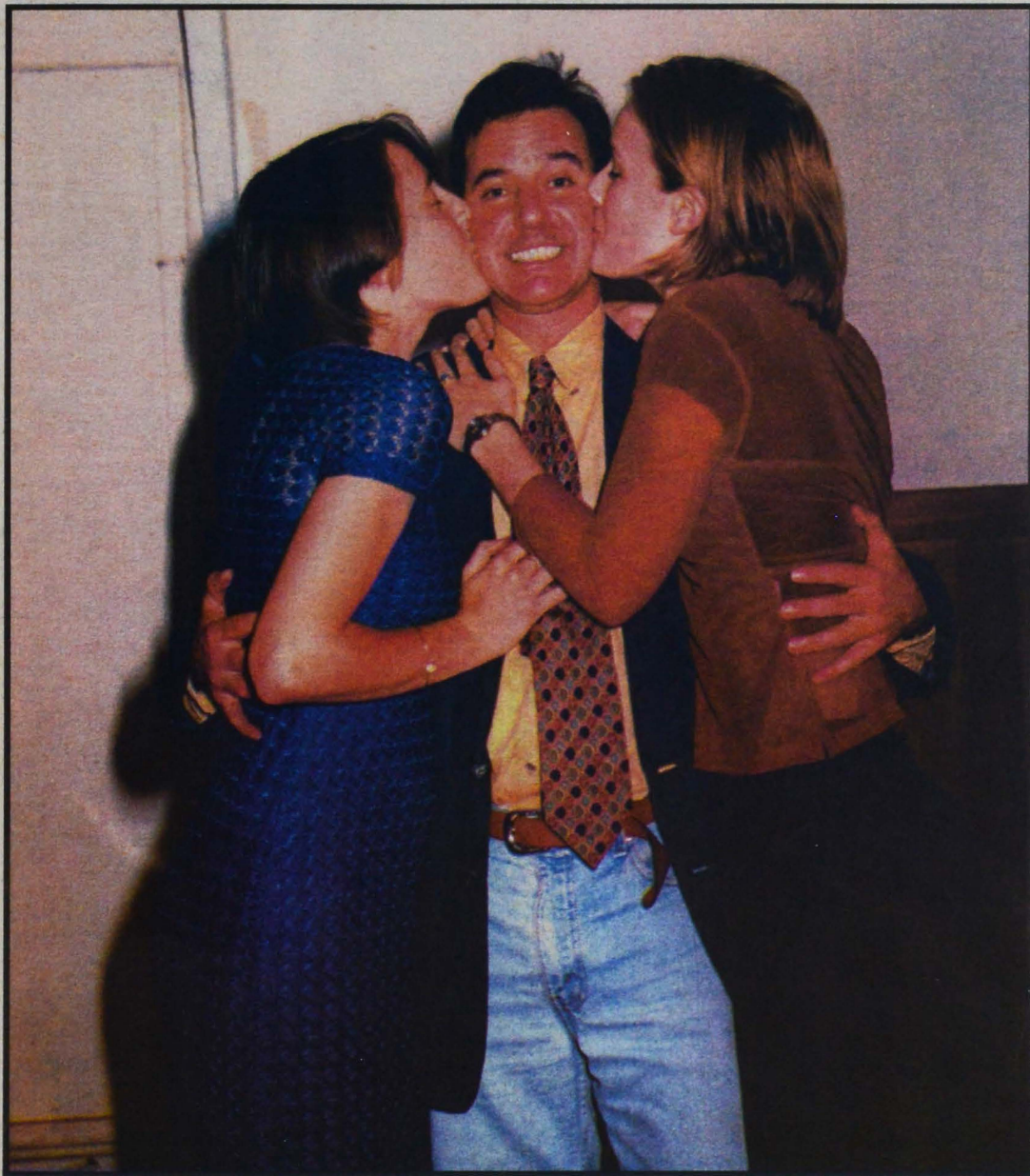


Grand club at pub



Groups 'to gain'. Return of pokies concerns church

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Poker machines will return to Warrandyte in mid-August when the Grand Hotel is transformed into Club Warrandyte—a new social club created by Warrandyte Football Club and the owners of the Grand Hotel.

However, Pastor Peter Keep of the Warrandyte Community Church is alarmed at the reintroduction of pokies to the district.

The 27 Tabaret machines promise to provide a financial bonanza for the football club, who will be the major beneficiary, according to president Jeff Evans.

"Our prime objective with the funds is not to go out and buy ex-league players to win a flag," he told the *Diary*. "We want to provide the very best in trainers, training facilities and amenities." This could include a possible upgrade of change rooms at Warrandyte Reserve.

While the football club stands to gain most from the arrangement, Mr Evans promises other local sporting clubs will not miss out on the profits. "We envisage the venture will ensure the long term survival and financial viability of local sporting clubs and community groups in general.

"It's going to need support from the local community as a whole to make the venture work. It shouldn't be perceived as just a Warrandyte Football Club venue."

Mr Evans says the committee of management, a trio involving himself and fellow football club committee members Norm Carrington and Greg Kennedy, anticipate 2000 locals will become members of Club Warrandyte. Membership is expected to cost about \$10.

All existing features of the hotel will be incorporated into the new club except for the public bar, bottle shop and TAB. The upstairs section will also form part of the club, including new meeting rooms available for public hire.

Staff will remain the same with the football club leasing premises and staff from the hotel.

Noel Taplin, one of the Grand's owners, said the hotel needed the football club's involvement for the poker machines to return. He said there was no financial risk for the hotel with the new venture.

He expects the number of diners at the bistro to continue its upward surge, having already risen 40 percent over the last 12 months. The notable change for diners from mid-August when the club opens is that they must either be a member of Club Warrandyte to eat there, or sign in as a guest each time.

Mr Evans acknowledged that the hotel stood to profit should the venue become a success. "It's a mutual thing. If we make dollars out of it then they make dollars. It's in their interest to make it viable because if it is not viable for us then it is not viable for them."

Both parties have waded through a myriad of red tape over the last two years. They now need only gaming commission approval for the paperwork to be complete. They expect this to arrive later this month.

However, some anxiety is being expressed about the return of poker machines to Warrandyte.

"We were pleased when the pokies were taken out of the pub," Pastor Peter Keep of the Warrandyte Community Church told the *Diary*.

"We've seen firsthand the effects of the addictive nature of this kind of gambling," he said.

"We don't object to a legitimate business turning a profit, but this poker machine industry is based on taking money from people without any exchange of goods or services.

"Certainly, in the City of Manningham, and Victoria at large, we don't need any further proliferation of these machines because of the social implications of this addiction."

Countering these assertions, Jeff Evans stated that this was a case of "community resources and money going back into the community".

"There are ample facilities for people with gambling problems to have that problem addressed," he said. "A percentage of the money from gambling goes back to help these people."

Keen to ensure that other local groups do not harbour a negative attitude towards the plan, Mr Evans is inviting community groups to a meeting at the upstairs function room at the hotel on June 23 to discuss the club's formation and profit distribution. Those interested can contact Allison Aldenhoven on 9844 3202.

He says Club Warrandyte will step in to continue the Grand Hotel's existing sponsorship "of 20 local clubs".

A lighter shade of black

Warrandyte Theatre Company's winter production this year is *Black Comedy*, written by Peter Shaffer and directed by Adrian Rice.

According to a company spokesperson, the play is "an enjoyable light comedy with a tinge of farce. It promises to warm your heart on a winter evening.

"Brinsley the artist and his 'darling deb' Carol spend an evening trying put things right when caught in the act.

"The unexpected return of Carol's father, a 'tip-

pler' neighbour, an old girlfriend, an electrician, an art critic and a never-ending power blackout roll into one to produce an evening of surprise and delight."

Black Comedy hits the boards at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute on June 10, 11, 12 and 17, 18, 19. Lights out at 8pm. For bookings phone Hilary on 9844 2795.

● Just practising! Our Sandy Burgoyne picture (above) shows Linda Keath, Darren Bowers and Anouk Hengeveld in rehearsal for *Black Comedy*.

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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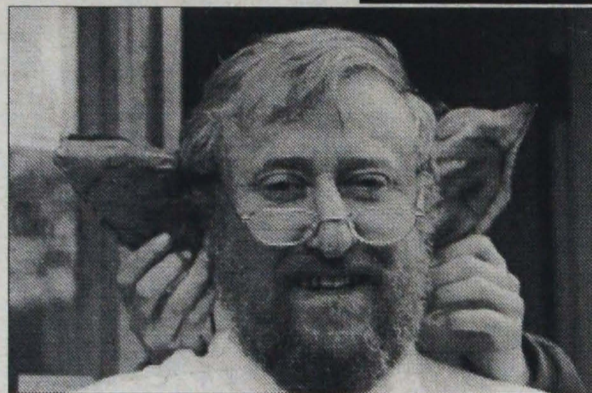
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Jeff and Barbara's most forgettable anniversary

When you look at Warrandyte footy club president Jeff Evans you wouldn't disbelieve that he'd been married 26 years. But the lovely wife Barbara? You gotta be kidding! She must have been a child bride (and if that's not enough to prompt an application for membership of the Smokey Joe Fan Club, we'll give up trying). Anyhow, Jeff and Barbara celebrated their 26th on May 19—or would have if Jeff hadn't completely forgotten the occasion. Not even when Barb cunningly asked him to set the date on her camera did it dawn on him. For a while there it looked as if Jeff wouldn't have to worry about remembering the 27th anniversary because there wasn't going to be one, but the storm subsided into a mere cold front and he went out next day and bought his beloved a whole mess of quality chocolates with which to mend the fences. Barb was out when he got home so he put the chockies on the desk in his office. But unfortunately he forgot to close the door and the dog ate 'em. A forgettable anniversary, eh Jeff?

IN RED & WHITE



Derek Fairley, with a little help from his nurse, hams it up for Jan Tindale's camera.

It's difficult enough to keep any sort of secret in Warrandyte and pulling off a surprise party is about as tough as picking fly droppings out of pepper with boxing gloves on. But Kaye Dawson, aided and abetted by kids Deanne and Ben, managed to shock the socks off hubby Greg by leading him under false pretences into a speckie 50th birthday bash upstairs at the local pub. Kaye thanks you all for keeping their secret and making it such a memorable night. And if you've since received a thank-you card from Greg meant for someone else, it's probably because he's still a trifle confused.

Joan MacMahon tells us to cheer up because winter doesn't have to be dull and drab and certainly isn't in the community centre gardens she has so lovingly tended for so long. "As we head towards the shortest day and the coldest part of the year, you might be tempted to think there are no flowers to brighten the gardens," she says. "Not so! There are at least a dozen treats: correas, grevilleas, giant banksia flowers and many delicate little tubes running up the stems of our native heaths. As well as keeping humans happy, these plants are a wonderful source of winter-warming nectar for honey-eating native birds." But don't take Joan's word for, come see!

Sadly, that is Joan's last contribution from her community centre patch. She's moving on to bigger things and we thank her lots and wish her well. We're also taking a new botanical tack and from now on, Cathy Willis, of Friends of Warrandyte State Park, will be reporting monthly on the best of the many natives currently available (for a very modest donation) from their Pound Bend nursery. Watch for it.

Smokey Joe



Diary founder and co-editor Cliff Green is seeing things more clearly now and no longer looking at the tip of his nose with both eyes. Cliff's new glasses were driving him nuts and the Diary computer screens were all a psychedelic blur to him. So he trotted back to the optometrist whence they'd come and said "Help!" The technician stuck the specs on some sort of instrument and said "Oh dear! Seems whoever put the glasses together had somehow managed to reverse the prisms in the lenses and left and right vision were being drawn together—in other words, sending him cross-eyed.

If local vet Derek Fairley isn't turning his West End surgery into a delicatessen, what are those trays of smoked pigs' ears and snouts doing there? Easy. Derek's selling these new retail lines as doggy chews. Love 'em, they do, and we're not at all surprised because they smell yummy. We're going to invest in a couple of snouts, but not for the mutt. We reckon they'd make a bonzer pea-and-ham soup.

Easyrider, our man on the buses, was on the blower again the other day with what he described as another compelling argument for the outlawing of mobile phones on public transport (except in cases of dire emergency). "The business type who sat directly behind me on the 6.05 out of town last night had a booming Pommy voice and he spent the entire trip to East Doncaster on his mobile wheeling and dealing in a way that'd make Kerry Packer look wet behind the ears. Fair dinkum, a man's trying to catch a bit of shut-eye and he has to listen to this! His last call was all about invoices and stuff and he said, 'No, you won't be able to talk to Tim tomorrow. He's off sick. Had the trots since last Friday, poor chap. Lost four kilos over the weekend.' If I'd turned round and said, 'Four kilos—that's a lot of sh**'; do you reckon that would have been rude?" Yes, Easyrider. Very. But probably justified.

It's always nice—nay, an honour—to greet Page 2 living legend and prolific copy source Neil Dusting and as deadline approached apace this time we said Bozo, it's that hour of the month again and we're desperate for sensations. "So what do you want me to do—

give you a story or do something stupid?" he asked. We said the latter might come easier to him.

Have we missed something? Is there a bumper-sticker conspiracy against cats going on or what? We spotted a 4WD at the supermarket affixed with trappings of conservation including a sticker which read: "If you've lost your cat, look under my tyres." And another in the village the very next day: "So many cats, so few recipes."

Dogs, on the other hand, are doing very nicely in the PR department, and rightly so. The plaintive cry for help in an ad in last month's issue from Skippy, a nine-year-old Golden Labrador, touched plenty of hearts. Skippy had found himself suddenly all alone in the world when his ageing mistress went into a nursing home and his future was looking not at all good. But within hours of the Diary hitting the street (as they might have said in old Jimmy Cagney movies), and on the basis of first come-first served, he had been introduced to an adoring Kangaroo Ground family with three kids. It was mutual love at first sight, but then it's terribly hard *not* to love a Golden Lab.

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



JUNE
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Local Beansies

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OUR NEWSPAPER

The Warrandyte Diary was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its non-profit, non-commercial status and its independent voice. The Diary carries a strong editorial bias towards the people, environment and character of the place it serves. Its monthly circulation is 3700 copies and it is available in Warrandyte, North Warrandyte, South Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Wonga Park, Warranwood, North Ringwood, Kangaroo Ground and Research.

A SPECIAL PLACE

Warrandyte (approximate population 8000) is situated on the Yarra River, some 35km from Melbourne. The site of the first official gold discovery in Victoria—in 1851—it soon established its character as a small, self-sustaining community set in a beautiful river valley. Around 1900 the miners, orchardists and tradespeople were joined by a number of young painters who were founding the Australian nationalist arts tradition. Although now a commuter suburb of Melbourne, the natural beauty, community spirit and sense of independence of Warrandyte has been largely retained. This newspaper is the voice and true expression of that spirit.

Greening the West End

Major roadworks, landscaping planned for Goldfields Plaza

By **CLIFF GREEN**

Extensive landscaping will be included in major council improvements at Warrandyte's West End shopping centre.

Local residents have long regarded the area a traffic hazard and a visual 'disaster'.

Construction is set to begin in July and should be completed by November this year.

Roadworks will include re-locating and widening the main Warrandyte Road entrance, a new vehicle ramp linking the centre to Colin Avenue and re-vamping access to Andersons Creek Primary School and the new basketball stadium.

Initial plans for these changes were developed by the old Doncaster council in 1994 and were finally revised and approved by Manningham in July last year.

Council has appointed well-known Warrandyte landscape designer Bev Hanson to prepare new garden settings for the area. Among Bev's highly regarded garden designs are those at the Warrandyte High School and the Warrandyte Community Centre.

Working with council planner Gary Bateman, Bev has set out to "soften the appearance of the centre, allowing it to blend into its natural environment and exist in harmony with the Warrandyte landscape".

The proximity of the centre to Andersons Creek and its bushland setting provided a starting point for the design. "The manna gums along the creek are replicated in plantings along the eastern boundary of

the carpark," Bev told the *Diary*.

"As we move away from the creek, across the once silted floodplain and onto higher and drier ground, redbox becomes the main overstorey tree species, along with black sheoak and blackwood wattle," Bev said. "These are all indigenous to the Warrandyte area."

A new garden will be established between the service station and the front carpark, at present under rough grass and bitumen. "This totally indigenous planting of trees, shrubs and ground cover will ultimately grow to replicate Warrandyte bushland," Bev said.

A paved forecourt with seating, established trees and a garden bed will be established in the triangular area fronting the optometrists' shop and extending across the full width of the supermarket.

Paths linking the centre carpark with Andersons Creek

school and the stadium have been redesigned and include tree-shaded seating areas and "picnic platforms".

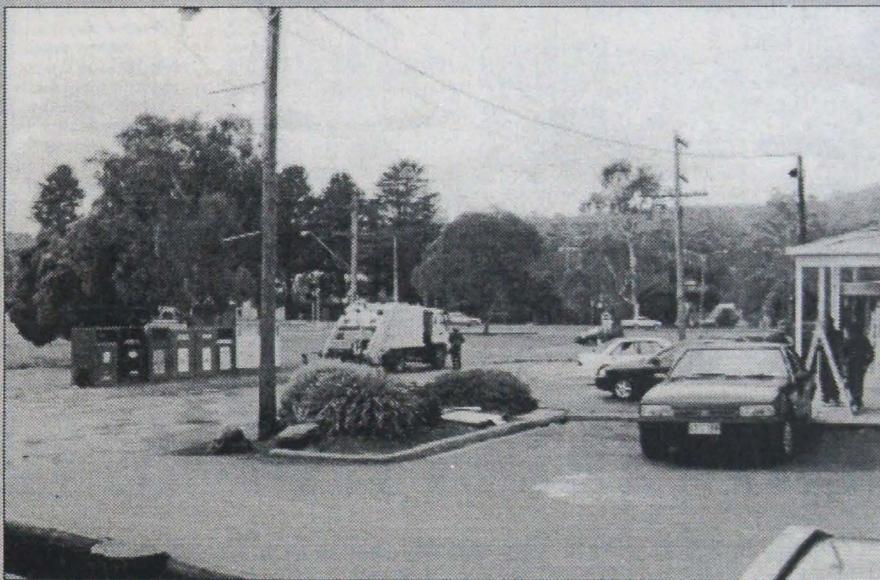
Designed as a gateway to the town, the grassed triangle between the bus stop and the former Golden Gate milkbar is to be contoured and replanted as a "village green". A mock poppet head will be a feature of this area, symbolising Warrandyte's origins as Victoria's first goldfield. The poppet head in the Goldfields Plaza courtyard will be removed.

"Manningham council should be congratulated on their efforts to soften this development," Bev said.

"As the new bush landscape grows, it is hoped this area will meld into the Warrandyte environment."

Final plans for the revamped West End centre and its landscape design are on public display in the front window of the IGA supermarket.

A 'visual disaster': new works will soon transform the West End shopping centre. (Pictures by Jan Tindale)



Dual occupancy still threatens town

By **DAVID WYMAN**

The future of the ban on dual occupancy housing in Warrandyte township remains uncertain.

Earlier this year, a government appointed advisory committee rejected Manningham council's Special Use Zone to replace the protective Environmental Residential Zone. The committee reported that the new Residential 1 Zone with appropriate overlays would maintain control over "intensity of development".

But council is not convinced that

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

Warrandyte Diary, June 1988

overlays would prevent dual occupancy in Warrandyte

It is known that council has maintained a strong position that there will be no dual occupancy in the town and expressed its concern in a report tabled at the May 25

meeting.

"If council supports the panel's (advisory committee's) recommendation, the level of certainty for residents about issues such as dual occupancy in the township of Warrandyte may be reduced," the

report states.

"Whereas dual occupancy is presently prohibited, under the panel's recommendation, dual occupancy may revert to 'unlikely, but possible'.

"Much depends on whether overlay controls can prohibit certain forms of development, as the panel believes they can. This matter requires further investigation before a definite position can be established."

As previously reported, Warrandyte residents have

expressed rigorous opposition to dual occupancy over a number of years, believing it would seriously threaten the unique character of the township.

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

The *Diary* understands that council wants the Department of Infrastructure to convince it that it can protect Warrandyte from dual occupancy. Discussions between the two parties will continue.

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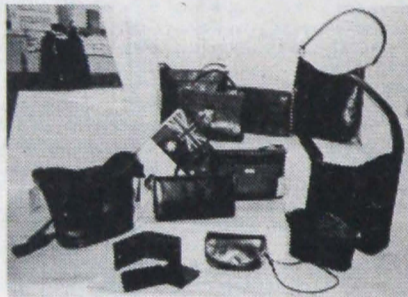
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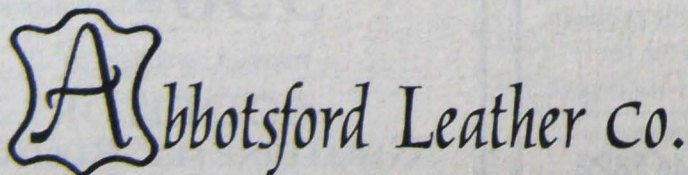
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I am sorry we are not in Warrandyte, but believe me it is easy and quick to get to see our range. Take Springvale Road, Eastern Freeway, left at Hoddle Street exit, over Johnston Street, then we are 2 doors past the Collingwood Town Hall. Please tell me you are my neighbours from Warrandyte when you come in.

Hope to see and help you soon.

Regards

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Centre threat story wrong: councillors

The front page story in the May edition of the *Warrandyte Diary* concerning the Warrandyte Community Centre is very disappointing.

Without putting too fine a point on it, the article regarding council's current review of the operations at the community centre was simply pre-emptive, alarmist and misleading.

The agreement between council and the Warrandyte Community Centre Management Group dates back to the original deed of management and operation signed on 17 May, 1999 which outlined the roles and responsibilities of both parties and required the centre to, in time, to become financially independent.

Mr Macneish's statement that the "management committee has been under council pressure to make the centre cost negative for a number of years" is misleading.

In fact, over the years the service agreement with council has been extended a number of times, at the request of the Warrandyte Community Centre Management Group (WCCMG), without WCCMG fulfilling the original requirement of financial independence.

In November 1997, council resolved to extend the service agreement for a further six months and to sign a two year occupancy agreement effective



DEAR DIARY

from January 1998, replacing the previous deed of management and operation.

It was also resolved that council "conduct a review of the centre's operation three months prior to negotiating a new occupancy agreement with a view to establishing a long term maintenance fund. The review is to ascertain the committee's capacity to accumulate funds for major maintenance through the implementation of their new business initiatives."

In June 1998 council resolved to extend the service agreement for a further 18 months from 1 July 1998 to 31 December 1999 and "review future operations of Warrandyte Community Centre in March 1999 to identify the progress made towards financial viability".

As president of the Warrandyte Community Centre Management Group, Mr Jock Macneish has been privy to all of these discussions and had full knowledge of the current review process.

In a letter dated 3 March, 1999 to Manningham City Council's social and community services unit, Mr Macneish states, "The man-

agement committee discussed the proposed review on Wednesday 24/2/99 and welcomed the opportunity to take a fresh look at the present strategy."

...although there may be differences between council and WCC committee of management, we have enough trust in each other to find a great deal of common ground," Mr Macneish said.

Where has the trust gone and why the sudden change of heart?

Mr Macneish has branded council as economic rationalist, and uses the standard throw away of "user pays", "commercialisation" and "privatisation" to scare up interest in an attempt to put pressure on council.

The truth of the matter is that the consultants' review of the Warrandyte Community Centre has not been finalised. No decision has been made and your article and statements made by Mr Macneish have pre-empted both the outcome and the course of action council will take.

One must wonder what kind of agenda is being pushed by an article and cartoon of the tone that recently graced the front page of the *Diary*.

Crs Lionel Allemant and Patricia Young
Ward Councillors

It's funny how things change

When our community centre was just a collection of old ramshackle, rat-infested buildings, with a portable toilet out the back, there was never any question of "user pays". The council was happy to have groups such as the co-op, with the youth coffee shop, sole parents group, mudbrick-making and woodfuel yard, the opp shop, schools community education officer and Warrandyte Advisory Committee using the centre.

I sat in the office of the old centre for around 10 years and with the opp shop helpers, put packets of Ratsack in the holes in the walls and tried to organise the cleaning of the toilet. The council was very supportive in mowing the grass and helping with minor maintenance.

When the land was bought we were told by

council that we would wait 10 years for a new centre. Now that we have a thriving hub of volunteers, activities for all ages, information and child care with minimal paid staff in our new centre there is pressure for it to become "financially independent".

In the past the role of council in supporting community activities has been accepted as a strong function of local government. Council is still supporting activities in the centre and as a ratepayer I value highly this use of public funds. I would like to see this continue. How can the value of happiness, community spirit and assistance to the people of Warrandyte be calculated purely in financial terms?

Jean Chapman
Taroona Avenue

View from Manila

As I am typing this email, the view from the window beside me is that of Manila Bay, Phillipines. The spectacular sunset, which disappeared below the horizon two hours ago, runs second in my mind, as a beauty of nature, to the Yarra River which flows some kilometer or so below the level of my home in far-off Maree Court, Warrandyte.

I have just found your site via the search engine Wombat and it was like a breath of fresh air to read your site on the internet. Well done, *Warrandyte Diary*.

We live in a very exciting age where, with the passing of every day, technology expands the ability to live just a click away from home, be it many

thousands of kilometers below the horizon we view in the distance.

Well done and thank you.

Colin Edge
by email

Thanks for issue

Well done on an excellent issue. It was full of interesting reading. I particularly enjoyed *Falling To Earth*. I will read this to my students, they will appreciate its thrust.

Keep up the good work. I enjoy each issue. I know how hard you all must work to continually achieve such a high standard.

Alan Garbutt
by email

Horse rug thieves

You might like to publish a warning to all horse owners.

Four weeks ago, all the rugs were stolen off my horse whilst he was in his paddock in Yarra Street. A considerable cost, but worst was the freezing night in which he was left without any covering. Obviously the thief had no consideration for the animal, not even leaving one, as there were four pieces stolen.

This has happened regularly in the past few years it seems, and all horse owners should be aware that they have started again!

Thanking you for your wonderful newspaper.

Juniper Greve
Webb Street

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Residents plan new road code

By FIA CLENDINEN

Representatives from several community groups, including Warrandyte Awareness Group (WAG) and Warrandyte Advisory Committee have expressed their concern with inappropriate development of some local streets. They have joined together to draw up a policy document.

"I just thought we need this policy put through, because every time there's a council election you get different councillors, and some of them haven't a clue what we expect this area to be treated like," Bev Hanson, one of the residents involved told the *Diary*.

When completed, the document will be presented to Manningham council, but it may also be modified by residents from the north side of the Yarra to take to Nillumbik council.

"What we're wanting to do is set up a policy for streetscape and neighbourhood character," said Leonie Ulbrich, spokesperson for WAG. "We plan on setting up guidelines for the council to follow in regard to roads, pavements and signage."

Ms Ulbrich told the *Diary* she believed that "over-engineered" roads with "full bitumen, rolled gutters and sub-road drainage" were not what local the community wanted. "We believe that the residents of Warrandyte appreciate the rural character of the area and would like to maintain that," she said.

Concern over unsympathetic treatment of local roads was recently sparked by the controversial roundabout at the corner of Warrandyte and Harris Gully roads. "We were just wild when they chopped down all the trees, and put in white concrete paving. It's

"We're wanting to set up a policy for streetscape and neighbourhood character."

— WAG

awful," Ms Ulbrich said.

But local roads have also been at the centre of intense community scrutiny. Recently Manningham council put forward a proposal to seal Mitchell Avenue and Magpie Lane. The proposal was defeated when a majority of the residents voted against it.

On the other side of the river, Hawkes Road has been the focus of a three-year consultation process. After developing six different options, from major construction works to the bare minimum "country-style bitumen top" residents late last month voted against any sealing of the road.

As in the case of Mitchell Avenue, some Hawkes Road residents were against the proposed works for environmental reasons while others opposed it because of the expense.

Warrandyte residents living along unsealed roads may need to be reminded they will be billed full costs if their road is sealed, with charges reaching at least several thousand dollars per household. The old distinction between government roads and private roads no longer applies.

"The local government act was changed in 1989 and I believe that distinction was removed then," explained David Fricke, assets engineer from Nillumbik council.

"It's legislation in the local government act that enables council to charge property owners

for works they are seen to gain benefits from. So in the case of street construction, the beneficiaries are the property owners in that street. So that means anyone who is living on a dirt road can potentially be charged for construction."

The changes referred to by Mr Fricke apply to all councils across Victoria.

But there is at least one important policy difference between Manningham and Nillumbik councils regarding the sealing of roads. In Manningham at least 75 percent of residents need to be in support of sealing their local street before council will take the proposal on board.

But in Nillumbik the figure is only 50 percent.

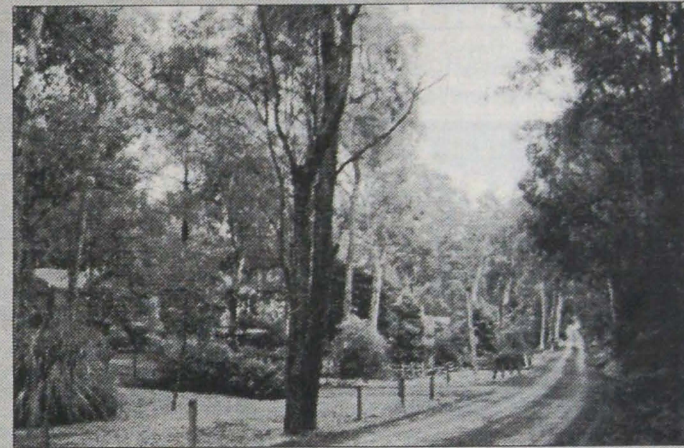
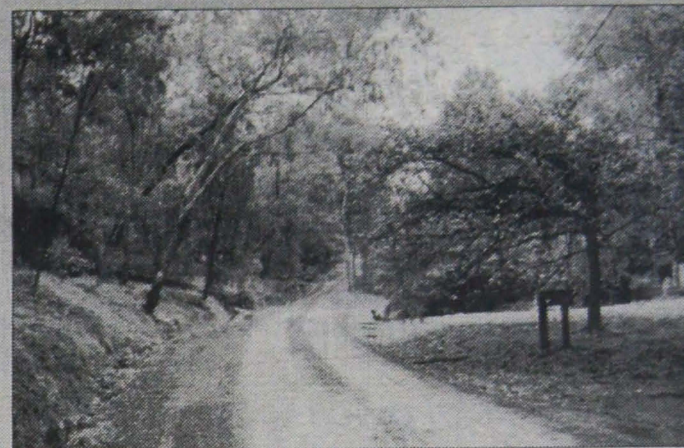
Nillumbik councillor Marg Jennings, who was very involved in the Hawkes Road consultation process, said she had never supported the 50 percent figure.

"I never voted for 50 percent at the last council, because I felt it was not good to not have enough people on board, because it's such an impost on the other residents," she said.

But Cr Jennings pointed out Nillumbik now has a new council and she expected some of the recently elected councillors would agree with her that sealing a road was a major project that could be potentially divisive and therefore needed the support of more than 50 percent of residents.

"Yes, I do think that policy could be under review," she said.

Their fate won't be sealed: (from top) Magpie Lane, Mitchell Avenue, Hawkes Road. (Pictures by Jan Tindale)



CLYDE & OCKER



"Just so long as the dogs don't electrocute themselves, Ock!"

We 'inspired' bush telegraph

By FIA CLENDINEN

The *Warrandyte Diary* inadvertently provided a solution to residents' concerns over a Telstra telecommunications tower in St Andrews.

Telstra's application to build a mobile phone tower in St Andrews was approved by commissioner Don Gillies, despite local objections. Mr Gillies administered the shire in the interim period between the sacking of Nillumbik council in October last year and the return of elected councillors in March.

Local residents opposed to the tower took their appeal to VCAT and the newly elected

councillors voted to support their application.

Nillumbik mayor Bill Penrose said the council wanted "to take a very professional approach" in finding a solution.

"The council took the action of contacting Telstra and the objectors to see if an agreement could be reached," Cr Penrose told the *Diary*. "And I suggested to Telstra, 'Why don't you use a tree?' For example like the one I'd read about in the *Warrandyte Diary*. And they said, 'No-one's ever asked us!'"

Cr Penrose said Telstra's initial reactions were to model the tower in the form of either a

palm tree or a pine tree. He said he told Telstra, "Well, you're not going to win with those two! What's the alternative?"

Finally Telstra came up with a mobile phone tower designed to look like a eucalyptus tree, possibly the first of its kind in the world. The objectors also wanted a few other minor modifications, all of which Telstra agreed to.

"And it went to VCAT and passed straight through without any objections." He said it was an outcome which had pleased everyone: the residents, the council and Telstra. But he stressed that the St

Andrews residents were objecting on aesthetic grounds and that in this instance health concerns were not an issue.

"And the point I'm making is that it was only a matter of this council actually doing the work it was supposed to be doing and getting out and talking to people," said Mr Penrose. "But I must say I thank the *Warrandyte Diary*."

There were no further developments regarding the Optus mobile phone tower proposed for the Tindals Wildflower Reserve as the *Diary* went to press. Optus had not yet applied to Manningham

council for a permit and the two residents' groups opposing the project were continuing to collect signatures to a petition, now well in excess of 1000 names.

WRONG!

In our front page lead story last month, we referred to the "Apex opportunity shop". Most of our readers will know there is no such outfit in Warrandyte. We meant, of course, the Lions opportunity shop. This inexcusable retreat from accuracy and clear thinking was performed by a muddle-headed editor.



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Sounds of the forest come to church

By RACHEL BAKER

If stand you in St Stephens Anglican Church, you can see the cream walls, wooden beams, bibles, candles and crucifixes. But if you close your eyes, the new digital piano can take you anywhere.

The jazz mode takes you to a swanky, sophisticated cocktail party: suits, evening dresses and martinis. Press a button and you're suddenly in a rainforest: birds singing, water falling, flutes playing.

Then, just as quickly, the rock mode takes you to a concert: dim lighting, long hair, screaming teenagers. Then, of course, if you go to the pipe organ mode, you can be back in church.

The piano was bought with money left by Dorothy, Lady Reid, wife of the late Sir George Reid, who died in 1994. She was a driving force in the church, a parish member and church pianist, Jenny Valentine told the *Diary*.

From a distance, the new piano looks like just another piano—dark brown wood, keyboard; but when you get close you see the control panel, the myriad buttons and the little monitor that drive it.

"It's got every sound

conceivable," Jenny said.

It has 24 organ sounds, about 40 pianos, all sorts of guitars, string instruments, even choirs. It has the capacity to play jazz concerts, rock concerts, children's pantomimes, orchestral concerts—any kind of music.

"It gives us opportunities to do things we otherwise wouldn't be able to do," the vicar, Reverend Garry Gason, said.

The piano's ability to play modern music makes it a fitting memorial to Lady Reid, Jenny Valentine said.

"Dorothy was a very modern woman. She was always



The new digital piano at St Stephens Anglican Church. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

interested in young people."

Lady Reid, who studied theology with the Anglican Church in the early 1960s and became the first woman diocesan lay reader in Melbourne, ran the St Stephens Sunday School from 1955 to 1971.

"She was also instrumental in establishing St Stephens as a church with its own vicar," Jenny said.

Lady Reid always encouraged young people in the arts, particularly music. She wanted the church to be

contemporary and maintain its currency in the community.

At a service in March, the congregation at St Stephens prayed that her dreams would be fulfilled.

"The new piano has changed the Sunday services," Jenny said.

"We are playing more hymns now; more modern hymns, more children's hymns. Older people will always like the older hymns, but they are enjoying the modern ones too."

Schools score cash

Local MP Phil Honeywood reports that a number of district government schools are benefiting from recent funding grants

"Funding for the Warrandyte electorate for integration works totals \$42,430," he said. "These grants mean that schools can better cater for the physical needs of students with disabilities.

"It also allows students with disabilities to gain most out of

their education and enables them to be as actively involved in the school community as possible."

Andersons Creek Primary School is receiving \$1800 "to assist with the provision of air-conditioning and blinds to cater for a student.

All local schools are also benefiting from a one-off base payment of \$300 per school, plus \$4.75 per student towards

sports facilities and equipment. Andersons Creek primary will receive \$2380.50 under this scheme, Warrandyte Primary School \$1649, Warrandyte High School \$3363, Park Orchards Primary School \$1278 and Warranwood Primary School \$3321.

In addition, Andersons Creek will receive \$141,491 "for works on windows and other urgent repairs".



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Horse trails out north

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

A response is due next month from Nillumbik council to a proposal for improving horse and multi-use tracks north of the Yarra River.

Kay Grant, of the Nillumbik Recreational Trail Group, said plans for a 40km track from Pretty Hill to Kinglake had been costed—at around \$200,000—and submitted to council

"With more people moving into the area there are more cars and more sealed roads. We want to address safety issues before there's an accident and we'd like to ensure continuity of safe riding for adults and children in the area," she said. Parts of the existing trail have not been used for many years and are overgrown and eroded. "The trail group divided the track into three stages: from Pretty Hill to Long Gully Road, on to Marshall Road and finally to Kinglake," she said. "The majority of spending is for capital works, mainly at the Kangaroo Ground end."

Small bridges are needed over creek crossings to stop erosion and a safety code has been suggested.

The trail group began work in January under the umbrella of the Kangaroo Ground Adult Riding Club, after landowners forced horses onto roads by extending their front boundaries and planting roadside verges.



They walked to heal hurt

By FIA CLENDINEN

RECONCILIATION is not always easy. Sometimes it brings you face to face with facts almost unbearably painful. Take a statement like this: "Indigenous Australians have suffered, and continue to suffer in many ways, as a result of contact with others who have come here over the last two centuries."

They are the words of Evelyn Scott, chairperson of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. She was speaking at Alistair Knox Park, Eltham, at the beginning of Nillumbik Shire Council's Journey of Healing Walk, late last month.

But Ms Scott's message was

essentially positive. As she pointed out, reconciliation offers everybody a chance to make amends.

"As you set out here today, you are declaring your support for the great concept of reconciliation, the idea that's bringing Australians together in a process of healing, a process that recognises the unique place of indigenous peoples in the heritage of our nation," she said. "There are many, many thousands of people all over this great country who share your commitment."

Last year Nillumbik council hosted a Gayip, a festival which included speeches, dancing, fireside story-telling and music.

This year the shire and the

Nillumbik Council Reconciliation Group coordinated the Journey of Healing.

"Indigenous Australians are more than ready to walk with you on the Journey of Healing," Ms Scott told the crowd of around 100 people. "It's the essence of reconciliation that we all acknowledge the good and the bad in our shared history, and look forward together to a future that unites us around mutual respect and appreciation."

The walk finished at Wingrove Park, a traditional corroboree site.

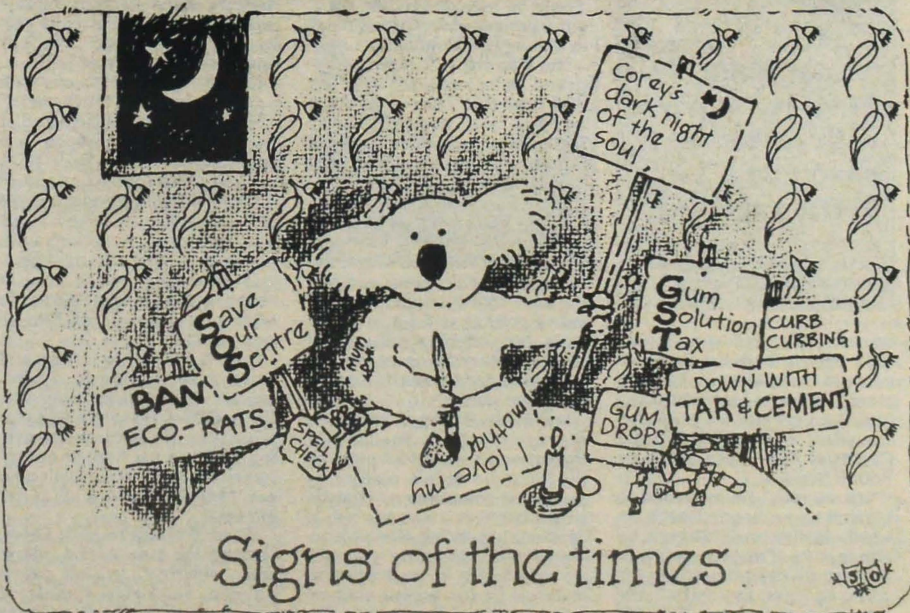
Bill Nicholson, chairperson of the Wurundjeri Tribal Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Commission, welcomed everybody onto traditional Wurundjeri land. "This country was owned by black people, my ancestors, and that gives me an identity," he said. "Australia doesn't go back to 1788. It goes back 40,000 years before. I represent one of the oldest histories in the world and I stand here pretty proud."

Mr Nicholson told the crowd that "history had been created" at last year's Gayip. He was referring to the scar tree at Wingrove Park, a manna gum from which Ian Hunter, also of Wurundjeri descent, cut a coolamon. A coolamon is a wooden dish used for carrying water or seed berries, or even as a cradle to carry a baby. The tree is now registered as a 20th century Aboriginal artefact.

Mick Woiwod, Bend of Islands author, told the *Diary* events such as the Gayip and the Journey of Healing were integral to the reconciliation process. He said while the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation was working with the federal government at developing policy documents, it was vital that communities establish a relationship with the local "Aboriginal world that once was".

SO — !

By SYD & ONA



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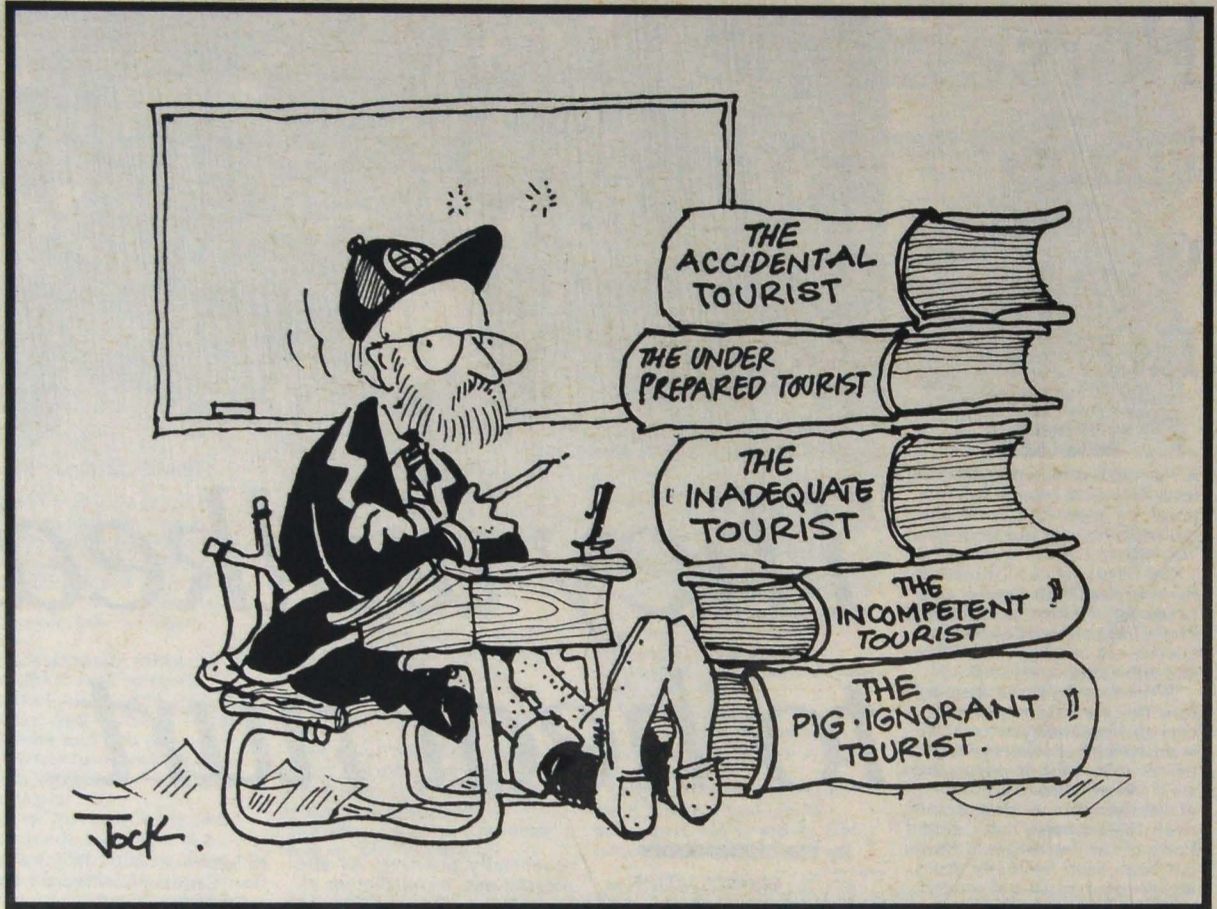
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Phone Greg Lawrence on 9844 2498 or Jock Macneish on 9844 4164 for application forms.

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"You know the rules. Until you've passed the certificate, I'm not allowed to let you in."

"But the locals don't have to know all this stuff, yet I do. It's not fair!"

"Who ever said anything about being fair? It's just the way things are these days. If you want to get the best out of what we have to offer, you're going to have to be a bit more prepared. It's not a game, mate, this is serious stuff. Now go away and do your homework."

"I've got your personal details and attempted touring record on our database, so if you turn up at any of our other entry points and try this lark once more, you're for it. I've marked your file as a potential troublemaker, so if you do try it again we'll be left with no alternative but to type in a 'slacker' entry next to your name and you won't get into a local supermarket, let alone a desirable tourist destination."

"Now beat it! I've got serious tourists lined up behind you and they've all got the required documentation."

Realising all was lost, the failed tourist turned tail and slunk back to his car. He cast envious glances at the line of cars full of suitably prepared



"Ring! Ring! Ring! He woke with a start, saved by a literary cliché."

tourists. All they had to do was hold up the bar-coded certificates to be laser-read. In an instant, the boom gate was raised and the carloads of prepared travellers sped off to Potters Cottage, the State Park or Pound Bend.

"It's no use," he muttered to himself as he headed back towards Melbourne. "There's no alternative. I'm just going to have to do my homework. I'm going to have to read all the tourist brochures, the Essential Guides, Lonely Planets and watch all those videos from the library."

It had taken a long time for the penny to drop. And it wasn't as if he hadn't been warned. Her-

self had been warning him about the folly of his ways for months now, but he had been resolutely obstinate. In his arrogance he had imagined that it would all happen. That he would arrive in a new country, the gates would open and all would be revealed to him without having to do anything at all in the way of preparation.

She was right. It hadn't happened as he imagined it would and now this latest rejection was the final straw. Not only had he been rejected all around Europe and Asia but it had even happened to him in Warrandyte!

The trouble was that he found it hard to remember all the necessary facts and figures and the thought of fronting up and failing a written test was just too galling. He'd tried a few dry runs, just offering snippets of tourist information at dinner parties and visits to the doctor, but to no avail.

Inevitably, during an animated discussion about Tuscany or Provence he would let slip the fact that he didn't really like sun-dried tomatoes or that he hoped there would be a McDonalds along the motorways, and the shutters would go down. He knew from the looks of frozen horror that he had just failed Know Your Politically Correct Gastronomy, Part 1.

There was no hope. He might as well end it all right now. Up ahead was a large, solid eucalyptus—something-or-other.

That decided him. If he couldn't even learn the Latin names of Australian plants, well...

He gripped the steering wheel, ritually intoned the titles of all of Mayes' travel books and headed for the attractive indigenous verge, subtly coloured by delicate native orchids, honeydew plants and a few really gorgeous agapanthus. The car sped towards the tree and...

Ring! Ring! Ring! He woke with a start, saved by a literary cliché.

He turned over and looked at the pile of books next to Himself. There were books on Italy, France, Morocco, Spain and others with spines averted. He turned back and looked at his bedside table. A clock radio, two novels—not about travel—and an empty coffee mug. It didn't take a Rhodes Scholar to work out what the nightmare was about.

Quietly, he got out of bed and tiptoed to the study. There, circled on a day in October, was the deadline. He sat thinking for some time. He had some breathing space, a window of opportunity through which he could see himself reading all those guides.

He snuck back to bed. There, waiting for him on the pillow, was breakfast: grilled goat's cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, polenta, pasta al funghi and eggplant stuffed with truffled crepes.

"Fabulous!" he enthused. "Now how about in Arles we..."

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Fine frogs frolic where once tomatoes blushed

AS if in defiance of my decision, the tomatoes were particularly prolific this year. But I had made up my mind, there would be no more home-grown vegetables.

The vegie patch vision began over 30 years ago in a one-roomed, rented flat in a somewhat sleazy/unsavoury suburb of north London. My bond with mother earth was strong, but as yet unfulfilled. I yearned to grow vegetables. The opportunity came a couple of years later when we moved to Australia and bought a modest weather-board house on a quarter acre block in Ringwood.

I couldn't wait to turn the first clod of earth with my newly purchased spade. The soil was rich and loamy and, over the next 15 years, produced the sweetest of sweetcorn, the tastiest of tomatoes, leafy lettuce, leeks, legumes—the lot.

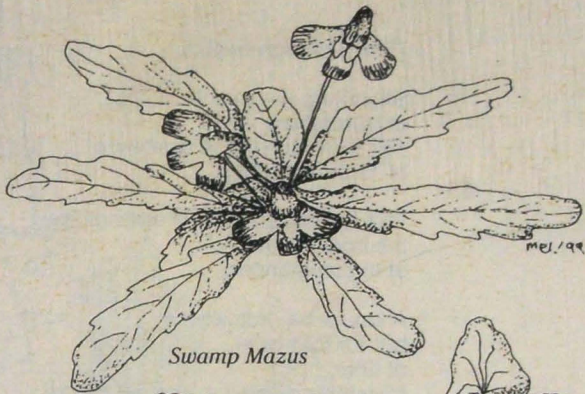
On moving to Warrandyte in the mid-1980s, I was determined to again have a vegie patch. It was an uphill battle from the start; literally, as the block of land was steeply sloping. The rocky shallow soil was a far cry from Ringwood's fertile, friendly loam. Even the pests were more predacious. If seedlings survived the munching of millipedes, snails and slugs, the caterpillars and aphids moved in to chew and suck the leaves. Finally, after weeks of watering, weeding and more watering, just as the produce neared maturity, cockatoos and possums had their way. The clincher, however, is that for the last three years we have been away in early February, right at the time most of the vegetables

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

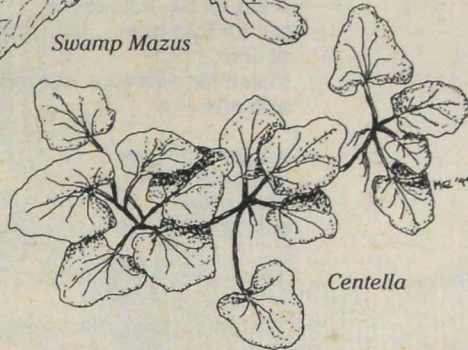
were at their picking peak. And so it is time to move on. Sad though it was to pull out those last wizened old tomato plants, the vegie patch is making way for a wetland—a garden for frogs. The little amphibians are there already. Triggered by rain or the garden sprinkler, they made their presence known in a chorus of cheeps and chirps. And once a floating foam mat of spawn appeared on the surface of the tiny round fibreglass pond installed in the fernery. The subsequent tadpoles inhabited the pond for many months.

Now I am offering the frogs something better. With a garden hose, an area of approximately six metres by five was marked out on the ground. The task then was to dig the hole about 40 centimetres deep with a broad shelf at one end. A commercial liner was laid on a bed of sand and carpet underlay. Local rocks were hauled out from under the house where they had lain since its construction. Logs were easy to find.

Finally it was time for the planting, both in the water and out. Nothing too big. A small wetland soon looks even smaller when large shrubs crowd the edges. The look I wanted to achieve, using local plants, was of a multi-textured green carpet spilling over and merging with water alive with aquatic vegetation. And there



Swamp Mazus



Centella

were plenty of suitable indigenous creepers to choose from, including swamp mazus with its rosette of crinkly leaves and pretty purple flowers, and the tiny toothed-leaved pratia which has two colour forms—blue and white.

One of the swampy suitables is centella, a vigorous creeper with pale green, slightly succulent, kidney-shaped leaves and inconspicuous red flowers. This plant has earned considerable notoriety in recent times because it is said to relieve the symptoms of arthritis—a claim

confirmed by a couple of people I have spoken to. One or two of the slightly bitter tasting leaves, chewed once a day, is all that is required and, although I don't suffer from arthritis, I do get aches in the back and neck from time to time and am prepared to try this remedy.

The conversion is complete, if a little raw. But it is only a small part of something much much bigger, a major transformation, that has taken place over a decade on our steep, Warrandyte slope. And you can read about that in next month's column.

Statistically speaking, we're okay

66 WHICH continent is driest? Antarctica. What was worst, the Westgate Bridge collapse or the Derwent Bridge getting knocked down? Hard to say. More people were killed by the Westgate Bridge. Which animal lives longest? A species of marine clam. It averages about 200 years. Which country first gave women the vote? New Zealand. Have I seen Halley's Comet? Not really. You were a baby in 1986. But I still could have seen it. You were asleep.

What is Australia's most endangered mammal? The Bridled Nailtail Wallaby. Which planet has the most moons? Saturn's got 18. It says 17 here. Well, why did you ask? What year did the Vietnam war begin? 1957. Last time I asked, you said 1960—something. Did I? What was Australia's worst tidal wave? Er, I did read somewhere about a big one ... about 10,000 years ago. Sorry, can't remember the details. Do all mosses have roots? Flamin' hell, kiddo, look it up!

The trouble with looking it up is that you get waylaid by the most fascinating trivia. Who was the only British prime min-



By **MARILYN MOORE**

ister to fight a duel while in office? The Duke of Wellington, in 1829, against Lord Winchelsea, with pistols. (They both missed.) Who was the tallest US President? Abraham Lincoln (1.93m). Which country has the most mazes? Sweden, closely followed by Finland and Japan.

Apparently the top ten dogs' names in the US include Lady, King, Duke and Prince. However, conferral in this way of pseudo-regal status on their beloved pets has done little to induce the sort of manners one expects from good breeding. Apparently only 5.3 million of the 41.4 million dogs in the US will sit on request. A mere 3.9 million shake hands, and hardly any can dance (1.5 million).

Canine defaults are not the only lapses in manners to be

the object of statisticians' relentless investigation. New York is by far the most likely place to get murdered in the US, residents of the UK consume more than ten times the quantity of baked beans than the world's second most flatulent nation (Australia), while Saudi Arabia heads the list of diplomatic missions with the most unpaid parking fines.

Delving further reveals even less salubrious offerings. The oldest stuffed parrot in England died in 1702 and has since been on display in Westminster Abbey alongside the effigy of its former owner. The whole gamut of epithets from John Cleese's legendary Dead Parrot sketch could be applied ten times over, and it would still be the understatement of the year.

Finally, for real trivia buffs, two British gents share a highly unusual distinction: after being beheaded, they both had their heads sewn back on again. Apparently the Duke of Monmouth had committed the unforgivable sin of neglecting to have his portrait painted, but the reason for reuniting the severed ends of Lord Lovat's unlucky neck has remained a mystery since 1745.

No such riveting statistics for Warrandyte. If the pundits are correct, we are pretty normal compared with the rest of the English-speaking world. We rank high on dog ownership and low on camels; we have neither the highest (4.1 million in Somalia) nor lowest (1400 in Brazil) number of patients per dentist; life expectancy at birth in 1992 was 74.5 years for males and 80.2 years for females; the commonest names for children born in 1992 were Madeleine, Emily, Jessica, James, Thomas and Matthew; our most abundant litter is paper or plastic; we are devout users of mobile phones, avid devourers of Australia's best-selling children's sweet (Freddo), reluctant importers of ornamental cat skins and we almost certainly approximate the national average of O-positive blood-group members.

Above all, we love videos. And it is here that we finally demonstrate some individuality. Not for us *Crocodile Dundee* (most-rented video in Britain), adult comedy or adventure thrillers (most-watched Australian categories). No folks. For the past year or so, Warrandyte's most-rented video has been *Rugrats*.

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and their faith in the existence
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This is the dark side of serendipity,
the ironic quirk
of circumstances.

A would-be ordinary day
but for that twist
of time,
frozen between one second before
and one after.

Happy are those
with their faith,
their belief
that all is "meant".

They've an explanation
of sorts.
"It's part of the grand design."

Pity those without,
cursing the god
of others
who could play such lethal pranks;

Snatching untimely,
replacing a future
with just the past;
photos on the sideboard
forever young.
No point in the endless
shouting of "why?"
Gods don't have to
give reasons.

And what could they possibly be?

There was no tempting of fate
in dark lanes,
in the wrong part of town, or on icy slopes
in the wrong sort of weather.

No thumbing the nose
at the elements,
defying gravity
in light planes.

Or riding in coaches
on the Hume Highway
between Holbrook and Junee.

Just a quiet Sunday.
Driving carefully,
seatbelts on,
blood alcohol zero.

Then a branch breaks.

KAREN THROSSELL

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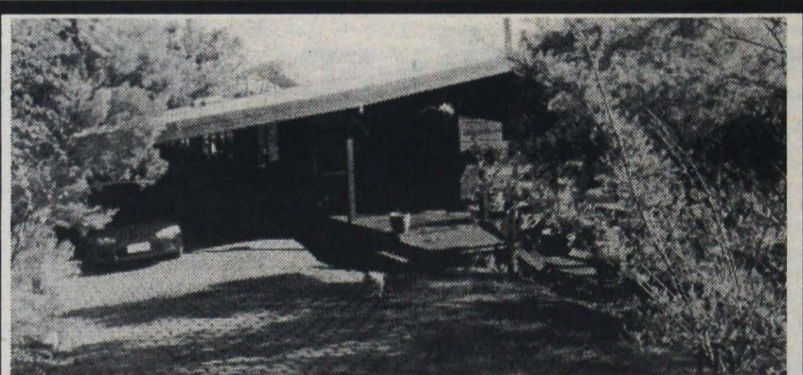
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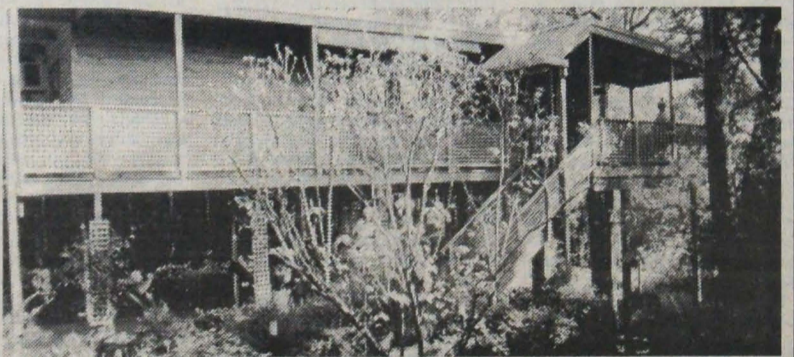
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I AM sitting outside the Bakery in the noon sun eating a steak and onion pie, sipping a cappuccino, reading the *Diary*. The *Diary* was handed me in Joan Rogers' bookshop. Nearly an hour ago I was bound for the post office with urgent mail—well, fairly urgent—but noticing a parking space outside the bookshop, I decided to browse awhile; now what was left of the morning has gone and my letters are forgotten. Nor do I much care. I seem overcome by the pervasive river tempo, idling my way to the sea.

One month and 10 days since we came to Warrandyte; 11 months since the *Diary* gave space to a lamentation I addressed to my wife as we contemplated selling our Templestowe home. The War Service home we had laboured on with my Canadian father-in-law 47 years ago, the place where we raised our family. At the end of the lamentation I appended a resolution: we would not sell; we would see out our lives at Qualicum, Mount View Road; at 83 and nearly 80 we were too old to make a change. We would borrow on our title and stay put.

That behind us, we went to Sydney. We were still there when our Warrandyte daughter, whom we acknowledge as our keeper, sent us brightly-coloured plans for a retirement village in Everard Drive with the suggestion that one of the units might interest us. I resolved, No; I wanted to think no more about moving, least of all into a ghetto for the aged. And yet, and yet—Warrandyte had always been an extension of our Templestowe life, its concerts and plays and art exhibitions. Once I had been a member of its Lonely Arts Club and for years my wife was a volunteer at its CAB. It was a place of escape when developers began destroying old Templestowe. But a "village" of ancients with no sound of children? No.

By the time we returned from Sydney the concrete slabs of the units had been poured. Our keeper suggested that she take her mother to the site. "You come, too, Dad, if you like." I accepted to make sure we weren't committed to anything. It was spring, the day fine, the wattle blooming; I found the site to be close to the river walk I had enjoyed for 25 years or more. There proved to be only seven units—scarcely a "village"; besides, residents were to hold their own titles.

"Number seven has three bedrooms, Dad—you could use one as a study."

I hoped I was still conveying lack of interest; I needed time to think. Admittedly the location was delightful—and next to number seven I could hear children's voices. But my mind returned to Qualicum, not only the beauty of it, but its numerous bookcases, its over-burdened china cupboards, its acres of paintings and family photographs. Additionally our four children, now middle-aged, had left some of their stuff with us over decades, always saying, "I'll pick it up sometime". This included metre and a half blocks of sandstone hoarded by our stonemason son 10 years back, monoliths growing moss.

"We could look at other places for comparison," said my wife.

I grasped at delay. But for me the other places proved inexpressibly repugnant. All my life I had been on the run from suburbia. These places were close to trams and trains and shopping complexes; they had concrete kerbs and gutters and carefully-groomed "nature" strips with



Journey to Unit Seven

Story by DON CHARLWOOD • Illustration by JOCK MACNEISH

here and there an abandoned supermarket trolley.

As we drove around them my wife observed, not quite to herself, that Warrandyte was a long way out, that these suburban places would be "handy for someone on their own". I was sure she wasn't implying that I would be on my own! Warrandyte at once became more attractive. As if divining my thoughts my wife said, "You've made up your mind on Warrandyte, haven't you?"

"Not yet; I've only made up my mind against suburbia. Anyway, we can stay where we are. I can see the advantages of not doing anything at all."

"Can you keep lopping branches and picking up bark and raking gumleaves and paying to have the grass mowed?"

Silence. I supposed weakly that we could put a deposit on number seven as a safeguard. "We could always change our minds."

This was deluded thinking; I had set foot on a slippery slope. Committal to number seven brought committal to sell Qualicum. Our lot was suddenly cast among estate agents, people with wall-to-wall smiles who made extravagantly tempting forecasts. What had we embarked on! If we sold, how could we possibly empty Qualicum's bookcases? Dispose of all those manuscripts no one wanted to publish?

Get rid of paintings and family photographs? Impossible. But "impossible" was a word I daren't utter; to my wife and our keeper it was a word of challenge.

Qualicum is for sale! I'm still not sure how this has come about. Three different agents have estimated selling figures that would allow us to buy a Saab and a yacht after paying for number seven. I feel suddenly affluent for the first time. We choose our agent, an affable, gregarious, reassuring fellow. His giant sign appears beside our fence; it displays three large photographs of the house. One from the lounge shows outlook past the pool down our "near acre". "Arguably the best near-acre property in Templestowe." This is true—and here we are putting it up for sale! A photograph, too, that exposes to public view our dining-room, the very table at which we have shared meals all these years, at which I wrote *All The Green Year* among homework books. Through its large windows our trees can be seen.

"A private, quiet lane leads to this unique home nestled among well-established eucalypts, silky oak, hoop pine and macadamia trees." Yes, yes; I know all that; I planted them, nurtured them, picked up their tons of bark, lopped their dead limbs. "And now you are deserting them" whispers an inner voice.

"This delightful timber home boasts 45 years of tranquil living by one family—" Tranquil! We didn't

tell them of ferocious arguments at the time of the Vietnam War and the sexual revolution, of having to call the police to a fractious ex-in-law, of the time my nonegarian father-in-law ordered and pursued two male nurses out of the house, his voice audible at Bulleen: they had come in place of his usual female nurses to shower him. There was nothing queer about Grandad!

Prospective buyers come tramping through the house. One of them makes no bones about his ideas: he would bulldoze the house and build something worthy of the site. My wife is unnecessarily civil even to him. I sit glowering on the terrace. And the time has come to pay out more to retain number seven. We gather every bit of capital we possess. I can scarcely back out now. I only want the whole business to end quickly.

SATURDAY, November 21: Within my line of vision a large red flag is hanging on our sale board: SALE THIS DAY in white letters. Our Qualicum!

It has gone, gone forever. We ought to have known, of course, that it wouldn't bring what the agents purported to believe. After buying unit seven we might still be able to afford a Holden; we never really wanted a yacht anyway. But there is one great consolation: the unexpected buyer is a young man we saw grow up next door; he is not going to demolish

Qualicum and build a mansion; he and his wife plan to raise their children where we raised ours. Our keeper uncorks champagne. I cannot withhold tears, as much from relief as sorrow.

Ninety days to pack and leave. It seems ample at first. Where to begin? I give loads of books and Bomber Command pictures to the RAAF Memorial Centre, sell scores of others.

"We'll have a garage sale," my wife decides.

"Yes, and a stall at Camberwell market with what's left," adds our keeper.

I keep out of all this, sit staring through a window at the garage sale, see dubious characters walking off with items we have cherished all our family life. Last come charitable organisations and I feel guilt that we have possessed so much, so much "stuff".

WE obtain 25 boxes from the removalists to pack those things that need no professional handling. Slowly boxes begin taking over the denuded house; I feel its spirit ebbing, ebbing. Boxes of dreams, boxes of remembrances, boxes of failed endeavour, even a box of letters from a RAAF navigator to a girl in Canada. Other stuff we pass to our children: childhood photographs; school reports; letters they wrote to us from farflung places.

Departure day is approaching. I wander often outside, pat favourite trees apologetically, admire Ralph McAuley's stone work of the 1950s, 1960s, even 1980s; have a last evening swim by moonlight, the water warm from the day's sun.

How do we mark our farewell? The biggest of all our parties? A drop-in day for friends? We decide no, something more personal, some sort of thanksgiving. We all make contributions to it then ask our vicar if she will lead us through it. Gracefully she draws it together. Thanks for "this eastern slope, these trees and shrubs and flowers we have planted, that have become part of our lives", "for the many dinner parties this room has seen, the birthdays, the return of family members from long absences, the welcomes and farewells for guests." To close, a renewal of marriage vows for our keeper and her husband at the spot between the citriadora and the crepe myrtle where they were married. Even now it is unbelievable that we are going.

Late February and son Jim's Stonehenge of sandstone still rises along our northern boundary. We are due out on the 26th. Suddenly, he is there with stone saw and drill and crane, ready to load quartered pieces on his truck. He employs the family, his aged mother herself on the drill. February 24 and the piano alone in its familiar place, a daughter and a grand-daughter playing, their notes resonating in the empty house. In two days all these boxes will be in unit seven. Two days? No! Sudden change: the unit is not going to be ready! Our keeper and her long-suffering husband take us into their home, not for days it turns out, but for five weeks. As well, perhaps, since we are now aged wrecks with need to recuperate.

On April Fools' Day our final move is made. Within days it is clear that we have not got rid of enough stuff; even as I write, we are still off-loading. But I'm going to spell awhile and walk by the healing river and confer with duck acquaintances by the rapids.

Lions run top youth quest

Warrandyte Lions Club is seeking nominations for their annual Youth of the Year awards. The winner will receive \$600, with another \$600 going to the non-commercial nominating body.

"The basis of the award is outstanding talent within one or more areas of personal endeavour," a Lions spokesperson told the *Diary*. "This could include leadership, community interest and service, academic or training achievement, employment success and/or sporting prowess."

Second prize will be \$400 and third prize \$200, with equal amounts going to the nominating bodies.

Candidates may be representatives of Warrandyte High School, Warrandyte Youth Services or any other Warrandyte sporting or social group or service club—apart from Lions. They can also be nominated by a friend, relative or employer.

To be eligible, young people must be aged between 16 and 18 years on January 1, 1999, must live within five kilometres of the Warrandyte post office or attend Warrandyte High School.

● Applications close on Friday, July 16. Further enquiries to Geoff Taylor—9844 2041 (h), 9876 6066 (w)—or from Graeme Doig on 9876 1304.

Andersons Creek goes it alone

Andersons Creek Primary School has become a "self-governing school", subject to the signing of a negotiated educational service agreement.

Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood is "delighted that (the school) has achieved this status".

He has congratulated the school community "on their vision and forward planning to provide a learning environment of excellence for their students".

Self governance, a controversial issue in some areas, will allow schools to directly employ staff, co-opt members with specialist skills, set educational priorities, enter into partnerships with business, TAFE or other institutions, transform themselves into a specialist school in a chosen discipline, co-opt council members with specialist skills and lease school facilities to the community.

Fast food Mikado



Diamond Valley singers in rehearsal

The Diamond Valley Singers are bringing Mikado, their latest production, to Warrandyte High School Theatre in July.

But this will be nothing like the usual traditional performance of the Gilbert and Sullivan evergreen. In this version, Mikado is a multi-national restaurant chain and the action takes place at the Titipu branch, somewhere quite near Coolangatta.

The production will be directed by Graham Ford, founder of the Diamond Valley

Singers. They will be supported by the Eltham and Community Orchestra, conducted by Mary Wright.

A spokesperson for the company told the *Diary* that the singers and the orchestra, in the 14 years of their annual collaboration in a stage show, have donated almost \$50,000 to charity.

"This is not to be sneezed at," the spokesperson said. "It's central to what these two organisations are all about. This year all

profits after costs will be shared by a World Vision program with homeless kids in Phnom Penh and by Open House of Ivanhoe and Hurstbridge, a residential project which supports individuals in need."

● Mikado will be staged at Warrandyte High School on July 2, 3, 7, 9 and 10 at 8pm and July 4 and 10 at 2pm. Tickets will cost \$15 (\$10 concession) and can be booked through Kim on 9439 0651.

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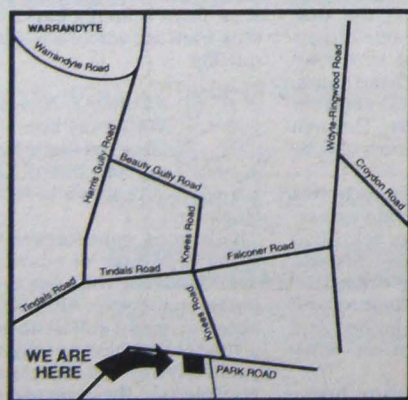
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The 50th birthday of the South Warrandyte dance will occur this August. The committee is planning golden anniversary celebrations for its monthly dance on Saturday, August 14. As part of this event, they are anxious to collect as much information as possible about dances in the early years. Please call Betty on 9844 3763 if you can help with memories, photos or souvenirs. The dance, held on the second Saturday of each month, takes place in the South Warrandyte Hall, Hall Road, at 8pm. Cost is \$5 each, BYO drinks and supper. The next dance is on Saturday, July 10. Profits are annually donated to such good causes as local CFA brigades. For dance information call 9723 3892.

Hall

Warrandyte Historical Society is seeking information on the South Warrandyte Hall. Please call Gina Bevan-Jones on 9844 3662 if you can help.

Auxiliary

The Warrandyte Auxiliary of the Royal Womens Hospital held its 69th annual meeting in April, when Denise Arnell, representing the hospital, was guest speaker. Margaret Golding stepped down as president and Alice O'Leary retired as secretary after 23 years. New office bearers are Bonnie Peake (president), Dulcie Crouch (secretary) and Heather Williams (treasurer). A cheque for \$3600 was presented to the hospital. The auxiliary is seeking new members. They meet on the third Tuesday of each month at the Senior Citizens clubrooms.

Fireguard

Residents of Johansons Road and adjoining roads in South Warrandyte are meeting on Sunday, June 20, to discuss the formation of a community fireguard group. The groups offer working bees to help other residents, lists of products and services relating to fire prevention, monthly newsletters, hazard risk assessments and a possible safety house in the event of fire. Further information from Sophie Cunliffe on 0407 339 137.

Blues

The next fundraiser at the Grand Hotel will be a Blues Brothers floorshow and dance on Friday, July 16, raising funds



Virtual team mates meet in Hong Kong: (left to right) Ebony Gilbee (Warrandyte), April Schroder (Canada), Feng Feng Wang (USA) and Claire Bloom (Warrandyte).

Teacher Claire Bloom and student Ebony Gilbee represented Warrandyte High School at an awards ceremony in Hong Kong recently.

The school's Year 2000 web site—created in conjunction with schools in USA and Canada—was runner-up in the AT&T Virtual Classroom award.

The Warrandyte representatives met up with fellow team members from Athens High School in Ontario and Stevenson High in Illinois. They also forged relationships and links with winning

primary and secondary schools in India, Malaysia, Japan, Hong Kong and Florida.

"It seems likely that some of these contacts—including university academics and corporate CEOs—will make their way to Warrandyte in the future, as interest in Victorian education and learning technologies is very high," Claire Bloom told the *Diary*.

Success in Hong Kong followed on the school's Year 2000 web site winning the deBono Institute Award for Innovation in Education.

for the Park Orchards kindergarten. It will be a dress-up night with prizes for the best costumes. Bookings can be made at the hotel on 9844 3202.

DONT

The DONT (Defenders Of Native Title) movement supports an indigenous campaign for legal, political and social reforms and self-determination. To assist with community understanding of this campaign there will be a public meeting at Allwood Neighbourhood House, cnr Main and Arthurs Creek roads, Hurstbridge, on Sunday, June 27 at 2pm. Guest speaker will be Mick Woivod, author and local historian from Kangaroo Ground. Please call Gail on 9718 2041 for more information.

Fashion

A fashion show will be held at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens clubrooms on Thursday, June 17, commencing at 1pm.

Volunteers

Following the enormous success, in its first year, of the St John Ambulance program, Visiting Friends, the Eastern Metropolitan Region is seeking more helpers. Volunteers visit residents of supported residential services units, taking them out on trips, or perhaps staying in for a chat or a game of cards.

Some training is offered. Enquiries to Jim Humprey on 9736 2130, or write to Visiting Friends, PO Box 254, Lilydale, 3140.

Seminar

The next Green Wedge Seminar will be held at the Currawong Bush Park conference room, Reynolds Road, Doncaster East, on Thursday, July 1. Beth Gott from Monash University will explore Aboriginal plant use. Starting time is 7.30pm. Manningham council sponsor the seminars. They are free and tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

History

Gary Presland, author of *Aboriginal Melbourne—The Lost Land Of The Kulin People*, will be guest speaker at Warrandyte Historical Society's annual general meeting to be held at their museum in the Old Post Office, 111 Yarra Street, on Sunday, July 18 at 2pm. Afternoon tea will be served.

Walk

Walk In My Shoes, an exhibition being held at Manningham Gallery from June 4 to 30 (closed June 29) reflects journeys taken through life. The participants are older persons coming from a broad spectrum of the community. The exhibi-

tion includes photography, collage, shoe installation, drawings, paintings, textiles, writing and performance. The gallery is at the rear of the municipal offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

Shoes

As part of the Walk In My Shoes exhibition, actors from the Warrandyte Theatre Company will perform monologues and dialogues on Tuesday, June 15 from 1 to 3pm. These have all been written by members of the Doncare Older Women's Writing Group. Guest speaker will be Shirley Paine, first-time author of her autobiography, *Tiger Lillies*.

Phonewatch

Phonewatch is a community-based payphone protection program aimed at reducing public telephone vandalism. It is a combined initiative of Victoria Police, Lifeline, Telstra and Keep Australia Beautiful. Further information through freecall 1800 633 119.

Support

The Melbourne South East Area Group of ASCA (Advocates for Survivors of Child Abuse) hold support meetings twice a month. For information and venue details call Gwen on 9754 8987.

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They'll fight another day

By CLINTON GRYPAS

A driving Adam Borwick lay in with just one second left has propelled the Fighting Irish into the grand final of the local men's Greyburn Cup basketball competition.

The dramatic semi-final finish gave the Irish a 44-43 win over arch rivals the Hitmen and the first berth in the main game on June 16.

Borwick dominated the match with 31 points in the upset win which added another come-from-behind chapter to the competition's 10-year history.

The Irish had the game's final possession and appeared to have blown their chance before the ball spilt back to Borwick, who found an opening.

Robert Johnston (18 points) was best for the Hitmen, who must now beat the Gotham City All Stars to reach the final.

The All Stars eliminated The Big Joke 57-42 as Daniel Sharpe fired 27 points, including the team's last 12 with three-pointers.

In the over-30 section, the River Rats are first through to

SPORT



ing starred with 20 points as Ballistyx disposed of Rangers 33-19.

The two men's grand finals and the Grand Hotel Cup women's grand final will be played from 7pm on Wednesday, June 16, at Warrandyte High School stadium.

Meanwhile, prospective teams and players for next season, starting on July 14, are invited to contact Steve Doyle on 9434 1385 for entry details.

the grand final, dominating the second half of their semi-final to beat the Plastics 39-23 after leading 17-16 at half-time. Max Sommers and John Skidmore each contributed 12 points.

The Plastics now meet Ballistyx in the preliminary final, David Thermorshuizen hav-

Local tennis players leave mates in dark!

By JUDY GREEN

The clubrooms in Taroona Avenue are sporting two new winners' flags following the recent success of Warrandyte teams in the finals of the Lilydale and District Night Tennis Association competition.

In the Wednesday mixed division, Section 3 was won by the Intoxication team of Cameron McBain, Mark Hill, Paul Lynch, Carmen Hill, Nicci Booth and

Kim Edwards. They defeated F-Troop, another Warrandyte team.

In Section 10, Swingers (Rowan Berry, Grayson Milner, Elise Berry and Sharon Berry) defeated Z-Pennant, also from Warrandyte.

Club officials are continuing with preparations for the revival of the Goldtown Open tournament, scheduled for September.



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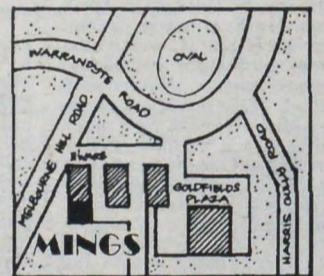
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Unders caught short again

Warrandyte Under-18s coach Greg Alchin has 24 players on his list—but he's lucky if 14 of them turn up on match days.

That's why the young Bloods are languishing near the foot of their ladder with just two wins from nine games.

On May 29, they could muster only 13 players and had to forfeit to Knox. On June 5 they fielded 14 against a full-strength Doncaster East and went down by 75 points, 15.17 (107) to 5.2 (32).

"At least two of the best three on ground were our players," Alchin said. "We have some wonderfully-talented players and there's not a team we've met this season that, with a full side, we wouldn't have pushed to the line."

"We had just 14 against Doncaster East—yet we led at quarter-time."

"There are 24 on the list and I get 14 on match day."

Alchin said there were all kinds of excuses—work and studies (which were legitimate) and "other interests".

Alchin has gone as far as to put up posters from North Ringwood to Templestowe appealing for players. So far there has been no response.

"If there is any eligible player out there who'd like to represent Warrandyte I'd love to hear from him," he said.

Alchin, who has long been involved in junior football in this town and coached the Under-17 Colts to last season's Yarra junior league premierships, can be contacted on 9437 1248 or 0412 106 426.

● Warrandyte's best against Doncaster East were Andy Moore, Craig Dick, Aidan Davey, Lachlan McDonald and Rick Templeton.

A social whirl

It's busy, busy, busy both on and off the field at Warrandyte Football Club.

While the Bloods continue to make a big impression on the Third Division competition, there's lots happening on the other side of the fence as well. Upcoming events:

● June 10: Pool competition at the Grand Hotel.

● June 26: Ladies' chicken and champagne luncheon before the game against Coldstream.

● July 3: Moonee Valley trots night.

● July 10: Past players' luncheon before the game against Templestowe (1-1000 draw to be made after the game).

Talk to Andrew (Bucky) Rodgers about the first three and Jeff Evans (9722 1111) or Noddy Ireland (9725 5065) for bookings for the July 10 luncheon.

Rampant Bloods turn on a blinder!

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte sent a chill message right to the top of the EFL Third Division ladder by demolishing South Croydon at home on June 5 and replacing them in second spot.

Coming off a four-point defeat in arctic conditions at Mt Evelyn, the Bloods were irresistible, handing out an 11-goal hiding to a team who'd come to town with a big reputation and just one defeat from eight games.

Coach Lex Munro described it as Warrandyte's best performance in his one-and-a-half seasons at the helm. "We had some very good wins last year but I thought today was outstanding," he said.

"Our whole season was on the line out there and every player was totally committed."

Defeat would have left the Bloods two games adrift of South Croydon at the season's halfway mark in the race for second spot and the double chance in the finals, assuming (perhaps prematurely) that unbeaten Knox will finish on top.

"We don't want to finish third or fourth," Munro said. "We want second spot at least and today's win has put us right back on track for that."

"The guys were stung by the loss to Mt Evelyn and I probably stung them a bit more at training this week."

"It was a very dedicated effort."

Warrandyte and South Croydon trail Knox by two games but have a two-game buffer below them. The Bloods' next match is at Wantirna South on June 19, the home-and-away season suspended for a week for the annual interleague match.

"That break will be very beneficial to us," said Munro. "It will give several players time to come up from injuries."

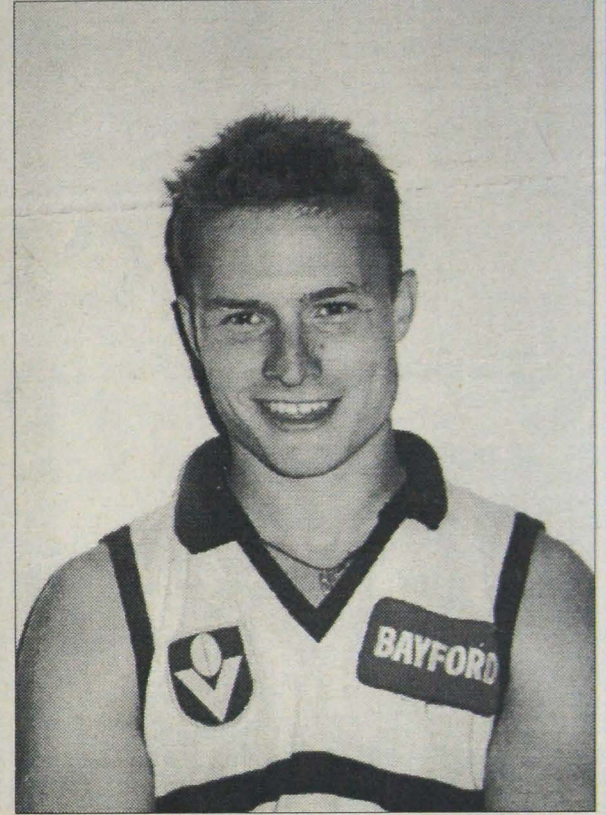
The Bloods gave notice of a big afternoon against South Croydon by dominating the first quarter into a useful breeze—although that dominance was not quite reflected on the scoreboard.

Despite first use of the ball out of the centre, Warrandyte could not find the big sticks from set shots after the visitors had drawn first blood with a goal from a free after three minutes.

Ironically, the main offender was full-forward Chris Quinlan—the young man they



Brad Valentine: a six-goal field day against South Croydon.



Chris Cornell: threatened brilliance and produced it.

SPORT

call Superboot—who missed two "sitters" in the first six minutes.

Dale Vitiritti to Brad Valentine at 10 minutes produced the Bloods' first major score and Quinlan atoned for earlier sins three minutes later by splitting the middle.

A series of penalties out of the centre set South Croydon up for their second goal, 15 minutes in, and two glaring errors in defence let them in again four minutes later to grab the lead.

Valentine to Trent Ferguson in the pocket at 23 minutes righted that wrong and a great snap from Valentine at 27 minutes and a miraculous goal out of the pack by Ferguson at 28 sent Warrandyte in to the first change with a 14-point lead, 5.4 to 2.3.

The second term, with a fluky breeze at their backs, was all Warrandyte.

Valentine, who was already enjoying the afternoon immensely, started it all by threading one through from the

'We had some good wins last year but I thought today was outstanding'

boundary after four minutes, a skill duplicated by John O'Brien five minutes later.

South Croydon were unable to push the ball deep into attack and on the rare occasions they crossed the half-forward line they were all too easily repulsed.

Andrew Brown's long snap at 14 minutes and Valentine into an open goal a minute later blew out the margin to 39 points—and there was more to come.

Kimberly O'Connor, who likes to be described as a goal-kicking ruckman, snapped one at 24 minutes, Quinlan marked and booted a long one at 26 and soccered another through close to the siren immediately after South Croydon had whipped the ball forward for their only goal of the quarter and their first since the 19-minute mark of the first.

At the interval, the Bloods led by 51 points, 12.8 to 4.5.

We don't know what South Croydon coach Gavin Taylor told his players during the break, but they responded by lifting their game and kicking the first two goals of what was to be a low-scoring third term.

A bit of the sting had gone from Warrandyte's approach, but Valentine put a stop to any nonsense with a piece of Peter Daicos-style wizardry 15 minutes in.

Both sides were making pretty heavy weather of it, but Quinlan put the game way beyond the visitors' reach when freed in front five minutes later.

South Croydon actually outscored the Bloods by a point for the quarter, but a 14.11 to 6.9 scoreline at the last change had the home crowd positively beaming.

The visitors, however, were

not quite finished yet. After an exchange of points, they goaled at seven and nine minutes, before talented half-forward Chris Cornell, who had been threatening to do something brilliant, undid all their good work in the space of a minute.

Cornell kicked a clever grubbered goal then beat an enemy pack for another to restore the lead to 51 points.

Valentine put the seal on a huge day by marking full-stretch on the run in the pocket, running around and snapping his sixth and Vitiritti put the icing on a magnificent team effort by threading the needle from the boundary for Warrandyte's 18th.

Final score was 18.17 to 8.11.

Warrandyte's goalkickers were Valentine 6, Quinlan 4, Ferguson, Cornell 2, O'Brien, Vitiritti, Brown and O'Connor.

Their best were Tony King, Glen Carle, Valentine and Adam Borwick.

The reserves went down by 45 points, 11.12 (78) to 5.3 (33). They were best served by Chris Springett, Terry Ryan, Nick Rybalko, Danny Weatherly and Craig Lincoln.

Juniors turn on spectacular show by night

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte turned on the lights for its first interleague night football match on May 28—and the news was all good. Well, almost all.

The downside was that "the locals"—the Yarra Junior Football League Under-14B side, containing two Warrandyte players, went down 6.14 to 4.8 to their Moorabbin counterparts.

The upside that far outweighed it was that the night was unanimously adjudged a huge success. A big, enthusiastic crowd, perfect weather just in advance of a foul change and plenty of high-quality junior football made it so.

Its success could well lead to more interleague junior fixtures being played at night here. It has already guaranteed two

more Warrandyte club games (Under-14s and Under-17 Colts) under lights this season.

"The reaction we got from the interleague game was just brilliant," Warrandyte Junior Football Club president Terry Pieper told the *Diary*.

"The kids loved it. They said there was something special about playing under lights."

The May 28 occasion was part of the Victorian Metropolitan Football League's Vic Health/Quit competition for Under-14s and Under-15s.

Warrandyte were represented in the Yarra side by Daniel Mirabella (son of WJFC coaching coordinator and Under-14s team manager Anthony) and Ben Piggott (son of Under-14s coach Laurie).

Defeat eliminated Yarra B from the competition, but they went on to beat Dandenong 7.7 to 5.6 in a stirring finish to their rostered second match.

The Yarra A team, in which Warrandyte are represented by Tommy Urbano and Hayden (Big Harley) Wall, are still firmly in contention for the Under-14 championship.

They have already beaten Diamond Valley and on Wednesday (June 9) take on the EFL at Walker Park in Mitcham. This is also a night game and should be well worth the trip.

"Our A team are very good and could go all the way," said Anthony Mirabella.

"There was always the possibility that Yarra A and Yarra B would meet in the final. What a game that would have been!"

Our iron man tucks in

Leo Reid, of North Warrandyte, headed straight for a McDonald's for a big feed after the Australian Minolta Iron Man contest at Forster, NSW, last month.

After six months of regimented training and a very big day, he'd earned it!

Leo was one of 1200 participants in the gruelling event—a three-kilometre swim, 180-kilometre bike ride and 43-kilometre run.

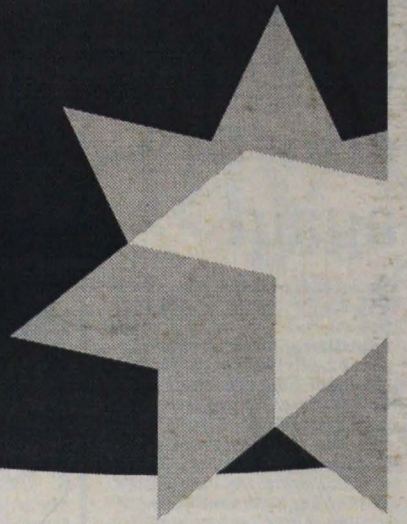
Cheered on by wife Suzie and parents Barbara and Graham, he finished in 401st place in 10 hours and 53 minutes, taking more than an hour off his previous best time—a huge achievement in this sport.

And that was despite a puncture in the cycling section and cramp in the run.

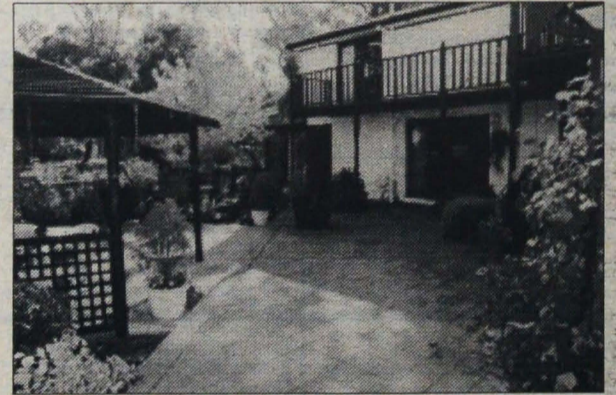
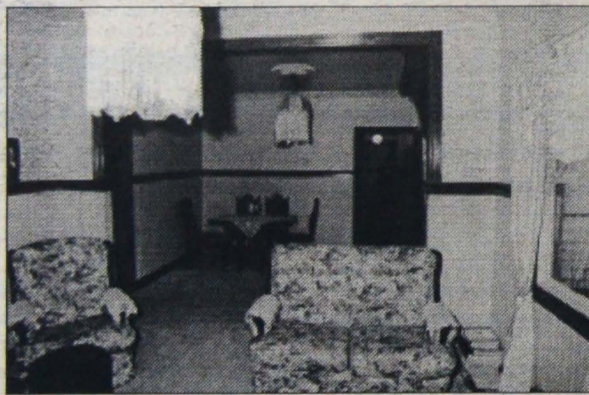
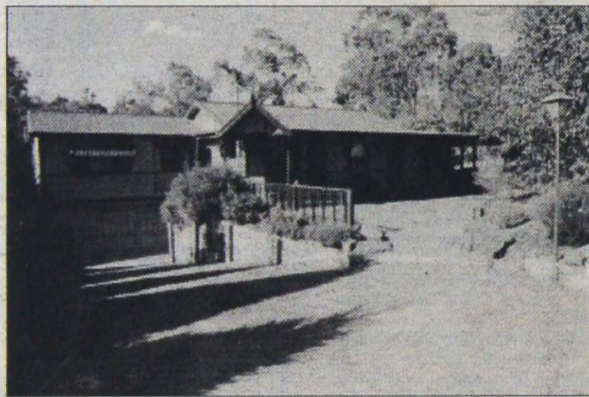
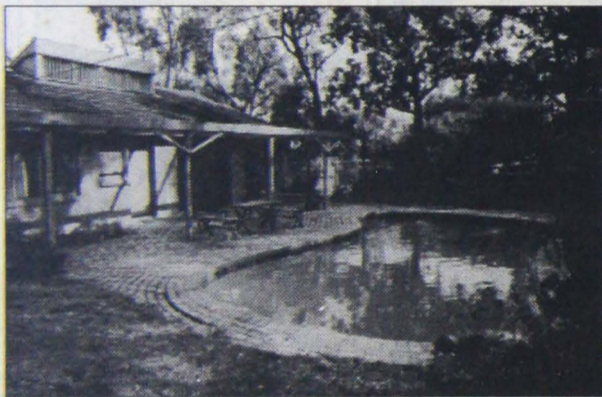


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