located at the IGA supermarket, post office, primary schools, Warrandyte medical clinic and other venues.

**Pamela Dry**  
Timbertop Ridge

Far from being "a necessary evil" we believe that the need for the mobile phone tower has yet to be proved by Optus/Vodafone. Firstly, they have refused to provide information about the level of complaints originating in the Warrandyte area.

Secondly, they cannot guarantee that problem areas will be eliminated by the tower because of undulating terrain. The question remains, how many towers will they require in their relentless pursuit of a seamless service?

Thirdly, the issue of emergency services is irrelevant because they use a different frequency and have their own relay towers.

Blackspots are generally experienced by persons, not necessarily residents, driving through our township while using their mobile phones. Evidence has shown that drivers are four times more likely to have an accident while using a mobile phone.

Why should we endure the visual impact and possible health effects of a tower for the convenience of people who put the lives of our families at risk?

Optus/Vodafone claim one in five persons now have a mobile phone and they have a democratic right to have an ideal service anywhere. What about the democratic right of the other four persons?

Warrandyte has a unique bushland setting. Most residents have chosen to live in this area for that reason. They have chosen the lifestyle that it represents and are not concerned with minor imperfections in the mobile phone service.

**Sarah Blackwell**  
Poppy's Court

## Thanks for votes

I write to thank those Warrandyte citizens on the north bank who voted for Peter Gurney in the recent Nillumbik council elections. Out of 27 shire-wide candidates, with four to be elected, Peter came fifth. Not bad for a bloke making his first attempt at office.

Peter Gurney thanks you for your support and assures you he will be keeping a weather eye on council doings in your interest.

**Bob Millington**  
by email

## Thanks for internet

I've just spent the last 45 minutes of my precious internet time catching up on the news from Warrandyte. We moved to Singapore six months ago from North Warrandyte, leaving behind a great group of friends within the Warrandyte community, and it has been so good to be able to read what has been happening in the "real" world of Warrandyte.

Thank you for the service that you provide to those of us far from home. I'm sure I'm not the only person who reads the *Warrandyte Diary* regularly from overseas. When we get home we won't be totally out of touch. Keep up the good work.

**Ros Chandler**  
by email

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.



## Towering trees

In Queensland, a company has carefully nurtured a mobile phone tower approach which has been adopted for local conditions from South Africa. Artificial trees such as Eucalyptus copies have been erected which house the mobile phone componentry within the flora to blend in with the environment as opposed to an ugly concrete behemoth.

Invariably, one drives past these mobile phone towers without even realising it.

**Paul Epstein**  
Fossickers Way

## Friends from afar

A thank you note from a former long-time Warrandyte resident now living in Mackay, North Queensland for the *Warrandyte Diary* on the net. You can be assured I will be keeping up-to-date on all the local news now that I have access to it. Thanks again.

**Lindsay Craker**  
by email

## Thanks for rescue

I would like to thank those kind people who came to my rescue on Warrandyte Festival day. Having bogged my car at the corner of Warrandyte and Jumping Creek Roads, and seeing my predicament, they very efficiently pulled the car back onto the road. Thank you.

**Ann Pammer**  
Camberwell

## No thanks for rubbish

Rubbish is being dumped in and around Tindals Wildflower Reserve. In March, Friends of Tindals Wildflower Reserve removed a large quantity of concrete and rubbish from the Significant Roadside Verge outside the Wildflower Reserve. To our dismay not three weeks later another load of household rubbish had been dumped at the selfsame spot. April Friends Day was again taken up with removal of a trailer load of refuse.

The throwing of bottles, cans and general litter along the roadways seems to be an increasing problem at an enormous cost to the community. Not only through council expenses but through damage to our struggling indigenous flora and fauna as this rubbish makes its way to the waterways.

It is so easy to put rubbish in a bin. A phone call to council and household hard garbage will be collected from the nature strip free of charge. Please, everyone, take care of our great outdoors.

**Rosemary Buxton**  
East Doncaster

## Top deal for CFA

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte fire station will soon be staffed by full-time firefighters on a daily basis, an additional new fire truck will be supplied and the station will be altered to accommodate the changes.

This follows recent media criticism of the Country Fire Authority by the United Firefighters Union, accusing the CFA of not employing enough full-time firefighters to support volunteers in "suburban growth corridors".

"The appointment of staff at Warrandyte will reinforce and support the 43 dedicated volunteer brigade members at the Warrandyte station," CFA Yarra Area Manager, Russell Rees, told the *Diary*. "Warrandyte station will be staffed on a daily basis as part of the CFA's new flexible service delivery arrangement."

The *Diary* understands two fulltime, professional firefighters will be appointed, a leading fireman and a qualified fireman. They will be employed on daytime duty.

This announcement coincides with a statement by Police and Emergency Services Minister Bill McGrath that \$5.7 million is to be provided for CFA fire services in the growth corridors.

"CFA plans to build five new fire stations, purchase eight new fire trucks and employ 19 new operational people to support volunteers and enhance fire response in areas of population growth," Mr McGrath said.

At present, the only full-time officer at Warrandyte is the community facilitator, Jeff Adair.

"The concept of community support facilitators is a CFA innovation which has proven to be an outstanding success," Russell Rees said. "Since the appointment of eight CSFs to the brigades in Yarra area in September 1997 they have been responsible for the delivery of a wide range of community safety programs, including Brigades in Schools and Elderly Fire Safe. These provide real benefits in terms of fire prevention and community self-reliance."

Facilitators have also been appointed to South Warrandyte and Wonga Park CFA brigades.

It is understood the fulltime firefighters will be appointed some time in the next six months and before the start of the next summer bushfire season.



# New crossing place

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Work on the Jumping Creek Road bridge—a blackspot for traffic—will start on May 26 when the structure is closed for rebuilding, causing about 6000 vehicles a day to detour.

One of Manningham council's biggest 1999 projects—costing in excess of \$1million—reconstruction and road alignment works will mean motorists travelling from Wonga Park to Warrandyte and vice-versa will have to travel via Yarra Road and Warranwood, adding about 10 minutes to their journey.

Immediate past mayor of Manningham, Irene Goonan, said the project was one of the most significant undertaken by council this year, and of enormous environmental concern.

"Safety, the environment and businesses are all issues affected by the road closure," she said. "People come first. However, for example, to reduce the incidence of weeds being brought in, all felled trees will be chipped and used on-site and fill from other works on the road will be used instead of soil from outside the area."

The road and bridge qualify as a blackspot on both accident and volume numbers and standard traffic growth of two to three per cent per year is expected.

"The bridge works are funded 80 percent by council and 20 percent by the federal government's accident blackspot program. Work is due to be finished by the first week in December, in time for the summer fire season," Ms Goonan said.

Following a briefing with all police, CFA and MFB, SES and council emergency workers, Ms Goonan stressed it was extremely important that people reported which side of the bridge they were on when requiring emergency services. Wonga Park and South Warrandyte CFA are formulating a plan for primary and secondary incident attendance.

Strategic signage is being erected before the bridge closure to educate drivers of alternate routes, but turning bays would be made near each end of the bridge, enabling drivers to turn around.

John Stamp, head of the project management unit, said the existing wooden bridge is old and maintenance increasingly a problem.

"If the bridge collapsed under stress it might take 8-10 months to restore," he said. "A bridge built side-by-side with the existing one would have taken longer to build, would be more expensive and would create a traffic safety hazard for workers working on the new structure."

"The new bridge will be 1.4 metres higher than the existing one and five metres longer, built

over the old bridge to minimise disturbance to the surrounding embankment. Two to three hundred metres on each side will be realigned to improve the approaches. Council is very conscious of the effect on flora and will monitor the revegetation closely for the next two years. We want minimal disturbance to air, land and water.

"The speed limit in Jumping Creek Road is also being looked at, as parts of it are signed for 70kmh and others 60kmh. There'll also be an audit of safety signs on Jumping Creek Road as their impact now seems minimal," he said.

Manningham council has worked previously with the contractor who has a good environmental record and this was a prime factor in the choice. Mr Stamp said five major groups were considered during planning for the works.

"All residents in Jumping Creek Road, Wonga Park and Warrandyte have been notified, through traffic is being advised with signage on Maroondah Highway at Chirside Park and commercial interests monitored. Emergency services and council services such as aged care, meals on wheels and daycare have all been informed."

The traffic management plan reroutes vehicles through Yarra, Plymouth, Croydon and Ringwood roads. Brysons Road will be monitored before, during and after the works and it may be opened to local traffic only. "The last thing we want is an increase in traffic in Brysons Road," Mr Stamp said.

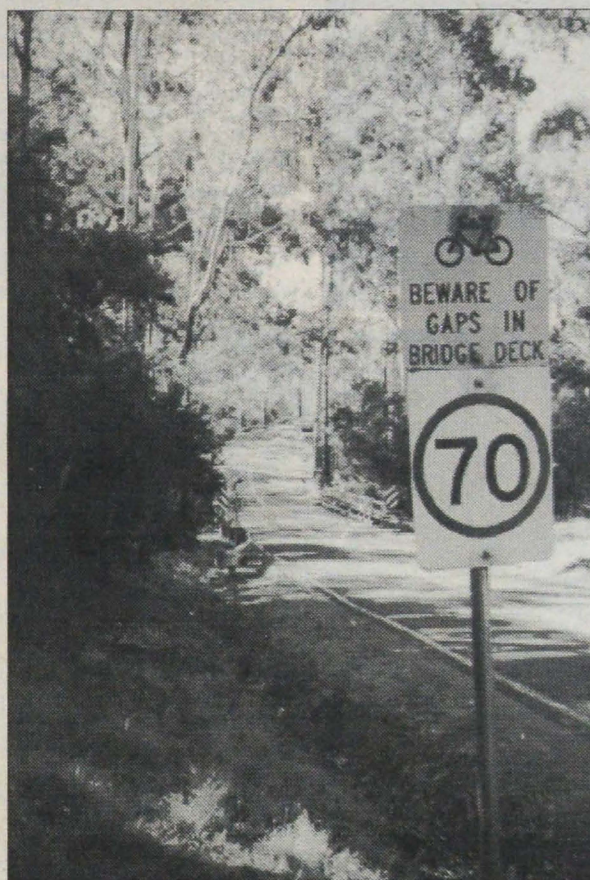
As much prefabricated work as possible would be done before erection of the bridge to reduce building time. There will be no rock blasting, with heavy earthmoving machinery doing the excavating and boring for three concrete piles which will support the bridge.

The new design incorporates a pedestrian and equestrian walkway which extends either side of the bridge, where it will be surfaced with Lilydale topings. This may be continued up to Wonga Park if necessary. Two hill crests will be removed near the Stane Brae intersection while the road is closed.

"There have been three fatal collisions in the past six and a half years and numerous serious accidents on the road," Warrandyte police sergeant Keith Walker told the *Diary*. "We hope the changes to the bridge and road will reduce the number of significant accidents."

Cr Pat Young said part of the public education process about the roadworks was a letter-box drop of 3500 leaflets announcing the closure and alternative traffic routes.

"The bridge couldn't be in a worse spot for closure, bearing in mind the interchange of people between Wonga Park and Warrandyte to schools and other activities," she said. "But it has to be done."



Bridge over troubled waters: new Jumping Creek bridge challenges engineers and environmentalists.

The original crossing of Jumping Creek was a ford, part of Warrandyte Station which was settled in 1838-1844. According to local historian Murray Houghton, the original was probably built downstream.

"The first bridge was closer to the river, on bedrock, but in the late 1920s minor flooding damaged it because of the poor

foundations. The second was built on the present site, with high wall wings, but most of its woodwork was burnt in the 1939 bushfires. Both bridges were wooden."

The new bridge will be eight metres wide in total and 17.6m long. It will have concrete T beams with a concrete deck and asphalt surfacing.

## Books out of thin air

By RACHEL BAKER

When most of us think of a library we think four walls and a roof, shelves, and lots of books. There's the librarian's desk, posters about poetry readings, and lots of people whispering.

So what's to be made of this new fangle dangle "virtual" library in Warrandyte? Where are the books? Do you surf through internet space and wait for the Lonely Planet Guide to South East Asia to magically appear before you?

That's almost it, Anne Metcalf, who staffs the "virtual branch" in the Warrandyte Community Centre, told the *Diary*.

The virtual library gives people access to the Whitehorse Manningham Library network. You can look at the catalogue, order the book you want—from any branch—then wait for it to be delivered to the Warrandyte branch.

"It usually takes two days for a book to arrive," Ms Metcalf said.

People can order books from any place with internet access: home, work, school, or the Web Point Kiosks (there is a web point kiosk in the Community Centre foyer and one at IGA supermarket). Just go to [www.wcv.vic.gov.au](http://www.wcv.vic.gov.au).

Users need to be a member of Whitehorse Manningham library, and they need to get a password, which can be done at any branch.

Through the internet, you can also renew books, reserve books that someone else has on loan, and check your borrowings and reservations.

At the branch, users can become a member of the library, return books (which can also be done outside IGA supermarket), pay fines, get help on how to use the virtual library and suggest books for the library to buy.

The branch is open 3 to 6pm from Tuesday to Thursday, 3 to 7pm on Friday, and 2 to 5pm on Saturday.

But, of course, cyberspace never closes, so you can access the website at any time.

# Threat to rare wildlife

"Quite rare" carnivore, the brush-tailed phascogale or tuan, may be affected by the roadworks on Jumping Creek Road.

Warrandyte State Park ranger Andrew Nixon said the tuan is an endangered marsupial but there is a good population of them in Jumping Creek Reserve.

"The tuan is related to the Tasmanian Devil and the quoll, and we can tell by the six found dead on the road in the last two years that they have a reasonable population base," he said. "The problem is there seems to be two habitats of tuans, separated by the road, and they're killed while crossing it. They're very territorial."

Mr Nixon said the area of bush on either side of the bridge was an important bushland habitat and attention should be put to it in a media campaign once the bridge reopens so drivers remain alert.

"There are more than 250 Eastern Grey kangaroos in the park and a small mob in The Common on the other side of the road and drivers must be aware of the danger."

Jumping Creek Reserve will remain open during the roadworks, with access to it only from Wonga Park.

Spokesperson for the Wonga Park Environment Group, Flora Anderson, said the group had accepted the new bridge being built, but she was concerned that the works must be well-maintained and supervised.

"As a lobby group we've raised the awareness of the environment in this area and we'd hoped not to lose any trees during the construction," she said. "But we've lobbied for the load limit to be reduced and fewer trees are going."

About 50 mixed age trees, including manna gums, will be felled, some of them significant.

"It's a huge disruption and the traffic will be frightening and we hope Brysons Road will be opened to local traffic only. If council does as it says there shouldn't be too many worries."

Julie Pryor, who runs a wildlife shelter in Wonga Park, says she is already concerned

by the number of wild animals killed on Jumping Creek Road and she is worried about the eventual reopening of the road.

"The animals will have got used to less traffic and people just don't realise they are there," she said. "Lots of people aren't local and even local drivers aren't aware. Almost every type of native animal in Victoria is found in that area—including wedge-tailed eagles, owls and tawny frogmouths—and there must be an education process to let drivers know."

Ms Pryor's casual count of dead and injured animals found on Jumping Creek Road since the beginning of February include five Eastern Grey kangaroos, a fox, a koala, a duck, a noisy miner, a magpie, one echidna, a lizard, a galah, a possum and a wallaby.

"Plus I have calls from people who have seen injured animals go into the bush and adjoining properties where we can hardly ever find them."

PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

# '...and in the morning, we will remember them...'



By LEE TINDALE

**B**EN JONES said it was the best Anzac Day he'd ever had. And he's had a few. A lot, in fact.

Ben, 76, of Yarra Street, hasn't missed a Warrandyte Anzac march and memorial service since he arrived here in 1952, but the 25th of last month was a stand-out. His far-flung family—flung as far as Western and South Australia—made it that day.

"It started on the Saturday night when Wayne, my son-in-law from Daylesford, asked me if I'd like to go to the dawn service at the shrine in town next morning," said Ben. Would he what? "Then Jimmy Pleasance asked me if I'd like to lead the local march." Would he ever!

"Right behind me in the march were three of my grandkids, Jonathon and Matthew (Dorning) and Jessica (Jones), then after the service my grand-daughter Sharon arrived with my twin grandsons, Benjamin and Joshua.

"Peter Norman had been taking pictures for the *Diary* but he left before young Ben and Josh arrived. He told me to give him a ring at home when they turned up and I did and he was back with his camera in about half a minute.

"Wonderful bloke. Known him since he was that high." Ben wondered if any of the photos of the four-generation family (there are seven kids, 12 grandkids about to become 13 and three great-grandchildren) would make the *Diary* and we said there was every chance of that.

Then he asked when the next edition would be out and the timing suited him beautifully because he and wife Jean would be just



Jim Horking and grandson Jeffrey.



Ben Jones and family.

home by then from a trip to Adelaide for son Gary's wedding and Jean knew nothing about all this and wouldn't she be surprised!

Ben Jones really is what April 25 in this town is all about. A past president of the Warrandyte RSL Club, he served with distinction as a soldier in New Guinea and has been serving the community ever since.

He has been, among other things, a keeper of the scorebook for the cricket club, timekeeper for the footy club and a dedicated RSL stalwart who, along with his mate Jim Horking, "took over" long ago the job of selling Remembrance Day poppies and Anzac Day

badges in this town and made it their own. Most of all, perhaps, he is a great character who fully deserves to have the very best Anzac Days.

Jim Horking, the grand old man of Mitchell Avenue, had a great day too.

There were three generations of Horkings involved: Jim (93 next month) himself, son Robin, who led the Cubs in the march, and two grandsons—Jeffrey, who was in the guard of honour, and Bruce, who came along as a visitor.

Warrandyte RSL Sub-Branch president Ennio Torresan described it as "a very good day all round".

"The weather was perfect," he said, "and the crowd bigger than usual."

Pastor Peter Keep, of the Warrandyte Community Church, conducted the service and the 4th Combat Engineering Battalion from Ringwood provided the guard of honour.

Campbell Wilson was on bagpipes and Chris Coates on bugle.



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# A thousand sign against tower

By RACHEL BAKER

Opposition to the proposed Optus tower is gaining strength, with protest groups gaining in excess of 1000 signatures to a petition and possible support from local politicians to fight the project.

Earlier this month, the Warrandyte Awareness Group achieved its target of 1000 signatures from people who oppose Optus's plans to build a mobile phone tower next to the Tindals Road Wildflower Reserve.

And Sarah Blackwell, founder of the No Tower Action Group, recently met with the state member for Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood, and the federal member for Menzies, Kevin Andrews, in a bid to gain support for the campaign.

She said the politicians' reactions were "positive". They have noted the groups' concerns and have agreed to attend a public meeting about the tower, which will be organised once the application has been lodged. "They have a precedent for supporting these kinds of things," she said.

Meanwhile, Optus still plans to lodge their application with council, and will "stand by the site", according to community relations manager, Ross Monaghan.

While Mr Monaghan acknowledged it was "certainly the right of anyone to oppose it," he said the Wildflower

Reserve site was "chosen by the community" as the most appropriate site for the tower.

But Sarah Blackwell said the location of the tower was not the issue. "It's more the principle. We don't want something we don't need. There is (adequate mobile phone) coverage in the area.

Peter Curry, of WAG, said he is "hopeful" that WAG's objection, along with support from council, will succeed in defeating Optus's application.

Peter Curry said the group was also keen to meet with Optus to resolve the dispute.

WAG believes it is important that this application is defeated, otherwise more towers could be built throughout Warrandyte, Peter Curry said.

"I'm just concerned that they're a law unto themselves; any blackspot, and they'll build another tower."

Mr Monaghan did not rule out the possibility of more towers in Warrandyte if the current permit is granted.

"We will always be looking to improve our network, putting base stations in where people want to use their mobile phones," he said.

Optus is building about three new towers every day, and plans to increase the current number of 1300 towers to 1900 in the next 12 months, Mr

Monaghan said.

However, he also said: "It's probably likely that if it's not approved, we won't seek to install more towers in the area, so there wouldn't be more towers in the area in the foreseeable future."

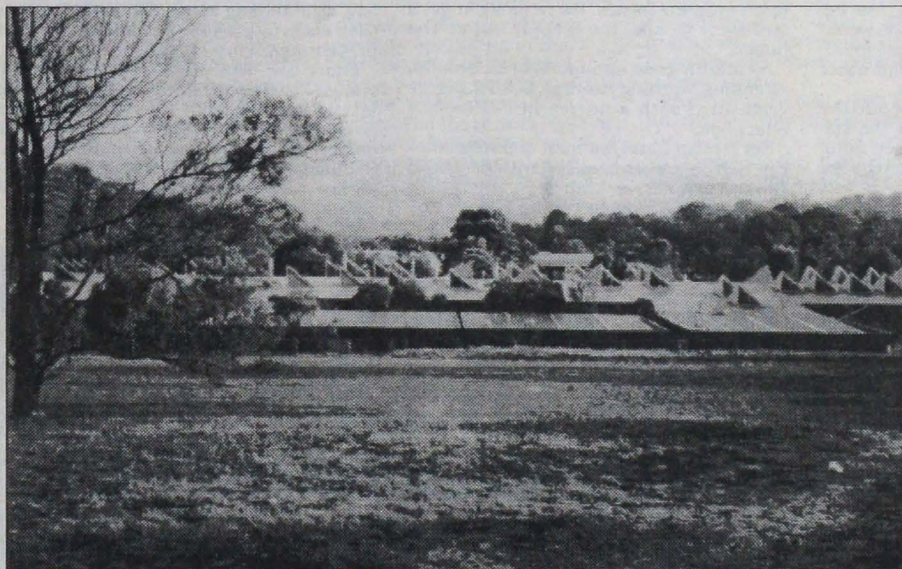
WAG's objection focusses on the visual impact of the tower, its position in a residential area and a conservation zone and community opposition, Peter Curry said.

Mr Monaghan said: "We hope council will see the extent we have gone to in finding the site that most people are happy with." He said Optus consulted with the community over a three month period, and the Wildflower Reserve was the "least contentious" site for the tower.

Peter Curry said Optus had always wanted the Wildflower Reserve site, and "they directed public preference" to that site by offering alternatives that were sure to attract public criticism: near a primary school, near a kindergarten, and in a state park.

"It's actually known in the industry that this is a standard practice," Sarah Blackwell said of claims that Optus offered deliberately unattractive sites as alternatives.

Mr Monaghan rejected these claims, saying "everything was open" in the selection process and "we were happy to consider any alternative site".



## School plans courts

Warrandyte High School council is planning to build five tennis courts as the first project in the school's master plan.

"The courts will be available for school use during school hours, but will also be available to the community after school, in vacations and on weekends," school spokesperson, Barbara Mills, told the *Diary*.

"Local primary schools will also have access to the courts during class times, and if there are no classes scheduled on the courts there will be no barrier to daytime community use."

The school believes the courts "will be very accessible to the community" as they plan to build them close to the

bus stop in Warrandyte Road (site pictured above). To facilitate after-school use, a separate toilet block will be included.

Tennis club president, Mark Bence, wrote in a letter to the school: "We keenly support additional tennis courts in Warrandyte. Due to the current demands on our own courts, we can envisage coaching clinics for the high school and local primary schools being held on these courts, rather than having to squeeze them into our competition schedule. We believe such a venue would help promote tennis in the community."

The school believes the complex could cost around

\$200,000, including the toilet block and shelter area. It "will be suitable for hockey, soccer and cricket training since the surface will be synthetic grass," Barbara Mills said.

Seeking community financial support, the school is conducting a "limited ticket" raffle. Principal prize is a new VW Beetle car, supplied by Ward VW. "The odds are great," Barbara Mills said, "since there are only 3500 tickets and 56 prizes." Five Sony Walkman second prizes are offered, and 50 double passes to a Village cinema.

Barbara Mills can be contacted on 9844 6119 or 9844 0281 for raffle tickets and donations.

## Fire trucks locked out

Electric gates and decorative archways over driveway entrances are preventing access by fire trucks in the Wonga Park area.

Local CFA captain Jim McKee told the *Diary* residents don't realise the brigade can't get into their properties when gates are shut or arches too low.

"We can't open gates if they're locked or the power's off and it would add about four minutes to our journey if we had to use chains hooked to a truck to pull them off," he said. "Access to some houses is especially bad in some areas down by the river."

"Also, lots of householders use post office boxes and don't have letter boxes and the CFA can't get up their drive to see residents to talk to them about the problem."

The brigade sees access as a real problem for them and such other emergency vehicles as ambulances. "We can't even see them to talk about it."

PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

### WRONG!

In our last issue we stated that Warrandyte High School student Elise Hodgson was 1998 dux of the school and received a citizenship award. This was wrong. Aimee George received both awards. Our apologies, Aimee. The error was made during sub-editing.

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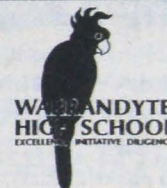
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**DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER STUDY**  
**Your Comments and Suggestions are Invited...**

The Manningham City Council has recently prepared and has placed on exhibition the draft Neighbourhood Character Study.

The Study has been prepared to:

- Provide a detailed and accurate analysis of the neighbourhood character of established residential areas within the City of Manningham.
- To prepare guidelines which, among other things:
  - augment the Site Analysis requirements and Neighbourhood Character element of the Good Design Guide for Medium Density Housing;
  - encourage high quality design outcomes for multi-unit development; and
  - encourage unit development, in established areas, which complements the character of the neighbourhood.

The draft Neighbourhood Character Study will be on exhibition from 28 April 1999 to 28 May 1999.

Copies of the Study are available from the Manningham City Council Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster or by calling Kay Toussaint on 9840 9348. Copies of the Study may also be viewed at local libraries.

Any comments or suggestions you may wish to make about this policy should be in writing, and must be sent to: Roger Collins, Manager, Economic & Environmental Planning, Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster, 3108, by 5pm Friday, 28 May 1999.

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Ali Martin and Jim McKee. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

# Fresh face at Wonga Park

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

The changing needs of Wonga Park residents have caused a new part-time position to be created at the local CFA.

"Wonga Park brigade covers Croydon Hills, North Croydon and Jumping Creek Road to Edgar Road and the river," captain Jim McKee explained. "Nine out of 10 times, fire risk used to be bush-related, but because of subdivision, that proportion would now apply to kitchen, car and house fires."

Hazardous wastes in garages and other chemical risks are also a problem.

"Many of the new people moving into the area think we are always here at the station. But we are volunteers, paged automatically when fire calls are received by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade."

Ali Martin, 32, is the new community sup-

port facilitator at Wonga Park, working 20 hours a week in fire prevention, community education, training and recruitment. She joined the CFA in February and has been training since then.

"Ali will be working on a business plan, prioritising issues as part of the brigade management team," Captain McKee said. "There's not enough time for our volunteers to do even the basics. We're lucky to get a facilitator to take the brigade out to the public."

Ali Martin grew up in Kangaroo Ground, attending Warrandyte High School before graduating with a degree in community education.

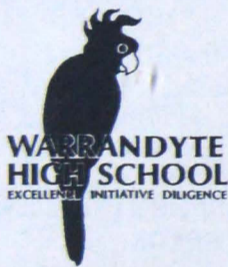
Her mother Carol Bathurst and stepfather Hec Bathurst were involved with Kangaroo Ground CFA.

"I think as a woman I bring a fresh out-

look to the job," Ms Martin said. "I'm more approachable, especially for other women. One of the big issues we face is recruitment of volunteers—especially in the daytime—and raising the profile of the brigade and recognising volunteers will help."

"As part of a community education program I'll be going out to the six primary schools in the area, plus Luther College, and also helping brigade members add to their skills by perhaps becoming education presenters themselves."

There are 32 firefighting members at Wonga Park, plus four newcomers, and Ms Martin said they have all been very supportive of her role. "They've made me welcome," she said. But some things are slow to change. On offering a hot drink, Captain McKee said Ali should get the coffee—it should be her job.



## Win the Warrandyte High School Limited Ticket Raffle and drive the first VW Beetle in Warrandyte

A chance to be lucky and a way to help support the building of five new tennis courts for community use. The synthetic grass courts will be situated at Warrandyte High School on Warrandyte Road. The raffle will be drawn on 15 September at the school.

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# Youthful approach

By RACHEL BAKER

You're a teenager in Warrandyte. It's Friday night. As usual, you're bored. You're too old for Blue Light discos and too young for pubs. What are you going to do?

This is the main role of Warrandyte Youth Services say new youth workers—Jamie Parsons and Bronwyn Barton—giving young people somewhere to go and something to do.

Jamie, the recreation worker, and Bronwyn, the program worker, face the challenging task of entertaining Warrandyte's youth. The drop-in facility, in the community centre, is open five days a week, providing music, pool, table tennis, and, of course, company. The two workers are also planning things like "jam sessions", skateboarding, surfing, or "anything the kids want to do".

But it's not just about relieving boredom. Bronwyn and Jamie are also committed to helping young people develop and learn about new things.

"I'm hoping to start developmental groups, like a young women's group," Bronwyn said. "We could have guest speakers and discuss issues like body image or health, or whatever



Jamie Parsons



Bronwyn Barton

they want to talk about."

Jamie is hoping to organise short courses during the holidays, in areas like mechanics and drama.

"We want to help them develop creative skills and expose them to a whole range of different opportunities," he said.

Achieving things is an impor-

tant part of making young people feel good, and is especially important for those who are feeling isolated, struggling at school, or not fitting in with their peers, Jamie believes. Life isn't easy for a young person these days; they have to make huge decisions about their life at a young age, and they are

constantly faced with images about what they are doing wrong.

"Current affairs shows often show young people in negative contexts: drugs, or general hanging around. But the reality is that they have their own opinions and views, and they're often quite intelligent."

Bronwyn believes it's important that these opinions and views are listened to. "They want power over what they can get done in the community," she said. "They can come up with ideas, ask for things, and we can get them done. They can achieve something of their own."

Jamie and Bronwyn believe this approach—of seeking input from young people—is important for youth workers. They have therefore conducted a survey, and will use its results to provide young people with the activities they want.

● Warrandyte Youth Services, located on the top level of the community centre, is open on Tuesday to Thursday from 3pm to 6pm, on Friday from 3pm to 10pm, and Saturday from 2pm to 10pm. All young people are welcome.

## New facilities at community church

Warrandyte Community Church has begun construction of a new auditorium and several multipurpose rooms in their building at 57 Yarra Street, beside Stiggants Reserve.

These major renovations, which will be completed by the end of May, will provide "much-needed facilities not only for the church, but for the whole community", Pastor Peter Keep told the *Diary*.

The new auditorium, seating 200, will include an elevated stage and modern lighting and public address facilities. "It will be ideal for presentation evenings, product launches and school events," Pastor Keep said.

Adjacent multipurpose rooms will each hold 25 people, and can be joined together to provide a single larger space suitable for meetings, workshops and

displays. The renovations include upgrading of the current kitchen facilities, and a new entrance providing improved access for prams and those with limited mobility. A sports room—incorporating squash and indoor volleyball—is being retained from the original squash centre built in the late 1970s.

"We're sure that schools, community groups and local business will find the new facilities very useful for all kinds of events," Pastor Keep said.

"We hope the auditorium and adjacent rooms will complement the sports stadium being built at Andersons Creek Primary School."

For information regarding regular or occasional use of the new facilities, please contact Pastor Keep—during office hours—on 9844 4148.

## Funds available for school computers

Local schools are being invited to apply for funding subsidies to purchase additional new computers as part of the state government's latest computer subsidy round.

Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte, told the *Diary* that "\$10.4 million will be available state-wide for the purchase of an extra 23,400 computers for student use.

"I strongly encourage local schools to apply for these funds."

In the funding round at the start of this year, schools in Warrandyte electorate received more than \$139,000 in subsidies for computers for students and additional information technology resources for teachers.

Included among local primary schools receiving subsidies were: Andersons Creek (\$14,236), Park Orchards (\$4,011) and Warranwood (\$15,758).

"The subsidy program has been so successful that not only has it been over-subscribed on



Phil Honeywood

every occasion, but schools are also choosing to add additional funds to increase their buying power," Mr Honeywood said.



Pollution-free waterways are an important element of Manningham's GreenPrint strategy.

## A green city

Manningham council is leading the way in municipal conservation strategies in Victoria with its GreenPrint program of environmental management.

"Council is completely realistic in terms of the way that we will tackle our goals," Manningham mayor, Cr Lionel Allemand, told the *Diary*. "We have set targets and indicators to measure and track our progress."

GreenPrint is based on the philosophy of ecological sustainability and aims to ensure that future generations have the same quality of life in terms of the basic life support systems—air, water, soil, biodiversity—as we currently enjoy.

"The pollutants which enter our streams and waterways, the waste which goes to landfill and the harmful gases we release into the stratosphere all effect quality of life in areas beyond our municipal boundaries," the strategy states.

"Unlike similar strategies in other local government organisations, the strength of GreenPrint is the setting of real targets that will govern whether council and the community are living up to their stated objectives."

Governing GreenPrint are five goals: zero pollution, zero cli-

mate change, zero extinction, zero soil degradation.

"These goals are objectives under which council will continually initiate achievable short-term targets," the strategy states.

Cr Allemand said GreenPrint is a great challenge for council, but he isn't concerned by those who believe that reaching for such high goals is unrealistic.

"I remember when US president John Kennedy announced in the early 1960s that they would put a man on the moon," he said. "When that statement was made it was thought to be impossible, but they did it."

"The secret to achieving these goals is through a partnership between council and community."

Manningham council is looking for supporters; volunteers interested in monitoring the environment, in particular the numbers of plants and animals, and in helping identify any encroaching environmental threats.

For a copy of GreenPrint, and further information on ways to help, contact council's environmental education officer on 9840 9338.



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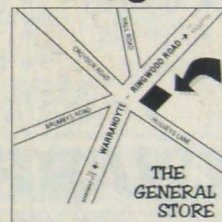
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"Oh, just keep it strapped for as long as you feel it needs it. And now you can start to put some weight on it."

My jaw nearly hit the ground and I then had to work to suppress a fit of guffawing. Start to put some weight on it? Start? The phone call was being made eight days after the consultation and I'd been given a certificate to stay home from work for three days. How was I to have kept the weight off my ankle given that scenario?

Anyway, I was grateful that the damage was minimal even though friends kept telling me that their ankle—some-long-Latin-name sprain—took six to eight weeks to get better and that I was in imminent danger of developing arthritis. Another assured me that without intensive physiotherapy I may have permanent ankle weakness and may even need to invest in a Zimmer frame in the next few years.

Their interest was touching but hardly encouraging. Indeed, given the vagaries of my body, they may have proven correct. But at this state I'm prepared to run with elasticised strapping



**KIBBLED**

**"...and may even need to invest in a Zimmer frame in the next few years."**

and the odd bout of leg elevation when my sprained ankle starts to trouble me. Of course, apart from the illness junkies, there were the wags who took one look at the crutches and walking stick and couldn't resist the old jokes about gout and senility.

I smiled knowingly then set about putting them right. I tried to convince them that it was nothing as simple as my maturity. I grudgingly spilled the beans about my private life and how I'd got to the last round of the Australasian Kick-Boxing Championships and was just about to effect the last deciding foot smash when I slipped in a pool of my imminently de-

feated opponent's blood. Desperately I lashed out, grabbing at whatever was going to save me.

Almost at once my hand touched something metallic. Instinctively I gripped and pulled hard in a desperate attempt to halt my progress and save the championship. I twisted my head to see what it was that was saving me. It only took an instant for me to realise that the championship could be lost. There, at the end of my contracting arm was the bloated face of the referee.

Immediately I deduced that the metal was a chain and the bloated face was caused by me. As I'd lashed out, my hand had touched the ref's whistle chain that was centrifugally spinning as he was attempting to escape my lurching body. Panic-stricken, I continued to cling to his whistle chain in an attempt to slow my progress, but to no avail. The chain tightened, constricting his windpipe, cutting off his air supply. Thus the bloating.

Asphyxiation sent the referee crashing to the mat, on the way splashing blood into my eyes. So, what with the lack of vision, the slippery blood, a dying referee and a groggy opponent, I had little option but to put out my leg to act as a bumper bar against whatever it was I was about to hit.

In the audience was a triple-certificated nurse who was a relative, twice removed, of my opponent. As soon as she had

seen what was happening, her training got the better of her and she leapt into the ring. She was of ample proportions and ageing. Otherwise engaged in searching through her first aid bag for her instruction manual, she didn't see my extended leg and instead of helping the wounded, she became one of us.

As she fell she grabbed my foot and twisted it. I was dragged along with her not inconsiderable frame. I landed on top of her, foot sprained, ego shattered and the championship all but lost. I was carted off in an ambulance whilst the police endeavoured to determine whether there were any charges to be laid.

There are far too many Doubting Thomases around these days. I'm shattered to admit that some of my colleagues fall into this category. More than an acceptable number of them had the audacity to suggest my explanation was tampering with reality. Why wouldn't they believe that a mature man, close to retirement, would not suffer the injury as suggested?

Herself, barely able to drag herself away from stripping down the motor mower engine in the kitchen, humped at my distress and went back to fiddling with the carburettor.

What do they want me to say? That I was carrying a bag of autumn leaves and tripped on the footpath?

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# A green and pleasant or a dark, forested land?

**L**LEFT the narrow foot track and scrambled down over rock and shale to the river below. It has become something of a ritual over the years, this personal pilgrimage to farewell the slowly dying season.

Late autumn. The sunlit, clement days are over, surely this must be one of the last. It grows colder in these southern lands as the elliptical orbit of our tilted planet takes us further from the burning energy of the home star.

The chuckling river journeys on regardless, carrying with it a flotilla of golden leaves shed from some hibernating willow upstream. Strands of white bubbles circulate in the eddies forming a kaleidoscope of monochromatic patterns, while across the river in deep dark pools the reflections of manna gums dance like watery ghosts.

I did some reflecting of my own. An article had appeared in The Age newspaper recently that, although confirming what I had already suspected, nevertheless, disturbed me deeply. Researchers at Melbourne University have found that the majority of people living in Australia prefer open, English countryside-style landscapes to native Australian forests. The former presented "a valuable recreation environment", the latter was perceived as "dangerous".

Is this the primeval leftovers from our ancestors who roamed the vast plains of Africa five million years ago, or a modern-day fear evoked by the mind? The study also concurred that most people had a low regard for biological diver-

## NATURE

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

sity. To feel that way, I thought, would at least relieve the emotional burden of caring. Caring about the future of this planet, this country and this place called Warrandyte; my home.

A cloud moved across the sun dulling the colours on the distant hills. Not far from where I was sitting a large, strappy-leaved clump of flag iris occupied the riverbank, its sunny yellow flowers long gone, replaced by dangling green pods packed with flat brown seeds. Some of the pods have since split casting their contents to the water.

The iris is an escaped garden plant, abundant in its distribution along the Yarra River, but strangely, does not occur widely in the rest of the state. I thought about making the iris the subject of an article. Plant and animal introductions into Warrandyte's bushland has been a common and passionate theme of my writing. Some might say does it really matter? Well, yes it does.

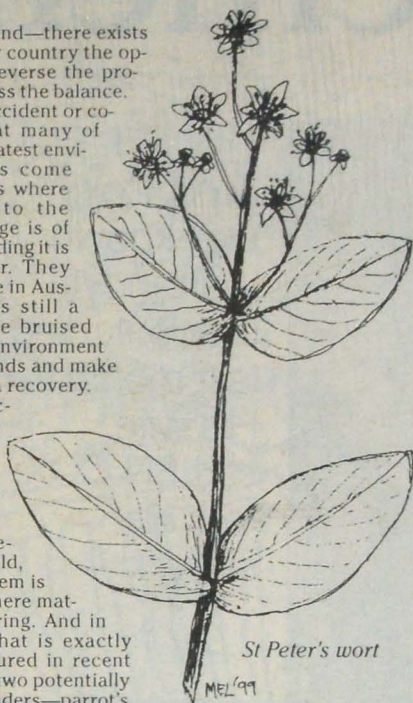
Australia is the last continent to be colonised by Europeans. The changes that have taken place as a result of introduced flora and fauna, deliberate or otherwise, by those early settlers has had alarming repercussions on the natural environment. Because the impacts of settlement, although rapid, have been relatively recent—two hundred years, not

several thousand—there exists in this wealthy country the opportunity to reverse the process and redress the balance.

It is not by accident or coincidence that many of Australia's greatest environmentalists come from countries where the damage to the natural heritage is of such long standing it is beyond repair. They know that here in Australia there is still a chance for the bruised and battered environment to lick its wounds and make something of a recovery.

Early detection is vital. If weeds could be attacked at the first sign of invasion, before a toehold becomes a foothold, then the problem is reduced to a mere matter of monitoring. And in Warrandyte that is exactly what has occurred in recent months when two potentially aggressive invaders—parrot's feather and St Peter's wort—have been identified and removed.

We should be proud of the advanced thinking of our local land managers. St Peter's wort, in particular, is in its infancy. This close relative of the better known and widespread St John's wort, does not occur as a weed anywhere else but Victoria and New Zealand, and in Victoria it is restricted to a few creeks east of Melbourne, including Jumping Creek, and



St Peter's wort

several small infestations along the Yarra River in Warrandyte State Park.

The subdued sun crept a little lower in a sky quiet with the paleness of coming winter. The river had done its job. I was mentally purged, hopeful even, that public opinion will change and that the minority vote for forests versus fields will some day become an overwhelming majority.

## Return to a few chilly, basic facts

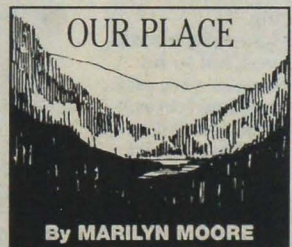
**T**OUGH bushwalking types we may be, but lately the evening chill has sent us scampering off to the wardrobe.

In theory this is our favourite time of year, with crisp mornings warming into magnificent autumn days. During the school holidays we basked like lizards, scrambled up rocky peaks and explored scenic country byways by pushbike. Clear frosty nights teemed with galaxies of stars, and the biting cold was a valued component of all this.

But to arrive home and find ourselves condemned to shiver day and night because we no longer had a functional heating system engendered not a skerrick of the same excitement, funnily enough.

The power of the mind in aiding this deception is remarkable. One expects to feel Jack Frost gnawing painfully at peripheral appendages if one is camped out in the bush at this time of the year, but one does not expect rigor mortis of the extremities in the cosiness of one's own boudoir.

Consequently, a below-zero outdoor holiday experience ("invigorating") is considered



By **MARILYN MOORE**

back in vogue at our place. Not for us your skimpy fashions in clingy winsome fabrics. Begone cool greys, icy pastels and chic blacks! We are riding high on the psychological advantages of vivid colour, brilliant flowers, hot African rhythms and the aromatic warmth of mulled red wine. And it seems to be paying off.

Within less than a week we've more or less stopped shivering. Eastland shopping centre has changed almost overnight from seeming a tropical paradise to a stuffy overheated barn. And when some temporarily forgetful little person switched on the car heater the other day, there was a unified howl of protest from everybody else and we wound down the windows until all the excess Celsius was flushed out.

How long can we sustain this invigorating lifestyle? There are so many items on the fixit list at present that the heating system could well find itself having a long sojourn in the pending department.

I put it all down to Murphy's Law, an obvious corollary of which is the plural version: "If a number of things can go wrong, then they eventually

will, more or less all at the same time".

It's true. One of the reasons for the demise of the heater turned out to be the meltdown of another switch on the same fuse. On top of which, during the last week, there have been an unbelievable number of computer-related reasons to digress from the politer forms of the King's English as depicted within the respectable covers of the Oxford dictionary.

And if that wasn't enough, a submersible pump had to be replaced after somebody's destructive black labrador came and wallowed uninvited in our fish pond, the phone is playing up, we had a sprained back, a broken finger, an attempted broken finger, a dead budgie, and a bill for \$231 (do not adjust your spectacles, folks, there is no decimal point) from a car retailer for a set of two spare car keys and a dysfunctional beeper.

Ah well. We remain healthy and happy, the roof doesn't leak, and most nights there is a steaming hot dinner on the table. In truth we are grateful for all our blessings, including our new state of invigorated well-being.

healthy and enjoyable. Yet anything below 10 degrees indoors at home ("bloody freezing") is probably a health hazard. At the very least, it induces what can only be described as a fairly negative frame of mind.

Given the likely long-term nature of our heaterless existence, the challenge is therefore to counter-deceive the little grey cells into believing that they are not cold, but healthily invigorated.

By day this has been pretty straightforward, but the evenings are a bit tricky. The tendency is, from dinnertime onwards, to want to sit down for a bit. Things which became unfashionable long ago, such as woollen jumpers, handwashing dishes, hot desserts, early nights and hot water bottles are

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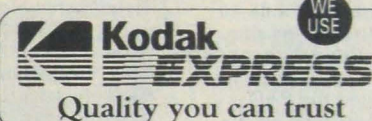
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## JOHN COX

## A life remembered

**I**T was a sweltering day in January 1965, the height of the wet season, when I arrived at the Australian Inland Mission hospital, Kununurra, at the conclusion of the morning clinic.

Lunch was in progress and there was this man—huge he seemed to me—though not as huge as he subsequently became over the years—holding forth at the head of the table. My immediate reaction was "I'll never argue with him if I don't agree with him!" Ron Sparkes, the local padre, introduced me—the nursing sisters, the doctor, the pilot—John Cox. Such was John's and my first meeting.

Fourteen months later, in February 1966, we were married, and I recall the words of an elderly gentleman sitting next to me on the plane on New Years Day the year before—"And what brings you to this part of the world?" When I told him, he replied (referring to the AIM) "Oh, you know what they call that up here?—Flynn's matrimonial bureau!" Naive as I was then, I had to admit that the thought had never entered my head!

John came to Wyndham by a long and devious route. Born in Sydney in 1931 he spent his early years at Narabeen before moving with his family—including at this time two brothers, Bruce and Paul—to Leura in the Blue Mountains.

After completing his secondary education at Scots College in Sydney he joined the P&O company, and worked for a short time with them before joining the first intake of aspiring officers for the Officer Cadet School in Portsea. John subsequently saw service in Korea, Japan and New Guinea, rising to the rank of captain in the Corps Signal Regiment.

He retired from the army in 1958, and for a little while was in a kind of no-man's land, working for Shell, but not liking it, partly because he questioned some of their work practices. What to do? He was advised to take an IQ test to help determine the direction his future working life might take. The results of these tests we heard about at regular intervals for years to come—very intelligent—too much for



John Cox, well-known Warrandyte resident, died last month. His wife, HELEN COX, tells his story.

Picture by Sandy Burgoyne

his own good we sometimes thought—and in his own words, "Unemployable".

John's background was a privileged one—at least in material terms, and so as he already had flying in his blood and access to money, he decided to buy an aircraft—a single engine Cessna—and offered himself at the suggestion of a friend already involved in the business to the Palatines, a Catholic order that needed a pilot to ferry the bishop around his Kimberley diocese (at this point in his life John was a worshipping Catholic).

After lay missionary training at Palotti college in Milgrove he headed North-West. After two or three years John and the bishop had a falling out, but he'd developed such a love of the North—it's way of life, it's people, both in Wyndham and Kununurra and on the cattle stations spanning thousands of miles across the region—he decided to make his home there.

And so Wyndham Air Charter was born. Part of his work was for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, responding to doctors' requests to

fly patients in from outlying areas, and at the same time flying the doctor from Wyndham to Kununurra for the biweekly clinics.

John spent 10 years in the Kimberley and in many ways became something of a legend. A number of people spoke to Hugh of John's flying only four years ago when he visited there. "He was a hell of a pilot!" was a common comment when Hugh mentioned who his father was. As was his way he became involved in a number of community activities, including coaching the local basketball team in Wyndham and at Kalumbura mission and umpiring their matches.

John's involvement in Lions began in Wyndham where he was a charter member of the Wyndham Lions Club, an involvement which eventually spanned almost 30 years, he received the highest award in Lionism—the Melvin Jones award.

John and I spent the first three years of our married life in Wyndham. It was Chris and Hugh's first home. After that we spent 18 months in Shepparton. David was born during this period. It was as a

member of Scots Church there that John successfully candidate for the Presbyterian ministry. That brought us to Melbourne, and at age 40, John began studying for his primary degree.

He was appointed home missionary to West Heidelberg Presbyterian Church, and then St John's, Warrandyte. After two years John decided to terminate his candidacy, but continued his study, and finally gained a BA (Dip Ed). The rest of his working life he spent at Box Hill Technical College, initially teaching behavioural studies, and finally as administrative education officer of the TAFE college.

Our year in Warrandyte got us hooked on the place. We bought land, built a house, and have lived here ever since. Typically, John became involved in the community and the Lions Club. He held office on a number of committees and gave 110 percent to those things to which he felt committed.

He didn't always see eye to eye with those with whom he worked on these ventures, and over the years put many people offside. Sometimes this was understandable, but at other times I ached for him when he stuck to a principle, called into question some practice or decision that he felt was not strictly down the line, or when rules were bent when they did not suit a particular person or organisation.

There were times when he found it difficult to accept that someone else's way of doing things could be equally as valid as his own, or worse still—better—depending on which way you looked at it. Maybe, just occasionally, you were right and he was wrong.

It seemed that for John life was not just to be lived, but to be embraced to the point very often where his interests and involvements would almost overtake him so that he was unable to stand back and be objective about what he was doing.

That being said, he nevertheless contributed a huge amount to the lives and well-being of probably more people—especially young people—that we will ever know. In all parishes where I have worked he was able to establish a wonderful rapport with the children, and was even willing to make a fool of himself.

This story would really not be

complete without mentioning bridge—not the kind you walk over, the kind you play. It too was in danger of taking over him. He learned as a child, and tried to teach me after we were married. It took me three years to go through a night without bursting into tears, and I finally gave it away, thinking I could do without that stress in my life. Bridge took up more and more of his time in the last few years, and at his death he was not only playing it socially through the Yarra Valley Bridge Club, but teaching it with U3A, while organising another class at Ringwood East for those who wanted to improve their game. He had what he called his library of bridge books. He even learned to play on the internet, and made a wonderful friend in Canada; a man he had planned to visit in a few weeks time.

John was a larger-than-life sort of person in every way. He could be intimidating and aggressive, gentle and understanding, loud and even frightening, caring and compassionate. A gentle giant knowing everything; knowing nothing.

Our past treatment of the Aborigines appalled him. In his heyday he excelled at golf (three holes in one). He was a master at "forward planning". He was a great administrator and organiser, a loving parent and husband. Only recently he reiterated to me that his family meant everything to him.

Over these past weeks dozens of people have shared with me their feelings of John and what he meant to them. Perhaps the most moving came in a pack of cards made by the children of the Sunday School at Ferntree Gully. One of them said, "I am very sorry to hear about John, and I hope you're not too lonely. We're not supposed to have Sunday School today, but we had it just for you". It wasn't just for me, it was because of John that they had it. That sentiment was summed up most beautifully by a 12 year-old who wrote, "To Helen, I am very sorry about what happened to John. He meant a lot to me because he made me feel like somebody when I was feeling like nobody".

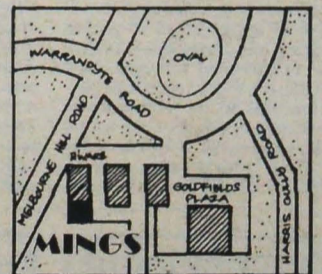
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# Falling to earth

**T**HROUGH the Dragon's breath, drops of water in the shape of Kooboor's tears falls to the fragile and ancient Warrandyte earth. Crashing into the soil at Grand Prix speed, the raindrops have the kinetic energy of a micro-meteorite. Their force explodes the soil into fragments, displacing particles of organic matter accumulated from dead plants and animals, minerals ground from monolithic bedrocks and the myriad of life forms that create living soil. All are torn asunder into a chaotic millennium flow.

Millions upon millions of raindrops carry huge loads of soil upon their watery backs along the ground. Slaves to the power of erosivity, they create fluidly mobile, earthen rivers running down cleared gullies, from naked hilltops across denuded valleys, carrying the payload of the thousands of years of biological activity needed to make soil.

The energy of erosivity. The force that has made Australia the flattest continent. Wearing once-huge, rock-filled mountains down to gummy remains. Gummy gaping mouth of a parched continent, missing the tear-drops and thirsting more each day. The rain that does fall washes the innards of soil away from the skeletal remains into the salty soup that surrounds this island continent.

Soil formation is such a slow process. In river valley landscapes, only 0.4 tonnes per year is created: a depth of 30mm every 1000 years. The time consumed by 40 human generations is needed to make a depth of soil equal to the width of two fingers. On dry hilltops, such as we have in bony Warrandyte, the rate is considerably slower. The river valley rate is 400 tonnes per hectare each millennium, whereas in the single event that was the 1982 Melbourne dust storm, around two million tonnes of soil were carried away, some to New Zealand. Such an event occurred seven times this century.

Erosion is occurring at a faster rate than soil formation. In an average year in Australia, about 14 billion tonnes of soil is moved by sheet and rill erosion. This is about 19 percent

Millennium Bug has infected everything, everywhere. The air we breathe, the soil and water we depend upon; rearranging the weather; changing everything. A television horror show you can't turn off. Written by GLEN JAMESON, with illustrations by JOCK MACNEISH.

of the total soil moved globally each year. Australia occupies only about five percent of the world's land area. We are short of fresh air. We are running out of clean water as the soil runs between our wasteful fingers.

**S**OIL is the true source of the wealth of a nation. The basic tenet to sustainability is healthy soils.

Two components of soil are depth and structure. The structure of soil comprises form, stability and resilience. It is a complex property, influencing physical, chemical and biological processes. Soil structure changes, due to various land uses, may be one of Australia's most serious forms of land degradation. Problems of soil structure, nutrient decline and erosion are closely related.

Significant changes in soil structure can occur in seconds when wet soil is exposed to stresses caused by machinery or stock. One such event can undo years of careful soil management.

Australian soils have less fertility, lower organic matter and poorer surface structure than northern hemisphere soils. They are a trap the Millennium Bug has set for the unwary land user. Accelerated soil erosion results from clearing, grazing and cultivation. Erosion's immediate impact is the loss of nutrients, which reduces productivity. Then water storage capacity is reduced, resulting in further loss of productivity and eventually increased run-off.

When the Great Yarra Flood of 1864 finally subsided, the folk who farmed the fertile Yarra Flats of Heidelberg and Ivanhoe awoke to find their rich, alluvial, floodplain loam covered with the yellow clays of Warrandyte. The mullock heaps of careless gold miners had been washed into the

Yarra and dumped downstream.

The gold miners had not only uprooted the earth in uncontrolled speculative digging, they had also stripped the trees from Fourth Hill and beyond to feed their greedy steam engines, thus laying bare fragile soils vulnerable to erosion; soils awaiting their next destination.

Wood gatherers, steam engine feeders, badly managed horse grazing, tree choppers, bush burners, failed attempts at agriculture, rabbits, house block clearances—all continued to strip the forests across the century. The tree clearance and massive soil disturbance continues today, ensuring erosion, raising water table levels and bringing back the dead sea salinity. Washing salt into the soil.

When forests are torn apart, the energy forces that hold the ecological processes together are let loose. The resultant chaos and destruction is a Millennium Bug's picnic.

**W**ARRANDYTE and Wonga Park are erosion hot spots in the Yarra Catchment, with urban development, unmade roads, rural living and tunnelling dams singled out as critical activities causing erosion. They are vulnerable areas because they are located on land systems particularly susceptible to soil erosion, or the land is subject to forms of development and management which are inherently stressful to most land systems.

Vegetative growth and biological vigour are key components for protecting most areas from erosion.

Yet Manningham is covered with areas of poor land management. Too many horses on too many small paddocks. Earthen roads and gutters that race soil down to the Yarra,



spoiling the water quality and destroying aquatic habitat. Where are the roundabout engineers with their green solutions? Where are the planners who set limits to the destruction of our natural wealth?

Soils have been formed from the parent rock material and sediments by the combined influence of the climate, plants, animals (by those that live on and in the soil), topography and time—measured in thousands of years. It is a dynamic medium in which many processes—physical, chemical and biological—are continually going on. The silurian parent rocks beneath Warrandyte are about two kilometres deep and come from around 435 to 408 million years ago, a time when true jaw-fish evolved and the earliest land plants appeared. We live with this ancient material at our feet.

They say that the distribution of humans corresponds to the distribution of the earthworm. They are part of the biological diversity that provides critical life support systems which make human life possible.

Below the surface of the earth is a rich tapestry of biodiversity that is as important as such visible elements as the bushlands and native fauna that we treasure and make laws to protect.

Australian soils host a wide range of soil organisms from such minute forms as bacteria, protozoa and fungi, to such larger creatures as insects and worms. One square meter of soil may support a population of around 200,000 arthropods and enchytraeids (which includes insects, spiders and centipedes) and billions of microbes. One hectare of good quality soil could contain 1000 kilograms of earthworms, 100kg of arthropods, 150kg of protozoa, 150kg of algae, 1700kg of bacteria and 2700kg of fungi.

The highly diverse biota of the soil performs a wide range of important ecosystem services. They maintain soil health and fertility by cycling carbon, nitrogen, sulphur and phosphorus and by maintaining soil structure.

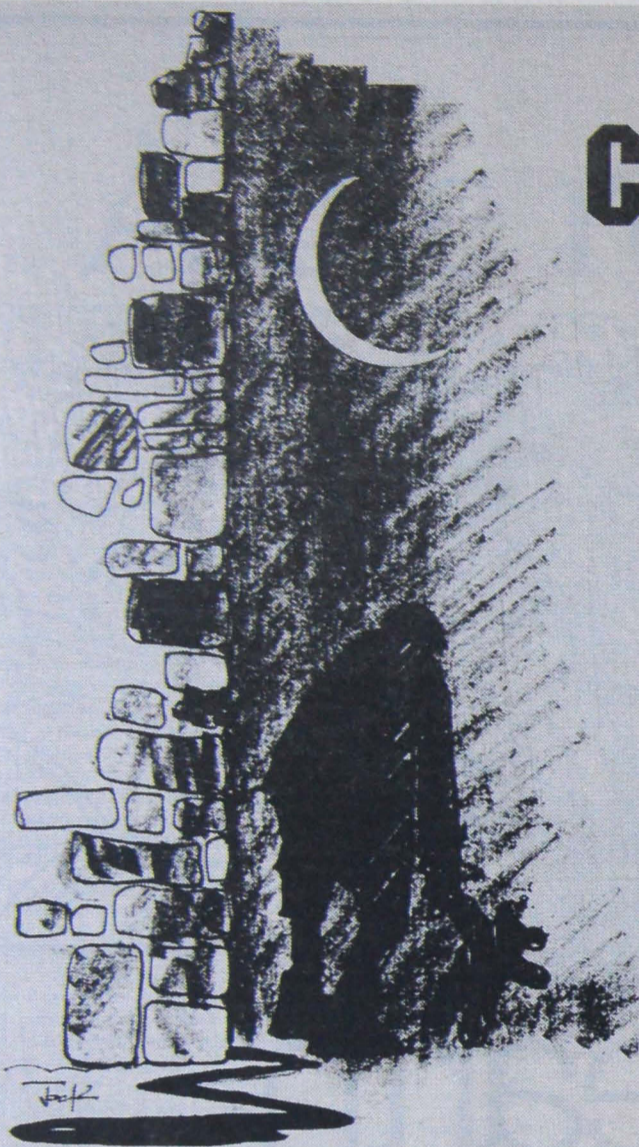
Loss of a soil's biodiversity, as a consequence of cultivation, is associated with its loss of structure, making it subject to erosion. The destruction of its mycorrhizal fungi, which forms a symbiotic association with many plants, can adversely affect the prospects of re-colonisation of those plants. The chemicals we persistently spread accumulate in the soil or become concentrated in biological cycles.

The Bug may have suggested it was to be a once-in-a-millennium deluge; a catastrophe which would overtake a fallen humanity. As part of the cosmic rhythm, myths have it that a fallen humanity, beset by sins or ritual faults, is submerged by floodwaters. Some time later a new world emerges from the aquatic chaos. Perhaps it is the soil beneath our feet that is tied more closely to our fate.

The earth of Doncaster and of Templestowe, lost under houses. Good, rich, productive soils, buried under tar and cement. A foible of planning to allow urban sprawl to cover such wealth. All that we have to show are hectares of awful architecture and the foolish flaunting of money. Knowing that we are losing the vast Murray-Goulburn irrigation area to salinity, we still allow more houses to go over the top of fertile, productive land, close to major areas of population.

When you consider that only a meagre six percent of the Australian land mass is arable land, that is, able to be ploughed (in the UK it is 26 percent), to make it unavailable is a planning exercise comparable to the inevitability of a Shakespearian tragedy.

The light side of our human nature dresses up and plays with computers; the dark side hides the destruction of an imminent fall. Falling through the Dragon's breath, with Kooboor's tears, to the rapidly disappearing, fragile Warrandyte earth.



# CASTLE WALLS

Pickled heads of jesters  
suck the rosethorn sticks of sour lollipops,  
spitting green lime slime  
from the barbed wire battlements  
of second storey windows.

Manic musical maniacs  
frolic in salival showers,  
dancing the dances  
of freak show fools.

Somewhere dim and distant,  
peace bells whisper,  
ringing strong and true;  
silenced by iron veils.

Battery babies  
strain from gilded cradles,  
schoolmistresses stand solemnly  
in black satin,  
wringing and dinging  
from pink ears turning blue.

Noon spell  
is the spell of sickle moons.  
Fickle demons  
sleep in fits on rusty beds.  
Torches burn  
in bloody stones.  
Light a path of death;  
line it with thirsty adders.

In silence-threaded darkness,  
paving with sweat  
while paying dutiful dues  
from a bagful  
of sparkling yellow cats' eyes,  
one child, small and lonely,  
sneaks away.

Cross the shadowed palm with slivers;  
cross the shadowed park on silver wheels.

**PAUL HERBERTE**

## BAN GREEN POOLS

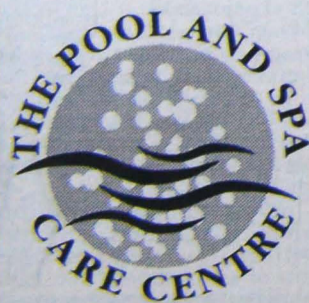
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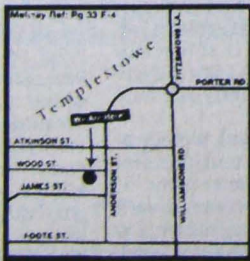
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# Keen recruits stand by at South brigade

By SOPHIE CUNLIFF

**F**OR new recruits Chi Keen, Fiona, Alistair and Alan, the CFA is not just about putting out flames. In fact, CFA has a greater community focus than ever before.

Community education, risk management and general brigade support mean that there is a job for everyone at South Warrandyte Fire Brigade. Volunteer Week (10-16 May) provides the perfect opportunity to meet some of the CFA members who are creating a safer community.

Fiona Dillon, local mother of two, joined the brigade in March. She has no plans to attend fires—she prefers to give her time in assisting with community education and recruitment. Fiona's skills as a registered nurse are invaluable for the brigade.

"Becoming a member has given me a new outlook on life," she said. "I have met a whole group of new people I would never have otherwise met. Being part of the brigade has strengthened my ties with the community."

Chi Keen Low has attended training

at South Warrandyte Fire Brigade for three months. Last month he was accepted as a full member of the brigade. While Chi Keen will be an active fire fighter, proficiency in computing is another of his contributions. Chi Keen has had some benefit out of his membership too.

"I recently moved into the area and belonging to CFA helped my wife and I settle in and form some networks."

An engineer by trade, Alan Teed was eager to spend his retirement helping others. But you won't find him on the end of a hose. Alan plans to participate in the successful Brigades in Schools program, which presents fire safety messages to local primary schools.

His local connections and extensive public speaking experience mean that South Warrandyte CFA's newest ambassador is well qualified for the task.

"I have been very encouraged by the level of acceptance and enthusiasm I have found within the brigade—everyone gets comprehensive training, whether or not you will fight fires at the end of it," he said.

Alistair McCausland has lived in the



Going places: (from left) Fiona Dillon, Alan Teed, Chi Keen Low, Al McCausland. (Picture by Sophie Cunliff)

Warrandyte area all his life. A full time university student, Al was looking for a diversion from the rigours of study. He and his brother Stuart joined the brigade at the beginning of this year. Since then, they have been among the most active members of the brigade at training.

"CFA has given me the sense that I am contributing to society. I have made new friends and met heaps of people. It has improved my confidence and problem solving ability."

Al is unapologetic about his reasons

for joining—he wants to be on the truck as it rolls out the door!

Although South Warrandyte benefits enormously from the skills these and other recruits bring to the brigade, Captain Ron Symons says they still need more members.

"CFA is a valuable resource for the community, but we need your help. The brigade needs a mix of skills to bring it into the next century. Any expertise that is on offer will be gratefully accepted by the brigade."

Of course, if you do want to put wa-

ter on flame, CFA still does that. Full operational training is provided to all new members. Many recruits have developed and enhanced their own skills through their involvement with CFA—and made some lifelong friendships as well.

If you are interested in learning more about joining CFA, contact South Warrandyte Fire Brigade on 9844 2861 or 0407 339 137.

(Sophie Cunliff is community facilitator at South Warrandyte Fire Brigade.)

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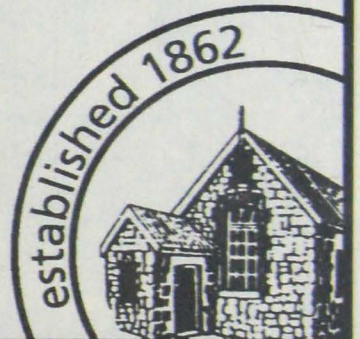
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# Open Day

**Tuesday 25 May**

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10.00 - 12.00	School tours conducted half hourly
1.15 - 2.00	Visit the classroom - children at work
2.00 - 3.00	Old time games
3.00 - 3.30	Grade 2 choir, Bushband, childrens' readings

Afternoon tea served from 2pm

Childrens art show all day

### Evening Program

7.00 - 8.00	Classrooms open
7.15 - 8.15	Grade 2 choir, Grades 3/4 recorder group and Warrandyte Primary Bushband perform.

Daytime shuttle bus will operate from Warrandyte Oval carpark.  
Please telephone for further information.

# Where friendships, vegies and flowers flourish

Words by **KARA WILLIAMS**  
 Pictures by **SANDY BURGOYNE**

**O**n a sunny morning in late April, a number of VIPs, garden enthusiasts and local well-wishers came together for the opening of the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Community Garden.

The garden, situated in the paddock behind the the police station, where mounted constables kept their horses in years past, was officially opened by the Hon Phil Honeywood MP and Commander Trevor Thompson of Victoria Police.

Based on the English village allotment system, the garden isn't just a place to grow vegies, it's also a place to make new friends.

The notion for the garden was born three years ago. It was the idea of Sergeant Keith Walker, Warrandyte's senior police officer and then president of the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Police and Community Consultative

Committee, who saw a need for a fertile public garden in Warrandyte, where stony soil and tree-shaded blocks often make vegetable growing impossible.

Once word got around about the new idea, the community backed it with enthusiasm. As Alan Alder, present chairman of the Warrandyte-Park Orchards PCCC, explained in his introduction: "As we made our way through formalities needed to establish the development, interested citizens were already enquiring about 'getting a plot'".

Sergeant Walker worked tirelessly to edge the project forward, obtaining approval to use the horse paddock. Manningham councillors Patricia Young and Lionel Allemand pledged council's financial support, and funding and practical assistance came from the Justice Department Start Program, service clubs and many local businesses. The official donor board was unveiled by Manningham mayor, Cr Lionel

Allemand.

Local landscape architect Bev Hanson planned the garden. Major contributions to the development and construction of the garden have been made by the coordinator, CFA facilitator Jeff Adair.

"This was a genuine community effort involving wonderful participation from both communities," MP Phil Honeywood said. "The state government was pleased to support with a \$10,000 grant as I was able to prove it was a genuine community endeavour."

Sergeant Walker is very happy with the result. "The Warrandyte community has been fantastic," he said. "Just getting in and helping to get the project up and running."

At the moment there are 23 plots, with more going in. An idea has been proposed for raised beds for disabled people. Predictably, the gardeners themselves are the most enthusiastic. "We think it's a wonderful facility and service," one of them said. "It's just so nice that things actually grow!"



Top: Commander Trevor Thompson and MP Phil Honeywood officially open Warrandyte's community garden. Left: The garden in all its glory. Above: Alan Alder introduces the speakers.

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**DIARY NOTE:** Meet Winemaker Andrew Pattison, Lancelfield Winery in the store, 4.30-8pm, Friday 28th May

**STOP PRESS:** Yarra Burn Dinner with David Fyffe at Thyme on the Terrace. Thursday 24th June. Bookings essential.

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# Night at the flicks



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.

Local Lions, together with Warrandyte High School, are presenting a Silent Movie Night at the school's theatre, Alexander Road, on Wednesday, May 26, lights out at 7.30pm sharp. Actually, the night won't be entirely "silent", as Bruce Ardley is supplying a live musical accompaniment "in the theatre organ tradition". Featured attraction will be *The Mask Of Zorro*, starring Douglas Fairbanks, supported by Laurel and Hardy's *Liberty and Miss Northcote Of 1926*. Supper will include tea and coffee with refreshments at bar prices. Tickets—\$12, students and concessions \$7—can be booked through Joan Shugg, 9844 2368 (AH), 9894 0024 (BH) or Barbara Mills, 9844 6119 (BH).

## Anniversary

Warrandyte Primary School's stone building turns 125 next year. A Back To Warrandyte Primary celebration will be held to mark this occasion. If you are interested in helping with the planning, have information on former students or teachers, or would like to be kept up-to-date with plans, please contact Judy Finger on 9844 3150, leave a message at the school on 9844 3537, or send a fax to 9844 1616.

## Service

A combined church service for the Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity will be held at the Uniting Church in Taroon Avenue on Sunday, May 23 at 7.30pm.

## Ministers

Six state government ministers will address a public meeting on Monday, May 17 at the Eltham Community Centre, between 5.15 and 6.30pm. This is an open public meeting and all are welcome to attend.

## Dance

Social dances are held at the South Warrandyte Hall, Hall Road, on the second Saturday of each month. The next dance will be on June 12, with the following one on July 10. Cost is \$5, with BYO supper, tea and coffee provided. Further information from 9723 3892.

## Seminars

The next Environment Seminar, to be held at Currawong Bush Park in Reynolds Road, Doncaster East, will be on Thursday, June 3. John Bikett



A party of Warrandyte High School students, two teachers and a parent have recently returned from the school's first overseas trip—to Japan.

"Weekly preparation classes together with sheer enthusiasm proved to be the recipe for a successful trip," a spokesperson told the *Diary*.

Upon arrival at Tokyo airport, the party travelled by bus to Chichibu yama, about one and a half hours from Tokyo where they were billeted with "homestay" families for four days.

"Our homestay families treated us to a cultural day where we were all able to try the Japanese harp (koto) dress in kimonos and partake in a tea ceremony. All the homestay families were wonderful. They were extremely generous and many have made life friends."

They made a side trip to Tokyo Disneyland and into the busy central district. On the fourth day they packed their bags, "said teary good-byes and left for a hot spring resort, Shuzenji, south of Tokyo.

"On the way some of us visited the castle at Odawara and dressed as samurai and princesses. We were very fortunate, as it was cherry blossom season. The beautiful pink blossoms framed all our views.

"That evening we met with Warrandyte High School's 1998 assistant Japanese teacher, Noriko who had returned to Japan to manage her family's restaurant."

The next day saw the party on the train for Kyoto where they stayed in a youth hostel for the remainder of the trip. "We had been busy making origami cranes and on the sixth day took the cranes and placed them at the peace shrine in Hiroshima.

"Our last day came too soon," the spokesperson said. "We meditated at the stone garden in Roanji temple and wandered around the gold pavilion at Kinkuji temple. Last minute souvenir shopping and suddenly we were on the train to Kansai airport.

"Lots of memories, lots of great experiences and way too much luggage! It was a great trip and we are planning on doing it again next year."

● Pictured are high school students with host families, in traditional Japanese dress.

from Melbourne Zoo will talk on snakes. On Thursday, July 1, Beth Gott from Melbourne University will explore Aboriginal plant use. Seminars commence in the park conference room at 7.30pm and are free to all.

## Magazine

Approach is a magazine produced by and for young people, sponsored by Nillumbik and Banyule councils. Local young writers, artists, photographers and designers are invited to contribute. They should call Joanne Cuschieri on 9433 3139 or Naomi Crowe on 9457 9935.

## Elvis

A Tribute To Elvis floor show and rock and roll dance will be held on Sunday, May 23 at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte, from 2 to 6pm. This will be a fundraiser for the four local CFA brigades. The afternoon will be hosted Ward Everard. Tickets can be pre-booked at the hotel: 9844 3202.

## Open

Warrandyte High School is holding an Open Night on Thursday, May 20, with school tours beginning at 6.30pm. Half-hour information sessions will commence at 7 and 8pm. Further information from 9844 2749.

## Exhibition

Doncaster and Templestowe Artists' Society is inviting everyone to an exhibition to celebrate 20 years of life at the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre on Saturday, May 29, from 10am to 4pm. The centre is located at 39 Wetherby Road, Doncaster.

## Village

The Village School, in Holloway Road, Croydon North, will be open to the public on Wednesday, May 26. You are welcome to go along and chat with parents, staff and students. Call 9726 4766 for further information.

## Gallery

Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, is presenting "a rich and diverse" collection of Kunwinjku paintings and craft from Western and Central Arnhem Land until May 23. Gallery hours are 10am to 5pm Monday to Friday, 1 to 5pm, Saturday and Sunday.

## Biology

Cat 1 revision lectures for VCE Biology will be held on Sunday, May 23 and Sunday, June 6 at Box Hill Institute, Building 4 Auditorium, 456 Elgar Road, Box Hill from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Lectures will be presented by Dr Michael Deland. Pre-booking advised. Call 9873 1984.

## English

Classes in the Adult Migrant English program are conducted at La Trobe University's Bundoora campus. Details from 9479 2417.

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# Goldtown reopened

By **JUDY GREEN**



The Goldtown Open tennis tournament was a prominent feature of sporting life in Warrandyte for many years. Beginning as a three-star Tennis Victoria tournament, it developed into a five-star event, attracting top players from Victoria and interstate.

Unfortunately, it had to be abandoned in 1996 because of the lack of a major sponsor. "While some sponsorship was still available," a Warrandyte Tennis Club spokesperson told the Diary, "it became increasingly difficult to cover costs."

Now, thanks to a timely major sponsorship offer from Phillip Webb real estate, Goldtown is being resurrected.

"We are beginning again with a three-star event," the spokesperson said, "but if past experience is any guide, we may be able to gain a higher ranking in future years."

The Goldtown Open will be held at the club's courts in Taroona Avenue over the weekends of September 18-19 and 25-26.

Mark Bence was re-elected president at the tennis club's annual general meeting last month.

Wendy Synnot was elected secretary following Pauline Dusting's resignation after four years in the position and Barry Dick has replaced John Roberts as treasurer.

Flashback! Nicole Provis (now Nicole Bradtke), winner of the 1985 Goldtown Open.

# Redbacks on course for the big double

By **DAMIAN ARSENIS**

Warrandyte have begun the 1999 Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association season in style, with a number of the Redbacks' higher-graded teams shining through.

Malcolm Andersons's U19A boys have already laid claim to the "repeat" by dominating their competition to this early stage. After upsetting arch rival Eltham in last month's summer season grand final, the young men look forward to defending their title, the task made easier by the Wildcats' first team withdrawing from the competition.

Returning to Warrandyte after a prolonged absence is Damien Thwaites, who has been coaching championship teams at Bulleen and Nunawading. Thwaites already looks set to have the local U13A girls on track to intrude on perennial finalists Eltham and Bulleen.

The Redbacks' junior program is working well beyond expectations, with a record nine U9 boys teams entered for the 1999 season. It is a clear indication of the club's continuing growth and bodes well for the future against the background of the new stadium at Andersons Creek Primary School.

The club's Mosquito Fleet program returns next month.



Work is well under way on Warrandyte Basketball Club's new stadium at Andersons Creek Primary School. The stadium is expected to be in use from October 9—and this little girl can't wait.

These clinics are aimed at introducing basketball to children aged between four and 10, enabling them to experience the sport before parents commit them to play.

They will start on June 7 at the Donvale Sports Complex in Springvale Road, sessions running from 4-5pm. For bookings, contact Damian Arsenis on 9846

7640 or 0418 995 663.

Warrandyte's 1999 Victorian Junior Championship campaign has also just begun. The Redbacks have seven representative teams involved and expectations are high.

From next season, the championships teams will carry a new look on to the court. The much-anticipated new playing

uniform will debut, the familiar red and white colours prevailing, but in bolder style.

The girls teams will experience the biggest change, switching from their primary white to the boys' imposing colour scheme.

Enhancing the Redbacks' on-court look will be the NBA-style warm-up top.

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SUN 23: "Tribute to Elvis" Fundraiser for our CFA's. Supported by Radio Magic 693. Book.

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# School of hard Knox

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte's dream start to the 1999 football season has turned into something of a nightmare for the selection committee.

A crippling run of injuries has soured the heady atmosphere created by four straight wins and was a contributor to an eight-goal defeat by Knox on May 8 which toppled the Bloods from the top of the EFL Third Division ladder.

"We have 10 or 12 senior players—many of them quality players—on the injured list and we just can't afford that," coach Lex Munro said after the home game against Knox.

"It's very disappointing, but we've just got to get on with it." "We were undermanned out there today," said Warrandyte Football Club president Jeff Evans. "Last year we had no major injuries until the finals. This year we've five rounds in and we've got heaps."

"We'll get all but one of the injured players back eventually, but until then we'll be relying heavily on reserves to keep us going."

The injured include outstanding youngster Liam Riley, who will miss several weeks with a broken arm. The other "walking wounded" include defenders Stewart Rough (knee), Christian Renfrey (hamstring) and Brett Yarwood (knee) and rover Justin Edwards (knee).

Specialists have advised Yarwood not to play football again.

In addition, rising young star Glen Carle has been laid low by the flu and classy midfielder Greg Pearce has been absent because of other commitments.

Now the good news: Warrandyte have signed former Fitzroy AFL star Simon Hawking.

The Bloods had been chasing 26-year-old Hawking for some time and got his signature during the Knox game. A tall, mobile player, he was consistently among Fitzroy's best until the Lions' merger with Brisbane late in 1996.

He went to Brisbane and last year to the Sydney Swans but did not play senior football with either.

He should be a stand-out in this standard of competition.

## SPORT



The May 8 game was billed as The Battle of the Unbeatens, Warrandyte having disposed of Wantirna South, Coldstream, Kilsyth and Templestowe at their first four 1999 outings and Knox having accounted for Doncaster East, the Southern Cobras, Mt Evelyn and South Cobras.

The visitors turned out to be a class act and the 48-point margin at the end perhaps flattered Warrandyte, who could not match their guests' precision or power.

A telling statistic was that the Bloods managed just three behinds in two quarters kicking to the supermarket end into a very light breeze.

Knox gave notice that it was

## Warrandyte's walking wounded lose a 'Battle of the Unbeatens'



Tony King. The Bloods' best against Knox.



Stewart Rough. Just one of many casualties.



Liam Riley (left) and Brett Yarwood, who has been warned off football for life.

### Don't forget the replay!

Warrandyte Football Club's next match, away to Doncaster East on May 15, will be videotaped by the Eastern Football League media team and telecast the following Saturday morning by Channel 31.

The club will hold a cocktail night in the rooms after the Doncaster East game. Tickets

at the door.

Meanwhile, four Warrandyte players have been selected in the Under-18 interleague training squad.

Rick Templeton, Aidan Davey and Craig Dick join Liam Mulcahy, who was an automatic selection as an interleague player last season.

going to be a hard day at the office for the home side by nailing the first two goals of the match, at three and seven minutes.

It was a physical opening, with effective kicks hard to come by.

Dale Vitiritti put Warrandyte on the board with a miraculous snap after eight minutes and a superb passage of play by Chris Cornell, who somehow forced a passage through an enemy pack and passed to full-forward Chris Quinlan, produced our second two minutes later.

Andrew Brown put the Bloods in front at 16 minutes and Quinlan missed a great opportunity to stretch the lead after accepting a pinpoint pass from Brad Valentine 22 minutes in.

Quinlan atoned two minutes later, but Knox responded immediately to trail by just five

points—4.1 to 3.2—at the first change.

In the quarter-time huddle, coach Munro paid the opposition a compliment by asking his players for "a couple of goals' break" at half-time. Against lesser opposition he would have demanded something much bigger.

But the second quarter was to be all Knox. Warrandyte could manage just one behind for the term (at the 19-minute mark) while the visitors helped themselves to 5.4, regaining the lead in the first minute and lengthening it with goals at three, nine, 14 and 23 minutes.

Warrandyte couldn't buy a goal. Their best opportunity came nine minutes in, but Knox snapped up the crumbs from a curiously disallowed mark in the Bloods forward line and rushed the ball downfield for a

goal of their own.

Knox were pretty awesome, running in numbers, creating loose men and not backward in going backwards to come forward with the ball.

Warrandyte, on the other hand, had acquired a penchant for picking out the opposition with their passes.

It was a quarter best forgotten. After all, we'd come from way behind to steamroll Templestowe in the third quarter last week and we could do it again against this mob, couldn't we?

Not quite, but it was certainly an improvement on what we'd just witnessed.

Vitiritti raised hometown spirits with a long goal after three minutes, but the cheering was short-lived as Knox whipped the ball away from the resultant centre bounce for their ninth of the match.

They were still playing in front, teaming well and tackling and spoiling very effectively.

Cornell to Quinlan got one back for the Bloods at 10 minutes but rapid-fire Knox goals at 15 and 16 minutes gave them a 33-point lead.

Still all was not lost. Young Liam Mulcahy put one through from a free 20 minutes in and when Cornell handpassed to Mack Clarkson in a goalfont struggle right on the siren, it was an 18-point ball game.

## Juniors to host big night game

Warrandyte Junior Football Club will break new ground on Friday, May 28, by hosting an interleague night game.

It will be an under-lights first for the Yarra Junior Football League, who will meet their Waverley league counterparts in an Under-14s match.

The game will start at seven o'clock, preceded by an exhibition match between the local Under-9 Tacklers.

"We're very excited about this," said WJFC president Terry Pieper. "We are a very innovative club and I think it will make others take notice."

Warrandyte are likely to be well represented in the Yarra team, with six players—Tony Urbanbo, Ben Tiggott, Tom Naughtin, Mike Morello, Daniel Mirabella and Hayden Wall—in the training squad.

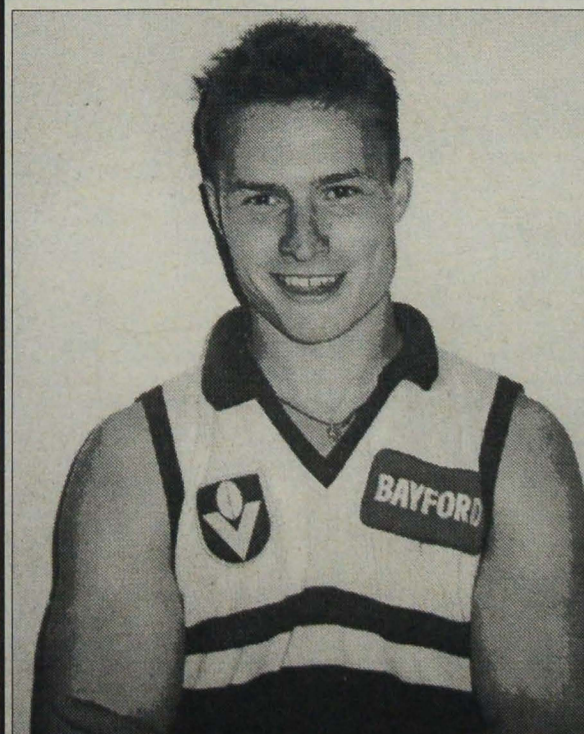
The club would be happy if three of them made it on the big night.

The junior club play the last of their five grading rounds next Sunday (May 16).

"Our season has started a little slowly," Pieper said, "but until the teams are graded after the next round we really won't know where we stand."

The club will hold a cocktail karaoke night at the clubrooms on Saturday, June 19.

# Well worth fighting for



Chris Cornell. Happy ending to a clearance wrangle.

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club fought hard for the services of one of their "sons"—outstanding centreman/half-forward Chris Cornell—and they're mighty glad they did.

Cornell, 22, played all his junior football here but was the subject of a pre-season clearance wrangle with Hurstbridge.

He missed the first two games of the season but has starred in three appearances since, alongside other recruits Josh Eastaugh, a ruckman acquired from University Blues, and forward David Bien, who came to the Bloods from the Bellarine league.

The best of Chris Cornell this season may be yet to come. He says he's not yet fully fit.

Warrandyte took Hurstbridge's clearance refusal to appeal and secured Cornell's services when the Diamond Valley Football League club did not lodge a cash deposit and the necessary paperwork with the Victorian Metropolitan Football League by the prescribed deadline.

"I'm very happy at Warrandyte," Cornell told the Diary.

"I played over 100 games of junior football, from Under-10s to Under-16s, here and I went to Hurstbridge in 1994 only because Warrandyte didn't field an Under-18s team that year.

"I played one season of Under-17s and one season of senior football with Hurstbridge then two seasons (1996-97) with the Preston Knights in the VFL.

"Last year I played the first six games for Hurstbridge before going overseas. They were happy for me to play whatever games I could before going."

Cornell said he trained pre-season this time with Warrandyte, Hurstbridge and Greensborough, another Diamond Valley club, on the understanding that he had not yet decided to which club he was going.

"Each club was happy that I trained on this basis," he said. "After having several meetings with both Warrandyte and Hurstbridge, I decided to play for Warrandyte."

"As I said, I'm very happy here. I grew up in Warrandyte and I'm living at Eltham with two teammates, Matt Chapman and Andrew Jarvis."

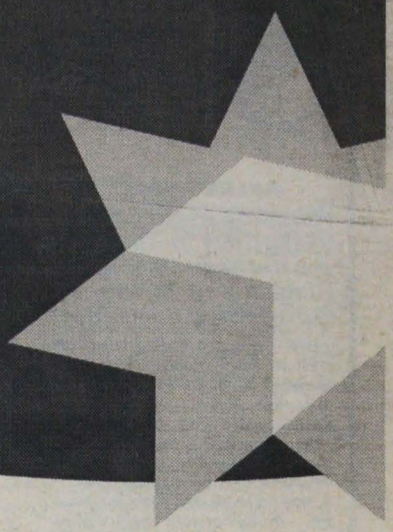


Tall timber. Josh Eastaugh, another star Bloods recruit.



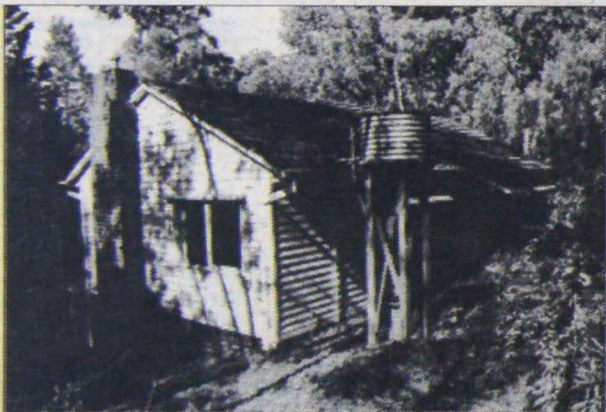
**The Professionals**

# Wilson McDougall

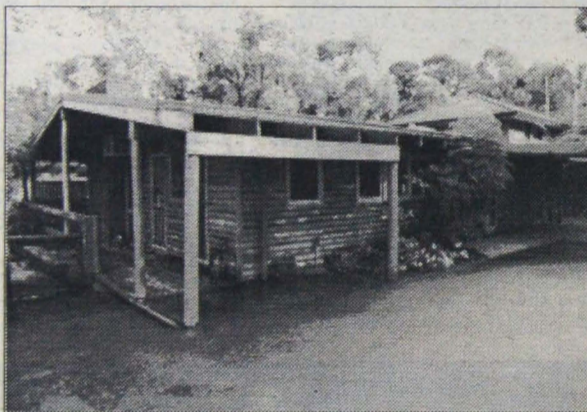


# Considering Selling?

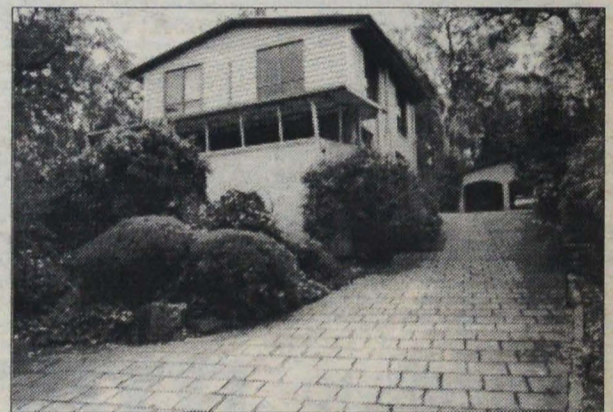
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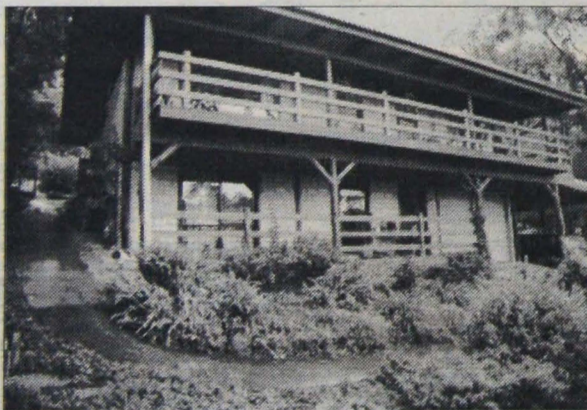
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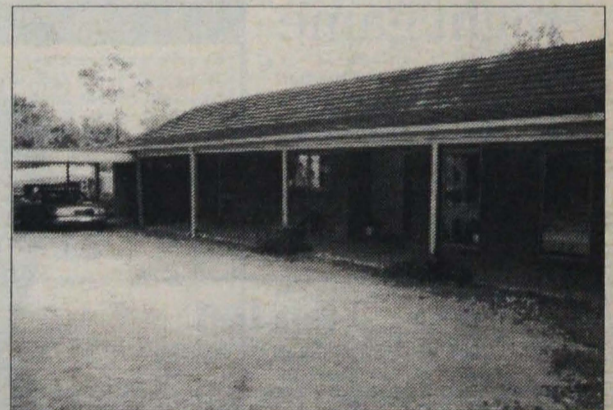
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